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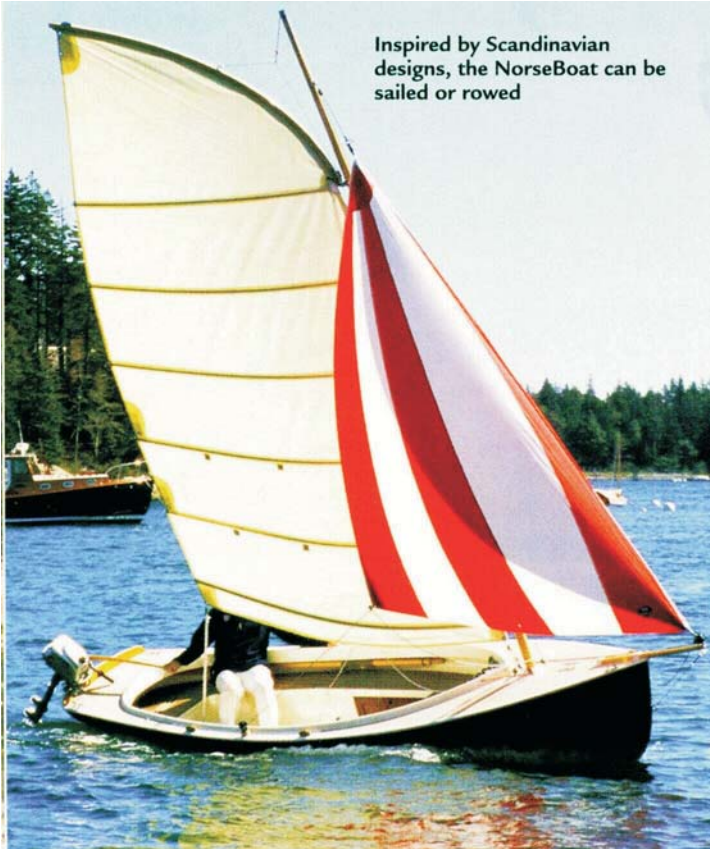
The mysteries of San Francisco Bay
Meandering down the Mississippi

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Inspired by Scandinavian designs, the NorseBoat can be sailed or rowed

NorseBoat 17.5

THIS MODERN CROSS BETWEEN A NORSE OPEN-SEA BOAT and a nineteenth-century fishing skiff should help fuel your desire to head at least a little way over the horizon—or to entertain during an afternoon on the bay. Designed by Mark Fitzgerald, of Chuck Paine's office, for marine-electrics maven Kevin Jeffery, the NorseBoat is a narrow, lightweight pulling boat that is easily rowed and sails with alacrity. With its optional dodger and cockpit tent (there's also a little bimini, if you're sailing in southern waters), the boat can be used as a versatile camper-cruiser; forward cockpit space converts into a flat surface for sleeping.

Though reasonably priced, the NorseBoat is strictly high-end. The epoxy/glass composite faux-lapstrake hull is fitted out with North sails, a two-piece carbon-fiber mast, and modern Harken deck hardware. The carefully crafted curved gaff transforms the traditional-looking mainsail into a modern full-batten fat-roach blade, and the nifty little nylon screecher keeps the boat moving in light and moderate air. Indeed, the boat was quick enough to take first in its class and third overall at the 2004 WaterTribes Everglades Challenge shortly after hull number one was launched in Florida last year. Because of its narrow beam and light weight, the NorseBoat is a little tender initially (the price you pay for decent performance under oars), but it quickly bites down into the water and feels quite solid once it gets moving. Though the controls are a bit widely spaced, the helm is forgiving and the boat is easily singlehanded. **Charles J. Doane**

