

MARINA OF THE MONTH

by Caryn B. Davis

Feels Like Home

You'll be treated like family at Connecticut's Port Clinton Marina.

To do the job right, sometimes you've just got to do it yourself. That's the philosophy behind the success of Port Clinton Marina in Connecticut, nestled at the convergence of the Indian and Hammonasset Rivers on Clinton Harbor. Port Clinton owners Michael and Rosin Mackey perform nearly all of the daily tasks at the facility that the couple bought more than six years ago.

The proof is in the pudding, as recreational boaters and commercial fishermen alike appreciate the atmosphere that the Mackeys have created. The marina boasts new restroom and shower facilities, electrical hookups, onsite engine and hull service, a Travelift and up to 10 slips for transients. "We received approval to add an additional 46 slips to our existing 100. All will hold boats from 14 to 50 feet," says Michael Mackey, who takes pride in running the small but growing marina.

"Because this is a family-owned marina, you get more one-on-one service. They know you by your name, not by your slip number," says Tim Donlan, who has berthed his 24-foot Sea Ray at the marina for the past six seasons. "It's a relaxed atmosphere, versus the corporate feel of a gated community."

Mike Deskin, a commercial fisherman who has had boats in marinas from Maine to North Carolina, agrees. He keeps his 30-foot Calvin Beal at Port Clinton because of its "old fashioned" feel. "Some people are buying marinas and turning them into large, impersonal resorts," says Deskin. "What's being lost is the real feel of the seacoast; coming into a river and seeing an old-style marina operating as a marina, not a resort."

Indeed, with its panoramic views of Hammonasset State Park and Cedar Island, Port Clinton has not been seduced by industry and big-box

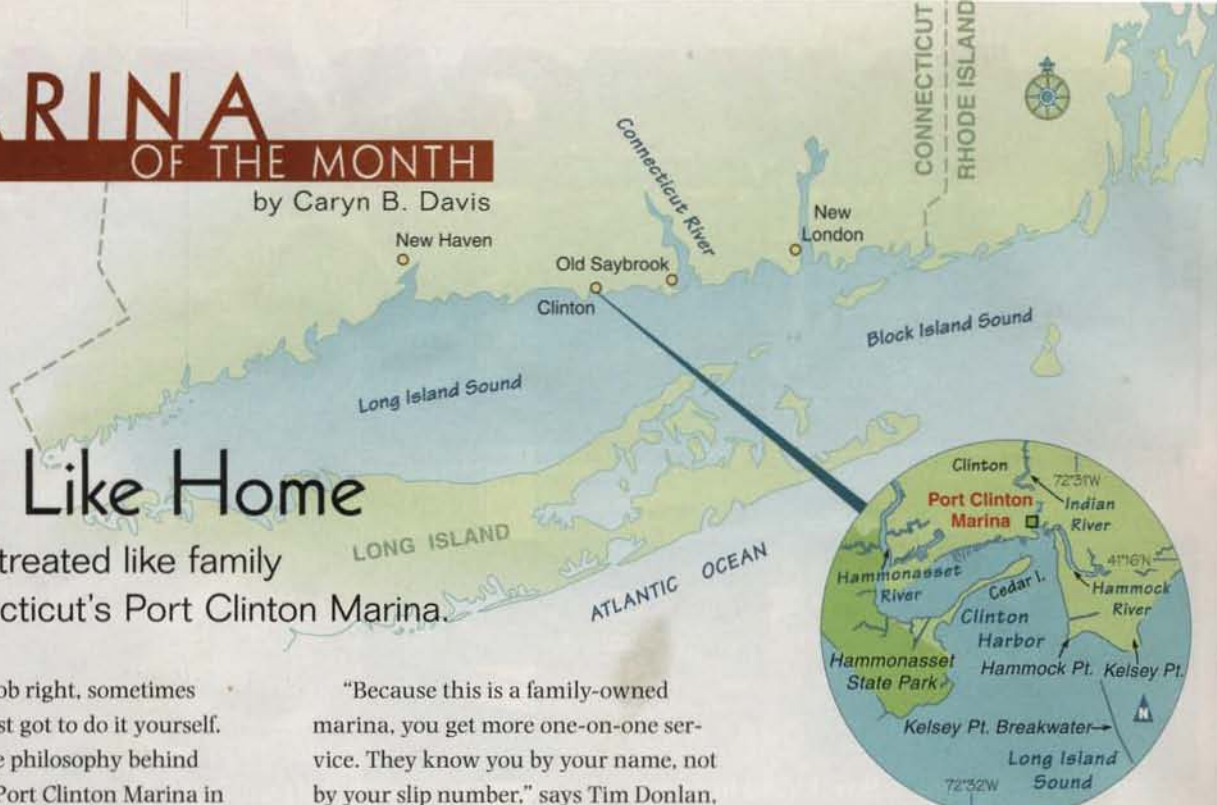
marinas. Yet, its protected location and proximity to Long Island Sound make the marina an attractive stop for anglers, who can access prime fishing spots in minutes.

Less than two miles away, downtown Clinton offers boaters a variety of shops and restaurants—Chip's Pub, Lobster Landing and Aqua, to name a few. Clinton Town Beach is accessible by dinghy, as is Cedar Island.

Boaters can rent kayaks at Indian River Marina and explore the river. Hammonasset State Park has walking trails, a boardwalk, a two-mile-long pristine sandy shoreline from which to swim and fish, picnic areas and campsites, a small-boat launch area and is home to the Meigs Point Nature Center.

"We have a lot of people who come down and spend the weekend on their boats," says Mackey. "They don't go out much because they love the view and there's so much to do nearby."

To get to Port Clinton Marina, enter Clinton Harbor from Long Island Sound at flashing buoy G "3". Follow the marked channel, passing Cedar Island to port and head toward the mouth of the Indian River. The marina's docks are straight ahead, just off the port bow. Use NOAA chart 12372.



Port Clinton Marina is planning to increase its number of slips.

PORT CLINTON MARINA CLINTON HARBOR & INDIAN RIVER CLINTON, CONNECTICUT 860-669-4563 • www.portclintonmarina.net VHF channel 16	
Lat/lon.....	41°16.149' N / 72°31.508' W
Total slips.....	100
Transient slips.....	10
Cost/foot/night.....	\$2
Moorings.....	No
Gas.....	No
Diesel.....	No
Pump-out.....	No
Engine repair.....	Yes
WiFi.....	No