

## MAHOGANY BAY TAKES ON AUTO STUDENT

*Mahogany Bay Vintage Boats, located in Mound, Minn., specializes in vintage watercraft from days long ago. Yet Todd Warner and Dave Bortner did something rather odd this summer – they hired a student majoring in automotive restoration technology to work at Mahogany Bay as an intern. A car guy at a boat place, you ask?*



Dave learned about McPherson College (McPherson, Kan.) from an article in the Mercedes-Benz Club of America's *The Star* magazine. The article discussed McPherson student Nick Antonio and his 2005 summer internship in Germany at Mercedes-Benz. What piqued Dave's interest, besides that, is that Nick is from Eau Claire, Wisconsin. "I thought he'd be a great candidate for our mechanical department based on his internship at the Mercedes Classic Center and his education at McPherson," explains Dave.

"I called McPherson and asked about Nick. I contacted him, we met, and he accepted the internship." The experience Mahogany Bay has had with

McPherson and its students has been positive, and Mahogany Bay plans to continue to work with McPherson. "We'd love to have Nick join the Mahogany Bay team full-time when he graduates," says Dave.

There are three main boatbuilding schools in the U.S. from which Mahogany Bay regularly hires graduates, but they tend to be woodworkers. Mahogany Bay has found McPherson to be a similar resource for graduates with mechanical interests. Usually, boat builders are most interested in working with wood, according to Dave, so Mahogany Bay keeps its staff busy uniquely in both boatbuilding and mechanicals.

Dave had performed car – and furniture – restorations with his dad. "My parents bought a home in Northern Wisconsin, and we spent all of our time there in the summer, so we didn't use the cars," says Dave. Then one day, his dad said "Wouldn't it be

fun to get a boat?" That first boat was a 1955 Chris-Craft Capri, and soon after, Dave started a boat business to finance college.

Dave met Todd Warner, founder and Chairman of Mahogany Bay, back in 1977. Actually, Dave and his dad, and Todd and his father, had all been gathering boats around the country and would pass each other on the way to getting a boat or dropping one off.

Mahogany Bay specializes in buying & selling, servicing, restoring and transporting vintage watercrafts like Chris-Craft, Riva, Century, Dodge, Lyman, Shepherd, Hackercraft, Gar Wood and Sea Lyon.

For local customers, Mahogany Bay provides a turnkey service package that includes 24/7 in-season service, cleaning, fueling, maintenance and winter storage. To find out more, contact Mahogany Bay at 952-495-0007 or visit [www.mahoganybay.net](http://www.mahoganybay.net).



Todd, Nick and Dave at Nick's going away party.