

Over 45 Years in Business

'Ask Dr Gel' • 18 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"
americanboatrestoration.com / email: boatrepair@aol.com
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A careless driver and failure of boat trailer equipment equals a very bad day!

Here's our customers story:

"On our journey north. We started out from Florida hauling our new boat and trailer. The trip was uneventful through Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and parts of Virginia. Our next stop was to be Pennsylvania to visit a friend. The GPS was hopefully going to route us through the countryside. We however found ourselves stuck on 495 in Virginia just south of Maryland. Traffic was horrendous; we were proceeding fairly slowly when a line of traffic in front of us had come to a stop. A driver from the lane on the right pulled over and stopped immediately. In an effort not to start a chain reaction I was able to stop the truck but not the boat. The boat broke loose on the trailer breaking two tie straps in the back and removing the winch stand, the spare tire, the jack stand and ending up in the back of the truck. With four lanes of traffic barely



moving there was no place to pull over. We ended up driving another 50 miles to a rest stop in Maryland. Taking a close look at the wreckage decided to continue on to Pennsylvania and try to get help at our friend's house. We had to stop for gasoline and then when we did we had to make a turn to get back onto the road and in the middle of the gas station the boat decided it had all the fun it needed to have and fell off the trailer. With the help of a very kind policeman and a local citizen, we were able to get two tow trucks one left of the front of the boat while the other pull the boat back on the trailer after accomplishing that feat we had to try to figure out how to reset the winch stand so that we can leave the boat and go try to find U bolts to put the winch stand back on the trailer and secure the boat. A local resident who was kind enough to be helping us suggested that we go to a Marine dealer about 8 miles away. They fortunately knew how to do U bolts and new safety straps. I was able to rescue the winch stand and we were able to proceed to our

friends in Pennsylvania. The boat remained secure for the rest of the journey back to Massachusetts."

Fortunately no one was injured in this accident!

The boat arrived at my shop and I examined it carefully and wrote a repair estimate which was approved by the owners' insurance co.

The amount of damage to the boat from sliding into the back of the pickup truck was less than expected. In order to do the repairs the boat had to come off the trailer again be blocked and when the repairs were completed I returned it to the trailer.

It had numerous gashes and scratches on the keel and on the front section of the bow. The gelcoat damage was in two gelcoat colors. The bow area of the rub rail was destroyed. I had to remove bottom paint to do the hull repairs. After they were complete I applied epoxy barrier and new bottom paint.

The entire situation could have been prevented in my opinion if better quality UBolts holding the winch stand were installed and there was a cable holding the boat back.



Trailer temporarily repaired- so it could continue trip home.

Check your trailer or have a competent marine service repair facility inspect it before you head out on your trip!

Here's a good list of things to check:

- Lights
- Brakes-if equipped
- Break-a-way Safety chains
- Bunks and rollers – tighten if needed-check
- Carpet and protruding fasteners
- Properly adjusted tongue assembly
- Tight Stanchion and U Bolts
- Tongue latch- secure with a bolt or lock
- Bearings
- Tires
- Lug nuts tight
- Tire air pressure
- Tie downs secure- two on stern and 2 on bow
- Trailer jack
- Inspect frame



Learn All Aspects of Minor Gelcoat Repairs.

American Boat Restoration

GRINDING - MIXING - CATALYZING - SPRAYING - SANDING - BUFFING

"Your knowledge and the quality of the materials you use will lead to successful repairs!"

Instructor - Dave Weakley,
Boating On The Hudson & Beyond magazine's "Ask Dr. Gel"
Certied professional with over 45 yrs experience
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minor Gelcoat, Fiberglass & Polyake repair.
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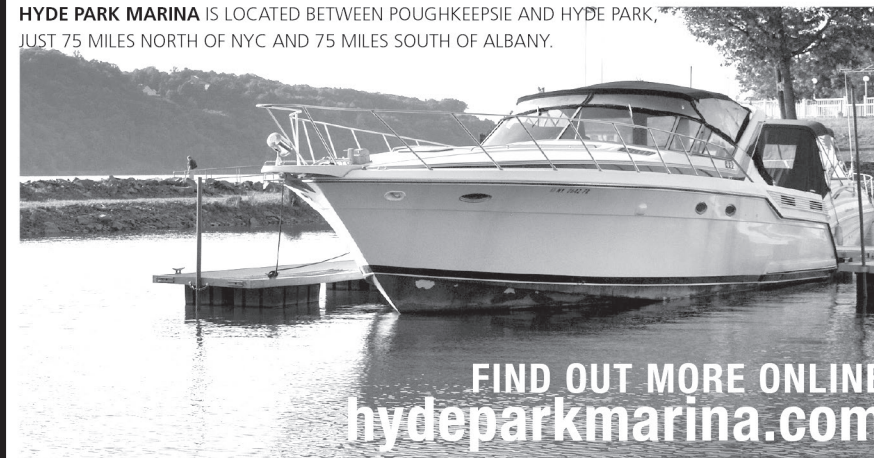
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