

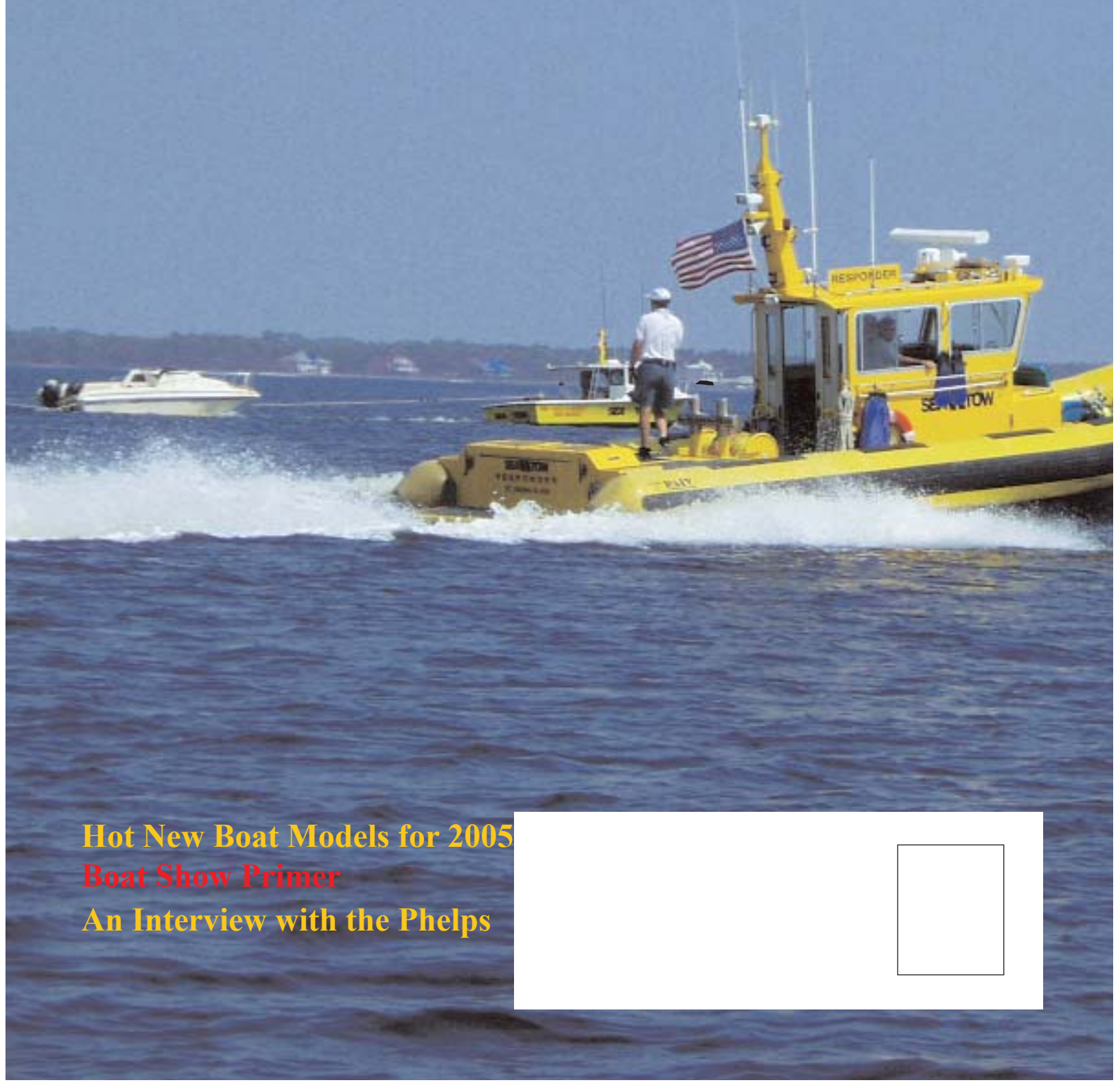
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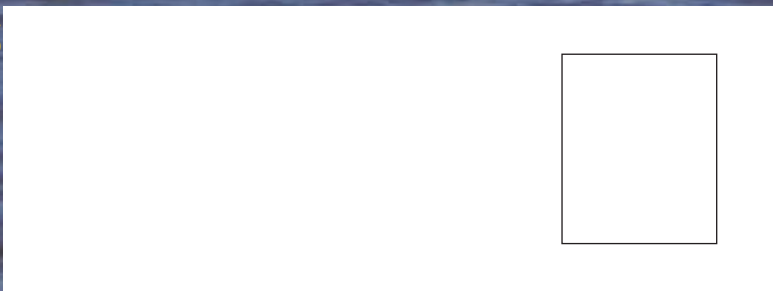
LIFELINES

Winter 2004

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Hot New Boat Models for 2005
Boat Show Primer
An Interview with the Phelps



LEARNING THE ROPES

- by Steve Knauth

Knowledge is power, the philosophers say.

