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Cousteau's Calypso inspires new "*adventure class*" yachts

Dana Point, California August 2, 2005 Trekker Marine Enterprises is focused on expanding the market for motor yachts by serving up adventure to a more active customer lifestyle.

Inspired by Cousteau's famous Calypso, Trekker is introducing a new concept in production motor yachts that allows their owners to carry along a large assortment of smaller exploration vessels and vehicles. This enables a multitude of outdoor adventures to be conducted directly from the yacht a feature not met by traditional yacht designs.

"Trekker is entering the market with a distinctive new design "profile" that appeals to owners who maintain active lifestyles", says Steven Alan Fry, Trekker's leader and Sr. Adventurer. "Our customers want to experience nature first hand immersing themselves in the experience. Our innovative layout and the built-in launch / retrieval technology allows each Trekker to carry an unprecedented array of auxiliary craft necessary to fuel the hands-on experiences preferred by outdoor enthusiasts."

Fry says Trekker is targeting a wide customer base. "Every Trekker integrates the unique lifestyle of its owners. Each one is a personal statement to the endless outdoor pursuits of the boating community. We can incorporate an extraordinary combination of auxiliary craft to enable many different approaches to sailing, fishing, skiing and wakeboarding, scuba diving, paddling, surfing, flying, wet or dry submarines, and much more."

Patrick Bray, Trekker's highly regarded naval architect, says the adventure class boats are adding a new dimension to the industry. "The Trekker project is exciting because it offers a way for owners to take their passions along with them", says Pat. "This new profile allows each Trekker to carry at least 4 significant auxiliary craft, along with several other smaller choices. And the computer controlled gantry provides a safe and fast way to launch and retrieve these vessels a big improvement over single cable cranes that are often dangerous to operate."

To incorporate the many innovations, Trekkers sport a unique appearance featuring a raised command control center that is immediately recognized by its all-glass shell - providing helicopter-like visibility and forward seating for the lucky guests. "It is a powerful looking design, with the best visibility ever designed into a motor yacht helm", says Bray. "We then fit the aft decks with custom racks to hold the owner's colorful array of toys. When

this boat pulls into any harbor or anchorage, it will immediately be the center of action and attention.”

There is even an ocean-view garage in the back of each Trekker not to store the boats, but to hold all of the fishing poles, scuba tanks, skis, sails, and life vests needed to operate the adventure craft. “We even have a gas station built in to keep the toys fed.” states Fry. “Depending upon location and the weather, a Trekker group can choose from an amazing assortment of options and optimize their experience, their adventure.”

To compliment the adventures taking place on the outside, Trekker is also making some innovations on the inside. Instead of the formal and conservative or glitzy interiors found on most motor yachts, Trekkers feature inviting “colors of adventure” and sporty designs that are more casual and comfortable. There is also extensive use of technology to support any kind of entertainment, information and communications. “Trekkers provide wonderful accommodations,” says Fry. “We use rich colors and friendly designs to make passengers feel very comfortable and relaxed as they rest up for their next adventure.”

Trekker is taking a leadership role with the environment by constructing the yachts from environmentally friendly marine-grade aluminum and delivering them largely unpainted. “This approach is the ultimate environmental strategy for building, operating, and ultimately recycling,” states Bray. Yachts built in fiberglass or steel produce significantly more emissions during construction, require high levels of maintenance using polishes, waxes, sealers and paints that continue to add emissions, and ultimately cannot be recycled. Even Trekker’s interiors will specify woods and manufactured materials that are not exploiting the Earth’s old-growth forests and have acceptable harvest, manufacturing and recycling profiles.

Trekker is also the world’s first production yacht company to specify diesel-electric power to run the boats expected to cut fuel use and emissions while reducing maintenance and increasing reliability. “This is a big step towards our mandate to build environmentally friendly yachts.” says Fry. “We are looking at every part of the process to see how we can minimize our environmental impact.”

With all of the action-oriented innovations, it might seem like you need to be out on the high seas to enjoy a Trekker. “Our little secret weapon is that Trekkers work just as great in the slip as they do on a cruise because all of the adventure craft can be launched and retrieved without having to take the boat out of the slip,” notes Fry. Traditional crane “davits” usually swing the vessels off the sides, making use in the slip or against a dock impossible. Trekker’s unique launch and retrieval system simply lowers the toys directly off the swim step and just outside the garage door where the

accessories can be easily loaded and unloaded. "The kids can launch their sail boats and personal watercraft while Mom and Dad set up the snacks for their friends to watch the big game on the flat screen," he adds. Versatility, it turns out, is a big factor in the adventure class strategy to please those with active lifestyles.

Trekker Marine Enterprises is busy preparing to build their first model, the TREKKER 70. Plans are in place to build a range of these adventure class vessels with production models starting at 60 feet and ranging to 120 feet. Larger Trekkers will be designed and commissioned individually, but use the powerful Trekker profile and innovations.

You can learn more about the new adventure class at Trekker's web site located at www.TrekkerYachts.com.

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Captain Jacques-Yves Cousteau