

wanted to build a 24-footer. Olin said Sparkman & Stephens would never do a boat that small (watch out later for dozens of them) and called Bill Shaw into his office. Bill got out his Shaw 24 plans, and they conferred. Olin suggested two changes: a sweet Sparkman & Stephens sheerline to replace the Shaw 24's slight reverse sheer and broader aft sections to help carry masthead spinnakers in a blow. Thus, in April of 1959 the first Dolphin 24 was finalized on paper as Sparkman & Stephens design #1497.

The design

The Dolphin was designed to be good at everything she does without also trying to meet special constraints: price points, ultra-light trailerability, headroom, massive interior. Her classic sheer, overhangs, ample cockpit, and elegant transom were the norm then and are echoed today by new boats reviving that traditional look. In the Dolphin size range, check out the Bridges Point 24 and the Quickstep 24. Going bigger, look at Joel White's Center Harbor 31. And there are hints of classic lines in the new J/100 and J/124. Even bigger are the new "daysailers": the Morris 36 and the Hinckley DS 42.

The Dolphins that resulted from the Shaw 24 have a quick hull and powerful rig, moving the boat well in light air and easily reefable for heavy air. The masthead foretriangle is quite large for its day. Many designers (Ted Hood is a staunch proponent) believe it's



***Trina*, the wooden beauty who started it all, captures the wind, on facing page. *Marionette*, Ron Breault's O'Day Dolphin, is decorated for a Sparkman & Stephens rendezvous, at top. These early Dolphins had a fiberglass hull with a wooden deck and cabin. In center, *Icelander*, a Yankee Dolphin owned by Bill Watson, shows her stuff under sail, and Jim Huxford's Yankee Dolphin on stands shows her Sparkman & Stephens heritage. Jim ran an active Yankee Dolphin website and was refitting his boat until he lost a battle with cancer. He is sorely missed. At bottom, Jim Sutro's Yankee Dolphin, *Duckling*, in Clipper Cove, San Francisco Bay.**

