



"Email me or call me with your questions! I'll be happy to help you out"

email: boatrepair@aol.com tel: 518.864.5316 cell: 518.577.7799

Dave Weakley is the owner of American Boat Restoration and has been helping boaters keep their boats in fine trim and good repair for over 30 years from Catskill to Lake George & Western New England.

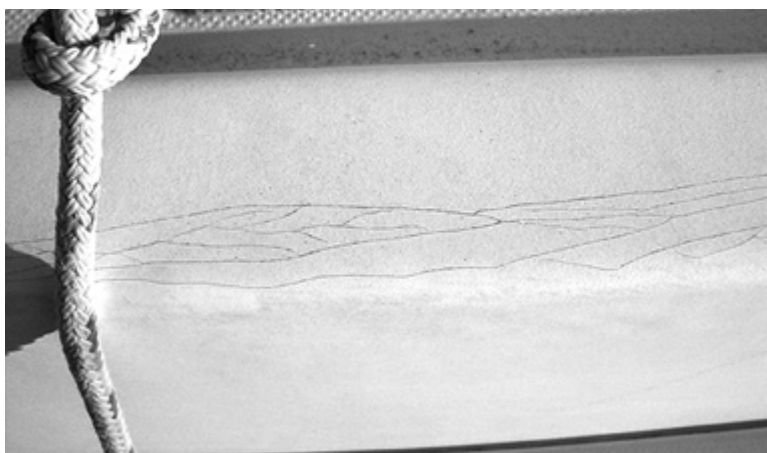
Stress Marks

Friends of mine bought a 42' pre-owned boat three years ago in Annapolis, MD and motored it up the coast to Albany, NY. Shortly after it arrived they asked me to look at a series of gelcoat cracks above and below a broken section of rub rail on the starboard side just forward of mid ship. The previous owner damaged the boat when he got caught in a cross current and the boat drifted into a dock piling with enough force to crack the side of the boat and destroy part of the rub rail. The impact started a series of gelcoat cracks running parallel above the rub rail that grew like cracks in a windshield.

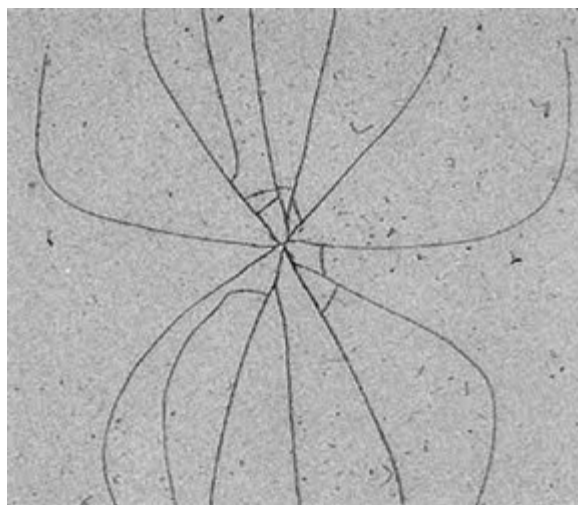
Three years ago the cracks were approximately 5' long and by this spring they grew to almost 12' in length.

I began to repair the boat by color restoring the undamaged gelcoat surrounding the cracks so the new gelcoat would blend with the old. Next I started grinding the cracked gelcoat surface using vacuum assisted equipment to eliminate dust and debris. The damage was severe and deep into the fiberglass laminate. The repair required laying up new fiberglass cloth with epoxy resin. With a plan in place I ground out the fiberglass deep enough to accommodate the new fiberglass cloth lay up material and enough room for the new gelcoat.

Multiple layers of fiberglass cloth and epoxy resin were applied to the 12' long ground out area. When the epoxy resin cured I sanded the amine blush off with a pneumatic board file using 40 grit paper on



Longitudinal (above) and radial stress cracks in your gelcoat can be repaired.



Dolores Bouse, manager
RESERVATIONS: 518-943-4170
FAX: 518-943-5230
www.catskillmarina.com

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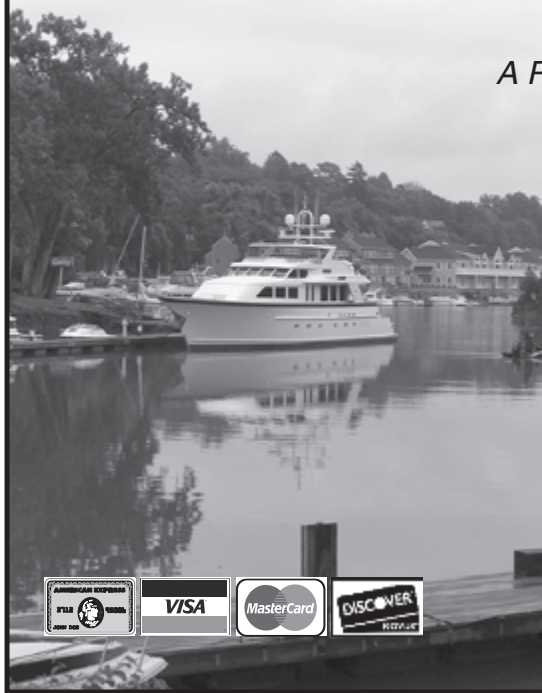
On picturesque Catskill Creek

A Pleasant Place to Visit – Transients are our Specialty

- Quiet shaded, park-like setting
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Nearby Attractions:

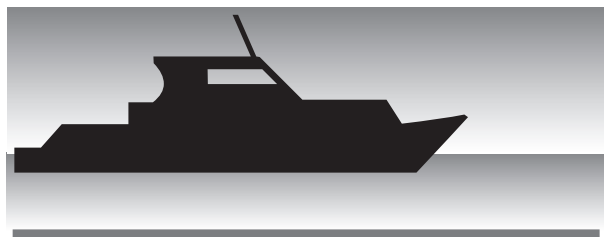
- Frederick Church's "Olana", Thomas Cole House and many others.
- Heated pool - barbeque and picnic areas
- Complimentary WiFi
- Clean, modern showers, toilets, and laundromat
- Ship's Store – clothing – cleaning supplies charts - sundries
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- Pump out
- Rental cars available (advance reservations suggested)
- Several restaurants within walking distance
- Convenient stop when entering or leaving Erie and Champlain Canals



the entire area. Flexible fiber fillers were then applied and I sanded the surface again. The deck and hull had to be sanded strategically so it was straight, free of moguls and the body lines shaped back to original design and to accommodate a perfect fit for a new rub rail section.

The boat was then covered with plastic. The surface was prepped for new gelcoat and it was applied. The new gelcoat surface was coated with PVA (Polyvinyl alcohol, a water-soluble synthetic polymer essential for a good gelcoat cure) and left to dry overnight. I installed a new section of rub rail after sanding and compounding the new gelcoat and the work was complete.

It was clearly evident that once the fiberglass on this boat was breached the damage became worse over time. I suggest getting repairs done as soon as possible before the stress marks grow into a major reconstruction project.



Learn All Aspects of Minor Gelcoat Repairs.

American Boat Restoration

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