Walstrom Marine promotes Charlie Duray to Service Manager position

Walstrom Marine has promoted long-time employee Charlie Duray to Harbor Springs Service Manager from the Production Manager position he previously held.

Originally from Cleveland, Ohio, Charlie grew up on the water spending time on their family’s Safety-Craft cruiser. After finishing school, Duray moved to the Bahamas for eighteen months where a yacht captain introduced him to the world of crewed yachts. His first ‘probationary’ position was as a deck hand on a 60’ Chris Craft Constellation. It wasn’t long before Charlie worked his way up to become First Mate aboard one of the last large wooden yachts built in the United States, a 76’ Broward, owned by a gentleman from Chicago who also had a cottage on Harbor Point in Harbor Springs, Michigan. The Harbor Point connection would bring together Charlie with his future wife of thirty-four years.

Charlie’s First Mate position on the Broward brought him, and the crew, the opportunity to extensively cruise the Eastern United States including the waters of the Great Loop and the Gulf of Mexico. This extensive experience also prepared Charlie to take the helm as a captain himself, running his first yacht, a 58’ Hatteras Cockpit Motor Yacht with the added benefit of his new wife, Nancy, as First Mate. This position opened the door for another opportunity as crew aboard a 60’ Chris Craft Roamer that also involved assisting the owner with the campaign of a 38’ Cigarette Top Gun offshore race boat. The Cigarette team went on to take World Champion honors.

The desire to have a ‘home’ prompted a move to Harbor Springs in 1982. Shortly after moving to Harbor Springs, the seas again called Charlie, this time as a delivery captain for Walstrom Marine. Running everything from used 25’ runabouts to 60’ Hatteras and Bertrams, Charlie proved his value to his new employer. In 1986, Charlie would become a full time Walstrom Marine crew member and has remained a valued employee and friend ever since. While not on the water as much now as before, Charlie currently fills his need for speed on one of his motorcycles tearing up the countryside surrounding Harbor Springs.

In related moves, Dave Price, formerly Service Manager, takes the position of Facilities and Yard Manager while new hire David Lesh Jr. replaces Duray at the Harbor Springs Production Manager position.

Walstrom Marine is a second-generation, family-owned yacht sales and service company celebrating over sixty years of serving the boating community throughout northern Michigan. Walstrom Marine has earned national recognition as being one of the Top 100 marine retailers in the United States. Walstrom Marine is also part of a select group marine dealers worldwide to have earned the prestigious Tiara Yachts Platinum Service Award. Walstrom Marine is based in Harbor Springs, Michigan, with sales and service locations in Harbor Springs, Cheboygan, and Bay Harbor. Walstrom Marine sells and services Hatteras Yachts, Tiara Yachts, Grand Banks Yachts, Eastbay Yachts, Chris Craft, and Pursuit Boats.