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The Designs of K. Aage Nielsen: Soon to Be a Living Legacy

Rockport, Maine, February 20, 2009—Rockport Marine, of Rockport, Maine, and Walsteds Baadevaerft of Thuro, Denmark, are pleased to announce the successful conclusion of negotiations with the heirs of designer K. Aage Nielsen, aimed at making possible the construction of new yachts to the Nielsen designs.

Following an expected approval by the Peabody Essex Museum, it will be possible for clients to engage either yard for construction of yachts closely adhering to the original designs but with the option of updated construction, rigging, systems, and interior arrangements in line with modern practice. Since Nielsen's death in 1984 his plans have been unavailable for construction due to the designer's conviction in his later years that it would no longer be possible to obtain the kind of high-quality, aesthetically pleasing construction that he had carefully specified for his designs during his career. The revival in wooden boat building that has occurred in recent years, and the continuing track record of Rockport Marine and Walsted's has convinced the Nielsen heirs that in fact such quality is available today, and they have decided to grant these two yards controlled access to the plans.

Nielsen is best known for his CCA-era cruiser/racer designs, which many experts consider to be among the best of that type, much in line with the highest aspirations of those who formulated the CCA rule. A study in moderation and grace, Nielsen's CCA designs are ideal cruising boats, known for speed, ease of handling, roominess both on deck and below, and timeless good looks. The option of building new boats to these designs gives clients another alternative to rebuilding older boats in order to obtain one of these widely-admired yachts.

Also in the Nielsen portfolio are a host of comfortable and practical smaller yachts and daysailers that are out of the ordinary in the sophistication of their design. Seldom available on the used market, these boats are often treasured family heirlooms. Again, the option of building new makes it more possible to acquire one of these boats—previously a rare opportunity.

Nielsen was also known for his double-enders, which combined Danish design influences with the advantages of more modern hull forms and rigs. The result is a group of designs combining a uniquely appealing, tradition-based style with great seagoing ability, speed, room, and comfort.

There are also a number of desirable powerboat designs.

Walsted's was one of the yards most favored by Nielsen during his career, and produced much of his best-known work. The yard is still producing masterpieces of the wooden boatbuilding trade, and is delighted to renew its connection to the Nielsen work.

Rockport Marine is known for its top quality boat building, and has in its collection of storage boats what is probably the largest group of Nielsen designed yachts in any one boat yard. *Northern Crown*, *Passage*, *Solution*, *Sayonara*, *Star Song*, *Snow Star*, and *Primrose* can all be seen at the yard. Our longstanding affection for these yachts makes us particularly pleased by the possibility of creating a few more.

Those who are interested in the Nielsen designs will want to read *Worthy of the Sea*, an account of the designer's career showing many of his designs, by Maynard Bray and Tom Jackson, and should feel free to stop by Rockport Marine at any time, to see any of the boats that are in the yard.

For additional information about Nielsen-designed boats, please contact Maria Simpson or visit www.rockportmarine.com.

ABOUT ROCKPORT MARINE—Rockport Marine is located on the west side of Penobscot Bay in Maine. Founded in 1962, Rockport Marine has grown in reputation to become one of the industry's premier wooden boat yards. Specializing in new construction and restoration work, Rockport Marine is capable of all kinds of wooden shipbuilding, from traditional plank-on-frame to modern wood composite vessels. Rockport Marine also offers design services, storage facilities and engine repair, and has an on-site fabrication shop and 55-ton boat hoist. Recent projects include the cold-molded schooner *Spirit of Bermuda*, the plank-on-frame historic replicas *Adventure* and *Godspeed*, the S & S six-meter *Jill*, restoration of the P-class *Bernice*, and a new transom for the S & S schooner *Brilliant*. We currently have the S & S racing yacht *Bolero* and the 1938 Alden motorsailer *Trade Wind* in our shop for complete restorations.

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