

GRAMPA'S BROWNS CORNER

BLAB

5-30

SPECIAL BIRTHDAY ed.

**Happy
Birthday
Little Guy !**



If you read the edition about canoes you will immediately recognize a classic Grumman Sportboat. I bought this one last year because I had been unable to find the Osagian 18 I wanted. I was very happy with the deal; boat, motor, and trailer for only \$650 in Springfield, MA. And Tim cheerfully agreed to bring it down on his way to work at an undisclosed location. It amused me that the seller thought it was a 17 foot square back canoe. I bought it because I wanted the much increased stability of a 42-inch wide canoe. It was in very good condition but had been kind of crudded up by addition of rails and some wooden furring strips and linoleum binder strips. What was he thinking?

From Wikipedia (seems quite accurate)

A **Grumman Sportboat**, (also *Sport Boat*, *SportCanoe*, or *Sportee*) is a 15' 4" long, 43" wide square stern [canoe](#) manufactured in America.^[1] It, as well as the Coleman Scanoe, are patterned after "Grand Lakers," wooden fishing guide boats built on Grand Lake, Maine for oar power, subsequently modified for the advent of small outboard engines with the addition of more bearing aft and a flat tumblehome transom.

The Sport Boat is designed to be rowed, sailed, or powered by an outboard motor, and is among few designs to be fairly efficient at all three. It can also be poled or paddled, but is too wide for efficient paddling. It is manufactured in a fashion similar to an [aircraft](#), made of a stressed skin [aluminum](#), riveted together, and weighs slightly over 110 pounds. In current production, it is rated for 805 pounds capacity and a 7 horsepower (5.2 kW) outboard motor. It can plane with as little as a 3.5 hp motor, and has been used with as much as a 25 hp motor. Moving a lone operator forward to the middle seat enables planing performance over 10 mph with as little as 2.5 hp. Ballasting the bow greatly improves operation under power.

As a canoe, the Grumman Sport Boat was originally rated for an 1,100 pound payload. Due to its unusual planing ability, the United States Coast Guard in the 1970s applied a different rating rule. Without any changes to the boat, the payload rating dropped to 550 pounds. Evolving rules for planing boats, requiring level flotation when swamped with maximum payload and rated engine, led to the demise of production by Grumman in 1979. The inaugural issue of Small Boat Journal decried the end of Grumman's Sport Boat production in a black-bordered article evocative of a eulogy. The Grumman Sport Boat was named by the editors of Small Boat Journal as one of the 10 best small boats of all time.

Boatbuilder and designer Robb White wrote of one in his essay "The Chicken Feed Boat," and made a strip-planked wood variant and sold the plans. Small Boat Journal founding editor David Getchell wrote a feature SBJ article about the SportBoat and bought one, and mentioned it again in "Outboard Boater's Handbook: Advanced Seamanship and Practical Skills."

Early models included the mast base clip and gunwale holes to use with the Grumman factory sail kit, with either a gunter or lateen rig. Sail kits are long out of production.

1986 also saw the Grumman Boats' purchase of an assembly plant in Minong, WI. All units produced at this location were assembled with parts supplied in the flat, shipped from either Marathon, NY or Arkadelphia, AR. This was done to achieve lower freight costs to dealers and consequently better sales penetration in the North Central and Northwestern market areas of the country. This strategy had been employed to a lesser degree some years earlier with limited success at Grumman sister locations in Carmichaels, PA and Corcoran, CA.

SportBoats remain popular in the Great Lakes and midwest, and are a favorite of duck hunters, frequently camouflaged with the oarlock sockets removed to eliminate hang-ups in grass. Except on Alaskan rivers, Sport Boats are uncommon west of the Rockies. The University of Washington Aquatic Recreation Center has a dozen or so heavily used and extensively repaired SportBoats in its rowing fleet on Lake Washington at the Montlake Cut.

The Marathon Boat Group, a company of former Grumman managers and investors, reintroduced production of the Sport Boat with sheathed flotation under the gunwales to

comply with the level-flotation rule. Originally, the Sport Boat featured twin sets of oarlock sockets, but the current version has only one, and the sheathed flotation makes retrofitting the second set difficult. Marathon continues to make the Sport Boat and other Grumman canoes, and in 2000 acquired rights to use the Grumman name and logo. (see also "Discussion" in this category). L. Manser, England.

Revision G. Walsh, U.S. 2012

I have read and verified by my search for fat canoes that most of these boats were sold to hunters and fishing guides in the frozen northlands. The thing can actually float out whatever parts of that moose you want to bring home.

Anyway, Gigi and Teddy were with their Daddy when he picked up the boat for me. In subsequent correspondence G said she thought it should be called *The Incredible Cousins*. I assured her I would call it that.

Well, as things evolved, I found my Osagian, now painted yellow and named by Tim **Banana Maru. I'll tell you more about that some other day. But since I found the Osagian, my birthday present from Carol, I no longer need the Sportboat. So I spruced it up as a birthday present for Tim. In truth, the gift is even more targeted to get Big Ted and Gigi out in a boat. Boats are good.**

I put in locust wood seats and side liners to cover up some pretty beat up aluminum. More comfortable to sit on and less slippery when wet. I repainted the floor royal blue, covering badly worn battleship gray. I threw some sand in the wet paint making the floor also less slippery when wet,

I pressure washed, power brushed and repainted the trailer, replaced the tongue jack and Voila!

It is unclear when Tim will come get it, but it will become The Load Boat on the way to Middlebury because I have a growing collection of things I've been saving for him.

Plus the portable arboretum. Tim expressed an interest in some treelings from Browns Corner Forests and I have selected a few. Red oak, white oak, willow oak, sweetgum, walnut, sassafras, wild cherry, holly, and Wacky Doodle trees. Readers interested in getting hardy wild grown organically grown non-gmo

trees, drop me a line. I mostly just clip them with a lopper because they are a nuisance like wee



On the next page there is a white bar I can't seem to eliminate. Just imagine the text, : Yes, that's Banana Maru back there.

Yes, that's **Banana Maru** back there.



That's all folks. **Happy Birthday**, Tim.

