



December, 2019 Newsletter

Welcome to the December, 2019 newsletter.

There are now 961 Stingers in the registry. Four Stingers have been added to the registry since November. The four Stingers added to the registry include a [390X](#) from Perth, Australia and a [1987 312 Fittipaldi](#) in Castaic, CA. You can see both of these boats in the for-sale section below, or on the [gallery page](#) on the website.

The big news this month is that I've released a third edition of my book "[The End of Chris-Craft](#)". The new edition includes corrections, updated information and a new chapter on Winnebago's purchase of Chris-Craft. The book is now available on Amazon.com.

This is the last newsletter for 2019, so Happy Holidays and have a Happy New Year!

Until next month,
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What Happened to George Dale Murray?

George Dale Murray and his partners, purchased the Chris-Craft Boat division from Chris-Craft Industries in the early 1980s. As the money-man in the deal, he was the majority owner of Chris-Craft during the time the Stingers were built. In the end, Murray sold his interest at Chris-Craft due to money issues, and eventually was pushed out of running the company. What happened to him after he left Chris-Craft?

Before purchasing Chris-Craft, Murray was an financial consultant in

Minneapolis, MN in the 1970s. While researching investments for his customers, he came across an opportunity with the Clintwood Coal Company in Kentucky. He pitched the investment opportunity to his customers, who declined to take up the opportunity. Murray, believing that the investment opportunity was too good to pass up, sold his financial consulting firm and bought the Clintwood Coal Company for approximately \$5M.

Murray was correct about the investment in the Clintwood Coal Company. In 1980 he sold the company for purportedly no less than \$10M, doubling his initial investment. Murray then went into semi-retirement.

In the early 1980s, Chris-Craft Industries decided to sell off the Chris-Craft boat

division. Murray became aware of this, and with the help of Dick Genth and two other partners, purchased the Chris-Craft boat division. Murray led Chris-Craft through the 1980s, seeing sales peak in 1986 to approximately \$175M. However, during this time Murray was dividing his time between Chris-Craft and other investments, specifically Florida real-estate developments. Bad investment decisions forced Murray to sell his shares of Chris-Craft to raise money. In the end he sold his controlling stake, and was forced out of the company in 1988.

The investment deals that led to Murray's ouster from Chris-Craft were part of a banking scandal called the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) scandal. According to news reports:

BCCI made phony loans, concealed deposits, hid huge losses, and was the bank for a host of shady customers ranging from terrorists and spies to drug runners and dictators.

According to Murray, in defending himself from claims resulting from the scandal, he worked with the FBI, CIA and Congress to convict criminals. In the end, however, multiple personal judgements were made against him for \$1M.

After the BCCI scandal, Murray decided to try and get back into the coal mining industry. Murray was able to convince 34 investors to contribute money to be used to buy 5 separate coal companies, and to purchase government permits. Unfortunately, it turned out that mining the coal would cost more than the

market rate for coal at the time. Investors eventually brought a suit against Murray. In the court proceedings, it was revealed that none of the companies ever produced an operating profit and all investments had been expended.

It was during this time, the late 1990s, that Murray also received a court order to pay child support. He failed to do so and was eventually sentenced to 11 months in jail.

The last reference I could find to Murray was in 2002 when he appealed the court order sentencing him to jail. The appeal failed.

As to where Murray is today, I'm not sure. Murray's downfall is certainly sad. However, he did contribute to bringing back Chris-Craft in the 1980s, and for that he will be remembered well.

The End of Chris-Craft Third Edition



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Now Available on Amazon.com

Stingers for Sale

Below is a list of Stingers that have come up for sale during the previous month. The information for each boat in this section accompanied the owner's original advertisement. If you are interested in one of the boats please contact me at ccstinger@gmail.com.



