

From: "Joe"
To: <john@simpsonmarinedesign.com>
Sent: January 31, 2011 4:35 AM
Subject: Sundowner V: Update

Hello John

I am the current owner of a vessel for which your firm (or you, yourself) is the designer. The name of the boat was Oriana when we purchased it nearly a decade ago, and it is a 64-65' steel multi-chine pilothouse ketch, launched I believe in 1980. After perusing your website, it appears that two of these vessels were built, but I am assuming that this is the one which was originally named Sundowner V. The paint job was identical in the photo shown on your site for the vessel flying a Canadian flag.

We are the ones who sailed the boat in the 2002 Victoria-Maui race, and I will admit that like many other yacht owners, I allowed the boat to sit at moorings for nearly a decade (I did perform anode/antifoul maintenance regularly, however) before deciding to take it on another trip. So, in 2009, I singlehanded the boat from the Puget Sound on a nonstop trip to SE Asia, where I am currently sitting to undergo bottom paint maintenance and, perhaps, some interior renovations/redesigns. I might require some professional advice on this subject in the near future; if that is a service you are interested in providing.

I will say that I've had the boat at 14 knots of speed downwind with an asymmetrical cruising spinnaker and both mizzen/mainsail flying. When we purchased the boat, we feared it was built more for motoring than for sailing. But I have been unbelievably pleased with how this vessel handles under sail, both in terms of speed and sea motion. It also points much better into the wind than I had ever believed possible. And after solo-sailing through a typhoon (in the Philippines, they called it 'Ondoy' in October of 2009) for a week with sustained winds of up to 60 knots, I have nothing but the utmost respect and admiration for your design. I never thought it would be possible to feel safe sailing in 30 foot seas, but I slept quite soundly with mizzen and staysail up in those conditions, and the boat acted like it belonged there.

Anyways, I tend to ramble, so I apologize. I had one perhaps ridiculously stupid question, and a few other slightly less ridiculous ones. My stupid question is one mostly of physics, for which I am certain you have the answer: if this boat were beached, and made to lay on its side, would it fill up with water and be sunk, or would it right itself with the rising tide? The next question refers to a 68' cutter which has a beautiful stern-mounted swimming platform. Is it possible to modify the stern of this boat to accommodate a similar feature without completely renovating the master stateroom?

I'll withhold any further questions until I receive your reply. Thank you for designing such a magnificent boat. "Joe"

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PS: In Sept. 1981, the designer crewed on the Sundowner V from Hawaii to Victoria – (approx. 2400 miles) in 17 days. Weather varied from trade winds, a gale, doldrums, edge of a typhoon for 2 days with winds at 75+ knots. All arrived safely & without damage.

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