

BoatUS.com

VOLUME VIII July 2003

BoatUS.

BOAT OWNERS ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES

MAGAZINE

**Cool
Island
Adventures**

**Clipper Cruising
Caution On Cuba
Scuba Sanctuary
Bahamas Billfishing**

Our Boat

Catalina

2nd Time Around

Formula, Com-Pac

It Slices, It Dices, It Juliennes...

There's a trend in consumer electronics technology that could have some wide ranging benefits for boaters. One manufacturer, Navman, has figured out how to get a lot more (nautical) mileage out of the ubiquitous Pocket PC.

Rather than dazzle you with techno-speak (which usually scares the heck out of me), I'll put it into understandable terms. A day in the life of a boater typically goes like this: to get to the marina, your new car's snazzy onboard navigation system helps you avoid traffic. Once aboard, your chart plotter safely brings you to your deserted isle. On the hook that night, you decide to watch the movie "Dead Calm" — my favorite when traveling alone — and for a nightcap, you play a little Miles Davis before turning in.

Navman has figured out a way that mates the Pocket PC with a "GPS Sleeve," that in addition to electronic charts by Maptech and Seemap, can do all of the above — a land and sea navigator as well as a movie and music player, and more.

And since you're already familiar with how your Pocket PC works, there's a short learning curve. With more uses than a Ginsu knife, the unit may change the way boaters look at vessel electronics. For more information, visit www.navman.com.

BOAT BITS

Sources of boat fires as reported in the July 2003 issue of *Seaworthy*,

the BoatU.S. Magazine Insurance magazine:

C wiring/appliance
transmission overheat

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Brad Van Liew spent at
and Tommy Hilfiger
America

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Cottage Cheese and Diesel Fuel

Bill O'Connell of Algae-X knows that boaters are aware of diesel fuel algae — bacteria and micorganisms that often grow in fuel tanks. I found out about the stuff three summers ago in the BVI when my chartered catamaran was motoring through a storm-whipped narrow cut and mysteriously began to have fuel problems, losing an engine.

But while living organisms do contribute to clogged filters, 95% of the "cottage cheese" at the bottom of your fuel tank are actually fuel components that have formed into waxy and tar solids. "It's different from the live stuff that grows in your aquarium," says O'Connell.

This same process of fuel breakdown causes a majority of engine smoke and transom soot. Unfortunately, if you let it go too far you'll end up with a hefty filtering or polishing bill to remove your tank's sludge and sediments. In our BVI case, a switch to a new fuel source solved the immediate problem, and disaster was averted.

To learn more about fuel conditioning technology, visit www.algae-x.net.

Jim Bregenzer of Link® Tools knows that this is big news. For more Bregenzer says that the same information, visit www.link-tools.com 

BOAT BITS

81.0 mph

The official pontoon speed record made by Jim Dorris on Feb. 4, 2003 aboard a Play Craft X-treme 2800 pontoon boat with twin Mercury 300-hp outboard engines (below).

Source: *Pontoon & Deck Boat* magazine

