



*Boating, the lifestyle of South Florida!*

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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# **Marine Industries Association of South Florida’s 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Plywood Regatta a Fun Introduction to Marine Industry**

**FORT LAUDERDALE, FL (April 21, 2010)** – The Marine Industries Association of South Florida (MIASF) is celebrating the results of the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Plywood Regatta held April 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> at the Dania Beach City Marina. Nearly 250 students on 31 teams of middle school, high school and marine technical school students battled the clock to build boats made of three sheets of plywood, tie wraps and 3M 5200 Fast-Cure marine caulk on Saturday. On Sunday, they then competed against each other for the Fort Lauderdale Mariners Club Trophy in a series of races in Whiskey Creek.

“This year’s event truly realized the goals of Plywood Regatta. We had a lot of new students that had never participated before that brought a heightened enthusiasm and a renewed sense of fun and discovery to the entire weekend. Each team really pulled together and worked hard to bring their creative ideas to life in their boats, and it was truly refreshing to watch these kids encourage each other and cheer each other on through the races,” said MIASF PR & Events Coordinator Melanie Daily. “The icing on the cake is that we were able to introduce so many fresh faces to all the recreational marine industry has to offer through this hands-on boat building process.”

Official results from the races are as follows:

### **Overall Champion (Determined by a final race between the three division winners)**

<i>Team Name</i>	<i>School/Organization</i>	<i>Sponsor</i>
1 <sup>st</sup> Place: <i>Hunky Dory</i>	Riviera Beach Maritime Academy	Florida Yacht Brokers Association
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place: <i>Boots</i>	Broward College	Kiwi Fiberglass/NautiCom Communications/Cobb Family
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place: <i>Fishy Fishy</i>	New River Middle School	Fort Lauderdale Sailing Foundation

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## 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Plywood Regatta Results...page 2 of 4

### Junior Division (Middle School Students)

1<sup>st</sup> Place: *Fishy Fishy* – New River Middle School – Fort Lauderdale Sailing Foundation

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: *The Ranger* – Palm Beach Maritime Academy – TGL Environmental/SEI Communications

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: *Sushi Bar* – New River Middle School – Antibes Yachtwear/Expresso Coffee

### Intermediate Division (High School Students)

1<sup>st</sup> Place: *Hunky Dory* – Riviera Beach Maritime Academy – Florida Yacht Brokers Association

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: *Spruance 4* – Fort Lauderdale Sea Cadets – Houck Anderson

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: *Interceptor* – South Broward High School – Ward's Marine Electric

### Advanced Division (Marine Technical School and College Students)

1<sup>st</sup> Place: *Boots* – Broward College – Kiwi Fiberglass/NautiCom Communications/Cobb Family

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: *SS Ro* – McFatter Technical Center – Advanced Mechanical Enterprises

*There were only two teams in the Advanced Division. Places were determined by the best out of three heats.*

### Special Award Categories

Most Spirited Team sponsored by The Billy Cohn Memorial:

*Sushi Bar* – New River Middle School – Antibes Yachtwear/Expresso Coffee

Best Decorated Boat:

*Interceptor* – South Broward High School – Ward's Marine Electric

Most Innovative Design sponsored by Tradewinds Radio:

*Poseidon* – Admirals Boys & Girls Club – Florida Marlins Community Foundation

Courage and Perseverance:

*Herminators* – Cardinal Gibbons High School – Florida Engineering Society

Future Yacht Broker's Award sponsored by the Florida Yacht Brokers Association (for the one that sinks...those who can't build, sell!):

*The Hurricane* - Stranahan High School – Tradewinds Radio

Seafarer Marine Best Overall Team Award:

*Fishy Fishy* – New River Middle School – Fort Lauderdale Sailing Foundation

Organizations participating in this year's event are the MIASF Marine Magnet Partners:

McFatter Technical High School, McFatter Technical Center, New River Middle School, and

South Broward High School. Other participants include: Admirals Boys and Girls Club Marine

Academy, Broward College, Cardinal Gibbons High School, Coral Glades High School, Fort

Lauderdale Sea Cadets, Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, Plantation High School, Palm

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## 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Plywood Regatta Results...page 3 of 4

Beach Maritime Academy, Riviera Beach Maritime Academy, and Stranahan High School.

A portion of the event proceeds benefit the Plywood Regatta Scholarship Fund to help students continue their marine industry related education through programs in South Florida. South Broward High School senior Tomas Hixon was the recipient of a \$1,000 scholarship from the Plywood Regatta Scholarship Fund. Hixon has participated in the event for four years through his Naval Sea Cadet Squad and will attend the University of South Florida in Tampa on a Marine Corps Scholarship to study political science. Upon graduation from USF, Hixon will receive his commission in the United States Marine Corps. Hixon explains, “My way of serving the marine industry will be different than others but nonetheless important, as I shall ensure the safe passage of ships. After I retire from the Corps I plan to get into politics where I can help the marine industry in another way by helping to influence and pass policies to help preserve and protect it.”

MIASF’s Marine Magnet School partner New River Middle School will also receive a \$500 donation to conduct field trips to marine industry businesses and learn about the wide variety of careers the industry comprises. Teacher Barbara Rapoza explains, “This year’s theme for the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade is ‘marine related careers.’ Our students will meet professionals at each marine industry business we visit and have the opportunity to ask questions and gain insight into occupations found in our boating community. The marine industry is vast and these field trips could lead to some awesome opportunities in the future for our hard working students.”

MIASF Director of Association Services Gordon Connell concludes that, “We truly appreciate the strong level of continued support from our Association members and sponsors for Plywood Regatta. We could not do this without their involvement, particularly in these tough economic times. Whether their participation comes through supply donations, financial contributions or volunteering during the weekend, their generosity serves as a testament to the value of this event both for the kids and the marine industry.”

**Supply Donors** to this year’s Regatta are Seafarer Marine, 3M, Interlux Yacht Finishes, Gold Coast Marine Distributors, Edd Helms Marine, Ward’s Marine Electric, Atlantic Marine Power Systems and West Marine. **Major Sponsors** include Trophy Sponsor Fort Lauderdale

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## **14<sup>th</sup> Annual Plywood Regatta Results...page 4 of 4**

Mariners Club, First Mate Sponsor Houck Anderson and Host Sponsor City of Dania Beach.

**Supporting Sponsors** include Advanced Mechanical Enterprises, American Maritime Officers, Antibes Yachtwear, Billy Cohn Memorial, Bradford Marine, Diesel Services of America, Espresso Coffee, Florida Engineering Society, Florida Marlins Community Foundation, Florida Yacht Brokers Association, Fort Lauderdale Sailing Foundation, Frank & Jimmie's Propeller Shop, Hall of Fame Marina, Kiwi Fiberglass, Lauderdale Marine Center, MariTech Services, National Beverage Corporation, NautiCom Communications, Outer Reef Yachts, RPM Diesel, SEI Communications, Star brite, TGL Environmental Inc., The Cobb Family, Tradewinds Radio, Troy Industries, Windward Associates, Yacht Entertainment Systems.

The Marine Industries Association of South Florida is a not-for-profit trade organization created to promote and protect the sound growth of the marine industry in south Florida for the benefit and education of its members, the community and the environment. The Association has 800 members in Broward, Miami-Dade and Palm Beach Counties and is the owner of the Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show.

For more information about the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Plywood Regatta or the MIASF, visit [www.plywoodregatta.org](http://www.plywoodregatta.org), [www.miasf.org](http://www.miasf.org), or contact Public Relations and Event Coordinator Melanie Daily at (954) 524-2733. **Pictures are available [click here](#).**

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