

New Glass Windmill Builder!

After over a year of work and development, the first new glass Windmill from Johannsen Boat Works has hit the water! During this time, your class invested in a new tooling to ensure a better quality product. A new hull mold was built as the old was in such poor shape, and we upgraded it to allow vacuum bagging or resin infusion in the future, and updated to a full rail flange. This allows the deck liner to be installed while the hull is still in the mold, assuring a more consistent hull form. The McLaughlin era deck mold was modified to have the full hull to deck flange also. At the same time, we invested in two thwart molds so these can be built in glass. The big improvement here is that the forward thwart/mast partners includes the daggerboard cap and the famous Bill Blanton seat, with the main cam mount aft of that! The crews love this and it really makes the boat more comfortable. We also moved the bailer position to just aft of the daggerboard trunk, and this seems to be working better. Another small addition is that we added a small strut to tie in the mast partners and the mast step. Our class measurer Roy Sherman flew down to St. Petersburg and measured the first hull and blessed it!

The standard configuration includes the installation of the bailer, chainplates, headstay tang, inspection ports and drain plugs. Standard color is a white hull with a cream colored deck which is easy on the eyes! Other colors are available. The builder can install other options, or you can do it yourself or hire a rigger. I can provide a parts list and fitting out guide if you'd like.

The first boat came out very strong, but too heavy to be a top level competitive boat. At 230 lbs, it probably weighs less than some boats in the fleet, and would be an upgrade or an excellent club or loaner boat. Contact Mark Johannsen or myself for more info.

Hull 2 met our goals and is well below minimum weight, and is owned by the class as a stock boat and is available for sale. It is white with a cream deck, strong, light and stiff and ready to go!

Hulls 3 and 4 were purchased by the Bixbys and Sponars, as each wanted custom hull colors. We received 5700 at the Southernns, and had it rigged up and sailing by the following weekend's regatta in Clearwater. The boat feels great, very stiff, comfortable and fast! Trudy swears by the seat.

So we have turned a page and achieved what we have long wanted – a quality builder of glass boats for the class. Now owners can upgrade their program with a totally new boat, or keep all of your components and just get a new the hull! And importantly we have new fiberglass boats available for prospective owners! Our goal is to always have a new hull available, and have an a-la-carte system for components. This list of know suppliers and approximate pricing is posted on the web site. This makes it easy to change out what you need as you upgrade your boat.

Mark Johannsen of Johannsen Boat Works can be reached at 772-567-4612, mobile 772-559-3605, email trinka3@comcast.net. An order form is posted on this web site, along with the suppliers list.

I'd like to give a big thanks to Mark Johansen, Roy Sherman, and Lon Ethington for the all the time, energy, endless phone calls and emails it has taken to get to this point.

Let's go sailing!!!

Ethan Bixby

Windmill 5700