



MARINE & MARITIME CAREER FAIR “Peer to Peer Mentors”

Matt Wilson & Zach Williams
Marine Repair Technology, Level I
Center of Applied Technology—South, AACPS

Marine & Maritime Career Fair—February 2015
www.eycfoundation.org

On the day of the interview, Matt Wilson and Zach Williams were building the boat kit for next year’s Level 1 class. They were extremely excited about using new tools such as the thickness planer and tilting arbor table saw. They applied new mathematical concepts to develop deck camber and cut compound bevels as well as learned secrets of the trade taught to them by their teacher and seasoned boat builder David Fawley.



Matt Wilson, age 15, in 10th grade at South River High School, spends summers with his family on the Chesapeake Bay. Matt’s mentors include his dad along with “Mr. John” and Hank Reiser from Pocahontas Marina in Edgewater where he spends summers. Seizing on Matt’s passion for boats, his mentors joined forces last year to find Matt a boat that he could call his own. At the age of 14, Matt purchased a 1967 Boston Whaler with his savings and by taking a loan from his dad. He got the engine running and the boat in the water for its first season while fixing up the fiber glass and building a new console. Matt coordinated the repairs and payment with some help from his dad. “Me and my dad’s boat”, he jokes, was painted this winter. Matt’s future career plans are built around a dual track of college-bound academic classes plus the hands-on learning at CAT South . At CAT South, he is using his passion with the tools and mathematics of boat building and marine repair technologies as he builds a foundation for his future. Running his own business is on his list. His advice to fellow students is simple, - “Keep your eyes open as to what is out there and you will find examples of places you don’t want to be and places you want to go.”

Zach Williams, age 15, in 10th grade at Broadneck High School, grew up with boats as an integral part of his life. His grandfather started and his family carries on traditions aboard their 30’ Sea Ray. Last year, Zach got a job at the Fair Winds Marina on the Magothy River in Annapolis doing basic jobs and working in the retail parts department. He says he learned a lot about the operation of boats from working on requests for parts and enhanced his people skills by working directly with customers. Zach’s passion for hands-on experience in the CAT South Marine Repair program is driven by his desire to build and put things together which he got from his dad who is very mechanical. Zach says he’s a visual learner, so the hands-on method of learning to actually build a boat, cut patterns and fix engines with his own hands trumps just reading about it. Zach is “almost positive” his future career plans will be in the marine industry and on the water. The CAT South program offers him a Career Completer Program which prepares students for college and/or for a competitive job market. Zach’s advice to fellow students is to take a class or get a job in an area that interests you. “If you have a passion or are curious about something, then explore it deeply and get involved.”