

Small Cat's Meow

WITH FEW NATURAL HARBORS OR usable in-lets, the Atlantic coast of New Jersey was an inhospitable place for fishermen in the 19th century. They lived in encampments on the beach, and out of necessity, the Sea Bright Skiff evolved. It could easily be launched from the beach into the surf; it also sailed and rowed well.

Further back in time, oceangoing open boats of the Norse made long voyages across the North Atlantic. Their seaworthiness remains legendary.

The Chuck Paine-designed NorseBoat 17.5 combines the best elements of both craft, and it does so in a pretty package. Its gaff catboat rig, molded lapstrake hull, and wineglass

transom will appeal to traditionalists. The epoxy-resin and fiberglass construction, foam flotation, two-piece carbon-fiber mast, fully battened 105-square-foot mainsail, and optional roller-furler screecher all hail from a more contemporary era.

When the wind drops off, the NorseBoat can either be rowed or driven with a small outboard. The boat has been designed for daysailing and sail camping. It has storage compartments amidships as well as at the bow and stern, and there's plenty of room for gear. The

basic sailing package starts at \$12,500.

To learn more, check out the company's website (www.norseboat.com).

D.W.S.



The versatile Chuck Paine-designed NorseBoat features a traditional appearance and modern construction materials.