

Over 45 Years in Business
"Ask Dr Gel"
 15 Years in
 Boating on the Hudson

Ask Dr. Gel

by Dave Weakley

Dave Weakley is the owner of American Boat Restoration and has been keeping boaters afloat in fine trim and good repair for over 45 years.

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

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There should be a water skier hand signal for "You are about to crash!!"

The operator of a boat is solely responsible for the safe navigation of his/her boat. In addition if he/she operates a boat in waters frequented by swimmers or other boats they are obligated to maintain a safe distance and be a lookout as a reasonably sensible person and do their best to avoid injury to others lawfully using the water. This includes keeping a skier away from dangerous areas. If the driver fails to observe that duty for the



Impact Damage.

safety of a passenger(s) or other vessels he is guilty of negligence.

Rebuilding hull seam.

Our customer, owner of this beautiful pristine 1998 Sea Ray and his family were on their stopped boat floating and enjoying a nice day in the middle of the lake. All were on board, mom, dad and kids were sitting in the stern area. The family then got up and moved towards the front of the boat never expecting what was about to happen! Along came airhead "Joe Schmoe" driving his boat towing a skier. The driver pulling the skier along with the spotter (Observer)



Damage from crash.

were both standing up facing the skier, the driver had his back to where he was headed not paying any attention at all to where he was going! The boat came directly at the Sea Ray and hit it riding up the port side area, engine cover and swim platform. Miraculously no one was injured on either boat! Again truly incredibly no one was hurt. The dumb "absentee" driver was cited for multiple boating violations. After the

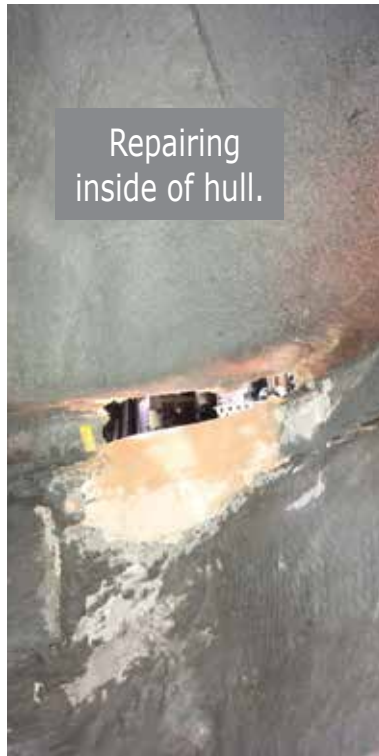
The boat damage shown in these photos is the result of a negligent boat driver! He was totally unaware of where the boat he was driving was headed as he was pulling a water skier!

Hull seam rebuild completed.





Repairs completed.



Repairing inside of hull.

to do a proper repair. Some of the damaged areas had to be repaired inside the hull and out.

There is no water ski hand signal "You are about to crash" Maybe there should be! The skier could have signaled "Stop the Boat!" but maybe it was too late!

Boat drivers please pay attention to where you are going when you're at the helm ALWAYS!

As we look back on the past year and forward to

impact the Sea Ray owner was able to motor the boat to shore where the boat sunk onto some rocks causing 5 areas of damage on the hull. The portside stern corner, the deck/hull seam, swim platform including the non skid surface, engine cover and ski tow bar were badly damaged. The boat repair was very time consuming. There was no easy access to removing the boarding ladder bolts and ski tow bar bases in order to do the repair which made it even more difficult. When boats are designed often no one pays attention to access for repairs! There was a lot of removing and replacing seating and a section of the rub rail also needed to be removed and replaced in order

the New Year 2022 ahead, I'd like to take a moment to say thank you for your continued reading of Ask Dr Gel. I am grateful and hope the information in my articles has been helpful! Remember don't hesitate to contact me with any questions you have!

*Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays
and Happy New Year to Everyone!*
Dave & Dee

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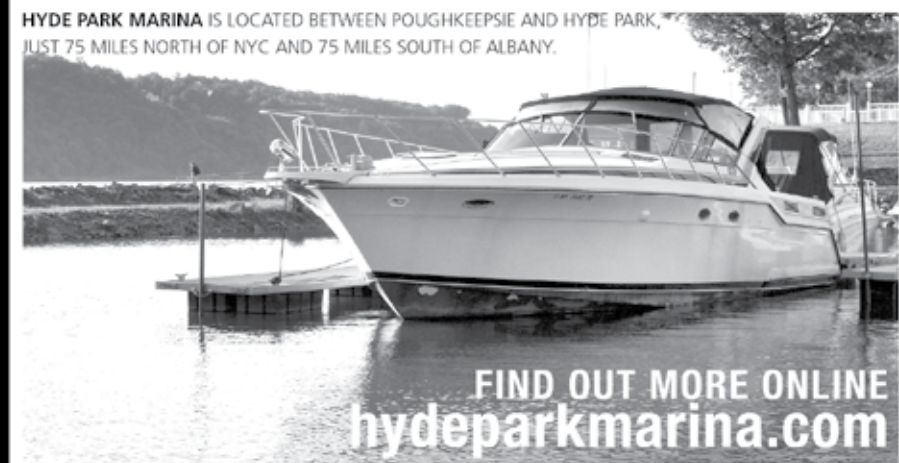


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