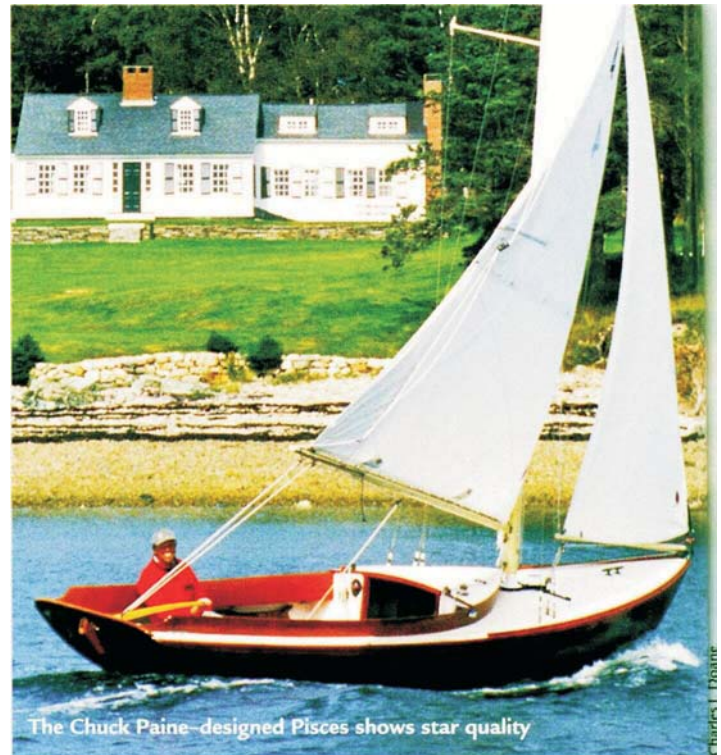
\$12,495 (base, FOB Price Edward Island, Canada). **LOA** 17'6"; **LWL** 16'; **beam** 5'2"; **draft** 9"/3'1" (board up/down); **displ** 1,100 lbs; **sail area** 105 sq ft; **designer** Chuck Paine & Associates; **NorseBoat Ltd.**, 902-659-2790, www.norseboat.com

Pisces 21

IF YOU'RE A SERIOUS NAT HERRESHOFF JUNKY BUT YOU think the classic H-12 1/2 is a bit too small for comfort, then this is definitely the boat for you. Jean Beaulieu of the Classic Boat Shop introduced the Pisces 21 back in 1999 and conceived it as a modern reinterpretation of the classic Herreshoff Fish, a 21-foot full-keel one-design racing class that saw its heyday back in the mid-1920s. At Beaulieu's behest, designer Chuck Paine, an avid H-12 1/2 enthusiast himself, took an excellent boat and made it nigh-on perfect. To obviate the original Fish's slightly heavy weather helm, Paine changed the angle of the rudderpost, shifted the mast forward a few inches, and increased the sail area in the foretriangle by taking the club-footed jib a little farther up the mast. To increase the boat's initial stability, he redistributed the ballast over a greater area and fattened up the boat's waterline beam a tad. The result is an easy-to-sail modern classic that feels solid underfoot, has a nicely balanced helm, and exhibits a good turn of speed.

Beaulieu offers the boat in cold-molded wood or in fiberglass (with lots of delicious wood trim) and carefully crafts each one per the customer's unique requirements. The standard spars are anodized aluminum, but a carbon-fiber rig is also available. Most customers have been purists, ordering their boats without auxiliary power, but for those in a hurry to get home, the boat can be fitted with a simple 3-horsepower Eico electric motor that turns a two-bladed feathering MaxProp. Classic bronze hardware is standard, and the boat features three large watertight flotation compartments that keep you on top of the water in extremis. **C.D.**

\$53,900 (cold-molded wood)/\$39,400 (fiberglass, FOB Bernard, ME). **LOA** 20'9"; **LWL** 16'4"; **beam** 7'1"; **draft** 2'11"; **displ** 3,250 lbs; **sail area** 261 sq ft; **designer** Chuck Paine & Associates; **Classic Boat Shop**, 207-244-3374, www.classicboatshop.com



The Chuck Paine-designed Pisces shows star quality