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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EXCELLENCE IN BOATING JOURNALISM RECOGNIZED

BWI Annual Writing Contest salutes 89 stories, awards \$16,000 in cash prizes

MIAMI BEACH, FL, February 13, 2009 -- Top marine journalists in the U.S. and beyond were recognized today in an annual writing contest conducted by the membership of Boating Writers International (BWI). Presentations in 16 contest categories representing \$16,000 in awards were made to first (\$500), second (\$300) and third (\$200) place scorers. Each recipient also received a recognition plaque noting their "Excellence in creating compelling stories about the boating lifestyle through entertaining, educational and inspiring journalism." In addition, all move into a "Phase II" competition which culminates in a single selection honored with a "Grand Prize Writer's Award" and four-figure cash prize at the Ft. Lauderdale Boat Show this fall.

In its 16th year, the BWI contest attracted 161 participants submitting 456 entries. In addition to cash awards, Certificates of Merit were presented to writers of another 41 articles which scored within 95 percent of third-place tallies in each category. All submissions to the contest were published in 2008. Each of the 16 categories (noted below along with sponsors) was judged by four active journalists in the first few weeks of the New Year. Results:

1. Boating Columns – sponsored by KVH Industries, Inc.

1st place, "On Watch" by Cap'n Fatty Goodlander (Cruising World); 2nd place, "Osprey's Flight" by Wendy Mitman Clarke (Cruising World); 3rd place, "Under Way" by William Sisson (Soundings). In this category, entrants were required to send in three different Columns. "Through a combination of vivid storytelling and poetic descriptions, Goodlander shares the magic of long-distance cruising, and makes the reader want to join him," observed category chair Betsy Haggerty. Certificates of Merit awarded to: "On the Wind" by Chris Caswell (Sailing); "Giesemann Onboard" by Suzanne Giesemann (Blue Water Sailing); "Meneely Underway" by Jane Meneely (Chesapeake Bay); "Boat Notes" by Zack Thomas (FishRap News).

2. Boating Lifestyles – sponsored by Boats.com/Yachtworld.com.

1st place, "Shell Game" by Robert Stephens (Boating Life, April); 2nd place, "Got a Light?" by Marty LeGrand (Chesapeake Bay, May); 3rd place, "You Can Go Home Again" by Tania Aebi (Cruising World, Oct.). "Shell Game invites the reader to join a perfect family day on the water for the opening of scallop season. The author effectively weaves in thoroughly researched facts, while telling the story in a way that made you feel you were splashing around in the shallows with them," noted Jim Rhodes, category chairman. Merit awards go to: "Asleep in the Deep" by Nancy Taylor Robson (Chesapeake Bay, Jan.); "Aye Aye Skipper" by Jody Argo Schroath (Chesapeake Bay, May); "Butterfly Tide" by Katherine Brown (Chesapeake Bay, Sept.).

3. Boating Profiles – sponsored by ZF Marine.

1st, "Cruising at 80" by Herb McCormick (Cruising World, June); 2nd, "Old Tricks, New Dogs" by Angus Phillips (Cruising World, July); 3rd, "Let's Launch a Magazine" by Cindy Christian Rogers (Good Old Boat, Jul/Aug.). Judge Jeanne Craig said, "'Cruising at 80' shows thorough

research, excellent use of quotes and an effort on the part of the author to really get to know his subject, Catalina Yachts founder Frank Butler, on both a personal and professional level.” Merit Awards to: “Wealthy on Paper” by Chris Caswell (Yachting, Aug.); “Leaving My Cushy Marina Behind” by Jeff Hemmel (Boating, Aug.); “Power to the People” by David Shaw (Northeast Boating, Oct.).

4. Boating Travel or Destinations – sponsored by Island Global Yachting.

1st, “Vive La Nouvelle – Caledonie” by Alvah Simon (Cruising World, May); 2nd, “Blues Traveler” by Daniel Long (Boating, May); 3rd, “Across the Dividing Sea” by Jim Carrier (Cruising World, Aug.). Of Simon’s story, judge Alan Wendt said, “Rather than five lumps of sugar coating to lure the reader into a fine adventure, the writer creates an instant conversational rapport. With authenticity appreciated by seasoned boaters, this amusing narrative creates envy and another cruising destination to add to my personal bucket list.” Certificate of Merit: “Any Way to Cruise in a Small Boat?” by Jeff Hemmel (Boating, March).

