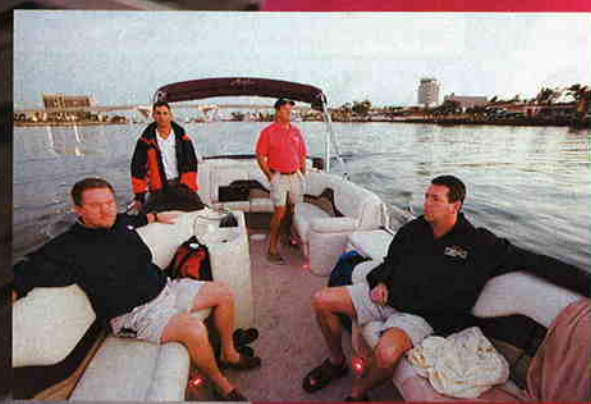


Avalon's Next Run

Ft. Lauderdale to Bimini, Bahamas

By James Wolf,
Avalon President and CEO

Not on My Lake. It didn't take the group too long to realize they were in unfamiliar territory. Cameras from both boats were going and the giant MS Zaandam cruise ship passed the 27-foot pontoon.



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When Doug Haskell of North Shore Marine called last November to suggest we take a pontoon boat from Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., to the Island of Bimini in the Bahamas I thought he was joking, or perhaps he'd gotten an early start on the holiday egg nog. Cross an exposed piece of the Atlantic on a 27-foot pontoon boat? Yeah, right! While we've had a few successful journeys in the last few years—Baltimore, Md., to Key West, Fla., in four days; Chicago, Ill., to Mackinaw, Mich., in 12 hours; and 300 miles down the Mississippi, the notion of a jaunt through the Bermuda Triangle did not appeal to my sensible side and I suggested he find another crew.

Then, later that

week, I saw a show on the Discovery Channel about the perils of the Bermuda Triangle and those who've vanished trying to navigate in, over, through, and around that mysterious part of the Atlantic. The show reconfirmed my initial response. However, my adventurous side was intrigued and I started to reconsider—what if we did it? What if we attempted it and failed? What if we attempted it and succeeded?

Getting the Crew Together

Our plan still seemed a little on the crazy side, but life is too short not to try crazy things, right? A little adventure never hurt anyone and we were now hell bent on getting this trip done. We started to look at crew and schedule. We agreed that it would be nice to take along a few other Avalon and Tahoe dealers to provide them with a great boating



Day Break. After waiting for a few weeks for the weather to cooperate, the Avalon crew began its journey January 24.