

« W A Y P O I N T S »

MOVE ASIDE

Designing and building high-performance steering systems is nothing new for Latham Marine. They have been at it for more than 35 years, with a number of systems proven on the racing circuit. What is new is Latham's side-mount steering system for the new Yamaha V-8, 5.3-liter F350 outboard.



TIGHT GRIP. Latham's side-mount steering system at work on an Intrepid 370 (top). The unit grips a Yamaha F350 outboard (above).

Crafted to accommodate the more powerful and heavier outboards of late (some weighing well over 800 pounds), Latham Marine's side-mount steering can handle more rigorous conditions than a traditional center-mounted system and is especially well-suited for use on performance fishing boats. While a center-mounted unit turns an outboard from its pivot pin and steering bracket, Latham's design grips the outboard between the power head and the midsection, turning the entire engine. The new Latham system can be used on a single outboard or on multiple installations — as many as four motors.

Shown above on an Intrepid 370, the Latham system is cut from 316 marine-grade stainless steel and can deliver a full steering range "lock-to-lock" (left to right) in just three to seven turns of the wheel. For details, go to lathammarine.com.

Birds of a Feather

America's Great Loop Cruisers' Association (AGLCA), an online community of Great Loop cruisers, recently held its annual spring rendezvous and reunion. The event, which lasted for three days in April, was the first meeting AGLCA members attended on their yearlong journey along the waterways of the eastern portion of North America — including the Atlantic and Gulf Intracoastal Waterways, the Great Lakes, the Canadian Heritage Canals and the inland rivers of America's heartland.

The rendezvous was held near AGLCA's headquarters in Charleston, South Carolina. Attendees enjoyed a number of seminars covering topics such as how to navigate Great Loop waterways and how to execute vessel safety checks.



Lady loopers were also treated to educational sessions with Capt. Patti Moore and Capt. Carol Cuddyer, two of the country's most respected female boating professionals. The Looper Crawl, which allows loopers to board and admire each other's boats, was perhaps the most popular event of all.

Interested in the AGLCA? Trial memberships are available and dues start at \$49 per year. greatloop.org

Bareboat in the BVI



You might not know it from the size and quality of the fleet, or from the impeccable service many reportedly receive, but Virgin Traders Motor Yachts is a small,

family-run business. This reputable charter company is based in Nanny Cay Marina on Tortola in the British Virgin Islands and prides itself on first-class service, accommodations and, above all, customer satisfaction — 80 percent of its clients are repeat customers.

Virgin Traders bareboat customers have access to a number of well-maintained boats ranging in size from a 40-foot express to Virgin's latest addition, the *Viaggio*, a 74-foot Horizon motoryacht. A typical itinerary takes cruisers from Tortola to places like Cooper Island, Bitter End on Virgin Gorda and The Bight on Norman Island. Anyone who books with Virgin Traders will receive 10 days of boating for the price of seven. This is not a one-time promotion, but rather a long-standing customer service tradition offered to all clients. virgintraders.com