

AMERICAN CUSTOM YACHTS, INC., 6800 S.W. JACK JAMES DRIVE, STUART, FL 34997 • (772) 221-9100  
Fax (772) 288-4993 Web Site: [www.americancustomyachts.com](http://www.americancustomyachts.com) E-Mail: [acy@gate.net](mailto:acy@gate.net)



## ACY Begins Construction on New FREEDOM 68

After months of careful planning, ACY has begun framing their next tournament flagship – the new FREEDOM 68.

Replacing the hard working FREEDOM 65 after eight successful years on the tournament circuit, this new 68-footer promises unmatched performance with improved technology and a big jump in horsepower.

The vessel will also be equipped with the latest in marine electronics by IMS American and a custom tower by Bausch-American Towers. ACY President Dominick LaCombe is remaining tight lipped, however, about additional details: "We'll reveal more information as construction progresses," he said. "I will say that we have decided on a traditional profile with four staterooms and three heads. Our objective is to build the ultimate tournament vessel accommodating the newest power package available."



The keel, stringers and structural bulkheads are all in place on the new FREEDOM 68. The transom is now being framed, and the shear and chine are being established with the application of longitudinal battens.

## ACY72 Yellowbird: A Yacht for Art's Sake



### ACY Creates a Masterpiece for International Art Collectors Carlos and Rosa de la Cruz

When international art collectors Carlos and Rosa de la Cruz collaborated with American Custom Yachts to build their new dream machine, the result could only be a masterpiece. To truly appreciate the vessel's intricacies, however, one must first understand the creative forces behind the design of the new ACY72 YELLOWBIRD.

Carlos and Rosa de la Cruz are major supporters of the modern conceptual art movement, and are deeply committed to their ever-growing collection of important contemporary works (ranking among the top 200 collections in the world.) They are so committed, in fact, that they have

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## ACY72 Yellowbird... *continued*

dedicated most of their 15,000-square foot residence on Key Biscayne to their vast compilation, with just one bedroom reserved for them personally. An eclectic array of abstract paintings, sculptures and multi-media displays are placed purposefully throughout the home, with each room conveying a thought-provoking theme.

Their home is a constant work in progress, with pieces changing several times a year, as their collection is on loan to galleries around the world.

The doors of the de la Cruz residence are generously opened to art students, artists and fellow collectors on a daily basis. When a new exhibit premieres, it is cause for a celebration, often lasting into the early morning hours with a full orchestra and as many as 1,500 guests.

"Rosa is very involved with the collection and works directly with the artists. I am a bit more involved with higher education and human services," said Carlos. "Opening our collection to talented young artists is a big benefit to the art community."

As with their art collection, the de la Cruzes were intimately involved with every aspect of the design and construction of the YELLOWBIRD. Their appreciation for contemporary art played a big hand in the vessel's clean, ultra-modern interior.

As with every ACY yacht, the YELLOWBIRD is outfitted to meet the owners specific traveling and comfort needs. The vessel features four staterooms and four heads, along with an expansive salon and a generous galley. A fully integrated electronics and entertainment package was provided by IMS American (see page four for details).

"Rosa and I wanted to complement American Custom Yachts' clean lines with a very clean interior," said de la Cruz. "We selected a simple, yet beautiful, varnished teak finish offset by subtle artistic accents. Many of the fixtures and accessories are



*The de la Cruzes have dedicated most of their 15,000-square foot Key Biscayne home to their massive art collection.*

designed specifically for the YELLOWBIRD by important architects and artists. These features may go unnoticed at first, but reveal themselves upon further study. The light fixture above the stairwell, for example, is molded in the shape of a rock. You'll never see that on another boat.

"We fell in love with the design of American Custom Yachts after observing the BANDIT fishing off St. Thomas," he added. "When we came to visit the facility, they were just finishing the 72 DON TEO. We were very impressed by American's attention to detail. Rosa and I had a concept for what we wanted and they worked very closely with us to make it happen."

Above deck, the YELLOWBIRD hosts more than a few special features, including an automatic retractable bow pulpit and a center-console bridge with two full-size freezers hidden in the brow area. An eye-catching custom tower with a satin finish was created by Bausch-American Towers.

