

All American Marine Excellence:

Three operators, three vessels over three years, how are they performing now?

By AARON JOYES



'Chilkat Express' reviewed in Work Boat World October 2001



'Condor Express' reviewed in Work Boat World April 2002



'Shearwater' reviewed in Work Boat World February 2003

One of the keys to establishing just how good a vessel has performed is to speak with the operator of the craft 2-3 years down the operational track. So, Work Boat World has offered its readers a brief overview of three vessels, all built to Teknicraft Designs by All American Marine (AAM), with an update on their performance 2-3 years after delivery. The results although not surprising are testimonials in themselves.

Much has been written about the unique design feature of the Teknicraft hull. The main factor in the success of the design has been the combination of symmetrical and asymmetrical sponson shapes and the hydrodynamic lift that is created by the Teknicraft hydrofoil design.

A great design is one thing, but the build standard has to be high for a successful delivery and, most importantly, repeat orders. AAM have earned a fine reputation for high quality finishing, resulting in increased orders and the need to expand their facilities which has recently happened in order to accommodate their ever growing order book.

'Chilkat Express': Delivered September 2001

This 76 person 19.3 metre passenger ferry caused a considerable stir in the industry when delivered mid-way through 2001. Not only was the ferry well built for the demanding waters of Alaska, 'Chilkat Express' is also extremely fast. Its top speed of 48 knots was reached during sea trials even though the owner (Chilkat Cruises and Tours) only required 42 knots.

The propulsion package on 'Chilkat Express' comprised four Caterpillar 3406E diesels each developing 597kW at 2,300rpm and coupled to four Hamilton HJ362 waterjets.

After three years, 'Chilkat Express' is still running strong. A recent conversation with operator Eric Daigneault had this to say about the ferry. 'Chilkat Express' works in some of the most extreme sea conditions in the world, the quality of work is good, especially the weld joints which is an aspect that I focus on.

"Matt Mullett of AAM and Nic de Waal of Teknicraft Design are excellent to deal with and the whole experience has been

great. 'Chilkat Express' has handled the harsh Alaskan conditions very well."

'Condor Express': Delivered February 2002

Delivered to Condor Cruises of Santa Barbara, USA in early 2002, 'Condor Express' is a 22.7 metre, 43 knot whale watcher surveyed for 149 passengers. It is powered by four Detroit Diesel engines each rated at 522kW at 2,300rpm, with four Hamilton 362 water jets completing the package.

After two years in operation, representatives of 'Condor Express' are still full of praise for their AAM-built boat. "We wish we had done this earlier, she is a fabulous piece of machinery and very fuel efficient," said Captain Fred Benko. "We have built several boats and AAM are by far the best we have dealt with, they are honest and from top to bottom, the staff take great pride in their work."

'Shearwater'. Delivered January 2003

Built for America's National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), 'Shearwater' is an 18.5 metre research vessel. 'Shearwater' has the capacity for 24 people and can berth 10 people. Two crew operate this vessel, which is fully equipped with impressive amenities including a full galley, wet and dry oceanic labs, a sample freezer and multiple computer stations.

Mr. Dana Wilkes of NOAA was full of praise for 'Shearwater'. "'Shearwater' has stayed booked every day since we took delivery. The vessel cruises at a higher speed than most other scientific craft, is safe, efficient, well built and has an aggressive design. She is also a very versatile and stable platform, an important factor for on-board scientific experiments, and is superb in the application of diving experiments.

"All American Marine are attentive, have very professional staff and were especially receptive to the unique needs of the research community."

'Chilkat Express', 'Condor Express' and 'Shearwater' are just three of the 11 commercial craft that have been delivered by the All American Marine and Teknicraft Design partnership, and with the growing reputation of both companies, many more of their vessels should find their way into the pages of Work Boat World.

For further information contact:

All American Marine, USA,
Web: www.allamericanmarine.com
Email: sales@allamericanmarine.com
Teknicraft Design, New Zealand,
Email: info@teknicraft.com
Web: www.teknicraft.com