



CT BOATING CAREER DAYS

About our Speakers

Tasha Cusson, Atlantic Outboard and Westbrook Marine Center

Tasha Cusson, owner of Atlantic Outboard and Westbrook Marine Center in Westbrook, Connecticut, together with her husband Paul, has owned and operated this highly successful family business for over 30 years. She is the current Chairman of the Board of CMTA and is passionate about growing the boating industry for future generations, especially as her son recently joined the dealership. Tasha will give students insight into the various career tracks that exist at dealerships and marinas, as well as a working life on the water.

Tim Ford, Regulator Marine

Tim has been with Regulator Marine for more than 20 years, working hand-in-hand with founders on sales and marketing and currently serving as Northeast Regional Sales Manager. Tim has clocked thousands of hours on the factory floor working alongside Regulator product development and engineering teams and has excellent insight into the many career tracks available with U.S. boating manufacturers.

Bill Gardella, Rex Marine

Captain Bill will give students a look at work on the water during interactive cruises on the Sound. Bill is the President and Chief Operating Officer of Rex Marine Center and Founder of Rex Boating Club. His grandfather founded Rex Marine Center in 1936, and Bill grew up in the business, left for college achieving a management degree in 1983 and an MBA in 2006, all of which he has brought back to the marine industry to operate this highly profitable and visible business in Norwalk.

Peter Linderth – Save the Sound (Thursday only)

Peter is the Water Quality Program Manager for Save the Sound. In this role he actively generates and processes data to garner a better understanding of the water quality challenges that currently face the Western Long Island Sound basin. He will be demonstrating how he samples and his overall scope of work in a hands on fashion.

Alyssa Linkamper, Safe Harbor Marinas

As a leading Marina & Boatyard Recruiting Specialist with past experience at IYRS, Alyssa will speak with students about the many career paths within the industry, as well as how to gain hands on experience as you chart a course in boating.

Lisa Piastuch, NAMEPA (Friday only)

Lisa has a Master of Science degree in Environmental Science and Management from Sacred Heart University where her research focused on coastal ecosystems restoration. As the Education and Outreach manager at the North American Marine Environment Protection Association (NAMEPA), Lisa promotes educational programs in the field, extends outreach to educational institutions and industry throughout North America, and develops educational programs and materials to continue NAMEPA's mission to Save our Seas.

Jim Pickett, Branford Yacht Club (Friday only)

Jim Pickett is a Certified Marina Manager and General Manager of Branford Yacht Club. He's an accomplished club manager with over 28 years of experience. His love of the water was born in the U.S. Coast Guard, where he served for 8 years.

John Stanton, Landfall Navigation

John Stanton is the Director of Digital and Marketing at Landfall Navigation. He is responsible for online sales, marketing, advertising, and web operations. He is also a lifelong sailor who regularly participates in both inshore and offshore races. In the colder months, he campaigns his DN Ice Boat and serves as the Vice Commodore of the New England Ice Yacht Association.

Ron Zastocki, Yamaha Marine

Ron is the Senior District Service Manager for the Northeast region of The Yamaha Marine Service Division, which is dedicated to providing exceptional technical training and support for the Yamaha dealer network and customers. In addition, the division is charged with training and mentoring new District Service Managers as well as working with area technical schools to foster skills development and careers. Ron is a boating industry veteran who has held many roles in marine services and is passionate about helping the next generation succeed in the business.