

## 26 HACKER CRAFT STERLING - "Project 408"

Some years ago, Lynn Wagemann, President of the Hacker Boat Company, was reviewing old design plans of his company's sizable archival materials. He noted a few words scribbled in John L. Hacker's distinctive handwriting on the border of a 1938 sheet hinting at a new style runabout. Was Hacker planning a launch of a new runabout design for the coming decade? The 1940s runabout design never came to fruition. In the summer of 1939, Hacker received a telegram asking him to come to Palo Alto, California to discuss the design of a "commuter" boat. That telegram came from George Whittle of San Francisco--one of the world's richest men at the time. Hacker's attention turned to the design process and massive undertaking of construction of one of the most extraordinary wooden boat ever built in America—the legendary Hacker masterpiece—the 55 ft commuter *Thunderbird* on Lake Tahoe.



1935 Hacker/Sterling Engine Poster Advertisement

### The Meaning of STERLING Prototype Hull # 1

The boat on display at the Palm Beach International Boat Show is what is called a prototype—which means it is the model upon which all future orders of the STERLING will be based on. To meet the boat show time demands, the STERLING has been delivered without all final detail work being completed. Several pieces of hardware are still under production. The boat will receive several more coats of varnish.

The rare Hacker prototype boats have great intrinsic value to their owners and hold their value exceptionally well; rarely does one come on the market. Plans call for this boat to be on tour at boat shows throughout the United States and Canada in 2010 and then returned to be put on display at the Hacker Boat Company in Silver Bay, NY.



In the winter of 2007, Wagemann brought together his design and engineering teams and announced his intentions to have his company design and build a new runabout model—the first in over 15 years since the introduction of the SPORT series. The project was named "Project 408"—matching the month and year design work began in April 2008. The goal was to design and build a shapely boat with the flamboyance of a 1940s runabout. Runabouts of that era were less formal in design than the classic Hacker Dolphin Runabouts of the 1930s. The 1940s marked a period of stylized runabouts with brighter colors, striking barrel back tumblehomes (the inward slope of the boat's side planking towards the stern) wider beams, rounded sides and art deco touches.

The 26 footer STERLING premiering at the 2010 Palm Beach Boat Show is the product of that design directive. The STERLING model is named in honor of the Sterling Engine Company of Buffalo, New York. Sterling engines were installed in many of Hacker's early runabouts—including Hacker's 1914 Gold Cup racer *Buffalo Enquirer*. Sterling engine's classic tagline was engraved on every engine block... "*The Engine of Refinement for the Finest Boat That Floats*".

The STERLING includes eight more inches on its beam than on a comparably sized Hacker Runabout. Note the beautifully crafted floor vents—a feature common on Gravette runabouts of Canadian fame. The STERLING has design touches reminiscent of the dashing runabouts of the 1940s—including its modified barrel back tumblehome and its bright blond colored center and cover boards on the decks. The bow and stern flags angle slightly toward the transom.

Built under the direct supervision of Hacker master boat builder Tim Gautreau—the STERLING is like no other runabout the Hacker Boat Company has ever built. Adding to STERLING's panache are stylized hardware and dashboard instrumentation. The beautifully curved stainless steel bow piece adds to the boat's handsome design. Powered by a 2010 Crusader 5.7L 330 horsepower multi port injection engine, the 4,500 lb. STERLING has proven fast and nimble in its water tests, with a smaller rudder for less drag and more efficiency.

The Hacker Craft STERLING will be sold under the model name *AU REVOIR* in European markets to honor John Hacker's first production boat of the same name built in 1903.

The STERLING now joins the family of timeless Hacker-Crafts. Boats that hold their value like few others. A Hacker-Craft is never out of style. Not now. Not a hundred years from now.

### The 2010 Hacker-Craft 26 Twin Cockpit Sterling Series Runabout – Prototype Hull # 1

Hacker Boat Company Silver Bay/Ticonderoga, New York 866.540.5546

Length - 26' 6" • Beam - 8'0" • Weight - 4,500 lbs • Powered by a Crusader 5.7 L MPI 330 horsepower engine