

New Boats

Aspen Power Catamaran C-90

This has been a truly exciting project to watch as it has come along. Combine that with the fact that Larry and Nick Graf invited us to take the Proof-Of-Concept vessel out for a spin after which we were totally impressed with what is indeed a breakthrough in design and functionality.

Aspen Power Catamarans is that rare breed of cat. This new series combines the revolutionary efficiencies of a patent pending hull with the latest technology and design amenities to make boating more enjoyable and affordable. The great news is that hull number one is now launched and touring the country having been on a hectic schedule that included both the Seattle and Miami Boat Shows where it was received with rave reviews.

The "plan" at Aspen after considering many designs, was to develop a completely new hull design and drive system that can now be described as a "single diesel power proa." While identical in profile, the hulls are very different in plan view, with the port hull 35% thinner than the starboard. Additionally, the design utilizes only one engine, shaft, prop and keel. The design's non-symmetrical or asymmetrical hulls are shaped to compensate for the engine torque. Since both forces are proportional to speed and thrust, the boat runs straight. Aspen calls this the SeaGlider system.

The benefits of the SeaGlider technology are significant. While the thinner proa hull is only 35% thinner, its actual drag is approximately 50% less. This fluid dynamic relationship results in "a little thinner equals a lot less energy." This hull also has none of the parasitic, twin engine, appendage drag seen on most boats. Drive gear such as the keel, shaft, rudder and prop typically add another 20% drag.

Beyond this, the single engine design saves dramatically on machinery weight, which in turn saves on the required structure component sizes, necessary fuel and the corresponding weight. All these savings reduce the boat's weight by approximately 40%. The net effect of this combination is a dramatic leap forward for power catamaran technology in both space and efficiency.

This leaves the starboard hull which is a very efficient semi-

displacement, high-speed hull that has significantly more beam than a standard catamaran. This extra beam allows for a spacious engine and machinery installation and easy access for service of the modern, electronically, fuel-injected Cummins 380 HP diesel engine. The spacious drive hull also gives expansive stateroom accommodations.

The Aspen C-90 hull and its many benefits are founded in solid engineering principles and creative innovation which provide a technically elegant balance of environmental and performance efficiencies in combination with its roomy layout and exceptional comfort. Best of all, it's built right here in the Pacific Northwest which means there's no reason why you shouldn't give them a call today to check out this amazing view of the future.

Specifications: LOA w/step 30.33', Beam 10', Draft 2.75', Displ (dry) 7,900 lbs, Fuel 80 gals, Range at 18 knots 290 miles.

Builder: Aspen Power Cats, 15222 Connelly Road, Snohomish, WA 360-668-4347 or email them at info@aspenpowercatamarans.com.