Below deck, a spacious engine room houses a pair of 2,000 HP Detroit Diesel MTU 16V2000s.



*Carlos and Rosa de la Cruz*

"We always believed that the custom wooden boats we build are truly works of fine art," said ACY General Manager Mark Woodard. "It was confirmed when we were selected to build a vessel for one of the world's top art collectors. We're very grateful to the de la Cruzes for sharing their vision, and to the skilled craftsmen at ACY that made this vision a reality – they are all accomplished artisans in their own right."



# Tournament Update



## ACY Sponsors Harbour Island Custom Shootout

ACY was a Platinum Sponsor of the 2005 Custom Shootout held May 11th-14th out of the Harbour Island Club & Marina on Harbour Island, Bahamas. This invitation-only charity tournament, limited to custom-built sportfishermen, has contributed over \$170,000 to various charitable organizations over the past three years. This year's event benefited the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

"ACY is proud to be involved in this worthy event for the third year," said ACY President Dominick LaCombe. "It brings custom boat owners and builders together to benefit a great cause. The credit for the event's success goes to the tournament's founders Steve Roy and Harry Shuffleburger. They donate countless hours to the cause each year. Steve and Harry make sure everyone comes out a winner."



ACY President Dominick LaCombe (on left) receives an award of appreciation from tournament founder and executive director, Steve Roy.



Photo by Dino Chouest

## Team FREEDOM Battles for BXRL Championship

Team Freedom is competing for the third year in the ESPN2's Billfishing Xtreme Release League competition. This televised series pits the top teams in competitive sportfishing in a "bill to bill" battle for the championship. Events this year will be held in the Florida Keys, the Dominican

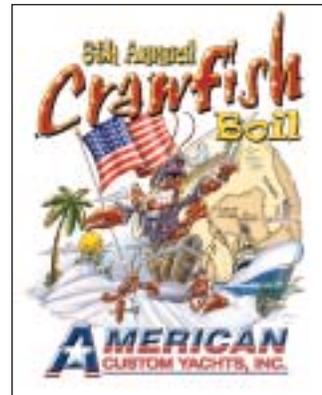
Republic, Antigua, St. Thomas and Venezuela.

Fishing aboard the ACY65 FREEDOM are anglers Dino, Damon and Ross Chouest and Dominick LaCombe. At the helm is Captain Terry Stansell.

## Crawfishin' ACY Style!



## Recipe for a Good Time:



Boil 3,200 lbs. of fresh Louisiana crawfish, 170 lbs. of sausage, 300 lbs. of potatoes and 675 ears of corn; serve to 500 hungry fishin' folks who proceed to wash it all down with their favorite beverage while enjoying the sounds of great southern rock n' roll and classic country music.

Once again, this winning recipe was a huge success at ACY's 8th Annual Crawfish Boil, held Saturday, April 16th.





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# NEWS NEWS

## INTEGRATING ELECTRONICS

Florida: 800-960-8476 • North Carolina: 252-728-7720



## New ACY72 YELLOWBIRD Flies with the Latest in Electronics and Entertainment

IMS American definitely put the "art" in "state-of-the-art" when they outfitted the new ACY72 YELLOWBIRD for owners Carlos and Rosa de la Cruz. Form follows function throughout the vessel with the latest in integrated electronics and entertainment blended into the contemporary décor.



The YELLOWBIRD's expansive bridge console houses the latest in marine electronics with three 18-inch Seabook® flat screen monitors, a Northstar® 6000I GPS and a Furuno® 2127 black box control panel.



In the salon, a 50-inch Pioneer® Elite plasma TV is stowed within a port-side cabinet. A press of a button on the Pronto® handheld remote, and the screen rises quietly out of the cabinet via an electronic lift by Motivated Design.



A 32-inch Sharp® LCD TV in the master stateroom blends nicely with the vessels modern theme.

