

SCARANO BOAT BUILDING

We work on all types of vessels:
WOOD | COMPOSITE | STEEL | ALUMINUM

We have the capacity to rebuild Structurally, Cosmetically, and to Design and Install systems. We also Repower and Install gensets.



Complete Canvas Shop Facilities



Scarano Boat Building's experience in design and construction makes us especially adept at providing numerous repair and maintenance services, including:

**COMPLETE DRIVE TRAIN
INSTALLATIONS
BOW THRUSTER INSTALLATIONS
AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEM
INSTALLATIONS**

**ELECTRICAL UPGRADES
NEW DECKS, SPECIALIZING IN TEAK
REFINISHING AND REPAINTING
STORAGE**

518-463-3401 | 194 SOUTH PORT RD • ALBANY, NY 12202-1075 | CHRIS.K@SCARANOBOAT.COM

SCARANOBOAT.COM

SCARANO BOAT BUILDING

**Diversification
Is Key For
Success**

by **Pete Bardunias**
Senior Vice President, Membership
and Community Advancement,
Capital Region Chamber

This feature is dedicated to the late Eleanor (Pelersi) Scarano, mother of the Scarano brothers, who passed away while it was being developed.

John and Rick Scarano first learned to sail on a small upstate NY lake in what was referred to as 'The Tub'. The Tub was an 8' lug rigged sailboat that was fashioned out of surplus World War Two bomber fuel tanks split in half. It was enough to get the Scarano clan hooked on sailing. John started drawing boats as a youngster. By the early 70s he was designing his own international 14 racing dinghies.

America

Built in 1995. America is a full scale replica of the famed schooner that crossed the Atlantic, challenged the British, beat all comers, and spawned the longest winning streak in modern sports history. Designed by John Scarano, is a modern classic. Now owned by Next Level Sailing in San Diego, she is approximately 2 feet wider, 5 feet longer, and 30% lighter than the original, and although there are no accurate records of the old America's boat speed, this design by John Scarano is almost certainly faster.





Innovation

A Scarano designed boat is custom designed for its owner. Scarano design means innovation. No design option is left off the table. All available technologies will be considered, and no stone will be left unturned to design a vessel that meets all your needs

In 1986 the brothers incorporated Scarano Boat Building after receiving a contract to build their first passenger carrying vessel: a 65', 145 passenger power boat. Since then, the company has developed the reputation for building the most attractive vessels in the industry. John developed an eye for the aesthetic as well as function that has created the Scarano brand.

Always curious, the Scarano team has been working with various materials including composites since the 1970s.

The Scarano brothers practice traditional craftsmanship that once was the hallmark of the boat building industry. From the small sailing vessel that brothers Rick and John built together in 1983 to the innovative "hot tub boats" heading to New York harbor well into the 21st century, they have made their mark not only on the marine community but also the Capital Region where they call home.

Located at the Port of Albany, Scarano Boat Building (scaranoboat.com) turns out anywhere between 1 and 3 new boats each year, in addition to refurbishing others and repair service, mast stepping for transients, and more. They have built many of the vessels seen on the Hudson, such as the Dutch Apple (their first-ever USCG certified passenger vessel built in 1986) and others such as the venerable 8th Sea, a fixture on the Waterford waterfront, in winter storage in the yard.

The most innovative and interesting boat built by Scarano is the schooner America 2.0, which utilized a unique, 2 piece hull in which the lower assembly near the keel, which contains tankage, ballast and other fittings, is bolted to the upper part of the

hull with massive, high-torque bolts that spread the load far more than the typical keel bolts will. There is a 100' o-ring that seals the two pieces together. It has been a successful setup, that Rick says they will utilize again for the right project. Another innovation that was built into the design was a powerful electric auxiliary motor installation to move America 2.0 from its dock to the open water where the sails would be raised. The concept was an exciting one because, after all, sailboats are meant to be relatively quiet in their operation, with the wind rustling the sails and rigging and the sound of the waves splashing against the hull as the gulls sing in the distance. But then came a few storied episodes of problems with lithium batteries, and even though the ones used by Scarano in America 2.0 would have been of a far safer and improved design, the certification process would have been far too cumbersome and expensive to justify. So as completed, America 2.0 powers its way from the dock to open water using those electric motors powered by an onboard generator. Still an improvement over a traditional diesel engine, but oh what might have been!!! As battery technology advances, batteries will replace the generator as source of energy for the electric motors.

another brother, Bob, a mechanical engineer, serves as a consultant to the operation. All three learned aspects of the trade from their father, Robert, who was himself a civil engineer. The people at Scarano Boat Building make all the difference. Employee Brian Burke, who has worked at the company for 7 years after coming through the ranks in the stair building industry, says "This is a great bunch of guys, and I am doing what I love to do. Even in high school I went into my guidance counselor and said I wanted to be a boat builder. Now I have my chance to do that." These days Brian works in the new canvas shop, sewing sails, dodgers and other coverings using one of the largest industrial-grade sewing machines you will ever see. It's a great new addition to the Scarano operation, because it allows them to have much better quality control on their canvas products as opposed to subcontracting the work to other firms.

Great Loop boaters often come to the yard to have their mast unstopped, or if they have had any mechanical or structural malfunctions. Vessels can be hauled there on the Travelift, to inspect and repair prop or hull damage. The shop is busy these days constructing the second "hot tub boat"



Classic Harbor Line Interior photo of the Manhattan. (www.ClassicHarborLine.com)

Rick Scarano spends much of his time supervising the Classic Harbor Line (sail-nyc.com), while brother John oversees the design and construction work at the boatyard and

for a firm in New York City, which features two hot tubs on deck for a special, unique way to tour the waters around the Big Apple.



The ***Dutch Apple II*** was built at Scarano Boat Building Inc. in 1986. The boat is derived from popular Hudson River Dayliners of an earlier era. Dayliners plied the waters of the Hudson River ferrying passengers to and from ports between Albany and New York City. In designing the boat, and whenever practical, Scarano utilized wood species that were both indigenous to the region, and traditional for building boats. The result is a blend of classic styling and warm elegance.

The industry itself has evolved over the years. Says John, "Building large wooden boats in the 1980s was tough on career security. Building commercial vessels, where people are more aware of the quality of the work involved, this gave us enough business to keep us alive." The company pays competitive salaries and currently employs about 25, of which 18 are skilled craftsmen. But there are job openings, and they have room to grow their staff, so if any reader has interest in jobs such as welders or carpenters, there may be employment for you at Scarano Boat Building!



Brian Burke working in the canvas shop.



This mahogany piece will eventually form the ring around one of two outdoor hot tubs aboard a tour vessel in New York Harbor. It will expand the operation of an existing charter operator (seathecity.com) to help it meet the demand for this popular attraction. Sightseers can enjoy the views of Manhattan and the surrounding area while sitting in a floating hot tub.

