

# EXTREME BOATS

VOL 3.6

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MAGAZINE

DEFINING THE FUTURE OF PERFORMANCE BOATING / COAST-TO-COAST

**2006  
EXTREME BOAT  
OF THE YEAR**  
EXTREME CAT CLASS



*Ballistic  
47' Nor-Tech Canopy SuperCat*



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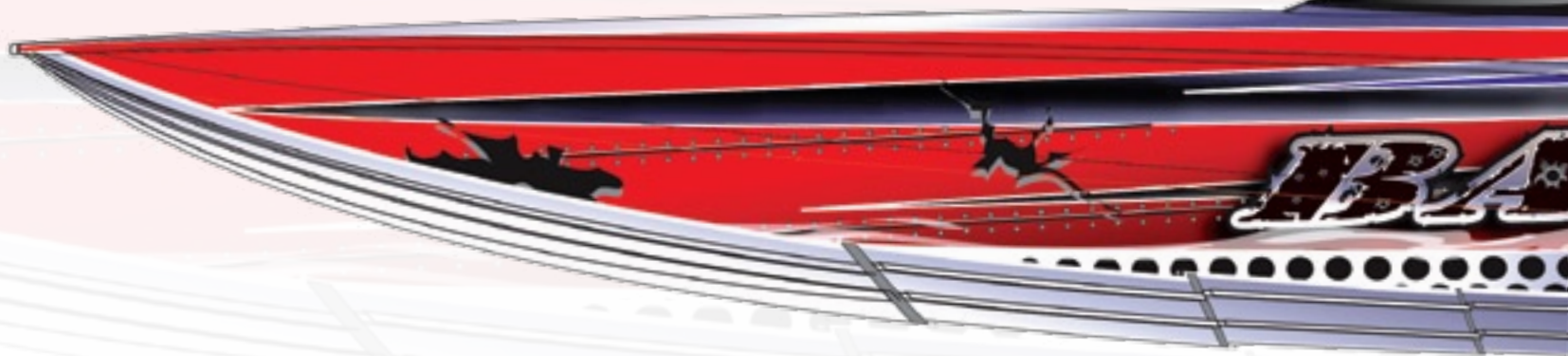
## Rocko's World

Rocko Gets Down!



# Ballistic

Nor-Tech's 47' Canopy SuperCat



## 2006 EXTREME BOAT OF THE YEAR EXTREME CAT CLASS

When Bill Pyburn decided to build the ultimate performance boat, he assembled a team of the best innovators and craftsmen from across the country who he knew could meet his ambitious goals. Bill is a long-time boater and for this project he did not want ordinary; he wanted extraordinary in every detail. From the design, to the running surface, to the power, to the electronics, to the tow vehicle - **this boat is truly extreme.**



Photo by Stu Jones/[www.flpowerboat.com](http://www.flpowerboat.com)

**Out Cruising** : Ballistic at the Jacksonville Fire and Police River Rally Poker Run, an event which Bill Pyburn organizes [[www.jaxriverrallypokerrun.com](http://www.jaxriverrallypokerrun.com)]



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CONGRATULATIONS TO EVERYONE WHO CONTRIBUTED!!!



OWNER	Bill Pyburn (FL)
BUILDER	Trond Schou, Nils Johnsen / Nor-Tech 47' Nor-Tech Canopy SuperCat
PAINTER	Dean Loucks / The Art of Design Design and Paint for Boat, Trailer and Tow Rig
POWER	Keith Eickert / KE Kustom Engines 1700+ hp w/ Twin Turbo Chargers
DRIVES	BPM
CABIN A/V	UX Audio / David Clark Complete A/V system including Front/Rear Video
DEALER	Randy Sweers / <a href="http://FASTBOATS.COM">FASTBOATS.COM</a>
TOW RIG	Optima 17' Toterhome / Myco Tilt Trailer

**THE TEAM** (clockwise from top) Bill (r) and Julie Pyburn w/friends and Randy Sweers at Jacksonville. Bill, Randy Sweers/Fastboats.com (red) and James (blue) check out the Keith Eickert engines. Bill Pyburn w/Trond Schou/Nor-Tech. Painter Dean Loucks/ TAOD. Keith Eickert/KE Kustoms.



# Ballistic

2006 Extreme Boat of the Year  
Extreme Cat Class

**Tow Vehicle** | Optima 17' Toterhome (on a Freightliner Columbia Chassis) powered by a 500 hp Mercedes diesel. Inside is complete with LCD screens and a satellite – so roughing it is easy on the road!



**Building Ballistic** | This is a pretty exciting time in the performance market, so as we travel across the country, we are always looking for the latest project – the next big thing. In late 2005 we got wind of a “monster” Nor-Tech being prepared for the 2006 season. It was set to debut at the Miami International Boat show. We were interested, so we started making some calls to get all of the details on the project.

The trail led us to Bill Pyburn, who we had met at the 2005 Desert Storm Poker Run. Bill, who (among other things) produces the Jacksonville Fire & Police Poker Run, had come out with Randy Sweers (FASTBOATS.COM) to get a look at the infamous Poker Run in the middle of the desert. At the event, Bill met Dean Loucks (The Art of Design- TAOD).

