

# June, 2019 Newsletter

Welcome to the June, 2019 newsletter.

This past month, five Stingers were added to the registry, bringing the total to 929. In addition, a 1986 Stinger 260 out of Ithaca, NY was added to the forsale section of the website. You can see more pictures and a description of this boat below, or on the website.

The article featured in this month's newsletter is part 2 of "The Real Story of the Golden Gate to Spruce Goose Chase." The article was written by none other than Mr Ernest Schmidt, ex-president of Chris-Craft beginning in 1986 (as well as president of Glastron later on). Ernest's article provides а first-hand perspective of what it was like to be a crew member of the Stinger 312 that

won the Golden Gate to Spruce Goose Chase. In addition, he fills in the historical details of how Chris-Craft ended up with a Stinger in the race. The article is a great read, and I'm sure you'll enjoy it as much as I did.

Until next month, Han

# The Real Story of the Golden Gate to Spruce Goose Chase

Part 2 of 2

By Ernest Schmidt

This is part 2 of the story. Part 1 can be found in the <u>May, 2019 Newsletter</u>.

Here's the real story of the Golden Gate to Spruce Goose Chase as told from a competitor's point of view in the cockpit of the Chris-Craft 312 Stinger. "THE GREAT AMERICAN RACE" - The Golden Gate to Spruce Goose Chase to benefit the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles, California.

At the drivers meeting on Saturday morning, Bob announced that there was a fog bank all along the coast from San Francisco all the way down to Santa Barbara, and that the winds were blowing onshore over 30 mph. He said that if so many events and sponsors had not already been planned at the various stops that he would have cancelled the race. But in view of all the plans along the coast he felt committed to run the race, but urged all of us to "be careful out there and take it easy". Well, that was akin to asking a race horse to trot around the Kentuckv Derbv as opposed to running!

Saturday morning: Leg one, Golden Gate Bridge to Monterrey (the first fuel stop)

All the boats had a running start from the San Francisco Yacht Club, in a fog so thick you could barely see the bow of your boat. All we had on board was a compass and some charts, so I told Dick to stay close to Betty Cook and John Connor, who feet from Betty and the Formula, when up out of the fog, dead ahead, appeared one of the footings of the Golden Gate Bridge. Dick veered left, almost hitting the Formula and we proceeded out of San Francisco Bay into the Pacific ocean.

Little did we realize that just outside of the entrance to San Francisco square mile area of 4-6 waves even on a good day. Not knowing this, and running about 60 mph, we hit the first wave and immediately stuffed the bow into the second. We hit so hard that our only onboard compass rolled over completely and didn't stop spinning for about five minutes. We now had no clue how accurate our compass was going to be, but decided to stick with



were in the Formula. They had a radar on board and a knowledge of the California coast line. The first thing we almost hit was the Golden Gate Bridge! We were about 40 Bay is an area natives referred to as "The Potato Patch". This is a body of water where the Pacific Ocean and San Francisco Bay intersect, and it creates about a one Betty and John in the Formula for as long as we could.

Our next incident was almost as scary. Running as full out as we could in 4-

6 foot Pacific rollers we were running alongside Betty and John, when up out of the fog appeared a party fishing boat about 50-60 feet long, with anchors out both fore and aft. We were aimed dead center of the fishing boat and only about 30 yards away! Betty saw it first, backed off her throttles, and her bow went up. Dick stayed on the throttle, veered left at Betty and cleared her bow by about 10 feet. For the rest of the leg to Monterrey we had hallucinations of freight trains, 18 wheelers and god only knows what else that we thought might pop up out of the fog.

At Monterrey Bay, the fog cleared in the Bay area, and we found the fuel docks (as did all the other boats (except for Betty and John in the Formula). Turns out they too had stuffed the Formula in a nasty wave and ruptured their fuel tank. Each boat was timed upon arrival at the dock. and after refuelina. all the remaining boats started the second leg to Morro Bay,

Saturday afternoon: Leg 2, Monterrey Bay to Morro Bay

Immediately upon reentering the Pacific Ocean we encountered the fog bank again, lost sight of all the other boats except the Baja and realized we were own our own as to finding our way down the coast questionable with а compass. Dick, John and I discussed it, and one of us (don't remember who) suggested we simply head South (at least we thought our compass would be that accurate) and zig zag down the coast using seaweed and kelp to tell us when we were getting too close to shore (seaweed will not grow in deep water due to a lack of light). At this point the Baja boat was still following us thought (probably we knew where we were going). We were doing fine with this plan, until, without knowing it due to the fog, we turned too far left and wound up in one of the coves that dot the California coastline. The fog had lifted about five feet off of the water, and our first inkling of a major disaster was a solid cliff wall with waves crashing against it. Dick made a hard right and immediately stuffed the bow into one of those Pacific rollers. About two feet of the top of the wave went over the windshield and flooded the cockpit. We landed so hard that all three of us crashed into the dash. Dick came up saying, "I'm blind, I'm blind". As I looked at him, I said, "Dick, turn your

helmet around, you've got it on sideways". The Baja suffered the same fate as us, only it took them about 15 minutes to get started again and we lost track of them as well.