## Florida Notes

IMS recently completed the finishing touches on the electronics and entertainment package aboard the IZZER, a new 68-foot Paul Mann. The bridge features two 15-inch Seabook® monitors, a Furuno® 2127 BB control panel, a Furuno® FCX 1200 BB color sounder, two Northstar® 6000 I GPS Plotters, and a Simrad® AP20 autopilot. Controlling the entertainment system, mounted on a Middle Atlantic® rack, is an Extron® switcher, an AudioReQuest® music hard drive, a Pioneer® Elite AM/FM receiver and amplifier, and a Knox® video switcher.



IZZER



## North Carolina Notes

Business is taking off in Beaufort according to IMS North Carolina Operations Manager Michael Garrett. His crew recently completed electronics installations on three vessels: the 60' Hatteras WATER MARK, the 40' Cabo CABOOM and the 35' Cabo SHIFTING GEARS, owned by NASCAR racer Terry Labonte.

CABOOM



SHIFTING GEARS



# NEWS NEWS

## ICS & ENTERTAINMENT

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# FOX AUDIO VIDEO

A DIVISION OF IMS AMERICAN

## New FOX Showroom Replicates Automated "Smart House"

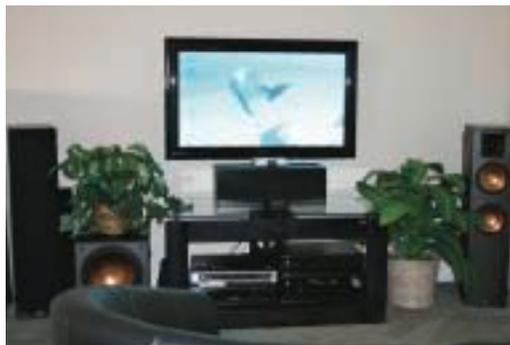
To call it a "showroom" is a huge understatement. FOX Audio-Video has replicated a fully-automated residence at 257 SE Monterey Road in Stuart, featuring the finest names in custom audio-video and automation. Stop by and let Home Entertainment Consultant Victor Walker take you through an incredible tour of the latest in cutting-edge multimedia technology.



The living room comes alive with a built-in media center featuring a Sony® rear-projection TV, Pioneer® components, Dynaudio® cabinet speakers and Elan® flush-mounted ceiling speakers.



The master suite becomes a private oasis with this Pioneer® Elite 43-inch plasma TV, accompanied by a Linn® Classik movie system and Morel® surround sound speakers.



Your family will love this leisure room system with its Pioneer® Elite 42-inch plasma TV, Pioneer® Integra components, and Klipsch® surround sound speakers.



You can almost taste the popcorn in the home theater room with its 110-inch TV screen by Stewart®, Cinema Tech® motorized theater seats, and theater quality surround-sound speakers by Dynaudio® and McIntosh®. Noise balancing panels are provided by Kinetics® and lighting by Vantage®. Big screen projectors are available by Dwin® or Runco®.



FOX isn't playing around with this game room. Featuring a 50-inch Pioneer® Elite plasma TV, it also houses the main frame multi-room audio-video system. Controlled by Crestron® LCD keypads, this system includes a Sony® DVD server, a ReQuest CD server, a Hughes® high-definition satellite receiver, Vantage® lighting controls, and an outdoor camera surveillance system.



Put a new spin on your workout with wireless headphones and the crisp picture of a Sharp® 32-inch LCD TV.

## BAT Florida Highlights



The full tower on the **BLANK CHECK**, a new 68' **Weaver**, awaits installation of the hard top. This tower features every option available, including custom-molded tops, a drop-down radio box, built-in teaser reels and LED lights.



BAT is completing the low-profile tower with a custom molded hard top on the **RED HERRING**, a **Cabo 40**, in preparation for the vessel's delivery to a customer in Spain.



At left, a low profile tower is under construction for **POP-A-TOP**, a 42' **Tiara**. On the right is a full tower for a **Cabo 35**.

## BAT North Carolina Highlights



BAT is installing a full tower and rail package on this new **Hatteras 68** for Jarrett Bay Yacht Sales.



This 32' **Jarrett Bay** sports a custom "no-lace" BAT half tower.

