

Vol. 08 | Fall 2024 – Summer 2025



PASSAGES

The Annual Journal of FRONT STREET SHIPYARD



IN THIS ISSUE:

UNCONDITIONAL
Custom construction

CANGARDA
Classic steamship

RIPPLE EFFECT
Hydro-electric cat

Published by:
Front Street Shipyard
PO Box 558, 101 Front Street
Belfast, ME 04915
T: (+1) 207-930-3740
info@frontstreetshipyard.com
frontstreetshipyard.com

Edited, designed, and produced by:
Rhumbline Communications
rhumblinecom.com

Cover story photography by:
Billy Black
billyblack.com



04

UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

The new Mussel Ridge 42 fit out as a lobster yacht.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

VOLUME 08 | FALL 24 – SUMMER 25

UNCONDITIONAL P.04

A 42-foot Mussel Ridge lobster hull is fit out as a yacht.

CANGARDA P.06

The century-old classic leaves Belfast Bay after a decade of gracing our waters.

RIPPLE EFFECT P.07

A 65-foot hydro-electric catamaran is a prototype for Hystream Yachts.

TECH TRENDS P.08

The most in-demand installations and upgrades among our customers.

UNDERWAY P.11

Current refits and service work going on in our shops this season.

Got a story idea for *Passages*? Interested in reprinting articles from this publication? Would you like to be added to our free subscription list? Please email us: news@frontstreetshipyard.com.



JOURNEYS & DESTINATIONS

From Front Street Shipyard president JB Turner.



Some of my favorite summer days every year are spent racing among the many islands of mid-coast Maine. Our region hosts a packed schedule of regattas that are held against the dramatic backdrop of pine trees, pink granite coasts, and working lobster boats. The eye-catching events often draw as many spectators as they do participants.

I'm lucky enough to race in almost as many different types of boats as I do regattas. I hone my skills on weeknights in an Etchells out of Rockland. Short courses, a small crew, and a strong sea breeze get everyone's hearts pumping. Our small fleet grows annually as more locals catch wind of our spirited sport.

My cruising boat converts to a racer for one weekend a year when we enter her into a PHRF regatta. A Jonmeri 482 with a substantial fiberglass structure fit out with plenty of amenities, she always surprises me with her

ability to sail to her rating. Yet, she's fast and comfortable with a full crew directing her a dozen or more miles around Penobscot Bay.

By far, the highlight of the season is three days dressed in faux animal fur to match the hull of the first-ever built Luders 24, CHEETAH CHEATAH. We borrow this classic wooden boat with her printed cheetah-skin wrap from our friend and business partner, Steve White, to take part in the annual Eggemoggin Reach Regatta and its feeder races. Even if we don't finish the course in first place, we inevitably prevail as best-dressed.

I encourage all my customers to check out at least one of Maine's many races during the summer, even if as an onlooker aboard a powerboat. If the beauty of the boats against the coastline isn't tempting enough, the camaraderies of our sailing community is definitely worth experiencing.

LOBSTER YACHT UNCONDITIONAL

Mussel Ridge boats are growing in popularity throughout New England among commercial lobstering crews and recreational boaters alike. Beamy and stable fishing platforms, Mussel Ridge hulls are versatile, long-range cruisers that make them attractive as Downeast-style dayboats.

UNCONDITIONAL is a 42-foot Mussel Ridge with 15-foot beam, which arrived at Front Street Shipyard in 2023 as a hull and deck, fresh out of their molds. Throughout the better part of a year, our crews fit her out as a comfortable, well-appointed "lobster yacht." Even with her cozy interior including a queen-size cabin and head, she doubles as a sportboat with a livewell and plenty of rod holders for occasional fishing expeditions.

Specifications

Hull design: Mussel Ridge

Power: MAN v8 1200hp

LOA: 42' | Beam: 15' | Draft: 5'

Fuel: 800 gal | Freshwater: 90 gal

Cruising speed: 24 kts





FAMILY FUN

Room for entertaining on the open aft deck or the comfortable salon.

UNCONDITIONAL is ultimately a family yacht. Her owner selected warm cherry flat-panel cabinetry throughout the salon and cabin. They're complemented by white overheads and bulkheads plus dusty blue cushions and royal blue accents.

Operating UNCONDITIONAL is made even easier by a 24-volt bow thruster and Zipwake trim tabs. A 12-kw Northern Lights generator keeps her powered up and running the Fusion stereo system. A full Garmin array makes navigation a breeze.

UNCONDITIONAL spent a great first summer on the water in the Cape cruising with family and catching fish.





STEAMING AWAY CANGARDA

A century-old classic yacht leaves the U.S.