Model: 1982 260
Location: Waukegan, IL
Asking Price: \$21,000

For Sale: DIXIE NORMOUS 1982 Chris Craft 260 Stinger Built in 1982 in Bradenton, Florida I purchased this Boat in June 2009. This boat had a scratch and/or a ding here and there yet ran and drove quite well. I'm in my mid 70's and have been a boat person all my life, and I might add that I operated a full service boat company for several years. I'm quite capable of handling any mechanical, wood or fiberglass challenges. I'm retired and I have time on my hands, so I applied myself and brought this boat up to my standards. I also have many friends in the boat business so there's very little I or they can't handle. This boat has twin 260HP, 350cu/in engines with Alpha One outdrives. It has a Teak swim platform as wells a 3 blade stainless props. I repaired the dings and scratches on the hull, prepped then painted the hull. I used the original colors for the base cote then clear coated it. Over the years I made several changes (they're listed below) because I had the ability, time and finances. I've always used Mobil 1 15/50 in the engines along with Merc oil filters. All the parts and upgrades I have used on this boat were from Mercrusier. At present the exterior of this boat is as new as are all the cushions and seats. I never got to the cabin which could use some updating. Upgrades and Enhancements that I have done to this boat. Paint entire exterior using original colors. 2010 Recovered and replaced the foam in all cushions and seats 2010 Installed remote oil filter up grade (for easy access.) 2010 Installed new exhaust manifolds & risers (center type risers.) 2011 Installed through the transom exhaust system (using 4" polished stainless) 2011 Complete ignition upgrade to Thunderbolt IV 2011 All new shift and throttle cables 2012 New Quicksilver controls 2012 Install onboard marine battery charger 2013 Install new trim and tilt sensors 2013 Complete Drive service on both drives 2014 Rebuild both Carbs. 2014 Installed new pedestals on front seats Added batteries (boat now has 4 batteries.) Installed battery quick disconnect switches Installed crossover switches for emergency starting



Model: 1983 390
Location: Fowlerville, MI
Asking Price: \$12,000

1983 Chris Craft Stinger 390x for sale. \$12,000 or best offer. Twin 400 hp mercs. Has been sitting for about 8 years.



Model: 1984 260
Location: Willsboro, NY
Asking Price: \$4,000

1984 Chris Craft stinger model 260 SL. Twin Mercruiser 260 HP engines. Both engines run very good but one needs a new carburetor. Twin Alpha One drives with stainless steel cleaver propellers. Boat needs work but is usable in current condition. Currently winterized and shrink wrapped but can be seen. Was not used this season. Some cosmetic fiberglass work needed and upholstery needs work. Interior overhead fabric damaged in one spot. No trailer but currently sitting on a yard trailer that may be available. Fun boat to drive. 50 + MPH. Low retail from NADA is \$5610.00. More pictures available.



Model: 1984 260
Location: Medford, NY
Asking Price: \$4,000

1984 Chris Craft stinger model 260 SL. Twin Mercruiser 260 HP engines. Both engines run very good but one needs a new carburetor



Model: 1984 312
Location: Chilliwack, BC, Canada
Asking Price: \$21,500

32 foot cigarette style off shore boat. New hi performance 454 motors gill exhaust with stainless pipes. Stainless props tie bar counter rotating drives. Incredible rough water boat. Triaxle trailer with new led lights, brakes, and bearings. Own a " Miami Vice Legend."





Model: 1984 390
Location: Glenwood, IL
Asking Price: \$58,000

1984 Chris Craft Stinger 390x. original 440 hp cyclone motors rebuilt as roller motors, B&W trans w/ TRS drives, mirage props 367 hr on hull & 60 hrs on rebuilt motors, Stainless Marine Exhaust, Survey done in 2016. Includes a triple axle trailer, excellent paint & interior.



Model: 1984 390
Location: San Antonio, TX
Asking Price: \$49,500

Likely, the finest original 1984 Stinger 390X in existence, particularly in the rare factory beige/brown/yellow/orange color scheme. Continues to have original hardware, colors, graphics, stereo, refrigerator, gauges, outdrives, engines, and MYCO trailer. Engines rebuilt Fall 2014, only 20 hours operation since. Trailer improved with disc brakes (were drum), new springs, master cylinder hitch assembly, tongue jack, line lock for backing, chains and more. Cabin now has Teak floor and brushed stainless fridge door. Cockpit updated with amplifier, Rockford-Fosgate speakers, stainless counter/sink top, Teak floor and trim, new upholstery, new gauge bezels and powder coated surrounds and more. Engines extremely well cared for and start/run well. Outdrives received new bellows and carrier bearings Fall 2014 as well. Fresh cockpit, deck and bottom Awlgrip Awlcraft 2000 paint with professionally applied silicone anti-skid finish. Most of this boat's life was in Portland, Oregon in fresh waters of the Columbia River. Always high-and-dry or trailered. Currently in Southern California. This boat is a joy to own/operate, and particularly rewarding when answering to compliments, questions and admiration wherever you take it! Mionli Vice is truly an important part of American boating history that is gaining value and more notoriety every day. It can be yours!



