

Marine Electronic Evolution

Buy or Upgrade Now or Wait

Boating Tips

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It's speculative just when marine electronics began evolving. Today you can buy side scan sonar, 3D bottom cartography, ERIB integrated with DCS and GPS. Displays are monitoring of engine and running systems employing color screens with touchpad technology. You may also now monitor you boat at the dock via the Internet.

The point is multifold:

- Granted the technology of electronics purchased today manufacturers replace with newer technology in three to five years. Still that is no reason to delay upgrading or buying current electronics, missing out on the benefits of today's technology.
- If you've not upgraded and integrated in the past 5 to 7 years, you and your boat are due.
- Newer marine connectivity is similar to connecting peripherals to your computer or smart TV. Connectivity of marine technology is becoming more standardized, green wire plug to green receptacle, yellow USB cable to yellow USB port, etc., etc.
- Plus marine electronic purchased today will most likely interface with tomorrow's technology.
- Inexpensive today is good, very good, as the price of marine technology continues dropping. On the other hand, do you really, really need and will you use all the bells and whistles of the expensive unit?
- List required functions then functions you'd like to have. Next create a device priority list, digital fish finder before radar, along with a budget. Finally Next, shop, shop, shop, stores, marine electronic dealers, on-line, even e-Bay and Amazon.
- Even with current "smart" installation, include certified and experienced local installation and training in price comparisons.
- Hand in hand, keep service in mind. Can local companies fix your electronics or must they go across the country or even to another country?
- Finally, does your boat have enough DC power to handle your new electronics and is there enough helm or overhead space for mounting?

Whether to buy and upgrade now, it is what it is, there is no good time as there is no bad time. If today's marine electronics will help you catch fish, improve vessel operation, improve safety plus add to the fun, do it.

Like a home computer "stuff" happens. Do not rely exclusively on electronics and the power they require. Have manual back up such as paper chart and compass plus hand held radio with integrated GPS. Furthermore, be mindful of information overload; too many screens displaying way too much data. It's like watching at your car's mapping device (chart plotter), not the traffic....then risk having an accident.

The Pamlico Sail & Power Squadron schedules boating education courses and seminars throughout the year. A Cruise Planning Course – begins 8/23 and a VHF & VHF/DSC Marine Radio 2 hour seminar is scheduled for 9/23. To learn more email our Education Officer at psps@gmail.com or contact Linda at 252-964-3009.