For almost a decade, the 1901-built steamship CANGARDA has elegantly graced the waters of Penobscot Bay. Having lived on both coasts and in multiple countries during her century of seagoing, CANGARDA has hosted

royals, politicians, weddings, and war training. She even survived a sinking at the end of the 20th century. Since her 2015 arrival in Maine, she's been serviced and cared for by Front Street Shipyard.

Following her owner's passing, CANGARDA was sold to a Turkish yacht collector this past summer. A 345-foot cargo ship arrived from Europe to load the 126-foot yacht and carry her across the Atlantic. Our team worked with global crews to coordinate her shrink-wrap, launch, and haul in outer Belfast Bay.

While the dramatic farewell was emotional for our community, we know CANGARDA is destined to be well preserved as part of an international collection in Europe.

CREATING A RIPPLE EFFECT

A 65-foot hybrid cat takes shape.

An innovative new company called Hystream Yachts (hystreamyachts.com) has brought its prototype vessel to Front Street Shipyard to transform it into a cutting-edge hydrogen-powered catamaran. The 65-foot vessel will be fit out as a luxury yacht and equipped with advanced marine technology that's currently under development.

Since RIPPLE EFFECT's arrival last summer, our composites crew has been rebuilding the flybridge, prepping its sole for composite flooring, building a new helm station, and shaping new seating. We've also laminated the bow. Once the exterior glasswork is completed, we'll paint both hulls and the deck.

Our carpentry team soon will begin building a custom new interior, including remodeled salon, cabins, and heads. The modern furnishings and finishes will reflect the yacht's state-of-the-art power systems underneath, which will soon be available for installation on any yacht.

RIPPLE EFFECT's unique hybrid power system uses both water and sunlight to efficiently and cleanly collect, store, and utilize power. According to Hystream's website, their "groundbreaking advancements in energy storage, coupled with a sophisticated onboard energy management system, represent a significant leap forward."



CURRENT REFIT

ON TREND OUR TOP TECH REQUESTS

Our service techs make it a top priority to keep up with new product releases and consumers' changing attitudes toward tech. Every year we track new trends so we can help our customers make the best choices for their unique vessels and lifestyles.

- **Starlink**
- **Solar Power**
- **Lithium Batteries**
- **Remote Monitoring**

STARLINK is the top request from cruisers over the past couple years. Gone are the days of sailing so far offshore that cell phones stay silent. Fortunately or unfortunately, boats can now be set up with tech that's stable enough for WFH careers.

Most people's first question about Starlink is whether or not it actually works in the middle of the ocean. Our customers can attest: yes, it really does. Even underway, the internet supports web browsing from multiple devices, email downloads and uploads, and even binge-watching your favorite streaming TV show.

Elon Musk's offerings to boaters have been evolving, making it more accessible and affordable for all types of vessels. Everything from the style and mounting of the antenna to the service plans and prices have expanded. Currently the equipment price starts at \$349, but we generally recommend that customers who spend more time on than off the water upgrade to the \$2,500 high-performance hardware. Trust us: it's worth it.

#1

STARLINK

Stay connected from anywhere on the ocean at anytime.





#2

LITHIUM

The buzzy battery system everyone *thinks* they want.

Boaters have been requesting **LITHIUM** batteries for decades. Lithium powers plenty of other parts of our lives: cars, computers, gadgets. The tech is so prevalent that many people assume it's a natural integration into our boats — just swap out the old lead batteries for the pricier, yet more efficient Lithium ones. Part of our job is to break the news to a lot of our customers that Lithium batteries require entire new power systems and big changes to a boat's equipment. In fact, the batteries may be the least expensive part of your boat's energy storage.

Any Lithium battery bank requires a battery management system. These integrated protection and monitoring devices balance the cells of the batteries, protect your boat from charge voltage, monitor battery temperature, calculate discharge current limit (DCL) and charge current limit (CCL), and alert you to any issues. They're an integral part of creating safe and effective power storage on a vessel.

The investment in a Lithium battery bank and management system doesn't stop there. Charging works differently for Lithium than for lead, so you'll need to upgrade your battery charger, alternator, and voltage regulator as well.

Many customers believe they'll realize a significant performance gain in the lighter weight and efficiency of Lithium batteries. Owners of racing boats or

offshore fishing boats may feel the benefits outweigh the expense, which is true as long as they consider use and location of the vessels as well. Cold weather severely impairs charging of Lithium batteries, so they're only for warmer climates. We also suggest that these systems don't sit unattended for long intervals, so they're best for very active boaters.

There are a lot of boats and owners who fit the bill for Lithium, so we expect to continue seeing a rise in the installations and upgrades at Front Street Shipyard.



#3

SOLAR

The sustainable power system that everyone *should* want.