Model: 1985 260
Location: Orlando, FL
Asking Price: \$7,250

Essentially this is a "one" Owner Boat as ownership has remained within same family since it was brand new. Here are the particulars:- 1985 Chris Craft Stinger 260 SL - Twin Mercury 260 I/O with Alpha Drives. - Just shy of 800 HRS on Motors. - Stainless Steel Clever Props. - Hull is rock solid with no cracks. - Cabin is good shape. - Boat has been sitting since 2011 and will need some work because of sitting. - Sale includes Aluminum Trailer

	<p>rebuilt within past 6 months. - Boat is located in Central Florida. - Boat will definitely require some work, but is well worth it. Asking Price is \$ 7,250 OBO</p>
	<p>Model: 1986 222 Location: Brockport, NY Asking Price: \$6,500</p> <p>1986 stinger 222, 350 merc alpha 1 outdrive. Boats in good shape. In the last 3 years transom has been replaced, stringers, bellows, gimbal bearing, coupler, upgraded outdrive Hydraulic pump, impeller, 4 new trailer tires this year. Do your research on these boats rare one of a kind ahead of its time. This one has not been molested and turned into something it wasn't meant to be. Make me an Offer.</p>
	<p>Model: 1986 222 Location: Benton, LA Asking Price: \$10,500</p> <p>10,500 ... OBO Good solid boat.. Needs a little TLC 454 motor... 4 inch wet jet Needs outdrive seal and upholstery done. 5,000 trailer all aluminum Custom wheels</p>
	<p>Model: 1986 260 Location: Ithaca, NY Asking Price: \$13,500</p> <p>Legendary style and performance. Nothing cuts through the water like a Chris-Craft. This boat has twin v8's straight piped above the swim platform. Absolutely beautiful. New port motor, new throttle, new shift cables, new batteries and new master kill switch all within the last 2 years. This boat is a head turner, classic styling with crisp responsive handling. Truly a classic-call today!</p>
	<p>Model: 1986 312 Location: Indianapolis, IN Asking Price: \$16,000</p> <p>1986 Chris-Craft 312 Stinger. Twin 454 Mercruisers rebuilt to factory 420 specs. TRS drives with new props. Older repaint & upholstery, 1200-watt inverter in cabin with 110-volt outlets, small sink, refrigerator, porta potty. Very roomy cabin that can sleep 5 if needed, 4 very comfortably. Everything works as should in cabin, CD player with 2 speakers in cabin & 2 outside. Road cover, cockpit cover, bimini top. Shore power hook up, a very solid boat for the year. I removed the arch & still have it. Trailer included. I can text or e-mail pics. Motivated seller, make offer. \$21,500. OBO.</p>



Model: 1986 390
Location: Tulsa, OK
Asking Price: \$4,800

1986 Chris 39' Stinger. Original was twin big block Chevys with Mercury outdrives. Engines removed years ago to re-power, but project was abandoned, sat under a cover on Long Island for several years. Was a salt boat, now in Oklahoma near lots of water, and it needs a new loving owner to restore and bring back to life. Long and sleek cigarette boat, with its own character! I trade, but not for junk. NO TRAILER, I might help with re location, in reason.



Model: 1987 312 Fittipaldi
Location: St Petersburg, FL
Asking Price: \$10,000

This boat has been in storage for over a decade. It will need a pair of GenIV motors to make it operational. It will come with the Borg-Warner velvet drive transmissions and TRS counter rotating outdrives and stainless props. They have 225 hours on them however they would probably need to be rebuilt given the time they have been in storage. The transom was replaced by Yacht Doctors and the K-Planes were re-installed with custom back plates. The bolsters are in good shape with the exception of the top cushions which can be easily removed. The rear seating will have to be completely redone. The same applies to the cabin area. Traditional U-shaped lounge with berth forward. It's cloth and I would have wanted it in vinyl anyway at some point. The Loadmaster trailer was custom built for the boat as it was on a "high n dry" when I purchased it and all of the tires are brand new. The brakes would need to be replaced. This was one of the few Fittipaldi Equipe models that were produced after Emerson Fittipaldi fell in love with the Stinger model and asked Chris Craft to produce a modified model for him. Consequently they built a handful of these modified Stingers. Very heavy hull and runs like some of the older Formulas. She can run FOT at 72MPH in 3-4' chop with the stock 454 Magnums.



