

Made in Southeastern NC

ISLAND STYLE CUSTOM YACHTS

As one of the largest boating and fishing states on the east coast, it should be no surprise that North Carolina is home to a vast number of boat builders. The boat building tradition runs deep in the state, particularly around the Outer and Core Banks. One Brunswick county man wants to extend the tradition of building offshore sportfishing vessels to the south, and he is already working on completing his first hull—a custom 42' express.

Scott Quaintance is no stranger to building things—his Ocean Isle-based Carolina Bluewater Construction company is one of the area's most respected builders of custom homes. Also no stranger to boats (his "Casual Water" tournament fishing team is highly successful on the SKA tournament circuit, and he also owns a 47' Cabo for blue water fishing), the man has decided to combine his two passions: he's starting a new line of custom offshore sportfishing boats built right at home in Brunswick County.

After a naming contest that drew several hundred suggestions, Quaintance selected the name Island Style Custom Yachts to represent his new line.

The idea to build a boat came to Quaintance from what many anglers would consider an unusual source. It came from his wife while his 34' Yellowfin "Casual Water" was being built around three years ago.

"I went down there a few times while they were building it. On one of my trips I took my wife with me. She said he's [Wylie, builder of Yellowfin boats] not much older than you. Why don't you build a boat? Now it's her fault if anything goes wrong," Quaintance said with a laugh.

His original plan was to build a smaller boat, but talks with a number of boat industry executives convinced Quaintance that a larger boat would suit his goals better.

"I started wanting to build a 38', but by the time I had everything I wanted in it, it was a 42," he explained while showing us around the hull under construction in his shop, located behind Carolina Bluewater Construction's headquarters between Ocean Isle and

Sunset Beach.

Like Quaintance's homes, the first Island Style 42' express will house a host of modern amenities and be rigged to the nines, including an Eskimo ice machine, refrigerated fish boxes, a unique tackle storage setup, and air-conditioned salon and helm.

Once he'd decided on the setup, Quaintance contracted renowned marine architecture and design firm Donald L. Blount and Associates to draw up plans for the vessel. The tab for the blueprints may give readers some sense of how much Quaintance has invested in the project. "The plans cost \$30-90,000, and that's just the plans," he told us.

Knowing basically what he wanted out of the boat after consulting with a number of industry experts and custom builders, Quaintance worked with the Blount firm to get the hull exactly right.

"I wanted some of the Carolina flare, but I didn't want an over-exaggerated flare like some of these boats have," he said. "We also messed with the shear line a bit. Instead of going with a really steep, Carolina-style line, we went with more of a Florida style, where it kind of rolls back to the cockpit. It's

a bit of both worlds, but I still wanted to keep the sea handling of a Carolina boat in big seas."

Another of Quaintance's design criteria was that the boat have prop pockets in order to reduce the draft and deal with the shoally, shallow inlets and waterways in the southern part of the state.

"I kept the Cabo on the ICW down here, and the problem was that I had to keep dredging the slip and had to pull it out to have the props and shafts re-done," he explained. "I eventually moved it to Little River because it was still sitting on the dirt at low tide."

Not only do the prop pockets reduce the draft (keeping the Island Style 42's at 42"), they help the hull handle more predictably in following seas than a traditional flat-stern Carolina hull.

Prop pockets also reduce the shaft angle from engines to propellers, improving performance and mileage and keeping the transom up when backing down on a fish.

Speaking of engines, Island Style #1 will receive a pair of 865 hp CAT C15's, which should give the approximately 39,000 lb. vessel a 35 knot cruising speed and top speeds of 42+ knots, very competitive numbers in the 40'+ express market.

Quaintance chose to follow in the Carolina tradition of building cold molded boats, meaning the vessel's hull is built atop a series of jigs which shape the entire hull. The jigs are set up, and then planks are glued in to form the hull's basic structure. After the hull is laid up with the planks, it will be fiberglassed both inside and out. The

custom cold molding process produces a solid boat that is substantially lighter than a solid fiberglass production hull, improving the speed and fuel burn numbers.

After deciding he would build a cold molded boat, Quaintance hired Dennis Denzin, an expert in the process who'd spent the last 12 years working for custom builder Buddy Davis in Wanchese, to take command of the production process.

Island Style is a full custom boat builder. "I can build one any size. Each one will be a totally custom boat, with a new set of plans and jigs just like the one right there," Quaintance said while gesturing over his shoulder at the hull under construction.

In addition to altering the size of the boat, since he is building them from the ground up Quaintance can incorporate virtually any custom feature imaginable into the vessels.

If all goes according to plan, hull #1 will be glassed and ready to flip over for interior work in about two months, and Quaintance hopes to be installing his motors sometime in July. The first boat will be for sale, and anyone interested in it or in talking to Quaintance about a future build can reach him at (910) 279-4590.

While the Core and Outer Banks' boat building heritage should be valued by every angler in the state, now Cape Fear-area anglers can take pride in the fact that a totally custom boat builder has taken up residence in their backyards, and he's building a top quality product with the specific needs of local offshore fishermen at the forefront.



Clay Remick, Dennis Denzin, and Scott Quaintance stand in front of the jigs that will shape the hull of the first custom express to be built by the Ocean Isle-based Island Style Custom Yachts.