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At the Starting Line

A Dream Sailboat for the Chesapeake

by
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Photos courtesy of e Sailing Yachts

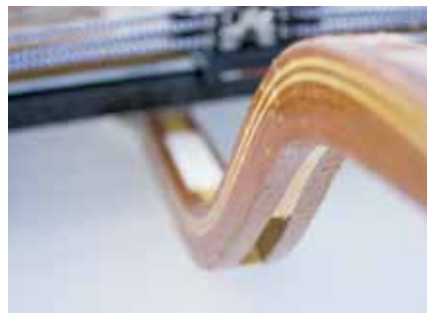


Coming soon to Mid-Atlantic waters, the Chesapeake Bay and probably a Virginia river near you: the e33. The e33 is a modern yet classic Etchells-inspired 33-foot-long sailboat, a state-of-the-art 5'9" draft jewel. The e33 was developed by Robbie Doyle, Olympic racing champion, America's Cup veteran and premier performance sail maker, and his partner, Jeremy Wurmfeld of Wurmfeld Design, Brooklyn, New York. Robbie will try to sail with each new buyer personally to demonstrate the boat's many attributes.

Etchells' originals are still racing. A whole fleet, for example, congregated on Miami's Biscayne Bay for last year's Jaguar Cup. Seventy competitors are slated for 2007. There is quite a history behind this world-class racing boat, having mostly to do with Skip Etchells. In his mid-1960s book *Thoughts on Small Boat Racing*, a book that chronicles smaller boat racing by fellow yachtsmen, C. Stanley Ogilvy speaks of the relatively new interest in United States yachting. Although there were isolated successes in some classes, there had not been made a concerted Olympic effort until 1960. An even more determined program in 1964 resulted in a medal in every class. This volume also includes a fascinating description of the last race of the 1965 Atlantic Coast Championship and Ogilvy's cliffhanger finale with race leader and winner, Skip Etchells.

Several boats drifted around the mark with two off wind legs remaining. Then all the leaders held high to get in and stay in a southwester. Ogilvy's years of sailing against Skip Etchells gave him courage, he wrote, for a collision-course charge to the finish line in this race. A brief excerpt gives a glimpse into the sailing prowess of both yachtsmen:

"With anyone else I would not have been sure; but Etchells is so alert to what is going on around him, and so anxious not to interfere with another boat if he



Tiller detail



Cockpit

can possibly help it, that I could guess what would happen, and it did. As soon as he got the gun, instead of relaxing for a moment as would almost any skipper after such a battle, Etchells instantly snapped on to port to keep clear of us. We crossed immediately."

Ogilvy believed "the skipper wins the race, not the boat." Robbie Doyle says that the e33's one design concept is meant to make that possible.

"Unfortunately though," he adds, "In today's high-tech, complex approach to sailing, it's often the setup of the boat that dominates." But he adds he has "intentionally kept the craft simple to allow the skipper and crew to dominate." It has been adapted to the faster lifestyles of the 21st century, he explains.

A daysailer/weekender with a punch, the e33 has an exceptionally roomy, ergonomic cockpit and well-

planned cabin, with ample storage incorporated into the design. It comes ruggedly equipped with a carbon fiber mast and boom and well-considered Etchells-style fine tune sail controls, rigging, mechanical systems, deck hardware, and electrical and plumbing systems.

Here's a sampling of the impressive list of standard features: white gelcoat finish with gelcoat boat stripe, continuous standing rigging for easy tuning at deck level, custom shaped laminated E-glass tiller with tiller extension, Yanmar 2YM20-SD20 14 hp Saildrive with flex-o-fold 2-blade propeller, engine instrument panel and throttle control in cockpit, 10-gallon fuel tank, companionway hatch with double slider, foredeck anchor locker with flush molded hatch, teak toe rail and cabin house trim, and foam settees with choices of Sunbrella fabric. For sails, in addition to full batten mainsail, standard are Doyle Sailmakers Pentax furling jib

with UV protector and Doyle Sailmakers main sail cover.

There's also an array of options for your sailing pleasure. A few examples: You can have a self-tacking jib if desired. On the hull there can be non-white gelcoat (with one waterline stripe), awlgrip hull topsides (also with one waterline stripe), and racing or cruising anti-fouling bottom finishes, and stainless handrails on deck. For sails and canvas work, a Doyle boom tent sun shade, a jib shade with full-length zipper, to an asymmetric spinnaker are available. Bow and stern pulpits with life lines can be added, and a personal favorite: AM/FM radio and CD player with internal speakers. From swim ladders to a selection of electronics to a fresh water system for cockpit showers, there is something that will appeal to everyone's preferences. A low or high ride trailer is also available.

Also part of the deal is a 10-year gelcoat finish blister warranty, and that is

no small offering. Many boatbuilders won't cover blistering damage under their warranties because of the varying marine and environmental conditions vessels encounter over time. Contact **E Sailing Yachts** for an information packet. Included too will be the impressive performance specifications associated with the e33.

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Joan Wenner writes for numerous boating magazines. The Chesapeake Bay and the Rappahannock River are her favorite Virginia waters.

