

DISPATCHES

NEWS, EVENTS, PEOPLE



THE LITTLE BOAT THAT DID: Sven Yrvind sailed a 15-foot, 9-inch boat he designed and built into Martinique in the Caribbean on Nov. 26 after a 45-day, 2,870-nautical-mile crossing from the Portuguese island of Porto Santo. The 72-year-old Swede made the solo voyage with no engine, autopilot or wind vane, keeping the rudder locked in a fixed position and the sails balanced. www.yrvind.com

Smartboat has intelligent design

With its wedge shape and open stern, the Smartboat 23 turned some heads in its U.S. debut last fall at the Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show. Built in Tunisia, the high-end, lightweight center console can be used as a tender, fishing



boat, family runabout or dive boat, says Sean Willis, U.S. sales representative for Smartboat America, an affiliate of Eastern Yacht Sales in Hingham, Mass.

"It's a marriage of form and function that results in this really attractive, wild-looking boat, but at the same time it's really fuel-

efficient and seakindly and handles extremely well," Willis says.

Powered with a 115-hp Yamaha 4-stroke, the Smartboat cruises at 26 mph with a mileage rating of 4.7 mpg. It tops out at 32 mph. The boat can be rigged with twin outboards.

The plumb bow's sharp entry leads to a bottom that flattens and widens substantially aft, Willis says, and twin skegs about 3 feet forward of the transom improve tracking. A 66-gallon ballast tank integrated into the stringer structure can be filled for stability when the boat carries light loads, he says.

A refrigerator and sink in the leaning post are options. The console doubles as a cuddy with head.

The resin-infused Smartboat's base price with the 115 Yamaha is \$78,185. Add options such as a sun awning, the refrigerator and sink, stern bench seating and cockpit table, and other amenities, and the price is \$84,700. Smartboat, (781) 740-4800. www.smartboat.fr, sean.willis@smartboatamerica.com

— Chris Landry

SEAMANSHIP QUIZ

Test your knowledge with these Coast Guard license exam prep questions from the National Captain's Institute www.captains.com

1. INTERNATIONAL RULES: A fishing vessel must give way to which type of vessel?
A. power-driven vessel
B. towing vessel
C. sailing vessel
D. vessel restricted in ability to maneuver

2. INTERNATIONAL RULES: The dayshape of a cone pointing up, when displayed on a fishing vessel, indicates:
A. it is traveling
B. it has gear extending more than 150 meters
C. it is stopped and not making way
D. it is anchored

3. INTERNATIONAL RULES: While under way in fog you hear four short blasts. What does this indicate?
A. a pilot vessel
B. a vessel being towed
C. a fishing vessel
D. a sailboat

4. Under the U.S. Aids to Navigation System, a lighted buoy with a circular topmark marks:
A. safe water
B. the port side of the channel
C. a hazard to navigation
D. the position of underwater cables

5. In order of highest to lowest, clouds are:
A. alto, cirrus, stratus
B. alto, stratus, cirrus
C. cirrus, alto, stratus
D. stratus, cirrus, alto

1. D, Rule 18 2. B, Rule 26(c)
3. A, Rule 35(f) 4. A 5. C