5. Boating Adventures – sponsored by Discover Boating.

1st, “Voyage of Discovery” by George Sass, Sr. (Yachting, Aug.); 2nd, “Promise of the Cork” by Nonnie Thompson (Dockside, Feb.); 3rd, “Land Ho, Mexico” by George Sass, Sr. (Power Cruising, Mar/Apr.). In “Voyage,” judge John Wooldridge experienced “The rare wonders and unusual sights that existed well before their discovery by Darwin. For me, the Galapagos came alive in the author’s descriptions, and increased my resolve to drop anchor there one day.” Certificates of Merit to: “The Last Great Race” by David Shaw (Northeast Boating, March); “Stop, Look, Listen” by Tom Neale (Soundings, July).

6. Boat/Engine Care and Maintenance – sponsored by Interlux Yacht Finishes.

1st, “What the Eel Revealed ...” by Tom Neale (Soundings, Jan.); 2nd, “Stern Makeover” by Marlin Bree (The Ensign, Mar/Apr.); 3rd, “Demystifying Diesel Maintenance” by Chris Cornell (Power Cruising, Jan/Feb.). Said judge Ron Ballanti of the top selection, “This unique tale (or is it t-a-i-l?) provides an entirely new perspective on the normally mundane topic of below-the-waterline maintenance. Part informative how-to, part ‘Slime Monster from the Bilge,’ this article shows it’s possible to bring life literally to any subject.”

7. Electronics – sponsored by Jeppesen Marine (formerly C-Map/USA).

1st, “Hunt for U-869” by Pete McDonald (Boating, Dec.); 2nd, “Communication Revolution” by Lisa Knapp (Dockwalk, Oct.); 3rd, “Using a Mobile Phone Aboard” by Karen & Jeffrey Siegel (Mad Mariner, June 20). Category chair judge Kim Kavin said, “McDonald uses standard marine electronics technology to do something different - hunt for a downed submarine - and in the process highlights the equipment’s features, capabilities, and limitations better than any straight review ever could. A creative story idea, and an engaging read from start to finish.” Certificates of Merit to: “Covert Operations” by Lenny Rudow (Boating, Feb.); “New Tricks for the VHF” by Tony Bessinger (Cruising World, Nov.); “Pactor Babe’s Got Her Ears On” by Cap’n Fatty Goodlander (Cruising World, March); “PCs Aboard” by Tom Tripp (Northeast Boating, July).

8. Ethics and Environment – sponsored by BoatU.S. Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water.

1st, “Shark Spotting” by Wendy Mitman Clarke (Chesapeake Bay, Nov.); 2nd, “Limulus Lately” by Wendy Mitman Clarke (Chesapeake Bay, Feb.); 3rd, “Fishing for the Future?” by Dick Russell (Northeast Boating, Sept.). Chair Nonnie Thompson reflected on the winner and the

entire category saying, “These personalities afloat gave us a glimpse of the habits and personalities of the sea. Only with that understanding can a true environmental conversation continue and possible solutions occur.” Merit awards to: “Cash Crop” by Tim Sayles (Chesapeake Bay, Oct.); “Fun for Felons” by Phil Scott (Boating, Nov.); “Iced In by Choice” by Elizabeth Ellis (Soundings, May); “Right Whale Safety” by Jim Flannery (Soundings, July).

9. Fishing – sponsored by Suzuki Motor Corporation.

1st, “Ugly Glory” by Pete McDonald (Boating, March); 2nd, "Home Schooled" by Robert Stephens (Boating Life, Feb.); 3rd, “Release ‘Em Right” by Ron Ballanti (Sport Fishing, Aug.). Of “Ugly Glory” judge Al Herum noted, "This is an exquisitely written and thoroughly researched story on how real world fishing records can be set by any angler willing to give it a try." Merit awards to: “Going Long” by Kirk Deeter (Salt Water Sportsman, Feb.); “The Maine Event” by Barry Gibson (Northeast Boating, Aug.); “Masters of Metal” by Doug Olander (Sport Fishing, Oct.).

10. Boating Issues, News and Analysis – sponsored by Mercury Marine.

1st, “Security Alert” by David Liscio (Northeast Boating, March); 2nd, “Keel Failures Prompt Call for Oversight” by Doug Campbell (Soundings, Sept.); 3rd, “Horn of Africa Piracy at Boiling Point” by Jim Flannery (Soundings, Dec.). Judge Gary Beckett said the top article was “Very well written and well researched, with lots of good sources and attributions. The story provided a fresh angle to a topic that has oft been reported, and I found it overall very compelling.” Certificates of Merit to: “Fatal Collision” by Chris Landry (Soundings, Oct.); “Precautions in Paradise” by Herb McCormick (Cruising World, Jan.).

