

Thruster Customer Report

“Double Thrust Really Kicks the Bow Out.”

The MV Bellevue Star is a 72', twin-screw Hatteras owned by Edgar Stern of Bellevue, Washington. Moored in Friday Harbor on San Juan Island, the boat cruises extensively between Washington and Alaska. To achieve more thrust power, Stern and chief engineer Jim Ulmer upgraded from a WESMAR T-25, single prop, 12" hydraulic bow thruster to a WESMAR 12" dual prop, counter-rotating (Double Thrust) thruster.

“The problem with these big motoryachts is there's so much windage,” Jim Ulmer explains. “This boat, for example, has only five feet of draft yet it sits 13 feet above the water. With marinas from here to Alaska being notoriously small, and harbor masters inevitably giving us a tight spot, maneuvering in the wind can be tough. We saw the Double Thrust not only as an opportunity to add more maneuverability, but also as a power upgrade to complement our 1280 horsepower twin engines.”

Ulmer supervised the retrofit at the Point Hope shipyard in Victoria, British Columbia. The shipyard utilized existing T-25 hydraulics, motor, fittings and



12-inch bow tube.

The outcome?

“It's definitely stronger. The Double Thrust keeps up with the twist on the screws. It has a nice burst up front, you get immediate power. It really throws the water and kicks the bow out. In fact, the boat now will turn within its own length.”

Ulmer says the Double Thrust allows tight docking in windy conditions. “We've made a couple of trips to Bellingham Harbor when it was so windy the line handler couldn't hold the boat. But each time the thruster enabled us to move sideways to the dock against the wind. You can do some neat tricks,” Ulmer adds. “Like disengage one screw and actually use the thruster to move a little ahead, a little aft.

“We're real pleased. The

WESMAR is a well-built unit, no problems. Hydraulic controls and electric clutch are easy to use - just hit the switch and away it goes.

“In my opinion every 60'+ boat should have a counter rotating dual-prop bow thruster. No question. Marinas are getting more and more crowded, and there's just a lot of inexperienced ship handlers. A thruster like this increases comfort level.”

What about the Bellevue Star's owner, Mr. Stern?

“He loves the looks of astonishment when the boat moves straight sideways.”

