

featured destination



Vertical Yacht Club Thunder Alley

Aventura, Florida

The birthplace of performance boats in Aventura will soon be home to South Florida's most luxurious, full-service marina -- Vertical Yacht Club Thunder Alley.

Aqua Marine Partners, LLC is redeveloping historic Hi-Lift Marina into a state-of-the-art, hurricane resistant facility with 211 vertical boat slips capable of storing vessels up to 43 feet in length and up to 30,000 pounds. The most prominent feature is the revolutionary retrieval system that lifts boats with greater ease and speed.

Vertical Yacht Club Thunder Alley will employ the patented Vertical Yachts System™, which eliminates the need for manually operated forklifts that can damage hulls. This technology features two laser-guided, computer-controlled overhead bridge cranes that run the entire length of the facility. These electric lifts haul the boat from the water in a cushioned cradle and deliver a boat to its customized slip in a matter of minutes.

"Marinas have always been thought of as parking lots for boats, but now boaters are demanding a better experience," said Andrew Sturner, CEO of Aqua Marine Partners.

In addition to the finest in dry storage technology, Vertical Yacht Club Thunder Alley members will be privy to a new standard of luxury. They will have access to a comfortable lounge, business center, beautifully appointed spa with whirlpool and massage room and gourmet café. The club's concierge service will provision boats with food, drink, and gas -- all at cost.

As boat slips in Florida continue to disappear to residential developers, boating enthusiasts are left with increasingly limited options for storing their vessels, having them repaired and getting them in the water.

"Our new development will defy this trend by providing nearly 200 boaters with the opportunity to secure a permanent slip for their vessel in a hurricane safe environment. Vertical Yacht Club Thunder Alley will offer you unsurpassed luxury and a safer alternative to obsolete technology for their boat," said Sturner.

Thunder Alley saw fame and fortune in the 1970s when it put powerboats on the map. World-renowned names like Cigarette race boats, Fort Apache Marine, Bobby Moore's, TNT, Donzi, and other marine companies called Thunder Alley home. The so-called "Kings of Thunder Boat Row" were eventually forced out during Aventura's strict zoning reformation. Vertical Yacht Club Thunder Alley will be the only remaining marine entity left on this famous peninsula.

"I'm committed to enhancing what's left of Aventura's marine district," said Sturner. "Our project is going to revitalize Thunder Alley and set the standard for boat storage facilities around the world."

The new facility will shield boats from harmful salt air, salt water, the sun's UV rays, and will be built to withstand Category 5 hurricanes and other overwhelming weather conditions. Ground-breaking is slated for the end of this year with an anticipated completion date of December 2008.

The Aventura project will be the first of a network of Vertical Yacht Clubs that Aqua Marine Partners is developing throughout the U.S. and abroad. Vertical Yacht Club Marina Mile in Fort Lauderdale will be the world's first dry storage facility designed exclusively for mega yachts. It will defy convention by storing yachts up to 85 feet in length and 160,000 pounds. [m](#)