

# NORTH RIVER SHIPYARD

by John H. Vargo, Publisher

Arguably the oldest shipyard on the Hudson River, North River Shipyard, (formerly Petersen's Boat Yard began in 1907, however shipbuilding took place on the property all the way back to the late 1700's), and has been serving the Hudson River and surrounding waters longer than any other commercial or recreational boat yard.

Located just two miles north of the Tappan Zee Bridge on the west shore of the Hudson River, this location has "lived history" as time has passed.

Today, Ken Graefe, and his two sons, Nick 27, and Matt, 24 are enjoying their dream as they service a wide variety of commercial boats from the Hudson River and adjacent waters.

Petersen's Boat Yard, as it was previously called, has seen its boom and busts. When Ken and his wife, Kimberly (who passed away two years ago) bought Petersen's Boat Yard in 2012, it was undecided as what to do with the property by the Upper Nyack community.

What tipped the cards in favor of a continuation of Petersen's as a shipyard was the proposed new Tappan Zee Bridge. (When they bought the yard they had no idea that the new Tappan Zee Bridge was going to be built)

In reality it was a no brainer, as the need for "on the water support" for the new bridge construction made it a winner in many peoples eyes.

When Sound Marine, Inc. (a company owned by Ken and his wife) acted and purchased Petersen's Boat Yard they continued to service the recreational boating industry as well as commercial interests. As the time table for the New Tappan Zee Bridge got closer to reality, the owners decided that supporting the commercial traffic required to rebuild the Tappan Zee Bridge, plus the opportunity to service other commercial boats using the Hudson River was a decision they just could not pass up.

Today with the Tappan Zee Bridge just about complete, the excellent quality of work, attention to detail, and integrity of the present owners has proven itself.

In today's world of tight regulations, instant communication and high Tech, supporting this industry is difficult to say the least.

Yet this family seems to thoroughly enjoy the challenges that are involved and are thriving.



Ken Graefe, the owner of North River Shipyard.



Marine One, now privately owned, being refurbished at North River Shipyard.