SOLAR POWER seems like a natural addition to any boat since most of us are spending time on the water in sunny locations. Adding solar panels to open spaces on a deck, hardtop, or canvas provides extra energy to your existing battery system. Solar doesn't directly power any particular piece of equipment, but instead helps to keep your battery bank topped off.

Depending on the number of panels and their size, a solar array can provide enough power to keep a refrigerator running, navigation lights shining, or the bilge pump operating on a mid-sized boat. The solar boost noticeably reduces the amount of time a generator or engine has to run — and it's a quiet, carbon-free alternative to them.

Solar panels are relatively inexpensive and widely available in different shapes and sizes from multiple reliable brands. There are flexible panels that contort to a boat's many curved shapes, as well as rigid panels that can be mounted on davits or frames. In addition to installing panels, we recommend adding a charge controller to protect your batteries, as well as an inverter if your boat isn't already equipped with one.

Multiple solar panels can be connected in parallel, in a series, or in a combination of both. Our professional installers design the most effective system for each specific boat and the boat owner's power needs.

Almost any boat can benefit from a solar array, even for the most basic power needs. It's a great first step to expanding power options.

When enough new and emerging technology gets installed on a yacht, a **REMOTE MONITORING** system becomes a necessity. A boat owner, captain, or crew can keep a close watch on a boat from as nearby as the dock or as far away as the other side of the world.

View a boat's vital stats — like battery charge, temperature, bilge water, etc. — on an external device via cellular data or wi-fi. Remote monitoring systems can be as simple as notifications and alarms sent to your phone, or as complex as live video and system controls from a dashboard on a smartphone or computer.

Remote monitoring equipment uses sensors to collect data about a vessel. That information is then aggregated into a central hub that makes it visible on a dashboard or app. Some of this equipment can also integrate with third-party gear to expand the available information.

Several high-quality marine brands have developed remote monitoring options for boats that range in size from small sportfishers to superyachts, including Siren, Victron Energy, and GOST. These systems integrate with both lead-acid and Lithium batteries, so if you're still thinking about making the power switch, your monitoring equipment will transition when you're ready.

For a boat that has already incorporated all the latest tech, an owner can use the Starlink wif-fi to log into the monitoring system and see exactly how many amps of power are being generated by the boat's solar panels to be stored in the lithium batteries. TMI?

#4

MONITOR

Keep a watchful eye on all your systems from anywhere.



UNDERWAY IN THE SHOPS

RED SKY

The Swan 100 RED SKY needs to live up to her name, so she asked us for a color refresh. We stripped and prepped her hull, sprayed on primer, and then sprayed five coats of Awlgrip's Vivid Red followed by a clear coat. Finally we finished up by painting her boom Oyster White.



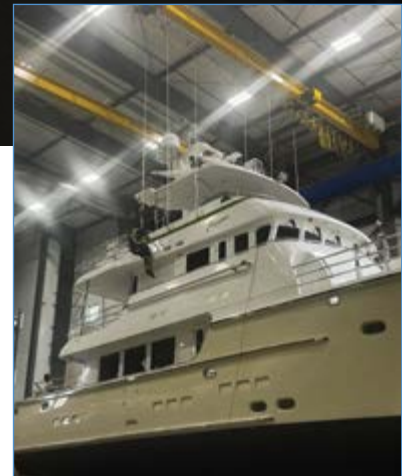
ALLIANCE

Under new ownership, the Doggersbank ALLIANCE is spending a couple months with us to take care of some deferred maintenance. We have a long list of mechanical updates ranging from engine service to HVAC and electrical updates. Her superstructure will get some welding repairs and a fresh coat of paint.



TANGO

A returning visitor every year, the Nordhavn TANGO will leave this fall with a much larger cockpit hardtop. We fabricated the extension and attached an array of solar panels to help TANGO generate more environmentally friendly power during her annual travels.



MANUFACTURING



Starting this summer, Front Street Shipyard's **Manufacturing Division** has been working with a fast-growing Maine-based business that asked us to cut a very different type of material than we had before. Sea Bags of Maine (seabags.com) heard about our 5-axis, 3D waterjet cutting machine and wondered whether it could cut through sail cloth as efficiently as it does metal, stone, composites, and other hard materials. We laid dozens of old sails across the machine and set it to work.

We're able to cut out pieces for about 1,000 bags from a dozen sails. We're also happy to be collaborating with a successful local business that's using recycled materials to make high-quality products.



Photo: Instagram @seabagsmaine



FRONT STREET SHIPYARD

PO Box 558
Belfast, ME 04915

FRONTSTREETSHIPYARD.COM



PASSAGES

The Annual Journal of FRONT STREET SHIPYARD

BLAST FROM THE PAST

On the Eggemoggin Reach Regatta starting line — one of Maine's most-loved races.

