

September 2021

# Great Lakes

# Boating

## Our Best Decision

Ohio Family Embraces New Life As Boaters



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# One Decision Led Them Here



## Ohio Family Embraces New Life As Boaters



**W**e make decisions everyday, some are just more important than others. It's part of what makes life great. Some of our choices have no real long-term consequences, while others can lead us to adventures we never thought possible. For Dean "DJ" Musarra and his wife Danielle, their decision to buy a vacation home near Bay Point Resort in Marblehead, Ohio, put them on a path to boat ownership, although at the time they didn't realize it.

"We bought a vacation home near the water in 2017 because I wanted a place to relax with my family and to

spend our weekends," recalls DJ who says the house is about an hour drive from their home near Cleveland. "We quickly saw how everyone else was enjoying the water and it didn't take us long to realize you can't be by a lake and not own a boat."

### **First Taste**

Boat ownership wasn't originally on the radar of this young family that includes their two boys, Carmen and Sal, but that all changed quickly when the Musarras purchased their first boat, which was a Yamaha jet boat.

"DJ had never driven a boat in his entire life and so we figured a jet boat would be the easiest because it's like a Jet Ski," explains Danielle. "But after

two seasons we felt we were limited with the jet boat and knew we needed to upgrade."

That upgrade came in the form of a fully-loaded Tiara 34 LS, powered with twin Mercury Verado 400hp outboards. For a family who never intended on ever buying a boat in the first place, this decision made it clear they were fully embracing boating and jumping in with both feet. The investment on the new Tiara through the SkipperBud's Ohio location emphasized their commitment to creating a lifetime of boating memories and the family has no plans of ever going back as they've learned to appreciate life away from the shores of Lake Erie.



“Just being able to go to different places that we weren’t able to with the jet boat has been the biggest advantage,” says Danielle. “We can go to Put-in-Bay now or go to Kelleys Island. We can do a lot more with this boat and I love it. It’s the perfect fit for where we are right now.”

### ***Finding Tiara***

DJ currently serves as the vice president at Jade Sterling Steel in Twinsburg, Ohio, and has developed an eye for recognizing high-quality materials, which led him to Tiara Yachts after closely inspecting the different brands of boats he was interested in.

“I chose Tiara because of the quality after doing a lot of research,” explains DJ. “I liked the look, the style and the sleekness of the Tiara brand and being in the steel business I can appreciate the quality as well as the fit and finish work.”

The layout on the 34 LS provides easy access fore and aft, which is something Carmen and his younger brother Sal take advantage of often as they never seem to slow down. With multiple socializing zones including at the helm, in the bow lounge or in the multi-position aft, there is plenty of room for cousins and other guests to enjoy the boat as well.

At the helm, the two 12-inch multi-function Garmins are set up to display a map on one side with key information on the other as DJ navigates the boat behind a solid glass windshield. It’s also here where he controls the Fusion stereo, which is one of his favorite features.

“I basically did everything I could as far as options go, but the Tiara already comes well-equipped without needing a lot of upgrades,” explains DJ. “One upgrade though that I’d highly recommend is going from eight standard speakers to 15 for the stereo. The sound quality with this Fusion

system is amazing.”

### ***Learning Curve***

While the stereo can be appreciated by everyone on board, another favorite feature for DJ is what’s actually located next to the Fusion controls just for the captain—the Mercury joystick.

“Going from a jet boat to outboards and learning how to use all the tools in the navigation system was a challenge, but docking by far was my biggest fear,” admits DJ. “In high wind situations, the joystick is key. I would never buy another boat without it as the joystick allows me to dock like a pro.”

### ***Outboards***

Underpowering a boat is a regret many first-time buyers make, but SkipperBud’s General Manager Steve McDonald at the Marblehead location made sure to steer his customer in the right direction.

“SkipperBud’s was awesome to work with and they walked me through everything,” says DJ. “With this boat they recommended that I didn’t underpower it and to make sure I went with the twin 400 Mercurys.”

The Musarras were already taking a large leap from their jet boat to the Tiara and at first they didn’t think they wanted to go with outboards, especially with that much power. However, it turned out to be another great choice for them and the right amount of power for boating on Lake Eire.

“I’m a big ‘go to the max’ type of guy and if the best is out there, you want it, and after more research it was clear that the Mercury Verados are the best,” says DJ. “I love the way the 400s run; they’re so quiet even when we’re pushing for speeds over 50 miles per hour.”



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**Day Boaters**

The 34 LS includes a cabin with a fully equipped stand-up head and double berth, which is something their other boat clearly didn't have.

"We mostly use the boat for day boating but it's nice to have a cabin," says Danielle. "Of course the boys like it; they think it's their little hideout."

**SkipperBud's**

A series of smart decisions led the Musarras to where they are today, but they're quick to recognize SkipperBud's for being the main drive in helping provide them with the confidence they needed to become boat owners.

"Steve McDonald, Christian Raff and Kathy Richmond in finance were all great to work with," concludes DJ. "Being new to boating I came in with a lot of questions and they were always willing to help me find those answers."

With Jade Sterling Steel being such a large part of their lives, it was only appropriate to name the boat *Steel Dream'n*, yet it's clear the Musarras are more about *doing* and not just *dreaming* when it comes to fun adventures. As proud owners of a Tiara 34 LS the adventures for this family appears to be endless after making a series of decisions that led them down this path. Where they go next is anybody's guess, but it's clear they have a lot more options now after becoming boat owners. •

**Tiara 34 LS Specifications**

<i>LOA w/ Std. Swim Platform:</i>	34' 9" (10.59 m)
<i>Beam:</i>	11' 0" (3.35 m)
<i>Estimated Draft:</i>	3' 1" (0.94 m)
<i>Dry Weight:</i>	13,800 lbs. (6260 kg)
<i>Height from Waterline to Top of Std. Hardtop:</i>	8' 7" (2.62 m)
<i>Fuel Capacity:</i>	200 gals. (757 l)
<i>Water Capacity:</i>	30 gals. (114 l)
<i>Holding Tank Capacity:</i>	20 gals. (76 l)
<i>Deadrise at Transom 22 degrees</i>	

**Bay Point Marina,** [www.baypointresorthomes.com](http://www.baypointresorthomes.com)

**Fusion Marina,** [www.fusionentertainment.com](http://www.fusionentertainment.com)

**Mercury Marine,** [www.mercurymarine.com](http://www.mercurymarine.com)

**SkipperBud's,** [www.skipperbuds.com](http://www.skipperbuds.com)

**Tiara Yachts,** [www.tiaryachts.com](http://www.tiaryachts.com)