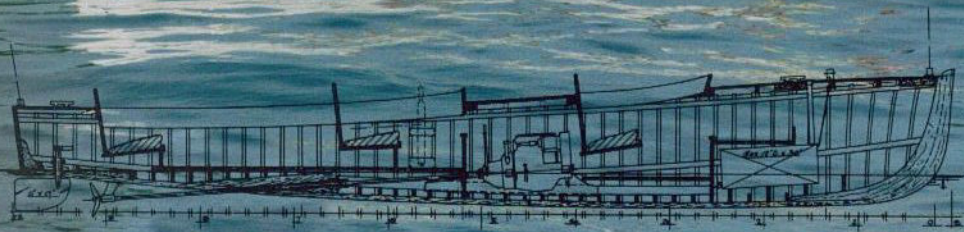


# ELECTRIFYING



One of the early forms of powerboat propulsion has come full circle, benefiting from modern electronics and battery technology.

For anyone wanting to stick it to big oil or just desiring an odorless, leisurely cruise with very low noise levels, there are two styles of electric powered boats currently available.

Blending something new with something old is Dennis Wolfe of Marine City, Michigan, who has electrified a 101-year-old displacement launch design. Wolfe, a newly retired mechanical engineer, built his 25' launch from 3/4" square cedar strips sandwiched between layers of 10 ounce fiberglass cloth set in epoxy. Bright finished wood is Sapele. Seats and sole are unfinished Garapa veneer.

Powering the low displacement-to-length hull is a 6.0 hp MARS brushless DC unit made for the golf cart industry. Power comes from a Sevcon PMAC controller. There are eight 6-volt 220Ah Concorde AGM batteries wired in series for 48 volts. Power consumption is monitored by a Link 10 energy meter.

Contrasting with the hull's one hundred year old design are its four computers: controller, energy meter, GPS, and iPod.

An onboard Honda EU2000i generator will run four hours on one gallon of gas and power the boat just over 5 mph with no battery drain.

Wolfe plans to build and sell one of his \$62,000 launches per year.

Contact Dennis Wolfe at (810) 580-9404



Photos on this page by Classic Boating

**BELOW:** The launch's 6 hp motor and PMAC unit give a cruise speed of around 9 mph.

