



Jacob Edson



## Edson Kicks Off 150 Year Anniversary Celebration!

Hosts "Thank You Party" for Marine Trade at Newport International Boatshow

September 9, 2008 - Newport, RI

Hailed as one of the oldest continuously operating companies in Massachusetts and the entire United

States, Edson International is celebrating its 150th year anniversary in 2009.

To kick off the Anniversary Celebration, Edson is hosting the Newport International Boatshow Exhibitors Party on Thursday, Sept. 11th at 6pm at the Newport Harbor Hotel, In Newport, RI. The Exhibitor Party is a 'trade only' event and is held in conjunction with the International Yacht Restoration School's annual fundraising party benefiting the IYRS's Joyce Selig Memorial Scholarship Fund.

"Hank and I would like to ask those in the Marine Industry, as well as the many "friends of Edson", to consider making a donation to I.Y.R.S.'s Joyce Selig Memorial Scholarship Fund in honor of one of the most wonderful people to grace our Marine Industry. Joyce's Scholarship Fund will help those individuals looking to join our Industry get a strong I.R.Y.S. education," says Edson President Will Keene. They can learn more by speaking with Will and Hank at the Newport Boatshow or by visiting [www.iyrs.org](http://www.iyrs.org).

Media members in attendance at the Newport Boatshow are encouraged to stop by the Edson booth (Tent D, booth 56-58) to pick up a media packet and speak with Will and Hank Keene for Edson background information.

Edson would like to thank the following Sponsors who helped make this event possible: Latitudes and Attitudes Magazine, IYRS, Newport Intl. Boatshow, Cruising World Magazine, The Keene Family, SAIL Magazine, HUB International, Mainsail Marketing, The New Bedford Economic Development Council and Atlas Press.

### A Brief History of Edson

Founded in 1859 in Boston, Massachusetts by inventor Jacob Edson, the company originally began manufacturing diaphragm pumps and specialty hardware for the commercial marine trade. The company's diaphragm pumps were first used in sewage pumping applications, resulting in the original horse-drawn "honey wagon". Early innovations in the marine field included a "boom buffer" to reduce the shock of a gybing sailboat as well as hardware and steering systems for the greater Boston area fishing fleets, coastal schooners and cargo vessels.

By the 1900's, Edson was manufacturing steering systems for sailing vessels, resulting in early relationships with the America's Cup race boats. World Wars I and II saw Edson steering gear and bilge pumps used on freighters, liberty ships and PT boats.



Henry Keene Sr.



Will Keene



Hank Keene

marinas, yacht leader in helping to extended the use of sewage pump out Jacob Edson would become a water today.

The 1990's vaulted selection as official competing in the World races. The and product line in providing the with extremely sophisticated steering gear for sailboats as large as 200 feet. The company continues to see exponential growth in its marina pump out systems as well as its industrial pumping solutions. And with the introduction of their ProSeries PowerWheels and PowerKnobs®, both being regarded in the industry as "must have" accessories for high-end fishing and cruising boats, Edson has become a major supplier to the powerboat market.

In 1956, Edson was purchased by the Keene family, who continue to own the firm today. By the late 1960's, Edson, still the undisputed leader in sailboat steering, began to pioneer new cockpit designs in sailboats by introducing accessories for steering pedestals - ushering in the era of "cockpit living" with dining tables, drink holders and other boating lifestyle products. In the early 1990's, Edson went back to their roots to discover an entirely new application for existing pump products. Utilizing their time-tested diaphragm pump designs, Edson engineered holding tank pump out systems for clubs and municipalities and by doing so became a clean up and maintain the environment. They further their pump technology by providing governments with systems and other environmental applications. Little did realize 150 years ago that the company he founded world leader in the handling of sewage and waste

Edson into a position of prominence stemming from its steering and pump supplier to many high profile yachts BOC, BT Global Challenge, Millennium and Round The 21st Century has been one of tremendous innovation growth for the company. Edson is the worldwide leader custom mega-yacht segment of the sailboat industry

Today, Edson is jointly owned by Hank and William Keene, functioning respectively as General Manager and President. They both are highly involved with day-to-day operations of the company and continue to hold to the values that has sustained Edson for a century and a half. States William Keene, "When Jacob Edson founded Edson 150 years ago his first product was the diaphragm pump, which he invented. By the time he retired, he had over 60 patents in his name- each one a new and fresh idea that solved a problem and made marine equipment better, safer, faster or more enjoyable for the whole family. One Hundred and Fifty years later, Edson products have endured. You often find them on older wooden boats, in antique shops or secondhand shops ready for the next owner. Jacob made products that withstood the test of time. Edson is still doing the same today building products that simply don't wear out."

"How have we achieved this level of success in a 150 year old company? The answer is in Edson's customers and employees" says Edson President Will Keene. " We listen to both, and they are as important to us as our "honesty and integrity". We use what we call the "CEO" Management Philosophy. "Customers first", "Employees second", and "Owners third". We've always felt that if our customers and our employees are happy, Edson will prosper- which is our ultimate goal."

Members of the media can download hi-res Edson Historical Images at [www.edsonmarine.com/media](http://www.edsonmarine.com/media)

[For More Information on Edson's Heritage visit edsonhistory.com](http://edsonhistory.com)

#### **About Edson International:**

Edson International, celebrating its 150th year, manufactures an extensive line of marine steering systems and accessories, boat davits, radar towers and marine pumps for sail and powerboats.

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