After two more hours of running and zig-zagging down the coast, we decided we were totally lost, and as we idled along, trying to decide what to do, up out of the fog pops a little 18 foot fishing boat with a guy and his two daughters, fishing. We idled up to them, turned off both engines, and asked the guy if he happened to know where Morro Bay might be. He laughed and told us that if we would idle over about 300 yards we would find the entrance to Morro Bay. Talk about dumb luck!

As we idled into the channel at Morro Bay a guy was sitting on a sail boat in the channel. As we went by I asked him, "who else in already in?". He laughed and said, "nobody, I've been sitting here for over two hours and you're the first race boat I've seen all day". Turns out the fog was so thick offshore that all the rest of the boats missed the check boat just off Morro rock (It was a 97' Coast Guard Cutter) and proceeded all the way down to Point Lomas before realizing their error and turning around.

Net effect, Dick, John and I, in our Chris-Craft 312 Stinger had an over one hour lead at the end of the first day of racing!

During the banquet that night Bob awarded each of us a yellow jacket as the leaders of the first leg. First dry clothes I had had all day.

Leg three: Day two, Morro Bay to Santa Barbara (fuel stop)

Day two started much as day one had ended, dense fog, although the wind was finally subsiding. We all started together, and immediately lost sight of each other in the fog. Turns out Baja, our closest competitor ran over a kelp bed, ingested kelp into their water strainers and were down for over 30 minutes before they could get up and running again.

We continued with our plan of zig-zagging along the coast, and about 10 miles North of Santa Barbara finally broke out of the fog into a typical, sunny California day. The remaining boats arrived at the fuel stop except for the Wellcraft. They had broken down, had to be towed in. and were officially out of the race. Upon calculation of overall time from the San

Francisco Yacht Club to the Santa Barbara fuel stop, we were told that we still had over a 50 minute lead over Fountain and Cigarette who were separated by only about 5 minutes.

I figured that if we backed out of the throttles slightly, and kept Fountain and Cigarette in sight, there was no way they could cut into our lead by much, and we would save our engines and still finish first.

Leg four: Day two, Santa Barbara to the Queen Mary in Long Beach Harbor, the finish line

At the start in Santa Barbara, Fountain (driven by Reggie himself) and Cigarette (driven by Craig Barrie) went full throttle and engaged in a drag race to the finish in Long Beach. Dick watched them as they pulled away, and being the ole ocean racer that he was, said, "I don't care if something happens to the engines, we may have a 50 minute lead, but I am not going to let either one of them beat us to the finish line." So, at full throttle, we set out to catch them.

For those of you unfamiliar with the California coast line, the City of Los Angeles sits inside a crescent shaped bay, with Long Beach Harbor on a point of land to the South of LA about 20 miles away.

Not sure why, but with Fountain and Cigarette locked in a duel, both chose to follow the coast line around the bay, as opposed to taking а straight line from Santa Barbara to Long Beach. Although they were both at least 5 miles ahead of us, by the time we reached Long Beach we were dead even with Fountain, and Cigarette was only a few minutes behind that.

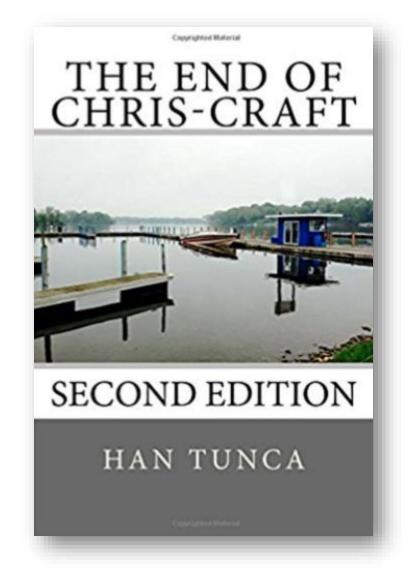
Fountain crossed the finish line about 10 seconds ahead of us, and in overall time was still 50 minutes behind. WE HAD WON!

