

BUDGET STRETCHING IDEAS

Shipping Off On A “Staycation”

(NAPSA)—If yours is like a growing number of families, it seems there’s no place like home for your next vacation.

That’s the word from trend watchers who say that more people are opting to save some cash by planning “staycations”—a vacation during which, rather than going away, people enjoy day trips and weekend outings to local destinations. In addition to being easy on the wallet, the staycations can be a fun way for families to spend time together and check out benefits right in their backyard.

For instance, BestofBoating.com lifestyle editor Bill Trapman expects staycationers to hit up local lakes and marinas for some affordable fun this year. He says both the low cost of gas compared to last season and the low cost of boats have put owning one on par with a single weeklong destination vacation.

“In comparison to a five-day theme park vacation for a family of four that costs an average of \$3,100—including airfare, lodging, park passes, etc.—a family can own a \$35,000 runabout and go boating every weekend during the warm months for around \$350 per month. That includes boat payment, boat insurance and fuel,” explains Trapman.



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Companies such as Yamaha Motor Corporation, USA now build fuel-efficient, virtually maintenance-free family runabouts ranging in length from 21 feet to 23 feet. Its premium yet affordable boat line with industry-low operating costs has helped make it the best-selling brand in its category.

If you plan to take your family boating, remember to follow a few safety tips, such as checking weather reports and storing life jackets. Also, today’s boats are relatively simple to control, but you might consider taking a quick boating course.

You can learn more at www.yamaha-motor.com.