

## **Renaissance Marine Group Inc.**

Renaissance Marine Group Inc. the proud Manufacturer of Duckworth and Weldcraft Boats.

Bruce N. Larson, Director of Administration & Finance provided us with a tour of the 27,000 square foot facility located at 1061 16th Ave. in Clarkston, Washington. Duckworth Boats and Weldcraft Boats consolidated in 2000 and became Renaissance. They manufacturer between 500 & 550 boats per year and currently employ 74 workers.

Renaissance proudly sports a new CNC Press Brake and CNC Plasma Cutter and speaks to the precision that these products provide in the quality of their boats. Renaissance does not look at equipment acquisition as labor cutting, but providing the ability to build their boats faster and better. The use of the CNC Plasma Cutter has greatly enhanced the ability to eliminate waste during the cutting process. They have also set up a very efficient and well organized parts process which assures that there is no down time due to lack of parts. This boat building operation is extremely efficient beginning with the cutting process right down to the customization. In the past the boat seats were made and upholstered in house, however they have a quality vendor that currently provides seats. The boat tops are made in house and Renaissance boasts that their tops are the strongest available on boats.

Screening, education and training are important to successful boat building. The lack of skilled workers and available training has pushed Renaissance into providing an in house training program. This training is broken down into required skills and has a process to evaluate each job.

If the boat market continues to grow so will Renaissance. They have plans to double their production, however with this expansion they are looking to Asotin County to assist them in accessing the County sewer system. The current drain field occupies a large portion of the existing building site.

Renaissance considers Weldcraft and Duckworth boats as being handcrafted rather than custom built boats. Customized features are however available on all of their boats, both inboard and outboard. Quality is the secret to their success and these are definitely quality boats.

Going to the local high school shop classes is on Bruce's agenda, he hopes to provide the students with information and education, with the hope that these students may see manufacturing as a possible career.

For further information on Renaissance please see their websites: [www.weldcraftmarine.com](http://www.weldcraftmarine.com) & [www.duckworthboats.com](http://www.duckworthboats.com)