



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**ABBRA REFIT Study Tour to kick off REFIT 2018**

*ABBRA to host study tour of refit projects at Southeast Florida boatyards*

Newport, RI— The American Boat Builders and Repairers Association will host a full-day tour of Southeast Florida boatyards focused on refit projects on January 9th, 2018, leading into the Refit conference January 10-11, 2018 in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. ABBRA's Refit Study Tour is a day-long mobile training course that takes participants on exclusive tours of two South Florida boatyards that are well known for their ability to manage challenging refit projects and perform quality work. The tour will provide an in-depth look at the projects and yard operations and give the participants the opportunity to hear directly from the project managers about the challenges they encounter while managing their refit projects. The tour will be hosted by Tom Allen owner /operator of Kittery Point Yacht Yard, ABBRA's 2017 Boat yard of the Year, and Pam Lenzion, ED of ABBRA and CEO of MarineTec Management Company. These two industry experts will facilitate the discussions and learning experience throughout the day. This mobile classroom will give participants time to ask questions of experienced project managers, operations managers, technical supervisors, and others. At the end of the day, attendees participate in a facilitated roundtable discussion and SWOT analysis of each project. The class will meet in the morning for a tour briefing before visiting the first boatyard, debrief at lunch, visit a second yard and return to the meeting room for the roundtable discussion.

Attendees will leave with practical examples of boatyard best practices after touring and discussing the habits of these hard-working Southeast Florida facilities. The peer analysis will serve as an exceptional learning tool. "Participants learn how to examine their own operations and facilities, which ultimately improves their businesses", says Ron Helbig, ABBRA's president. "We hope to provide participants with the tools necessary to choose the best projects for their yards."

Registration fee includes all course supplies, tour transportation, lunch, and break refreshments. Participants will be responsible for their personal hotel accommodations. Those interested in joining the Study Tour should contact ABBRA immediately as space is limited. For details, please call Bethany Sigler at 401-236-2466 or email [bethany@abbra.org](mailto:bethany@abbra.org).

The American Boat Builders & Repairers Association (ABBRA), founded in 1943, strengthens and encourages professionalism in boat building, boat repair, and boat service businesses by providing its members with timely information, training, education, and business services. ABBRA has been training boatyard managers and staff for over 20 years and offers courses for Supervisors, Service Managers, and Boatyard Operators.

ABBRA: Dedicated to the Boatbuilding and Repair Industry. ###