



For Immediate Release  
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## Rockland Boat School to Launch

*~Boat is product of more than a dozen students' efforts~*

**ROCKLAND, Maine** – Atlantic Challenge, a boat school in Rockland that is a member of Maine Built Boats, is launching the student-built *Blue Moon* on Friday, June 20, at 1:00 p.m.

The construction was truly a team effort. In July 2007, five apprentices began building the 22'11" yawl, which was designed by Thomas Gillmer. After four apprentices graduated in December of 2007, four more joined in January to continue building the traditional plank-on-frame boat made with cedar over white oak and locust. Apprentice Tom Martinelli is the only student to see the boat through from lofting to launching; *Blue Moon's* launch day coincides with his own graduation.

"I knew I wanted to be a good wood worker," Martinelli said. "And someone told me that if I really wanted to be a good wood worker, I should build wooden boats." Martinelli is from Manchester, Maine and will work for Shaw & Tenney when he graduates.

"Our students take great pride in their work," said Eric Stockinger, director of the Apprenticeship at Atlantic Challenge. "During their two-year apprenticeship, they get to build a variety of boats- whatever the school is commissioned to do- and this allows for a challenging diversity of technique."

The sailboat was commissioned by retired boat builder, Sam Guild of Cushing, who visited the school almost daily to check the apprentices' progress and to talk with the students.

"Maine's boat building heritage is carried on at our boat schools," said Jane Wellehan, president of Maine Built Boats. "Our 400-year old tradition is an important characteristic of building boats, especially wooden boats like *Blue Moon*."

Atlantic Challenge is a nonprofit educational organization dedicated to inspiring personal growth through craftsmanship, community, and traditions of the sea. They have been serving their students for over thirty-five years, using traditional boatbuilding and seamanship as tools that allow young people and adults to challenge themselves and to explore their maritime heritage. For further information, visit their website at [www.atlanticchallenge.com](http://www.atlanticchallenge.com).

Atlantic Challenge is one of several boat building schools in Maine that are training the boat builders of the future.

For more information regarding this and other Maine Built Boat members' launches and event schedules, please visit [www.mainebuiltboats.com](http://www.mainebuiltboats.com).

MBB is supported, in part, by the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development and Maine's North Star Alliance Initiative (NSAI). The NSAI works with Maine's boat building, composites and marine industries to grow Maine's coastal workforce and economy.

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