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## **Maine Built Boats' Members to Participate in the Maine Boat Show**

*-Portland show supports traditional industry and exposes local talent-*

**PORTLAND, Maine** –Maine Built Boats (MBB) will draw national and international attention next weekend as many MBB members exhibit their world-class products at the 2008 Maine Boatbuilders Show held at the Portland Company Marine Complex March 14-16. This show is unique among boat shows in that the booths are manned by the builders themselves rather than salespeople. “The Maine Boat Builders Show offers a great venue for builders and consumers to meet and really share their mutual love of boats. It also offers a great opportunity for people to learn about the talent and integrity of craftsmanship that go into a Maine built boat,” said Jane Wellehan, president of Maine Built Boats.

“The Maine Boatbuilders Show turns 21 this year,” added Wellehan.. “The first show, while small, served as a tremendous catalyst for bringing together Maine’s boatbuilders and marketing them to the world. It has grown substantially in its 21 years and continues to be the spring event for Maine boat builders and boat lovers alike.”

The show provides a local outlet for Maine boatbuilders to showcase everything from their small rowboats to power boats and sail boats of every size using traditional craft and the latest in cutting-edge composite technology. In that, it provides a venue to highlight the on-going importance of the state’s 400-year-old traditional industry. There are roughly 200 vendors, one of which is Rockport Marine, a member of MBB, who will display a completed restoration of a 53’ P Class Yawl, a classic yacht.

Maine Built Boats’ members are looking forward to meeting customers from Maine and around the world and educating them about the craftsmanship and integrity of Maine built boats.

The show is expected to draw 10,000 people at the Portland Company Marine Complex, located at 58 Fore Street in Portland. It is open to the public and will run from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday, March 14 and Saturday, March 15, and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, March 16.

MBB is supported, in part, by the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development and Maine’s North Star Alliance Initiative (NSAI). The NSAI works with Maine’s boatbuilding, composites and marine industries to grow Maine’s coastal workforce and economy.

To learn more about Maine Built Boats, visit [www.mainebuiltboats.com](http://www.mainebuiltboats.com).

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