



Carolina Classic

an Offshore Sportfishing Boat

by

Hay Hardy

Photos courtesy of Carolina Classic Boats

“I would have called the Coast Guard if I were not in a Carolina Classic,” said Greg Hill, recalling an experience he had on his way back from an offshore fishing expedition. The weather had changed suddenly, and he was confronted with 10-foot swells. He said the boat handled it beautifully, making 11 to 12 knots in spite of the weather, and he felt secure and comfortable as he made his way back to shore.

It is no wonder that the Carolina Classic is sold all over the world, on all continents except Antarctica. “Just this year, we have shipped boats to Japan, Italy, Greece and Portugal,” said Mac Privott, owner and founder of Carolina Classic Boats.

The Carolina Classic is an offshore sportfishing boat built in the coastal town of Edenton, North Carolina. Founded by Mac and Joan Privott in 1991, Carolina Classic Boats is privately held and family-owned and operated. Both sons, Keith and Wade, are involved with the business. Privott was born and raised in Edenton and has always lived there except for the few years he served in Vietnam. After the war, he got into textile manufacturing. When most of the textile industry moved overseas in the mid-70s, Privott, who always loved the water, moved into the boating industry. In 1979, he and a partner started Albemarle Boats to build sportfishing craft. He eventually sold out his share in 1991 and started Carolina Classic Boats on his own.

Armed with years of boat-building experience, Privott was determined to build the sturdiest of offshore fishing boats that could withstand the roughest seas again and again. His company’s slogan is, “You always come back with the same boat. You will not be missing any piece of it no matter what the weather has been.” These boats have been tested in the turbulent waters off Cape Hatteras where the Labrador Current collides with the Gulf Stream. The hull bottoms are laminated to maximum thickness, and critical stress points such as



Galley of a 32-ft Carolina Classic

Fish box of a 25-ft and (lower) fishing station in a 28-ft boat



The spacious cockpit of a 28-ft

chines and the keel are further reinforced with extra layers of glass. The deck and liner are glassed-in permanently for an inseparable bond to ensure structural integrity. All through-hull fittings are anticorrosive bronze or stainless steel, and every metal fitting below the waterline is bonded for protection against electrolysis. On the underside are stainless steel rudders and tie-rods, and bronze struts, all proven to be the best material to hold up against salt-water corrosion. The mechanical systems are built to exceed industry standard, and whenever possible, a back-up or redundant system is included.

Beyond its ability to withstand the roughest weather condition, the next priority is to assure a comfortable ride. The bow is designed with an extra-wide flare to push

out the waves. The hull, liner and deck are completely bonded to create a unibody, thus eliminating any creaking noises created by joints. The heavy-duty engine mounts are bolted to the stringers, spreading the force evenly through the length of the vessel, thus reducing vibration. The hydrodynamic propellers are computer-precision carved from a single block of nybral for maximum strength and perfect balance. In the galley, DVD, flat panel TV and stereo sound systems offer welcome amenities for long outings.

But in the end, the main mission of this boat is to provide the best fishing experience possible. To achieve that, she has an oversized, uncluttered cockpit that can accommodate three or four anglers working the lines at the same time. It is free

of engine boxes, hardware, seats, or anything else that might snag a line or break a toe. Fishermen can even add a fighting chair or leaning post. The top-of-the-line fishing gear comes built in: the recessed stainless rod holders, the outriggers, the extra-wide fish boxes and the rigging station. Basically, it has everything a serious saltwater fisherman could wish for.

Hill, a resident of Mechanicsville, Virginia, purchased his 28-foot Carolina Classic from Chesapeake Yacht Sales in Deltaville, Virginia, three years ago. For him, there is no comparison to his previous fishing boat. "The Carolina Classic is like a battleship," says Hill. He often fishes around the Bay for rockfish, or offshore for tuna and dolphin. He ventures two to three hours offshore as far as the Gulf Stream. It has a 200-gallon diesel tank and is extremely fuel-efficient. "The boat is so heavy, weighing 15,000 pounds as compared to 12,000 pounds for boats of similar design, that it cuts through the water and provides the smoothest and the most comfortable ride."

For information on Carolina Classic Boats, contact Chesapeake Yachts Sales at (804) 776-9898. www.cysboat.com or CarolinaClassicBoats.com.

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