

# Lynx

As I drove home from the grocery store last weekend down our quiet country road I noticed I was being followed by a red convertible Ferrari. Now picture that red Ferrari as the Maxi Dolphin 33, then picture it being followed a Model A Ford pickup truck. That Model A Ford is Mike Camp's steel catboat. In reaction to what he sees as the current state of family yachting Mike offers us this design, penned by hand, as an alternative. And, to put his money where his pen is, Mike is building the first boat for himself.

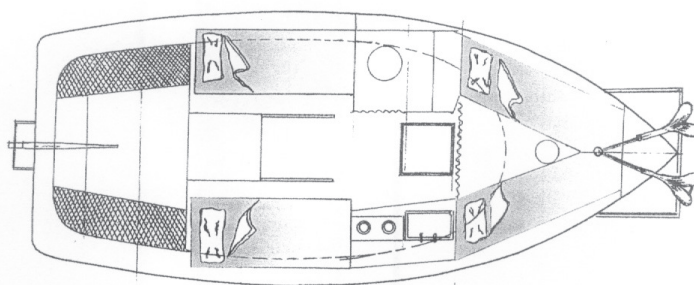
I read Jack London's *Cruise of the Snark* last weekend. Paul and Lorrie had tied *Amati* to my mooring and during the evening Paul had produced the book he had borrowed at Christmas. "It might take you a while to get into it but give it a chance." I'm not sure why I don't see this book on more lists of essential books for sailors. I'm a Jack London fan but I was put off by the pompous tone of the book until I realized that Jack was lampooning the yachting attitude in the first chapter. Read Jack's book. Study Mike's plans and remind yourself that you do not need the very latest in high-tech yachting footwear, GPS equipment, refrigeration and air conditioning to be content and safe on board. We can't all be the adventurer that Jack London was but with a boat like Mike's you could do a pretty good job of pretending on Puget Sound.

The hull is a multi-chine hull to make it easy to build in flat plate steel. There are two chines. The sheer shows a strong spring and it looks good. The bow is a typical catboat type with

a hint of tumble-home. This gives the bow a bit of a pugnacious look. Let Jack tell you about his bow—I think the bow of the *Snark* probably shared some shape elements with Mike's bow. "It laughs at the

sea, that bow does; it challenges the sea; it snorts defiance at the sea." The keel of this catboat is a full-length keel with no aperture for the propeller as the only auxiliary is an outboard mounted on the transom. The barn door-type outboard rudder is cut down at the top below the DWL so that you can use the top of it as a step. In true catboat style the D/L of this design is 330 and the L/B is 2.4.

So with 9,000 pounds of displacement to work with you can get a real interior into this small boat. There are spacious V-berths flanking the mast forward.



Cruise on a boat like this. Prepare simple, one-pot meals on a simple alcohol stove. Drink instant coffee. Use an ice chest. Light the cabin with an oil lantern and go to bed satisfied when the sun goes down.

There is a head that has a curtain enclosure. There is a hanging locker in the head. A small galley is adjacent to the head. Wide settee berths extend the length of the main cabin. Headroom is 5 feet, 9 inches. These settee berths are wide at 30 inches, but they are only 6 feet long. Come on, Mike. Make the boat 24 feet, 6 inches LOA and please add the new 6 inches to the length of those berths. I can't see taking 6 inches out of the galley or head. Cruise on a boat like this. Prepare simple, one-pot meals on a simple alcohol stove. Drink instant

coffee. Use an ice chest. Light the cabin with an oil lantern and go to bed satisfied when the sun goes down. With the hectic world that so many of us are compelled to live in I find that style of cruising to be far more refreshing than it is challenging.

I'm not sure why Mike didn't use a gaff for the big mainsail. His sailplan shows three full-length battens and a leg-of-mutton sail. This setup looks a bit funky to my eye. But it will help control the excessive twist you get with a gaff-headed sail. The SA/D is a whopping 14.12 so don't expect this boat to be a light air screamer. It won't be a heavy air

screamer either. This boat will sail sedately and safely. As Jack said, "Think ... of a gale off the China coast, and of the *Snark* hove to, that splendid bow of hers driving into the storm. Not a drop will come over that bow. She'll be as dry as a feather, and we'll be all below playing whist while the gale howls." Of course, the real irony to this is, as Jack would find out, was that *Snark* was to become infamous for not ever being able to hove to.

Mike's catboat would make a good backyard project and would feed your dreams for a long time.

LOA 24'; LWL 23'; Beam 10'; Draft 4';  
Displacement 9,000 lbs.; Ballast 3,000  
lbs.; Sail area 382 sq. ft.; SA/D 14.1; D/L  
338; L/B 2.4; Water 10 gals.

Mike Camp Designs,  
Canada,  
[www.mts.net/~mcdes](http://www.mts.net/~mcdes).

**OBE: \$50,000**

Our Best Estimate of the sailaway price