

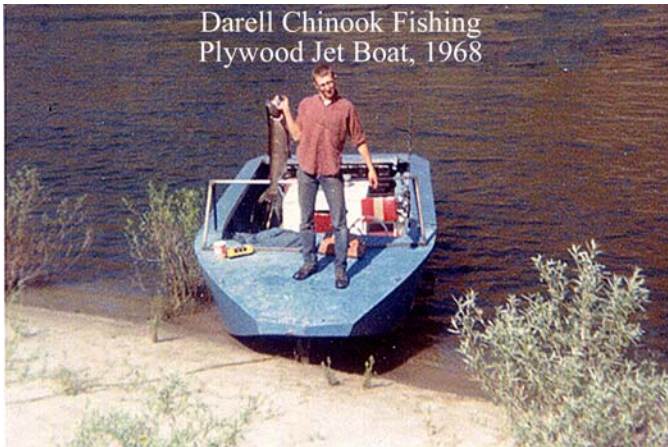
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UP THE RIVER WITH BENTZ BOATS



"Bentz Boats 30th Anniversary"



Darell Chinook Fishing
Plywood Jet Boat, 1968



"Darell's Dream"
#1 Bentz Boat, 1970

Refreshed web site

If you haven't logged on to www.bentzboats.com since September, check out the new catalog page addition. This gives a picture and brief description of several recent boats that can be downloaded for your review.

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Who would have thought in 1966 that finding a sunken boat would lead to a business that 36 years later is still growing. From Bentz Boats official business start in 1972 until today, each new boat built is a combination of experience and today's technology.

When Darell, his brother Rusty and friend Colin Rhodes discovered a sunken Potlatch Corp. jet boat during a rafting trip on the North Fork of the Clearwater River in the summer of 1966, none of them could have imagined where their find would eventually take them. After they retrieved the engine and jet pump, a boat was soon in the making. The first, a 20 foot plywood jet boat with no seating, windshield or other "extras" was put into use and the exploration of the local

rivers began.

30 years later "extras" are now standard equipment on each new boat but the exploration of rivers has never ended. A recent trip in August into British Columbia by Darell and Rusty proves that they still enjoy looking for new rivers to explore. Flying for almost two days straight they looked at the Fraser, Thompson, Chilcotin, Blackwater, Skeena, Babine, Sustat, Stikine and Columbia Rivers hoping to find new areas for their next Bentz Boat adventure.

Many of the first aluminum jet boats that Bentz built are still in use today, a testament to the durability and quality that is built into each Bentz Boat. You may have the opportunity to see Carroll Adkison and his refurbished #1 Bentz Boat he

named, "Darell's Dream", built in 1970, on the Snake or Salmon River or the boat Darell built for his father in 1972. His son Bryan and nephew Brandon are the proud owners of this 22' Bentz Boat, making it a survivor of 3 generations of the Bentz family.

From the beginning, each boat has been built with quality, dependability and function in mind. Through Darell's experiences, those of his clients and technological advances, Bentz Boats continues to improve each boat.

This winter, Bentz Boats is building a 30' x 76' addition to the shop to accommodate the building of even larger, more technologically advanced boats for Bentz' world wide customer base.

Still Building Innovation

CONTACT INFORMATION
Bentz Boats
 613 Bryden #C-394
 Lewiston, ID 83501
 Phone 208-746-7035
 Fax 208-750-0037
 bentzboats@bentzboats.com

Bentz Boats in Transition

As mentioned earlier, Bentz Boats is building a 30' x 76' addition to its facilities at 155 Southport. The addition was prompted by the continuing requests to build larger boats.

When completed, the new facility will give the capabilities to build boats up to 65' in length.

The addition will have a dual overhead crane system to safely maneuver the boats during construction. It also will have the same floor heating system as the current shop to ensure the boats will reach desired temperature during winter work.

The addition will be placed on the west end of the shop.

"Custom Boats" isn't just a slogan it's a way of life in the Bentz Boats shop. Each boat is engineered to customer specifications and manufactured to Bentz Boats exacting standards, from start to finish. The result is a boat that works and can provide a lifetime of service to its owner.

Each boat ends up having a personal touch all its own that portrays how its owner intends to use it. From fishing guide boats to personal recreational boats to the larger tour boats, they all are built to exact specifications supplied by the client. The ability to outfit each boat to customer specifications, makes each Bentz Boat truly unique.

