



LATE WINTER NEWSLETTER MARCH, 2016

To our loyal and valued customers,

For those of you who haven't heard, Jeff passed away on January 11th, surrounded by his family and loved ones. As many of you know, Jeff had battled with cancer twelve years ago. During the fall, he was diagnosed with Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis, a chronic lung disease which eventually led to his death. After this diagnosis, Jeff knew that he didn't have a long life to live and watching him battle with his health issues was difficult for all who knew and loved him. Jeff is greatly missed and remembered by the stories shared about him. Boat King, River Pirate, Captain Seaweed and just plain "Boat" were among the names assigned to him over his 64 years.

In 1976 Jeff came to work for Anchorage Marine in Thomaston as the Mercury outboard mechanic. After a few years, Jeff purchased the business and Jeff's Marine began its first year of business in 1979. About that same time he purchased a house on Wadsworth Court with the proceeds from his beloved sailboat boat "Outlander." Jeff married Nancy Miles in the summer of 1983 and together they turned Jeff's house into their home.

Jeff and Nancy travelled to Chicago around 1985 searching for a new line of outboards. Out of many options, Yamaha was the best choice. As the Yamaha franchise became a part of Jeff's Marine, a boat line was now in order. Carolina Skiffs became the work-horse of the Mid-Coast. In the mid-1990s, Parker boats proved themselves reliable and seaworthy for the avid boater and fisherman. Parkers kept their value, as many first time customers were able to re-sell their Parkers to the new boater years later.

Jeff's enthusiasm for business mirrored his enthusiasm for relationships within his customers. Many of you touched Jeff's life, as he touched yours. It was always a treat for his family to hear him talk about interactions with you all at the marina and report on your latest boating adventures. A wonderful article about him can be found in the Bucksport Enterprise, many thanks to Alan Spear for this remembrance.

It was a special rite passage for a young local fisherman to buy their first Carolina Skiff and Yamaha Outboard from Jeff, just as it was for the seasoned boater to explain to Jeff his or her pending membership in the Hard Water Café. Jeff was always "on call" ready to run out to rescue a boater who'd gotten himself stranded or found a nice hard Maine granite ledge. Jeff was a "tough son of a gun" and made the most of every day granted to him.



Jeff and Nancy's children, Kathryn and Gordon, had the privilege of working for Jeff for many years. As teenagers and young adults Kathryn and Gordon learned a multitude of life skills at the marina that will be forever valuable. They learned what hard work really was. Jeff was forever telling them, "If you're going to do something, do it well." Kathryn is now a teacher and Gordon will graduate as a civil engineer from UMO in May. Jeff was very proud of them as he was of all the talented and hard working employees at Jeff's Marine.

Jeff's Marine continues to be a full service marina, selling Carolina Skiffs, Yamaha Outboards and Load Rite Trailers. Spring is just around the corner, and there have already been some 50 degree days here on the Mid-Coast. The crew will be putting floats in soon, which means boats will be launched not long after. An early spring is anticipated to the boating season so call soon for any service, upgrades, and/or repairs you need! Let them know now when you want your boat so it can be waiting for you, washed, fueled and ready to go. The crew looks forward to helping you with all your boating needs this season and for many more to come.

Jeff's Marine is currently owned and operated by Nancy Armstrong, with the help of the trusted and reliable team you've known for years. Nancy is adding a woman's touch to the man's world of the marina, so you may notice some cosmetic changes this spring. She is ordering a round of t-shirts, for sale to the public this year, so be sure to ask Jen about them.

When you're here this summer, you're welcome and encouraged to visit the marina any time and look at the Jeff's Marine scrapbook, all of the pictures of Jeff & his fishing adventures and reminisce with the crew about your memories of Jeff.

As Jeff would say, thanks for the business.

The Armstrong family and the crew at Jeff's Marine

After Jeff passed away, we were cleaning up his office and I found **For The Love of a Boat** in one of his desk drawers. He wrote it exactly three years before he passed and for the life of me I can't remember why. I thought I'd include it in what will probably be the last Jeff's Marine winter newsletter. It's a wonderful tribute to High Idle and the talented guys who helped him restore her. It's his words, his enthusiasm, his manorisms and his style. Cheers!! ~ Jen