July 4
DROP THE HOOK AND PARTY

Watersports
LET’S GET WET!

Classic Boats

July 2016 FREE
Six ideas for cleaning your boat:

1. Plastic surfaces, stainless steel, aluminum, and decks can all be cleaned with vinegar in various states of dilution. Vinegar’s pH level makes it fairly acidic, which removes lots of water deposits.
2. Fiberglass stains can be cleaned with a paste of baking soda and water. Mix just enough water into the baking soda to make it the consistency of peanut butter. Using a sponge or soft cloth, lightly rub the mixture into the stain. This great fiberglass cleaner can be used for onboard showers and heads, also, or even at home.
3. Copper fittings need a little acidity and abrasion. A paste of lemon juice and salt rubbed lightly onto the fitting will make it lustrous.
4. Windows and mirrors are easily cleaned with a solution of vinegar, lemon juice, and warm water. Use warm or hot water for quick evaporation to reduce streaking. Fill a spray bottle with this solution, and wipe it down with your reusable microfiber cloths.
5. Chrome can be brightened using apple cider vinegar. Pour it onto your reusable soft cloth, and gently rub it clean. After it’s clean, a little olive oil wiped on lightly can make your chrome gleam. Don’t use baby oil for this application as it’s a petroleum product.
6. Use olive or almond oil to clean interior wood. Just a dab of any natural plant oil will deliver natural moisturizers to protect the wood and a little bit of shine. Wipe off any excess with a reusable cloth.

Find other great ideas at propstalk.com/eco-friendly.

Encouraging STEM through Crab Boat Engineering Challenge

High school students participating in the inaugural Eastern Shore Crab Boat Engineering Challenge got some valuable hands-on experience designing and operating a remote-controlled watercraft and working through inclement weather like real crabbers. Blue skies gave way to a downpour April 23 as teams ran their models of Chesapeake deadrise crab boats through the rigors at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Sciences’s (UMES) boat ramp in Cambridge, MD. The boats were tasked with operating as quickly as possible to collect the most miniature crab baskets in an allotted timeframe.

“Students had to apply knowledge of various STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Math) concepts in researching, designing, constructing, testing, and troubleshooting their boats,” said Dr. Tyler Love, coordinator for the event and an assistant professor of Marine Technology and engineering education at UMES.

“The challenge exemplified the benefits of technology and engineering classes at the secondary level and UMES’s role in preparing teachers for these courses. It was exciting to see how the schools, sponsors, and volunteers collaborated to make this a memorable learning experience,” Love said.

Queen Anne’s County High School in Centreville came in first place with Steven Decatur in Berlin taking the number two spot in the competition. UMES organized and facilitated the event and manufactured the award plaques. Love said.

Non-Toxic Cleaning Methods

by Elizabeth Kelsh

With visions of a grizzled old chief hoisting a maste shrouding, “Swab those decks up to the bulkheads and set it ship shape and Bristol fashion,” I’m thinking about boat-cleaning season. It used to be that boaters cleaning and getting ready for the season’s adventures would turn to some pretty hazardous chemicals. Today’s boat owners understand the value of protecting our waters and the environment, and many choose not to use those hazardous chemicals. Mother Nature provides some effective and non-toxic options. Baking soda, lemon juice, and vinegar are some of the most effective cleaners available.

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