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# Trouble at the dock? Your boat can make the call

Boatsense Solutions links your cell phone with onboard sensors

By Michael Crowley

Cell phone capability seems to be expanding exponentially — video, music, games, photos, voice and text messaging. Now Boatsense Solutions offers a cell-based remote monitoring system. While your boat is tied to the dock or on its mooring, this service will notify you if the bilge water rises, there's a fire or the battery voltage drops.

Boatsense Solutions is the brainchild of Russell Sirois and David Jacques, two graduates of the Maine Maritime Institute who spent several years working at sea and came ashore to launch their remote monitoring system.

"We provide a way of finding out what's going on in your boat when you're not there," Sirois says. He adds that they have tried to keep the product simple and affordable by monitoring only the essential features and by using a cell phone, which most people

already have, for communication.

It's a fairly simple package. A sealed box monitors float switches or electronic bilge switches as well as battery voltage. Plus, it monitors three other systems that the boat's owner chooses, such as an anchor alarm, heat sensor or security device.

When a sensor is activated, the Boatsense monitor sends a text-message warning to your cell phone and up to two more cell phones.

There's a built-in delay for the bilge water sensor. The water has to be past a critical point for more than two minutes before a warning message goes out.

Boatsense Solutions is a new com-



pany, and by early February they were taking preorders for their product and had one major distributor, Hamilton Marine in Searsport, Maine.

Boatsense Solutions' remote monitoring system has a suggested retail price of \$499, plus a \$15 monthly subscription fee.

Contact: Hamilton Marine, P.O. Box

**Boatsense Solutions monitors your boat when you aren't there and sends a message to your cell phone when things go wrong.**

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