# ACY Work In Progress

A SAMPLING OF PROJECTS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY



The NUCO2, a 65' **Willis** custom sportfisherman, is visiting ACY for a complete bottom job, as well as splash rail damage repairs and minor paint touch-ups. ACY will also fabricate and install a new sea chest.



This factory-fresh **Mikelson** 43 is in the yard for commissioning prior to delivery.



The CAMELOT (on left), a 52' **Hatteras**, is undergoing extensive hurricane repairs after being found on its side in a back yard near the Roosevelt Bridge in Stuart. Repairs include extensive fiberglass and carpentry work, as well as electronics repairs, interior refinishing, and running gear and bottom repairs. The vessel will then undergo a complete hull repaint. The SALT SHAKER (middle), a 58' **Monterey**, will receive fiberglass and carpentry work, as well as a name change to "DUE COURSE." The new **Tiara** 42, POP-A-TOP (on right), is being commissioned for delivery. The vessel received its inaugural bottom paint, along with custom red hull paint, a bow thruster, A/C unit and a custom low-profile tower by BAT.



An underwater lighting system is being installed on the OUTLAW, a 65' **ACY**. The vessel will receive routine maintenance to the shaft seal system, washer and dryer, pneumatic air door and running gear, as well as a fresh sanding of the teak deck.



This aluminum **Chris Craft** 37 cruiser, OTHER BROTHER, is undergoing transmission and generator service, as well as running gear repair.



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**COMING IN OUR NEXT ISSUE** GET TO KNOW ACY HULL CONSTRUCTION FOREMAN JOHN CARVER

# BAT and IMS Break Ground on New NC Facility



Gathering for the groundbreaking ceremony were (L-R): Larry Howard, Economic Development Council; Dan Williams, Employment Security Commission Morehead City Office Manager; Dave Insoe, Executive Director of the Carteret County Economic Development Board; Lynda Clay, Carteret County Commission Chairman; Joseph T. Barwick, PHD, President of Carteret County Community College; Dominick LaCombe, President of American Custom Yachts; Tim Bausch, President of Bausch-American Towers; Tim Daly, Bausch-American Towers General Manager; Mike Garrett, IMS American Operations Manager; Bobby Evans, Vice President, Farrior & Sons Construction; George Lott, Project Manager, Farrior & Sons Construction.

Members of the local business, government and educational community gathered with company representatives on April 21 to celebrate the ground-breaking of the new Bausch-American Towers and IMS American facility located at 1250 Sensation Weigh in Beaufort, NC.

The new 30,000-square foot waterfront facility, situated on a 2.2-acre site, will serve as the mid-Atlantic base of operations for both companies. The heated facility is designed to accommodate two 80-foot vessels side-by-side with a 50-foot clearance.

The joint expansion of the two companies is expected to generate between 30 and 50 new jobs locally. A training program is planned in coordination with Carteret Community College in Morehead City, NC.

## ASK THE YACHT DOCTORS<sup>®</sup>

This new feature answers commonly asked questions posed to ACY regarding boat construction, maintenance and repair. Please fax your question to 772-288-4993, or e-mail it to [acy@gate.net](mailto:acy@gate.net), in care of the "Yacht Doctors<sup>®</sup>." If your question is selected, we'll send you an ACY T-shirt. (To protect your privacy, your name will not be used.) The doctors are always in!

**Q:** What is the best procedure to ready my boat for hurricane storage?

**YD:** The first thing you should do is have a plan together well in advance of hurricane season. Decide what yard you want to take your boat to, and have back-up options as well. Remember, vessels are usually stored on a "first come, first serve" basis. By the time there is a 50% chance of a hurricane strike, you should already have your boat out of the water.

Once you are in the yard, remove the outriggers and antennas, as well as all canvas and isinglass. Carefully stow the outriggers on the ground beneath the vessel, and stow the canvas and isinglass out of the way in a hatch or in the cabin, then seal all exterior hatches with tape. Also, make sure inflatable boats or tenders are removed and stored securely. Do not depend on the yard to perform the duties that are the owner's responsibility, as their priority is to haul-out vessels.