Often times these specialty items must be researched and implemented into the boats design. One recent boat for Ark Management in Georgia had several unique items. The 28'

twin, "Dolphin Plus", was designed to offer local dolphin and whale watching opportunities as well as give access to the warm water islands that are created during low tide.

Ark Management wanted to be able to video tape each cruise and offer the resulting video to its customers. This was accomplished by mounting a remote camera above the windshield on the top, controlled at the pilot's station and then mounting a video recorder in a seat storage box at the rear of the boat. Also requested was a freshwater wash-down kit to be used once clients return from the islands to wash off sand and saltwater. A freshwater holding tank was implemented into one of the rear seats storage compartments. The boat was powered by Yanmar

in-line, 4 cylinder, 240 hp diesels coupled to Hamilton's 213 jet pumps, also a combination first.

Other items implemented into the boat include an onboard head, stereo and PA system, dual heaters, rotary fans, 10 man life raft, radar, VHF radio, depth sounder, compass, dual remote spot lights, carpeted bow with ladder and rail, swim deck ladder, gated rear rails with seating, ski tow, passenger door wipers and Bennett Hydraulic trim tabs. The combination of these "extras", truly make it a custom boat.

Each of Bentz Boats clients comes to us with different needs and wants for their boat. Some of these have been done before but often times they are a first. The ability of Bentz Boats and its staff ensures these items can be implemented.

Outboard Jet Sled

Although not frequently built by Bentz Boats, a recently manufactured outboard jet sled for John Belozzer, an Oregon fishing guide, proved to be just as impressive as the larger Bentz versions. When John got "tangled up" while running with his 1990 model, he decided to have a new sled built instead of repairing his old one.

From previous experience, he knew the hull design would work well for his application of fishing for salmon and steelhead on the Deschutes and Columbia Rivers. John needed a boat that would handle the technical whitewater of the Deschutes and the tidal influences of the Pacific near the mouth of the Columbia at Astoria, Oregon.

John decided upon a 22 foot boat with a 6 foot bottom and 28 inch sides. Planing strakes were incorporated for additional lift and maneuverability and he added a few minor fishing accessories. The lightweight hull with 10 degree deadrise and powered by a 200 hp Mercury, comes up on plane quickly and runs extremely shallow. The sleds design not only gives it excellent handling capabilities and shallow running but also runs extremely easy, increasing the longevity of the Mercury outboard jet and reducing maintenance and fuel costs.

6 Pack Outfitter

The single version of the Salmon River model, proves to be an excellent choice for outfitters who specialize in taking groups of up to 6 people. The most recent version, bought by Mike and Gail Smith of M&G Outfitters, expanded the size of single engine boats previously built. The 28 foot single with a 7 1/2 foot bottom using a Cummins 315 hp diesel engine with Hamilton's 274 jet pump easily exceeded all expectations of a boat that size.

The boat has now been used for a full guiding season on the Deschutes River in Oregon and the Snake and Salmon Rivers in Idaho. A typical trip for M&G Outfitters is 6 people all their gear and coolers. The boat cruises at 2100-2200 rpm's and is burning 4.5-5 gallons of fuel an hour. Although the diesel/pump combination is more expensive than an equivalent gas/pump combination, the fuel savings and longevity of a diesel engine is worth the price difference especially in a commercial operation.

M&G's largest load to date has been 12 people, 1000 lbs. of gear and coolers plus full fuel. The boat picked up the load and ran with it at 2600 rpm's proving it has great hauling capabilities using the diesel/pump combination and Bentz' hull design.

UP THE RIVER WITH BENTZ BOATS



Ark Management's 28', twin diesel tour boat using 4-cylinder Yanmar in-line diesels and Hamilton 213's used for whale and dolphin watching and cruises off the Georgia coast.



M & G Outfitter's 28', single diesel 6 pack boat using a Cummins 315 hp and Hamilton 274. Great hauling capabilities and fuel economy are just some of the attributes of this boat.



John Belozor's 22' sled with a 200 hp Mercury outboard jet. This shallow running and quick planing boat is used on the Deschuetes and Columbia rivers.



Darell Bentz's newest boat for his outfitting business, **Intermountain Excursions**, is a 28' twin gas with Redline 351's and Hamilton 212's with turbo impellers. The boat is certified for 18 passengers.

This is the boat Redline's new 5.4 Tritons will be tested in. Test results will be sent out once the motors have been put through their paces. The expected time line for availability of the motors is still uncertain.