At the banquet that night Bob Nordskog presented the First Place trophy to Dick Genth, and thus began Chris-Craft's reentry into the world of offshore powerboat racing.

At our dealer meeting in July of that year, Chris-Craft introduced the Chris Cat 300, and in the ensuing months built over 20 Chris Cat's for the offshore power boat circuit. In the fall of 1985, with the Chris Cat, Chris-Craft offshore racers won more races, in more classes than any other boat builder in history, including:

- World Championship in Modified class
- World Championship and second place in Production class
- Second Place in the World Championship in Open class
- and at the time, established new speed

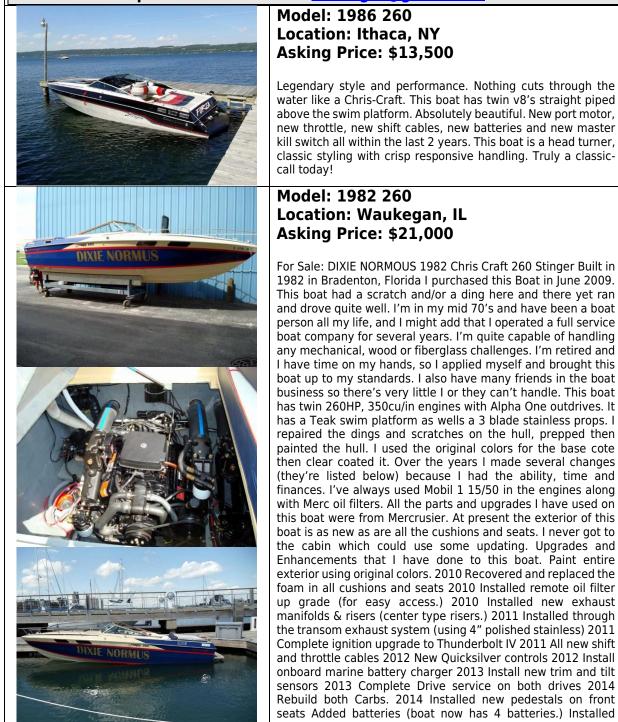
records for the kilo in both Open and Modified classes.



Now Available on Amazon.com

# Stingers for Sale

Below is a list of Stingers that have come up for sale during the previous month. The information for each boat in this section accompanied the owner's original advertisement. If you are interested in one of the boats please contact me at <u>ccstinger@gmail.com</u>.



# WWW.CHRISCRAFTSTINGERS.COM Newsletter, June 2019

	battery quick disconnect switches Installed crossover switches for emergency starting
	Model: 1983 390 Location: Fowlerville, MI Asking Price: \$12,000
1000 ··································	1983 Chris Craft Stinger 390x for sale. \$12,000 or best offer. Twin 400 hp mercs. Has been sitting for about 8 years.
	Model: 1984 260
	Location: Willsboro, NY
NY \$105 FE	Asking Price: \$4,000
	1984 Chris Craft stinger model 260 SL. Twin Mercruiser 260 HP engines. Both engines run very good but one needs a new carburetor. Twin Alpha One drives with stainless steel cleaver propellers. Boat needs work but is usable in current condition. Currently winterized and shrink wrapped but can be seen. Was not used this season. Some cosmetic fiberglass work needed and upholstery needs work. Interior overhead fabric damaged in one spot. No trailer but currently sitting on a yard trailer that may be available. Fun boat to drive. 50 + MPH. Low retail from NADA is \$5610.00. More pictures available.
	Model: 1984 260
	Location: Medford, NY
	Asking Price: \$4,000
	1984 Chris Craft stinger model 260 SL. Twin Mercruiser 260 HP engines. Both engines run very good but one needs a new carburetor
	Model: 1984 260
	Location: Buffalo, NY
	Asking Price: \$9,500
	For Sale - 1984 Chris Craft Stinger with Twin 350 260HP Mercruisers and Alpha one drives. Drives have stainless steel Michigan props. Comes with an Aluminum Venture Trailer with surge brakes and LED lights, purchased new. New interior upholstery with McLeod hydraulic drop down bolster seats. Boat starts and runs great. Max speed is 60 MPH on GPS and cruises great at 50 MPH. Cabin is spacious and clean. Also has bimini top and canvas cockpit cover. Still winterized from last year.



