



# MITEC Motion...

By Caroline Chetelat, ABYC Marketing & Communications Director

The gears of the Marine Industry Technical Education Council (MITEC) are still turning. Council members are working hard, there is progress to improve the marine industry's workforce, and training is ongoing. The following will bring ABYC members up to speed with some recent announcements.

## Fundraising initiative – industry and trades step support

MITEC, an all-volunteer organization created to address the marine industry's technical workforce shortage, has announced its fundraising campaign designed to support the implementation of the Council's goals and mission. The mission of MITEC is to facilitate the development and sustained availability of a technically skilled and proficient workforce for the marine industry through education, training and professional development. The supporting mission of the Council is to promote public awareness and appreciation of technical workforce career opportunities within the marine industry.

Responding immediately to the call for support, Honda Marine, a division of American Honda Motor Co., Inc., has made a \$5,000 donation, and the Massachusetts Marine Trades Educational Trust donated another \$1,000. Others are asked to rally to the cause.

"Through this donation, we hope to show our support of MITEC," said Paul Sabourin, manager of field service and training for Honda Marine. "Honda is committed to customer service and growing the overall base of boating – and a foundation of



quality service is supporting efforts to grow properly trained, qualified marine technicians. This will deliver a positive boating experience for the customer."

Ed Lofgren, trustee of the MMTA Educational Trust and a MITEC member, feels that "demonstrated local industry buy-in and support of MITEC is essential in order to secure matching national funding, in-kind contributions, grants and gifts needed for the long-term success of MITEC." Lofgren continued, "This is why we wanted to step up to the plate and show our support for MITEC. MITEC is trying to close the communication gap between

industry, educators, technicians and students and supporting workforce development agencies. How can we not support this?"

Many other individuals and organizations have also made donations of time, money and support to help MITEC accomplish projects such as a Web site on careers in boating ([www.boatingcareerinfo.org](http://www.boatingcareerinfo.org)) and the development of a marine industry educational provider catalog. However, the two most important projects right now are securing personnel that can take MITEC to the next level, and the completion of a nationwide workforce needs analysis and skills analysis.

Steve Kitchin, MITEC chair, stated, “The generosity of Honda and the MMTA Educational Trust, as well as all our previous donors, helps MITEC continue its operation. On behalf of MITEC, I would like to thank each and every person who has contributed a dollar or moment of their time as it has an immeasurable impact on our ability to keep projects going and expand to help the industry grow its workforce.”

Who should give? “That’s simple... everyone,” stated Skip Burdon, MITEC’s secretary and director of its Economic Development Division. “At this stage, numbers of donors is the most critical challenge to overcome. Numbers are needed so as to convince larger national organizations to contribute accordingly,” Burdon reported. “A gift of \$25 or more will add up quickly and demonstrate industry-wide grassroots support by all sectors – from schools and small businesses to corporations. We have to remember that MITEC’s mission is one that is relevant to everyone working in this industry, and that is why we need wide support,” concluded Burdon.

#### **Mitec elects officers and re-appoints members**

During a recent meeting at the International Boatbuilders Exposition (IBEX) in October, MITEC also announced the election of its officers (chair, vice chair and secretary), re-appointment of Council members and election of one new incoming Council member. During the meeting, Steve Kitchin, vice president, corporate education and training at New England Institute of Technology, was elected to serve for another two-year term as chair, with Joe DeMarco stepping down as vice chair after his initial term, Pam Lenzion, president/CEO of

#### **The ABYC Foundation**

The ABYC Foundation supports not only ABYC, but other organizations that better the industry through education, standards and safety. A restricted use account has been set up by the ABYC Foundation in support of MITEC, as well as other special programs, such as the Shake-A-Leg program and SkillsUSA.

Shake-A-Leg’s mission is to empower individuals who have experienced a spinal cord injury and other emotional, economic, social, mental and physical challenges to develop the skills needed to reach their highest potential for an independent life – workforce, social and recreational.

SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers and industry working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce.

Tax-deductible year end donations to support MITEC, Shake-A-Leg or SkillsUSA can be made directly to the ABYC Foundation and mailed to:

The ABYC Foundation  
c/o [name of program to support]  
613 Third Street, Ste. 10  
Annapolis, MD 21403

All donors will be acknowledged in the Spring '08 issue of *the Reference Point*. The ABYC Foundation will also acknowledge any contribution by letter for tax purposes.

MarineTec Management Company was elected to serve a one-year term as vice chair and Skip Burdon was re-elected as the secretary.

#### **Incoming council member:**

**Rob Manning**, training director for Quadrant Marine Institute in Sidney, British Columbia, Canada

#### **Returning council members:**

**Roger Hellyar-Brook**, systems program manager, The Landing School, Kennebunkport, ME

**Steve Kitchin**, vice president, Corporate Education & Training, New England Institute of Technology, Warwick, RI

**Conrad Kreuter**, owner/operator, Moriches Boat & Motor, East Moriches, NY

**Tom Marhevko**, vice president, Engineering Standards, National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA)

**Tom Miller**, service training manager, Mercury Marine, Fond du Lac, WI

**Charlie Teran**, president/CEO, Fiberglass Specialties, Lake Tahoe, NV

**Ken Weinbrecht** (SAMS), principal, Ocean Bay Marine Services, Yaphank, NY

Representing a cross section of the recreational marine industry, to include boat manufacturers, boat yards, repair facilities and marinas, community workforce development partnerships, dealers and retailers, education and training institutions, engine and systems manufacturers, independent technicians, surveyors and yacht brokers, the volunteer Council members provide guidance in furthering MITEC’s mission of facilitating the creation and sustained availability of a technically skilled and proficient labor force for the marine industry through education, training and professional development. ■

To learn more about MITEC, its mission, projects and programs, please visit [www.boatingcareerinfo.org](http://www.boatingcareerinfo.org).