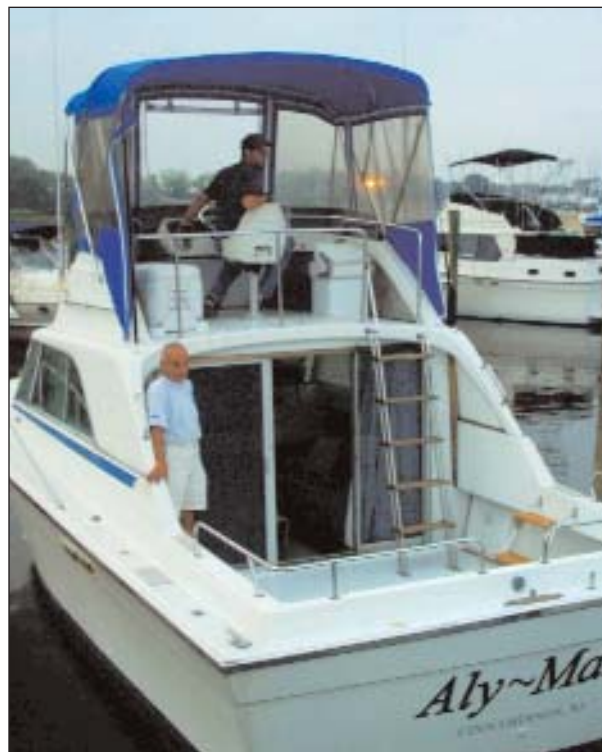
But when it comes to boating, knowledge is fun, says Russ Cohen. Learning the basics such as that most-dreaded maneuver, driving into a slip, helps boaters get the most from their boating experiences.

Cohen, President of Boatboy Marine Training in Morristown, N.J., recalls a Maryland couple with a 26-foot overnighter who'd rarely been out of their own harbor.

"They took our boating course and now have the confidence to make 5-day cruises down the Chesapeake," he says. "Once they began to master boating skills, they weren't afraid of leaving the slip, tying up at the fuel dock, or docking at a strange marina anymore..." says Cohen, "...after a while, you realize you're using the boat more, and having more fun doing it."

So, where do you learn all these skills? In the old days, they were passed down from one family generation to the next. Today, boating schools and organizations nationwide offer both on-water and classroom courses covering everything from simple vessel nomenclature to understanding today's array of electronic navigation instruments. Many local groups, including the YMCA, teach emergency medical procedures such as CPR.

The benefits are very real, particularly for boating families who take courses together. "This helps team work in critical situations such as an-



choring in bad weather or steering for a strange harbor in the fog," Cohen says. "And, often, you'll find a child who has a talent for it. That's a great thing for a parent to see."

Here's a partial list of some of the groups offering boating education:

- United States Power Squadrons –founded in 1914, they specialize in classroom instruction taught by members of local squadrons.

www.usps.org

- United States Coast Guard Auxiliary –involved in public education, vessel safety checks and Coast Guard introductory programs for youth. www.cgaux.org

- Boatboy Marine Training – focuses on "on-water" instruction, often using the boater's own vessel, in their local waters. www.boatboy-marinetraining.com

- Florida Sailing and Cruising School – 17-year-old school uses U.S.C.G.-licensed captains in both on-water and classroom instruction. www.flsailandcruisingschool.com

- Womanship – 20-year-old Annapolis-based sailing school teaches women the fundamentals and more, with 16 sailing centers, including the Great Lakes, New England and Florida. www.womanship.com



Popular books that boaters can "grow into" include: "Chapman's Piloting: Seamanship and Small Boat Handling" (William Morrow) and "Practical Seamanship" (Beowulf Publishing)