

Rate Your Favorite DIY Yard in *PS's* Online Survey

In *Practical Sailor's* ongoing effort to keep cruising affordable to everyone, we're conducting a survey to identify outstanding do-it-yourself boatyards across the U.S. We began with a sample boatyard, Galesville Harbor Yacht Yard in Maryland, and developed a simple rating system to allow readers to grade their own DIY yard. (See Galesville's report card on the facing page.)

We've already heard from some readers about their favorite DIY boatyard—check out the reader-recommended yards listed below. But if we've missed your top pick or you've yet to fill out the survey, let us hear from you. Visit www.practical-sailor.com and take the reader survey about your DIY haulout haven.

READER PICKS:

Berkeley Marine Center, Berkeley, Calif. — This yard allows and encourages do-it-yourselfers to handle their work, but the knowledgeable and friendly staff headed by Cree Partridge and Karl, his yard manager, are available for consultation or pulling the proverbial horse out of the ditch when you have bitten off more than you can chew. — *John T. Sutton; Toronto, Ontario*

Dutch Wharf Boatyard, Branford, Conn. — This moderate-sized, family-owned yard specializes in wooden boats but is absolutely competent in all things mechanical, electrical, and fiberglass. Dutch Wharf also has an exceptional paint shop. I have used this yard for over 30 years and highly recommend it, its people, and its quality. — *James M. Malkin; New York City, N.Y.*

Napa Valley Marina, Napa, Calif. — Located up the Napa River from San Francisco and San Pablo bays, this marina is a friendly, family-owned place. Very helpful people, complete facilities, and the ability to haul any kind of boat. I've had my

boat hauled there several times and always went away happy and full of admiration for their talent and character. — *Bruce Sinclair; Pretty Penny; Vallejo Yacht Club, Vallejo, Calif.*

Jensen's Shipyard, San Juan Islands, Wash. — Jensen's Shipyard in Friday Harbor is a great place to work on your own boat. — *G. Booth, via e-mail*

Schroeder Yacht Systems, Deltaville, Va. — This DIY yard staffs friendly, congenial people, who do very competent work. Their labor charges are reasonable, and monthly storage is inexpensive. — *Jack Berkey, via e-mail*

Bob Walton's boatyard, Delta Marina, Rio Vista, Calif. — This yard's prices are low, and their willingness to help is astounding. This boatyard is within a day's cruise of San Francisco (50 nautical miles from Bay Bridge) and is a little-known bargain in a high-priced region. — *Larry Smith; S/V Pleamar, 1983 Aloha 32; Vallejo, Calif.*

Seal Cove Boatyard, Cape Rosier, Maine — These guys are pros, willing to assist and help with the smallest problem—real or imagined. — *Aaron Glazer; Adagio, Albin 27 trawler; Cape Rosier, Maine*

Catawba Moorings, Port Clinton, Ohio — *Bob James, via e-mail*

Knight & Carver, National City, Calif. — I've been taking my boat here every three years for bottom paint. The yard caters to megayachts, but smaller-boat sailors like us are welcome, too. The people are most professional and helpful, never measuring you by the length and value of your boat. — *Jack Grenard; Islander 36; San Diego, Calif.*

READER SURVEY

PS Technical Editor Ralph Naranjo rated Galesville Harbor Yacht Yard in Maryland after a recent haulout of his Ericson 41 sloop and PS test boat, Wind Shadow.

.....

Pleasure Cove Marina, Pasadena, Md. — Pleasure Cove is located on protected Main Creek off Chesapeake Bay at the mouth of the Patapsco River. Baltimore is close by, and Annapolis is a nice half-day's sail away. This yard is also one of a few on the Chesapeake that can haul wide boats. They have mechanics, a parts store, a fuel dock, and a very friendly staff. Ask for Don. — *Jess Berndt, via e-mail*

Swantown Marina and Boatyard, Olympia, Wash. — Swantown will let you do your own work, and they have all the amenities (air, electricity, disposal facilities), and some pretty good contractors for when your job gets too big or too technical. — *George Lukacs; 31-foot Hallberg-Rassy*

Nelson's Boatyard, Bon Secour, Ala. — This yard is located on the southeast corner of Mobile Bay, about ¾-mile off the Intracoastal Waterway. The depths are good. It's a small yard with tons of experience. The Nelsons have been here for generations. I've often thought that snowbirds should store their boats at Nelson's and fly home out of Pensacola, Fla., or Mobile, Ala. — *Bob McDonald; Windy City, Island Packet 35; Gulf Shores, Ala.*

Mattapoisett Boatyard, Buzzard's Bay, Mass. — This is a wonderful yard, very friendly and helpful employees, and they encourage DIY work. They have installed numerous electrical outlets and water nozzles around the yard for this purpose. David Kaiser, the general manager, is very knowledgeable and very willing to provide all types of information to help you do the job. Lastly, they have a well-stocked parts department that's been a life saver. — *Rick McCowan; S/V Breezes; Mattapoisett, Mass.*

REPORT CARD

NAME: **GALESVILLE HARBOR YACHT YARD**

CRITERIA	GRADE	COMMENTS
All-weather protection	A	Nearly landlocked
Hauling equipment	B	Older but functional Travelift
Operator skill	A	True veteran
Blocking	B	Some narrow-based poppets
DIY restrictions	A	Minimal (no DIY spray painting)
Shop capability	A	Machining, welding, paint spraying
Office	A	Efficient, small operation
Security	A	Low-risk residential area
Ambiance	A	Small yacht harbor, friendly locals

Frank Hall Boatyard, Westerly, R.I. — An excellent family-run boatyard on the Pawcatuck River. We've been customers since 1991. This yard has made keeping our boat possible, as we did everything we could ourselves. It also has high-quality services in all areas. — *Rick Gleason; Nell, 1981 Bristol 32*

Cove Springs Marina, Green Cove Springs, Fla. — This is a yard that any DIY boater would love. They have very fair rates, can lift most boats, and put them on the hard without mast removal. You can stay on your boat while it is on the hard, and they have showers and restrooms. — *Sandbagg'n Sam, via e-mail*

Sailing Associates Inc., Georgetown, Md. — This DIY yard is on the Sassafras River, which flows into the upper Chesapeake Bay. — *Sidney Axinn, via e-mail*