#### WWW.CHRISCRAFTSTINGERS.COM Newsletter, June 2019



	been melected and turned into comothing it wasn't
	been molested and turned into something it wasn't meant to be. Make me an Offer.
	Model: 1986 222
1. W.S.	Location: Benton, LA
	Asking Price: \$10,500
R TY 2209 HZ	
STINGER	10,500 OBO Good solid boat Needs a little TLC 454
	motor 4 inch wet jet Needs outdrive seal and upholstery done. 5,000 trailer all aluminum Custom
	wheels
Constant of the Constant of the Constant	
	Model: 1986 260
	Location: Tavares, FL
and the second second second	Asking Price: \$15,000
	Classic 1986 Chris Craft Stinger with Radar Arch25 hours on
	rebuilt 350's, outdrives just serviced, 4 bladed prop, foam core- fiberglass transom, nice interior, wrap has normal wear,
RIDER	includes dual axle trailer.
	Model: 1986 312
	Location: Indianapolis, IN
	Asking Price: \$16,000
TOO AMANY	
	1986 Chris-Craft 312 Stinger. Twin 454 Mercruisers
	rebuilt to factory 420 specs. TRS drives with new props. Older repaint & upholstery, 1200-watt inverter in cabin
	I Ulder repaint & Upholstery IZUU-watt inverter in Cabin
	with 110-volt outlets, small sink, refrigerator, porta
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# Model: 1987 314 Location: Soddy-Daisy, TN Asking Price: \$20,000

1987 Chris Craft Stinger 314 This has had a lot of work done to it. It's about 75% to 80% complete. The hull has been completely sanded down and refinished from rub rail down. The transom has been completely replaced and reinforced to hold triple 300's. The gill bracket was custom built for the boat. It currently has triple mercury 225 hp. 2-1999 carbureted and 1-2001 fuel injected. The cockpit area has a new custom sun pad creating a very large area for storage and a place to layout. Has new Faria gages and new switches. Triple racing throttle controls. The cabin has been reupholstered 95% complete. Trailer is tri-axle with new wheels and tires new disk brakes and new 20,000lbs surge brake coupler. This boat just needs a little more to be complete. Reason for selling is I bought a bigger fixer-upper and need the money. Asking \$20,000.

### Model: 1988 202 Location: Collierville, TN Asking Price: \$2,500

Running 175 Mercruiser inboard with fully functional Alpha outdrive and five blade stainless prop. Gauges, trim and gear box all work. Finish needs revitalization but hull, including transom, are solid. The interior has been removed. It will need one 42"I rear stringer replaced, a new 36"w x 72"I floor panel and interior accommodations as you desire. Dual axel trailer included. Chris Craft Stinger Newsletter states there were only 189 of these models produced and estimates less than 50 survive. Estimated value after restoration is \$6500-8500 depending on fit and finish. Bill of sale provided in exchange for cash only. Additional photos available. Thanks for looking!

#### Model: 1988 202 Location: Rochester, NY Asking Price: \$8,000

I have a super rare 88' chris craft stinger 202 for sale. It has 165 hours on the hull. This boat is like brand new. I literally just finished it. This is the coolest fiberglass speedboat that Chris Craft ever made and was made for the Miami Vice tv series. They were built in very limited quantities and there are only a handful of these left. There is a website dedicated to them, I know of no other boats that have a cult following. I built this one to be better than it was originally. It is an attention grabber. I get compliments on it wherever I am and have had numerous offers on it even before I restored it. I'm selling it because I'm getting married and need the money. I just put well over \$7500 into it this summer alone and have well over 12K into it total. I had planned to use it but sadly, it needs to go. Weddings are insanely expensive and I'm finding out the hard way. I replaced the motor and outdrive. It has an OMC 4.3L v-6 and an OMC cobra outdrive. Next, I gutted the boat completely and installed

	new marine ply, fiberglass, carpet, custom-built seats
	and engine cover and had everything professionally upholstered. I installed a new GT steering wheel, a Sony marine cd/mp3/satellite radio, which sounds awesome, a new bilge pump, new fuel lines, new aluminum swivel/slider/adjustable height seat posts and new Tracker style folding seats. The interior work cost over \$4K alone but was well worth it. It came out awesome. I had a 4bbl. Rochester carb installed which brings the HP up to 205 and will do over 60MPH. I had the pin striping re-done on the boat and matching Shorelander trailer. I replaced the tires, lights, and started to strip and repaint the entire trailer. It also has a new deep cycle battery. There are 2 swim platforms molded into the stern that have teak footboards and they were also refinished and look great. I also just purchased a new trailerable cover for it. I even just filled the tank with ethanol free 93- octane fuel. I'm probably forgetting a lot. If you're interested you must include the words eighty-eight chris craft to get a response due to spammers. I know it's the wrong time of the year to sell a boat and I could get more for it this spring which is why I priced it where it is. It is well worth the money. Chris craft builds the very best
	boats around and this one is better than new.
A NUMBER OF A N	Model: 1988 260
	Location: Kingston, NY
	Asking Price: \$4,500 Boat Hull is pretty clean, Imron paint two years prior to me buying her in 2013 (per previous owner), set up for SBC twins and alpha drives, off- color repaint spot, stbd side above rub rail. DOES NOT INCLUDE ENGINES, but includes drives, bennet tabs, all cables, rigging and harnesses in place. Has drop down bolsters with adjustable headrests, but the upholstery is SHOT. the top edges are all split from sun and exposure ( prior to me owning it), no back seat and no sunpad cushions. Cabin cushions are intact and upholstry is good. Through-hull exhaust and integral swim platform. Chris Craft also puts the HIN on the hull itself so you can run it with the platform removed. Includes Boatmaster aluminum double axel trailer, needs new brakes, tires good, 6 lug wheels. I'm open to offers and possible trades (work van?) (big Blocks?). She needs some work but I also restore these and i know what a great boat she will be

