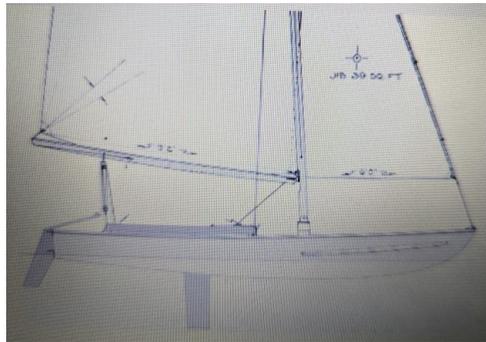


16' Catamaran

In the late 60's we decided to build a "real" boat. Up to that time we were boating in what my father affectionately called "junkers". It was decided that a catamaran would fit the bill as we had already built a few DN iceboats and going fast seemed to be fun. We also were going to build the boat in our basement so building two narrow hulls before moving it outdoors to finish it was also a prime consideration. We found what we were looking for in the Glen-L catalog of boats. The company specializes in selling plans for home-built boats and is still in business today out of Port Townsend, WA.

We chose to build the La Chatte with a few changes to the rig. At the time catamarans were being developed for the Little Americas Cup which is a match race for 25' Class C Catamarans. The general thought at the time was that semi circular stern sections were fast which is what the La Chatte had so that was a good start. The fast cats (Pacific, Shearwater, Tornado) all had fully battened sails so that is what we decided upon. Our mast was a broken Star mast, circular in cross section and we used the mast base from the DN iceboats to allow the mast to rotate. High tech indeed.



The hulls were framed with Philippine mahogany overlaid with $\frac{1}{4}$ " Bruynzeel mahogany plywood. We were able to special order 16' sheets so we didn't have to scarf any joints and used hot burlap bags to soften the plywood enough to make the circular bend at the stern.

While we have lots of video of the boat being built, launched and sailed it is all on 8mm film that was transferred to VHS. It might make sense to have the VHS tapes transferred to a digital format before it is too late.

What we learned was that we really wanted to race sailboats, but a one-off boat wasn't suited for that activity. We sold the boat to someone in Michigan, continued to build and race iceboats in the winter and started sailing one design boats (Stars and OK dinghies) in the summer.

