

CURRENTS

Monaro 257.

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This is a local news-driven section. If something catches your attention that would be of interest to local boaters, send it along to erin@pacificyachting.com.



NEWS

MONARO CELEBRATES 45 YEARS

BC'S LOCAL POWERBOAT builder, Monaro Marine, is celebrating 45 years in business this year. Monaro began operations in 1975 when owner and founder Dan Parker decided to build a quality boat for a very select market. He began designing and then building a 21-foot runabout at his house. A year later the first model was launched and sold, then he opened a shop and expanded the construction process to create optional models. Before long, the 21 had been stretched to a 24 that immediately became recognized for its sea-going performance by serious boaters and sports fishing enthusiasts.

Monaros were originally built with optional stern drive or two-stroke outboard power. In more recent years the choice of four-stroke outboard power has become more popular and many of the latest models are equipped with

large four stroke outboards.

From the outset, boat buyers began to recognize the quality and outstanding design of Monaro boats. Orders for the boats soon increased and came in from various parts of BC, other parts of Canada, from across the border in the US as well as from South America. In the mid 1990s a new 24-foot model was shipped to Great Slave Lake. Some boats were ordered by customers in the Arctic, and were built to Monaro's standards and design, with some specific features for use in icy conditions. These included a new 24-footer and a 27. The 27 was delivered by way of a trip all the way up the Mackenzie River to the Northwest Passage and beyond to Resolute Bay.

The builder introduced the 27 in 1992, at a new, larger premises in Richmond. One of the early 27s was purchased

by myself as author and publisher of boating guides for the coast. I needed a boat such as that for getting to all the places on the coast with efficiency in the time I had available. My 27 was used over a period of 22 years and covered the length of the coast from Olympia to Ketchikan without ever having any problems. And it handled the seas extremely well.

Other models Monaro has introduced include a 298, a 257 and a 235, all of which have gone over very well with their owners, and they, like many other owners, are mostly repeat customers, some of whom have upsized and owned as many as four Monaro models over the years. These customers along with members of the marine industry say Monaro builds the best in its class.

—Peter Vassilopoulos