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## THE BOATING REPORT

### Boats Out of the Water at the 92nd National Show

By HERB McCORMICK

When Tom Gattis, a professor of product design at the Savannah College of Art and Design in Georgia, began a project to create and build a copy family sport boat, he knew the precise number of preconceived notions that he hoped his students would bring to the task.

Zero.

"I wanted them to be completely open-minded," Gattis said recently. "The idea was to find some completely unique solutions."

The more tradition-minded boater will offer no argument: with Stinger, the 21-footer that was launched last October, Gattis's fledgling yacht designers and builders accomplished their innovative mandate.

Last fall, Stinger received an award for composite excellence at a product competition in Florida. Now it is being previewed on a much grander stage. The full-scale, working prototype is one of the showcase vessels at the 92nd New York National Boat Show, which began yesterday and runs through next Sunday.

From inflatable tenders to luxury motor yachts, and from high-speed performance boats to offshore sportfishermen, Stinger is one of about 1000 vessels on display in the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center at 11th Avenue and West 34th Street in Manhattan.

Details, including directions to the show, ticket information and an interactive floor plan of the show's exhibitors, can be found on the Internet at [www.discoverboating.com](http://www.discoverboating.com) and then by clicking on the boat show link or the New York event.

Among Stinger's many interesting features are circular seating pods to

promote interaction at anchor and underway; an aft jump-seat for donning skis or accessing the walk-through transom; and a curving arch above the helmsman's seat for speakers, a ski-tow attachment point, lights and a removable sunshade.

Constructed using a vacuum-infusion technique employing Fiberglas over a PVC foam core, and powered by a 315-horsepower Volvo Penta V-8 engine, Gattis said Stinger has recorded speeds of 60 miles an hour in trial runs. "The boat's real stable at that speed," he said.

Of course, the Stinger may not be everyone's idea of the perfect waterborne getaway. But there are hundreds more craft to choose from.

Another award winner is the Yamaha Waverunner FX140, which is billed as the world's first four-stroke personal watercraft. The Jet Ski, which can carry up to three passengers, won the 2002 Design and Engineering Award from Popular Mechanics magazine.

Cobalt Boats has recently introduced three new models, including its 360 Performance Cruiser, a hybrid that features all the amenities of a finely appointed cruiser with the get up and go of a smaller sport boat.

From Silverton Marine comes the 38 Convertible, another vessel that provides for comfortable living afloat, but with the ability and strength to handle rougher offshore conditions.

For inshore jaunts and family expeditions, Bayliner's new 2159 Rendezvous is the latest in the line from the builder of popular, affordable runabouts.

In addition to the wide range of boats, the show features plenty of gear and accessories from which to choose, including an impressive ar-



The Stinger, a 21-footer that was launched last October, was built by industrial design students at the Savannah College of Art and Design.

ray of new products.

For the serious fisherman, the CVS-832C Color LCD Sounder from Si-Tex presents the latest in fish-finding technology.

The FloatLift, from the Seattle-based Sunstream Corporation, is a floating, hydraulic, solar-powered boat lift that takes the hassle out of launching, docking and storing a wide range of powerboats.

And for those who need a rugged tender but put a premium on space, the LSR 96 hypalon inflatable from Achilles Inflatable Craft is equipped with an aluminum roll-up floor for quick and tidy storage.

Along with the displays, the New York National Boat Show has a full schedule of hands-on exhibitions and seminars.

In the Crystal Palace Lobby, the Vermont-based Adirondack Guide Boat craftsmen will demonstrate how its handbuilt wooden boats are fashioned.

The Treasure Cove area will include a casting pool for children, a radio-controlled model boat race and a live-fish exhibit.

And the daily seminar program includes a full slate of topics such as fishing, marine electronics, boat financing and insurance, on-board safety, and information on buying used boats.

Herb McCormick is the editor of *Cruising World* magazine.