

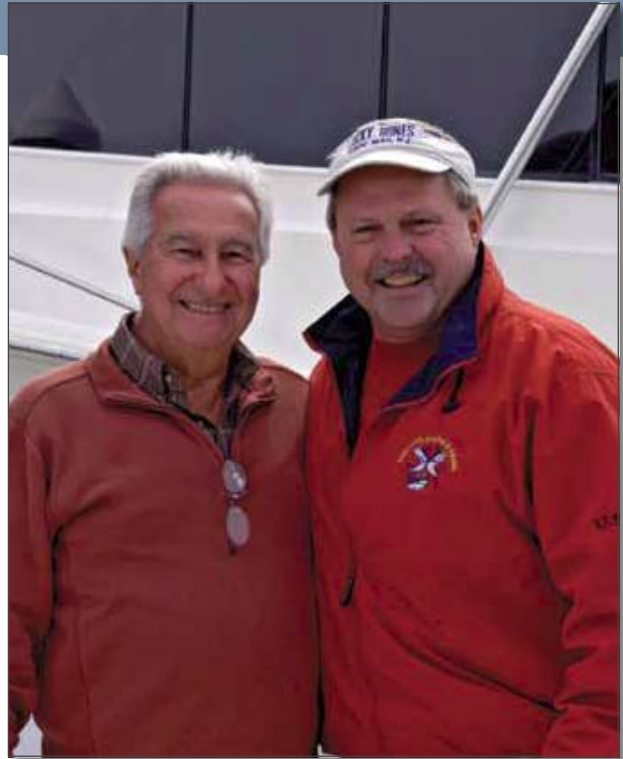
## PRODUCT UPDATES

### FUEL SPILLS ARE PREVENTABLE MEET DAN SABATINO AND THE SMART CAP BY DAVE WRIGLEY

There's nothing good about a fuel spill. It's not good for the environment, the marina, the boat, and at today's fuel pricing, it's certainly not good for your wallet. Plus, the federal government has introduced new emission standards for vessels built after 2009. Dan Sabatino has invented something to help address this issue. His invention is called Smart Cap.

Dan has been a boating enthusiast ever since he joined the Sea Scouts when he was 13. He has been inventing technical products since he was in my mid-twenties. Inventors are problem solvers, and the problem of properly fueling boats has plagued boat owners for as long as there have been power boats. A few years ago, he decided to try and do something about this problem. The Smart Cap system is his solution to this problem. It is designed to warn the boat operator that they are about to overfill the fuel tank, causing a spill.

The system is really two products that were patented separately. The heart of the system is the programmable control circuit that monitors the fuel level in the tank being filled. When he demonstrated the prototype to boat builders, they insisted that the circuit would have to be activated automatically in case the boat operator for-



*Smart Cap inventor Dan Sabatino (left) with SJM's Mark Allan.*

got to turn the system on when fueling the boat. That's when he designed and patented the fuel cap sensor. The sensor acts as an on/off switch for the control circuit. As soon as the fuel cap is removed, the control circuit is automatically activated. Then after fueling and replacing the fuel cap, the circuit is deactivated. The fuel cap sensor can also be used as a sensor for other products such as a boat security alarm system that will notify the boat operator or owner if the fuel cap has been removed without permission.

The control circuit is factory set to leave an air space above the fuel in the tank when the alarm activates. This air space is important because fuel can expand as the temperature increases. The air space provides a place for the fuel to expand into without coming out of the fuel tank vent. The owner or boat operator can easily modify the factory settings to customize the amount of air space in the fuel tank for his particular boat. The circuit can also be set for

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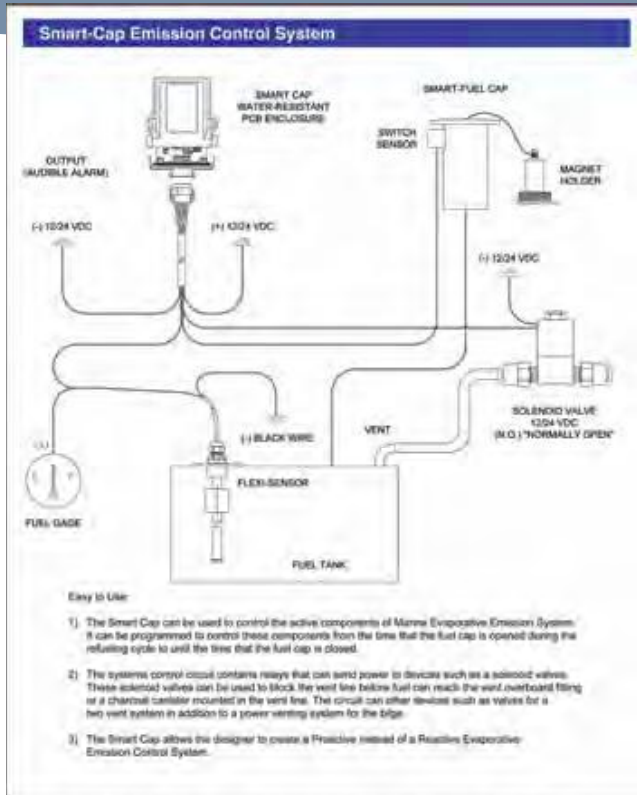
12 or 24 volts and to match the various types of fuel senders in use today. The system can also automatically activate the blowers of a boat when the fuel cap is removed.

The Smart Cap system can be retrofitted to any boat that has a fuel fill cap with a fuel sender in the tank that is connected to a fuel gauge mounted anywhere on the boat. This product can be easily installed by a do-it-yourselfer or a marine mechanic when the boat is being serviced.

Common sense and vigilance should always be used when fueling a boat. Although there are mechanical solutions such as check valves in the vent line, or bottles designed to capture fuel spills at the vent fitting, these mechanical solutions cannot be customized for a particular boat, and they react only when the tank is already overfilled and the air space has been virtually reduced to zero. The Smart Cap system is a tool that can help fill the fuel tank to the proper level and help prevent fuel spills when used properly.

The EPA is going to require new boat manufacturers to greatly reduce the emissions, or vapor, coming from the entire fuel system. There are several manufacturers currently installing the Smart Cap on their boats, Viking, Egg Harbor, and Buddy Davis to name just a few. There are other smaller boat companies testing the Smart Cap System for future installations. The Smart Cap can be incorporated into any new vapor reduction system that is being designed to meet these new EPA requirements.

The Smart Cap system is currently being manufactured by Royce Industries, LLC of Farmington, CT. This is the same company that is manufacturing the "Flexisender" fuel sender, another marine related product that Sabatino designed and patented. It is available for purchase and installation at the Service Center at Canyon Club, among other places.



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