11. The Business of Boating - sponsored by Home Port Marine Marketing.

1st, “The Fall of Ft. Lauderdale” by Lisa Knapp (Dockwalk, Jan.); 2nd, “Getting the Shot” by Jennifer Chesak (Trophy Magazine, Spring); 3rd, “Job Longevity” by Lisa Knapp (Dockwalk, June). “A good writer leads the reader down a path filled with contention, evidence, and possibilities,” notes judge chair David Seidman. “Knapp knew where to find all the signposts. There’s a well-crafted analysis supporting the contention of a declining Fort Lauderdale and in the end you believed it to be so. It also took some courage to expose the city’s problems and challenges.” Merit awards go to: “True Green” by Paul Lazarus (Professional BoatBuilder, Oct/Nov.); “3 Million Hours and Counting” by Roger Kamholz (Sea Ray Living, Spring).

12. Seamanship, Rescue & Safety – sponsored by Sea Tow Services International.

1st, “Rescue in the Southern Ocean” by Marianne Scott (Northwest Yachting, March); 2nd, “Courage of the Sole Survivor” by Marlin Bree (The Ensign, Sept/Oct.); 3rd, “29 Minutes” by Martha Laguardia-Kotite (Yachting.com, Nov.25). “Abandon ship,” notes judge chair Jan Mundy, “are the two most frightening words when at sea. Scott’s story is a riveting, well-researched account of a sinking in Antarctic waters as seen through the eyes of the passengers onboard the foundering cruise ship.” Merit awards to: “Death’s Door” by Doug Campbell (Soundings, Nov.); “Many Factors Cited in Powerboat Tragedy” by Chris Landry (Soundings, Dec.); “A Voyager’s Guide to Spare Parts” by Alvah Simon (Cruising World, Jan.); “Unsinkable” by David Liscio (Northeast Boating, May).

13. Technical Writing – sponsored by Dometic Corp. – Environmental.

1st, “Slam Dancing” by Eric Colby (Boating, Feb.); 2nd, “Big Water Boats” by George Sass, Sr. (Ocean Explorer handbook - annual); 3rd, “Packing on Pounds” by Jeff Hemmel (Boating, March). Judges said the first place selection was, “A creative approach to describing the

construction of boat hulls, providing information in a way that left the reader feeling almost like a treasure-hunter in search of technical answers. You didn't have to be a geek to learn from and love this piece." Merit Certificate to "Braking Up" by Jerry Gibbs (Northeast Boating, May).

14. Boat Tests – sponsored by Volvo Penta.

1st, "Lion's Whelp" by Stacey Collins (Cruising World, Aug.); 2nd, "Stacking Up Strong" by Grant Rafter (Power & Motoryacht, June); 3rd, "Wake-Up Call" by Jeff Hemmel (Boating, June). The top pick, said category chair Tom Tripp, is "A good story that draws the reader into the boat, and also into the lives of the people behind the boat; one of the more enjoyable boat test articles to read." Certificates of Merit to: "Man Made" by Chris Caswell (Yachting, Sept.); "Maine Beauty Takes Flight" by Jeremy McGear (Cruising World, April); "A New American Idol" by George Sass, Sr. (Power Cruising, Nov/Dec.); "This Waterline 50" by Andrew Burton (Cruising World, Dec.).

15. Gear, Electronics and Product Tests – sponsored by Xantrex Technology Inc.

1st, "The Spot Messenger" by Frank Lanier (Practical Sailor, Sept.); 2nd, "Side Imaging Sonar" by Lenny Rudow (Texas Fish & Game, Nov.); 3rd, "Bluewater Gear: 9 Rafts Reviewed" by Mark Pillsbury (Cruising World, Nov.). Judges described the winner as "An interesting, comprehensive, careful and cautionary review of the new satellite personal tracking system. Its clear recommendations and conclusions will help long-distance cruisers remain well-prepared at sea." Merit awards to: "Wild West Shootout" by Alan Jones (Boating World, April); "Watered Down" by Bill Grannis (Bass & Walleye Boats, Dec.); "Know the Flow" by Ben Ellison (Power & Motoryacht, Oct.).

16. Megayachts – sponsored by Awlgrip North America.

1st, "Maxi'd Out" by Stuart Streuli (Sailing World, Nov/Dec.); 2nd, "Gallant Lady" by Louisa Beckett (The Megayachts USA, Sept.); 3rd, "Far East Meets Down East" by Chris Caswell (Yachting, Nov.). Judge chair Bill Sisson commented on the top pick, "This piece from on board the very fast 99-foot supermaxi, Speedboat, was nicely written, with good details, descriptions and perspective. It certainly put me there." Merit Certificate to "Double Burger with Everything" by Dudley Dawson (Yachting, July).

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BWI is a non-profit professional organization consisting of writers, broadcasters, editors, publishers, photographers, public relations specialists and others in the communications profession associated with the boating industry. Members include active marine journalists across the U.S., in Canada and around the world, supporting marine manufacturers and service entities, and associates in communication roles. More information about BWI is available by visiting www.bwi.org.