



National Marine Electronics Association

7 Riggs Avenue • Severna Park, MD 21146 • 410-975-9425

For Immediate Release

Contact: Bruce Angus
Interim Executive Director

410-975-9425

bangus@nmea.org

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2012 NMEA International Marine Electronics Conference & Expo Lineup Announced

*Ramped-up technical education and training
sessions highlight intense agenda*

SEVERNA PARK, MD—When the 2012 NMEA International Marine Electronics Conference & Expo kicks into gear this September, it will feature a greatly expanded lineup of activities, education, and training. The goal is to offer a diverse and topical mix of technical and business education to dealers and technicians. NMEA's Conference & Expo will take place Sept. 26–29 at Loews Royal Pacific Resort at Universal Orlando in Orlando, Fla.

Highlights of this year's conference include:

- Three education tracks with in-depth information on business, systems design, and NMEA 2000® installation topics
- Comprehensive factory training sessions by a dozen manufacturers
- NMEA training and certification for MEI (Marine Electronics Installer), Advanced MEI, and NMEA 2000®
- A first look at exciting new products for 2013, over three exhibit days

“The 2012 NMEA convention will be like no other,” said Bruce Angus, NMEA interim executive director. “The convention committee and national NMEA office have put together an awesome and very relevant education program for dealers. Our goal is nothing short of rejuvenating enthusiasm for what the association provides to its members, and we aim for a record turnout of attendees this year.”

Another unique aspect is that the 2012 RTCM Annual Assembly Meeting and Conference will occur at the same facility in the same week, from Sunday, September 23, through Friday, September 28. The Radio Technical Commission

for Maritime Services specifies many standards governing marine communications and navigation equipment. Registrations for the RTCM and NMEA conferences are separate, but members may sign up to attend each other's sessions. There will be a common session available to both audiences on Wednesday morning.

The popular NMEA Product Awards will have a new category this year, and, for the first time, all NMEA members are eligible to vote for the products. In the past, only dealers could vote. The awards, including the coveted Technology Award, will be presented during the Friday evening barbecue. As in past years, judges appointed by Boating Writers International will select the Technology Award. The "almost famous" Syngle Syde Band, comprised of musicians from the marine electronics industry, will provide entertainment at the awards/BBQ party.

EDUCATION TRACKS

Wednesday–Friday

Each session will be offered twice.

Track 1: Business Training: Using the Internet to Market Your Company; Effective Purchasing and Inventory Management; Standardize Your Workflow; Project Management Cost/Benefit; Plan Your Profit: Read Your Balance Sheet

Track 2: Systems Design: Power Planning; Antenna Placement; Thermal Planning; NMEA 2000® Design; Documenting "As Built"

Track 3: Installing to NMEA Standards: Tool Selection; Transducer Installation; Non-RF Planning & Terminations; RF Planning & Terminations; SHF Techniques

MEI, ADVANCED MEI, and NMEA 2000® TRAINING & TESTING

Wednesday–Friday

Full registrants may apply the entire cost of their registration fee toward attendance at any class.

TECH DAY–FACTORY TRAINING

Saturday

Up to four sessions will run concurrently. Attendees who come for this day only will be charged a nominal fee for lunch.

Currently scheduled to provide dedicated two-hour technical training sessions are Navico, Raymarine, Furuno, Garmin, Intellian, KVH, Sea Tel, Gemeco, FLIR, Egersund Marine Electronics, Johnson Outdoors, and SI-TEX.

All courses and schedules are subject to change. The full schedule may be viewed at the end of May by visiting www.nmea.org and clicking on NMEA 2012 Conference & Expo.

Founded in 1957, the NMEA has led the way in establishing technical standards for data exchange in marine electronics, with the widely accepted NMEA 0183 data protocol, NMEA 2000® and certification standards for marine electronics technicians. NMEA standards and programs focus on ensuring that the boating consumer is provided with reliable products and

professional service. For more information, visit the NMEA website at www.NMEA.org or call 410-975-9425.

Photo caption: More than 50 manufacturers exhibited their products and services at the 2011 NMEA International Marine Electronics Conference & Expo. This year, the exhibition will be expanded to a third day.