

2007 Technologist of Distinction



Kenneth R. Winter
B.S. Industrial Technology, TPI, 1962

Owner
Winter Yacht Basin, Inc.

Citation

Ken grew up on the New Jersey shore. He spent two years as an electrician mate in the Coast Guard, and he found his way to Cookeville for his college degree. To this day he still wonders how things might have been different had he taken the plant manager job offered at his graduation from Tech by DuPont at their facility in a near-by New Jersey town. Instead, he chose to return to his family's boatyard. Ken took over the business and built it into a full service marina and boatyard, home base and port of call for some of the world's finest yachts.

In an innovative way, he moved the facility beyond the traditional ship's chandler role. He brought in large lifts, sophisticated repair techniques and high-tech materials, so that Winter Yacht Basin became a preeminent luxury yacht service center at its location on the Intercoastal Waterway at Barnegat Bay. They do very heavy duty repair work on very expensive yachts. The addition of a helipad for the convenience of his fast-moving clientele is just one example of the many adjustments he has had to make to keep his services relevant and competitive in a changing world.

Ken has felt the need to give back. In addition to years of generosity to his Tennessee alma mater, he elected to serve on the General Advisory Board for Ocean County (NJ) Vocational Technical School. He chaired that Board and served on the school's Marine Trades Committee as well. He saw a need and pitched in, lending his expertise to insure that properly trained trades people with relevant skills are coming from the school. His experience and wisdom have been invaluable tools in guiding the school to serve the region and enrich the education of its students.

His professional associations have included the American Boat Builders and Repairers Association (ABBRA). He served on their board and is a past-president. At the Marine Trades Association of New Jersey, he also served on the board and was elected their president, too. What is more, in 2004 the association showed its esteem for Ken by inducting him into their Hall of Fame.

Ken and his wife, Karen, have three grown children, Kimberly, Andrew and Ginna and two grandchildren, Ryan and Sydney.



2007 Technologist of Distinction Ken Winter is congratulated by Dean Glen Johnson