



Huckins launches newest yacht

Tour hybrid Sportsman 38 July 24-26 at city docks

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News-Leader

The 2020 hybrid Sportsman 38, the newest yacht from Huckins Yacht Corporation in Jacksonville, was launched during a pandemic, and with the boat shows canceled, it hasn't gotten a lot of exposure.

The company is changing that next weekend.

The Sportsman 38 will be docked at the Fernandina Harbour Marina July 24-26, and there is no charge for tours of the \$1.3 million vessel.

"We're just trying to get people to see it," said spokeswoman Sara Gielow. "Hopefully people will come by and take a look at it, of course, with masks on."

Huckins is a third-generation company. It opened in 1928 in downtown Jacksonville before moving to its current home on the Ortega River after World War II.

"They used to have to put the boats on railroad cars and bring them to the downtown dock to launch them," Gielow said. "In the '40s, they moved to this location on the Ortega River."

"They have been in yachting for a long time. They started building custom boats. In the '80s, they built a 70-foot sport fishing boat, which was the largest sport fishing boat at that time. They built an 80-foot yacht for someone who is wheelchair-bound."

The Sportsman 38 yacht is different.

"The 38 is a new boat, but its look is based off a 1936 Sportsman they built," Gielow said. "The look is classic, but it's a modern-retro feel. It's all modern technology."

The yacht is all-fiberglass, and is made from molds at the boatyard. But, what sets this apart is its power.

"It's a hybrid," Gielow said. "It's powered with two diesel engines and two electric



HUCKINS YACHT CORPORATION

Huckins Yacht Corporation's newest vessel is the Sportsman 38, a 38-foot hybrid that can be powered by the dual diesel engines or the two electric motors.

motors, so you can switch back and forth between power. If you are on diesel, you can go 38

mph. You can go fast. "If you switch over to electric power, you can cruise at 7

mph, but in complete silence, which is pretty cool to experience."

The company plans to build more. "Since it was built from a

mold, we want to build another YACHT Continued on 14



HUCKINS YACHT CORPORATION

Frank Pembroke Huckins, top left, produced one of the world's first planing hulls in 1928, and since then, his company has been building unique vessels in Jacksonville. The new Sportsman 38 was designed after the Sportsman 36, that was built by Huckins in 1936, right and top right. Huckins moved from its downtown Jacksonville location, left, after World War II to its new home on the Ortega River, where his granddaughter runs the family business.

