

**Visit the 2010 Classic Boat Festival at Montreal's Old Port**

See, touch and hear a bit of nautical history at the 2010 Classic Boat Festival in Montreal, held in the Old Port from August 20 to 22.

Visitors will have the chance to explore an assortment of historic exhibits on land and on water, including from 35 to 50 classic boats of all types and sizes. You'll also have the chance to speak directly with the owners of these floating works of art, and learn more about their unique history and heritage.

However, this show doesn't only feature boating technology of yesteryear. There will also be a green dock showcasing the latest water craft and next-generation green technologies.

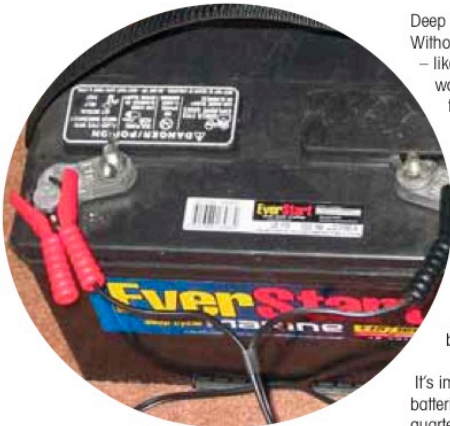
Festival activities will include vintage boat tours on the St. Lawrence River and the Lachine Canal during the weekend, the in-water boat show and land displays, the nautical marketplace, prizes, and awards for boats deemed winners of the different Antique and Classic Boat Society classes. There will also be canoeography (a canoe dance on the water), live music, the vintage ship photo exhibit and seminars and conferences.

Bring the kids along too as there will be plenty of things to keep them entertained, including an introduction to vintage boating, the painting and racing of mini sailboats, miniature vintage boat building, remote control power and sailboats, and animation.

For more information, visit [fbcmontreal.com](http://fbcmontreal.com)



**The Heart Of Any Boat**



Deep cycle batteries really are the heart of any boat. Without them, none of those wonderful options – like your stereo or depth finder – are going to work. So it's important to keep your boat's batteries in top shape.

This means keeping the battery posts clean and free of corrosion. Regularly pop off the battery caps and check the fluid level, to make sure it's where it should be. Distilled water is the best stuff for topping up batteries (note that many types of bottled water contain additives; bottled water and distilled water aren't the same thing). Once you've confirmed the level is where it should be, put the battery on charge.

It's important to always keep your deep-cycle batteries fully charged. Not halfway there or three-quarters charged, but topped right up. This will

result in longer battery life and lower the tendency to develop charge memory. Consider investing in an onboard charger for convenience. Simply plug in to a dock post and you're in business. Make sure you remember to unplug before heading out, however, to avoid embarrassment!

Depending upon the electrical requirements, some boats use one, two or three batteries, delivering 12, 24 or 36 volts. Multiple batteries simply give you more time between charges.

Group 27 or Group 31 batteries are best for heavy-duty use, as they deliver much more oomph than the standard Group 24 batteries most boaters buy. Though the big cells cost a bit more and are physically bigger and heavier, they're worth it in reliability and in overall life, because you're not drawing them down as much.