

Marina makes summer splash with Titan purchase

Boaters can rent the 65-foot vessel for \$12,000 a week at Jones Valley Resort

By Marc Beauchamp, Record Searchlight
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Mike Han of Jones Valley Resort thinks he'll have the hottest thing on Lake Shasta this summer -- a luxury houseboat the size of a good-sized house that rents for \$12,000 a week.

Han recently took delivery of the Titan, a 65-foot, triple-deck houseboat that sleeps 22, boasts six private staterooms, a gas fireplace, flat-screen TVs throughout, a sunken hot tub for eight and a three-story enclosed spiral waterslide.

The Titan, and two identical sister ships that will be delivered in May, already are "booked solid" for the summer, Han said. Next year the weekly rental will go up to \$14,000, he added.

Packers Bay Marina also offers a 65-foot vessel, the Constellation, less elaborate than the Titan, which rents for \$6,790 a week this season.

The Titan's main demographic is "30- to 49-year-old, college-educated, married, double-income Bay Area (residents)," said Han, who's run the resort since 1988. Some parties are looking for a "multigenerational experience" with grandparents and grandchildren, he said.

At almost 3,000 square feet, the Titan is about "twice the size" of the rest of Han's 91-houseboat fleet, divided among Jones Valley, Sugarloaf and Lakeview marinas.

The 70,000-pound pontoon vessel was built by Twin Anchors Marine of Sicamous, British Columbia, and arrived three weeks ago in two pieces on two semi trucks. It was assembled and put into the lake at Packers Bay.

The larger houseboats -- Han and others successfully lobbied the U.S. Forest Service to permit commercial houseboats as big as 65 feet by 16 feet -- are needed to compete with destinations such as Lake Powell and Lake Mead, Han said.

Designed by Han, a former yacht salesman and commercial fisherman, the Titan looks and feels like a cross between a cruise ship and a fancy RV. Han declined to disclose the Titan's cost.

It features a fantail, high railings and a private balcony for the master stateroom.

"We're trying to get away from the square look," Han said.

In the galley, there's a center island with a Corian countertop, a full-sized, stainless steel refrigerator and a temperature-controlled wine cabinet, among other comforts of home.

Renters will need an hour and a half to get briefed on the houseboat before they can take it out, Han estimated. Han and other employees of the marina spent Wednesday night on the Titan as part of its shakedown cruise.

The summer "looks good," Han said, despite near-record-high gasoline prices. "We're always worried about gas prices, but we have a strong repeat business," he said.