

Owner was Sold on WESMAR Factory

"We highly recommend WESMAR stabilizers and bow thrusters because they are reliable, well built and straight forward to install," says Brad Pilz, Vice President of Sterling Yacht Center, a complete Marine Services company in Seattle. "But when we did the recent commissioning on F.T. "Bamboo" Opperman's new yacht, it was the WESMAR manufacturing plant that sold him. He was impressed with how organized and clean it was, also with the advanced testing lab and factory."

Among the equipment installed on Opperman's 2001 Fleming 55 Golden Marlin II is a WESMAR 6 sq. ft. roll fin stabilizer system and a WESMAR dual prop 12-inch bow thruster system. "We recommended the WESMAR, but he was also looking at other brands. The thing that really persuaded him to install WESMAR was the factory tour in Woodinville, WA."

Opperman, no stranger to boating, recognized this manufacturing ability immediately. Among other things, he helped build two yachts entered in last year's America's Cup.

Opperman returned home to Hawaii after many years in the tug and barge, lumber and fishing industries, and is deeply involved with sailboat racing throughout the world. He is a past commodore of the Waikiki Yacht Club and a former racer. His new yacht the Golden



The Golden Marlin II is beautiful and traditional throughout from its walk around decks to its exquisite teak flooring, cabinetry, and woodworking.

Marlin II will be a committee boat in Hawaii sailboat races. "He needed a constant duty bow thruster, to keep the bow of the boat on the mark. I think with the WESMAR, the Golden Marlin II will be the best flagship they could have," said Pilz.

"As the race committee boat we're operating in 300 or 400 fathoms and it's hard to hold them in position in the 25 to 30 knot winds and often 8 to 10 foot seas. With the bow thruster we can stay right on the mark," confirmed Opperman. "The bow thruster is just phenomenal and has plenty of power. We have 30 horsepower of thrust. It is exceptionally responsive. We have

full hydraulics."

He said conditions have changed in the navigable waters around the islands with greater congestion that includes more small vessels, including kayaks and surfers. "The bow thruster is important because it provides instant reaction, which is important, because many times you don't see them until you're almost upon them.

"The roll fin stabilizers are for outside the inland waters," said Opperman. He installed them because in Hawaii, "the minute you leave the inland waters, you're in open seas, often traveling in 25 to

continued on back



30 knot winds in 8 to 10 foot seas.”

The Golden Marlin II will be used for coastal cruising and fishing for large tuna, marlin and swordfish. Opperman has plans to travel from Alaska to Mexico next spring. It was the cruising that prompted the installation of the roll fin stabilizers.

Designed for offshore coastal

cruising, her semi-displacement hull gives her great flexibility in performance. She’s heavy and cruises at 8 to 10 knots with a top speed of 18. It’s an ideal installation for WESMAR stabilizers.

“We sea trialed the WESMAR units on a 300-hour, 12- day trip through the San Juan Islands into Victoria,

B.C. Coming out of Victoria we were traveling in 30 to 35 knot winds in 6 to 8 foot seas, we traveled at 6 knots for 10 miles in these conditions, and the stabilizers kept the boat calm and comfortable the whole trip,” said Opperman.

Sterling Yacht Center

Sterling Yacht Center, Seattle, did the full commissioning job on the Golden Marlin II. They installed all of the ship’s electronics, electrical inverter, hydraulic bow thruster and stabilizer.

WESMAR: Advanced design and machining capabilities. WESMAR’s philosophy of advanced design, using only the finest materials to ensure the ability to withstand the most rugged marine environments, has provided them the reputation

of producing rocksolid, technically advanced products. This experience did not go unnoticed by veteran boater, F.T. “Bamboo” Opperman who recently installed both the WESMAR bow thruster and roll fin stabilizers on board his new vessel, the Golden Marlin II.

WESMAR, in the marine business for more than 40 years, is well known for its highly advanced, design, manufacturing and testing facilities.

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