#### WWW.CHRISCRAFTSTINGERS.COM Newsletter, June 2019





# Model: 1984 312 Location: Sunrise Beach, MO Asking Price: \$9,950

32-foot Chris Craft Twin 454's 330 horsepower each (660 horsepower total) Runs excellent, Smooth ride even in rough water Lift available \$3,000.00 Moving out-of-state. Your chance to enjoy this awesome boat. Make offer...all considered.

# Model: 1983 312 Location: Mallorca, Spain Asking Price: 13,800.00 €

Chris Craft Stinger 302 (1988) – 2 Mercruiser 7.4 engines with 330 hp each – very fast – maximum speed 55 knots – a real fun boat in good condition – sale by private owner – must see!

# Model: 1984 312 Location: Columbia, SC Asking Price: \$25,000

32' performance power boat 1984 Chris craft stinger 312(mostly all redone in 2019) Twin 454 big blocks 660 HP Velvet drive transmissions Bullet proof TRS drives Stainless steel 3 blade props NEW thru hull exhaust system from Teague Custom Marine. NEW impellers April 2019 on both sides. NEW upholstery at trim couch and sun deck that matches with the wrap colors. NEW Killer IL audio system with large sub and 4 6.5" speakers. NEW Red led light rings around all speakers. NEW full custom wrap installed April of 2019. Boat gets complimented every where it goes and catches every eye. NEW custom built aluminum swim platform April 2019. NEW rhino line install on 34' trailer. NEW tires on trailer x6 maybe 400 miles on tires. NEW carpet in cabin April 2019. NEW custom designed and built access ladder at front of trailer to access bow effortlessly. NEW wood bunks and bunk carpet. Large cabin space with 2 couches and nice side bed. Full red LED lighting throughout boat. Hull in great shape no gashes or gouges dry hull. Call with any questions or for additional pics. Lake test for serious buyers with cash in hand once we have reached an agreement on price. Not driving to the lake 5 times a week for tire kickers. Selling to upgrade for longer powerboat.







### Model: 1985 260 Location: Laconia, NH Asking Price: \$5,000

1986 Chris Craft stinger 260. 26ft. Twin 350s 260hp each. Around 1000 hours. I am the second owner and has spent its entire life in fresh water on lake Winnipesaukee. Runs flawlessly. Don't let the high hours scare you. Have spent almost 70 hours on it this summer with zero issues. Rides incredible in any water conditions. Everything works in it. Upgraded JL audio stereo with blue tooth. Very loud and clear. Upgraded led interior lights with blue underwater led lights. Thru hull exhaust above the swim platform. It's sounds loud and mean. Boat is turn key ready and in great shape for the year. No trailer

### Model: 1988 312 Location: Detroit, MI Asking Price: \$29,900

A Chris Craft go fast!! 1989 Chris Craft Stinger 312 Powered by Twin Mercruiser 454s with Bravo 1 outdrives. Boat is in excellent shape. Was stored out of the water indoors most of its life. Just moved onto a canal this summer so time to make a change. Extremely clean, all upholstery in excellent shape. Adjustable captains and passenger bolstered seats. Dual batteries with dual switches. Fire suppression system. Built in porta potty. Sink, ice box. Sony Bluetooth radio. Has new cockpit and full body covers. Fire up and go. TONS more pictures if needed. Currently winterized and wrapped but available to see really anytime. Off season asking 29900 for Boat AND Trailer. Will sell boat only if someone doesn't need the trailer. Boat does include the trailer. I have a new triple axle Aluminum trailer as seen in photos