Bill, who has owned a number of boats, decided that he wanted to build the “Ultimate Poker Run Machine” for the 2006 season. He was impressed with the Nor-Tech Cats as Randy Sweers had already sold Pyburn two 36’ Nor-tech Cats that Bill had run the previous two Poker Run seasons. Bill talked with Randy about his ideas and asked him to meet with Nils and Trond (Nor-Tech) about building a Canopy version of the 43’ SuperCat and stretching it 4 feet to accommodate BPM surface

drives. Nils went to the drawing board and came up with a design that integrated all of Pyburn’s requirements.

Now that his vision was intact, Bill began to build the team that would deliver his ‘Ultimate Machine’. He wanted a complete rig with matching tow vehicle and tilt trailer. He wanted the rig to have a consistent paint theme throughout, so he chose Dean Loucks to

design and paint ‘everything’. For power, again, he wanted it over-the-top, so he contacted legendary Engine Builder Keith Eickert to build him a pair of very special engines for the project.

Once the team was chosen, Bill had one more important task – naming the boat. After much deliberation, he came up with “Ballistic”. This name became the guiding force for the entire project.

Bill got the project started and on track for delivery in early 2006. This was a tough challenge, since everything was new, or completely custom, including the 47’ Nor-Tech Canopy. While the Hull was developed in Southern Florida, the Engines were developed in Northern Florida, and design/painting had to be performed in Indiana at TAOD, including the Myco trailer and Optima Motorhome.

**Drive Train** | Bill knew that Keith Eickert was building some special powerplants, so he met with him in Florida and discussed the Ballistic project. Bill wanted some exotic power, approaching 2000 hp, to propel a 47’ hull at the speeds he wanted to achieve.

Keith started with many of his proven components, but then he took it to the limit to achieve maximum horsepower. He started with DART Blocks and Winberg crankshafts, CP Performance pistons and Corrillo connecting rods. Fuel was managed via EFI, but he decided to go with Vortec Super-Chargers to get the punch he needed. Pump gas would not do for this application. He required 116 octane to get the job done. Keith was able to achieve an amazing 1785 hp @ 20 lbs boost.

The engines themselves are quite interesting, especially upon close examination (See Keith Eickert story on page 38). All of the external fittings are designed with a quick-release so the engines can be installed and removed cleanly. The main components were painted at TAOD to match the overall theme of the boat. The result is a great looking package that pumps out the power.

Bill decided to go with the BPM surface drive system because of its proven handling characteristics at high-speed - especially if there is an engine/drive failure. Herring 5-Blade props were used. Steering is accomplished with the Flexitab Fixed Rudder Steering system. The setup provides a quick-change gearbox, so that final drive ratios can be adjusted, without the need to change props. This makes the dialing-in process much quicker, and you don’t need to show up with a ton of props!



Randy Sweers (l) & Bill Pyburn

**Final Drive** | BPM Surface Drives were chosen with 5-Blade Herring Props. The Flexitab rudder is responsible for steering duties. At high-speed this system handles well, especially if there is an engine/drive failure.



**Interior** | The interior of the boat was also designed to match the project. Since this was a closed canopy design, Bill "wanted air-conditioning" to keep family and friends cool during those hot summer days. A 16,000 btu air-conditioning unit was installed.

For the A/V System, again, the best of the best was installed including 14" video screens with front/aft view cameras and engine surveillance cameras, 7" LCD screens on seat backs and David Clark intercoms for all six seats (interfaced to vhf radio and stereo system - see details on page 36). For safety, each seat has a 5 point racing harness. There are 6 emergency air bottles with regulators in the cockpit and a quick release emergency escape hatch in the bottom of vessel. To make access easy, there are remote controlled hydraulic engine hatches as well as a remotely operated retractable canopy - which is very cool!

**Design and Color** | Bill knew he had a big project and he knew it would require a 'big' design that covered the boat inside and out, the engines, the Myco tilt trailer and the tow vehicle. He also wanted one shop to design and paint all of the components. Given these requirements he decided on Dean Loucks.

Dean says that when Bill approached him with the project, he had decided upon the name 'Ballistic', but it was up to Dean to take it from there and come up with an overall design. The result is one of TAOD's masterpieces. It took a reported 3000 hours to paint all components, including 25 total paint passes on the hull.

If you get a chance to see the boat, look closely at the detail. There are 2000 hand painted rivets (each requiring seven steps to complete: design, cut, apply, shadow, highlight, streak and then some are painted to show rust dripping from them...). There is also hand-painted smoke running the length of the boat. The 'metal look' of the boat shows the metal painted with a brushed look. And for each of the bullet holes, the torn metal is flowing in the correct direction on each piece.

**The Result** | By any measure, this was a huge and ambitious project, and the results are quite amazing. But the proof is in the... water. I got my ride in Ballistic with Bill Pyburn and Randy Sweers at Bill's Jacksonville (FL) Fire & Police Poker Run - so Bill knows the waterway very well. There is something awe inspiring about climbing into a full canopy boat - especially one that is painted bright red - and then hearing, and feeling, the engines start up. The cabin is a high-tech wonder, with massive video screens at the helm, cameras pointing everywhere, headsets for everyone - and acceleration that keeps you in your seat. Bill and Randy got the boat up to speed and we cruised the waterway like we owned it.

It took a lot of hard work - and long hours - for Ballistic to make it to the water - but it was worth it. When asked about the result, Bill calmly reported "It runs real nice". Yes it does, Bill. Yes it does... **Congratulations !!**

*to Performance Boating*

# EXTREME BOATS MAGAZINE

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