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For Immediate Release

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Superyacht Community Offered Marine Systems Training **ABYC to provide discounts to yacht Association/Society Members, Owners and Crew through June 2010**

December 15, 2009, Annapolis, MD: The American Boat and Yacht Council (ABYC) announced today that it is offering Yacht Association/Society Members, Owners, Captains and crew of large yachts a \$200 discount on all ABYC basic and advanced technical certification courses through June 30, 2010. Additionally, ABYC is offering owners and Captains of large yachts a special introductory annual membership in ABYC for \$199. This special pricing includes the ABYC technical standards on CD or in paper, the quarterly technical journal, *the Reference Point* (online and paper), Westlawn Institute of Technology's design journal, *The Masthead* (online), along with other member benefits.

“We are finding more and more interest by large yacht owners and Captains desiring their general crew be proficient in conducting routine marine systems diagnostics, troubleshooting and minor maintenance and repairs while underway. There is also increasing interest in having the ABYC standards onboard to ensure service provided while in port around the globe is conducted in accordance to industry accepted standards, stated ABYC's President, Skip Burdon. He continued, “ABYC basic and advanced technical workforce certifications can provide general crew with the added knowledge and ability to do just that; and while ABYC certifications definitely do not replace a US Coast Guard or foreign flag operators license, in my opinion they do have added value to help reduce operating risk while underway,” commented Burdon, a former USCG licensed merchant mariner.

Passenger safety is often assumed when one is aboard a luxurious yacht. But there are many marine systems that if not correctly maintained, serviced and repaired, can cause a potentially unsafe at-sea environment. While many large yachts have a licensed Captain, and in some cases, licensed engineers, there are many private yachts that rely on the general knowledge and experience of the crew to respond to inspection, servicing, general maintenance and emergency repairs while the vessel is underway. ABYC has developed several basic and eight standards-based technical certification courses to address the various systems found aboard modern boats and yachts. These are the same courses boat and yacht builders, as well as repair facilities and marine surveyors rely on to provide their technical workforce with industry endorsed non-proprietary technical training and certification. “If these technical training and certification programs work well for land-based builders and repair facilities, they most certainly will enhance the value of crewmembers that may face having to respond to a marine systems challenge at sea, said Ed Sherman, ABYC's Curriculum Developer, leading instructor and industry recognized technical author.

Currently, ABYC offers the following courses in the United States and Canada on a regular basis. These courses can also be scheduled worldwide upon request:

- Standards Certification
- Electrical Basic and Certification

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- Corrosion Control Certification
- Diesel Engine Systems Basic and Certification
- Gasoline Engine Systems Basic and Certification
- General Systems Certification
- HV/AC Systems Certification
- Composite Boatbuilding Certification
- Basic Laminator Training

To take advantage of ABYC course discounts simply call or email ABYC's Cris Gardner at 410 990-4460 x33 or cgardner@abycinc.org . Associations and Societies are eligible for group discount on-site training. Yacht owners interested in having the ABYC standards available onboard your vessel, join the organization by at the introductory member service fee of \$199 by contacting Judith Ramsey or Sandy Brown at 410 990-4460, x32 or 43 or jramsey@abycinc.org or sbrown@abycinc.org .

"During the current economic downturn we know how difficult it is to find the funds to allow employees to train," said Skip Burdon ABYC's President. "However, in order to remain competitive, now is the time to train for the future. We at ABYC hope this will aid to make training that much more affordable for both individuals and organizations," he concluded.

ABYC has been developing, writing and updating the safety standards for boat building and repair in the United States for 55 years. ABYC is actively involved with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) as well as certification programs for marine technicians. These standards are available on CD-ROM, online and in printed form. Membership and general information can be requested by calling (410) 990-4460 or by visiting the ABYC web site at www.abycinc.org.

Yacht and crew societies, associations and professional organizations may explore further discounted training opportunities, working agreements, schedule On-Site courses, or receive more information on customized training programs, by contacting Michael New at (410) 990-4460, ext. 31 or via email at mnew@abycinc.org . For a listing of regularly scheduled ABYC Certification courses and other training programs, please visit www.abycinc.org.

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