Model: 1987 314
Location: Soddy-Daisy, TN
Asking Price: \$20,000



1987 Chris Craft Stinger 314 This has had a lot of work done to it. It's about 75% to 80% complete. The hull has been completely sanded down and refinished from rub rail down. The transom has been completely replaced and reinforced to hold triple 300's. The gill bracket was custom built for the boat. It currently has triple mercury 225 hp. 2-1999 carbureted and 1-2001 fuel injected. The cockpit area has a new custom sun pad creating a very large area for storage and a place to layout. Has new Faria gages and new switches. Triple racing throttle controls. The cabin has been reupholstered 95% complete. Trailer is tri-axle with new wheels and tires new disk brakes and new 20,000lbs surge brake coupler. This boat just needs a little more to be complete. Reason for selling is I bought a bigger fixer-upper and need the money. Asking \$20,000.



Model: 1988 202
Location: Collierville, TN
Asking Price: \$2,500

Running 175 Mercruiser inboard with fully functional Alpha outdrive and five blade stainless prop. Gauges, trim and gear box all work. Finish needs revitalization but hull, including transom, are solid. The interior has been removed. It will need one 42"l rear stringer replaced, a new 36"w x 72"l floor panel and interior accommodations as you desire. Dual axel trailer included. Chris Craft Stinger Newsletter states there were only 189 of these models produced and estimates less than 50 survive. Estimated value after restoration is \$6500-8500 depending on fit and finish. Bill of sale provided in exchange for cash only. Additional photos available. Thanks for looking!



Model: 1988 260
Location: Kingston, NY
Asking Price: \$4,500

Boat Hull is pretty clean, Imron paint two years prior to me buying her in 2013 (per previous owner), set up for SBC twins and alpha drives, off- color repaint spot, stbd side above rub rail. DOES NOT INCLUDE ENGINES, but includes drives, bennet tabs, all cables, rigging and harnesses in place. Has drop down bolsters with adjustable headrests, but the upholstery is SHOT. the top edges are all split from sun and exposure (prior to me owning it), no back seat and no sunpad cushions. Cabin cushions are intact and upholstery is good. Through-hull exhaust and integral swim platform. Chris Craft also puts the HIN on the hull itself so you can run it with the platform removed. Includes Boatmaster aluminum double axel trailer, needs new brakes, tires good, 6 lug wheels. I'm open to offers and possible trades (work van?) (big Blocks?). She needs some work but I also restore these and i know what a great boat she will be again, i just happen to own several Stingers and i need to let one or two go.



Model: 1988 375
Location: Clemson, SC
Asking Price: \$35,000

For Sale: Chris Craft 375 Stinger, Bad XXX, Miami Vice, twin 460, King Cobra, excellent condition no scratches dings or cracks! All original! 37'8" of sexy! This girl is Big! Bad! Straight exhaust, 550 hrs boat and motors!



Model: 1988 415
Location: Lake Havasu, AZ
Asking Price: \$25,000

This 1988 Chris craft stinger model 415 is brand new interior, seats, carpets, gauge panel, wiring and needs some motor work. It has two 454 chev engines both rebuilt as new but one needs to be replaced. With both the naturally asperated engines the boat goes about 50 MPH. It is a true classic and if some dropped a pair of 502 cid in to the hull, the speed would be closer to 70 mph. Selling it cheap so the next owner can dump some money in it and have an incredible ride.



Model: 1989 312
Location: Jersey Shore, NJ
Asking Price: \$12,500

32' 1987 Chris-Craft Stinger 312. Boat has been out of the water for years. Runs. Clean title. Needs a little TLC to get her back to her former glory. Alpha One Drive. Trailer is in very good condition. This is a great opportunity to get a small winter project started. A cost effective way to have an awesome boat ready to go for next season.



Model: 1987? 313
Location: Daytona Beach, FL
Asking Price: \$10,000

Chris craft stinger 313 runs good good Trailer



Model: 1987 260
Location: Ardlui, Scotland, UK
Asking Price:

Loa 26 ft 0 in beam 8 ft 0 in total power 520 hp engine 1 engine brand mercruiser engine model 260hp v8 engine type inboard location port drive type stern drive engine power 260 hp engine 2 engine brand mercruiser engine model 260hp v8 engine type inboard engine fuel type gas petrol location starboard drive type stern drive engine power 260 hp the company offers the details of this vessel in good faith but cannot guarantee or warrant the accuracy of this information nor warrant the condition of the vessel. a buyer should instruct his agents, or his surveyors, to investigate such details as the buyer desires validated. this vessel is offered subject to prior sale, price change, or withdrawal without notice.



Model: 1987? 390
Location: Perth, Australia
Asking Price: AU \$159,500

With over \$500 000 spent on this vessel the WOW factor is alive and well with this AWESOME fully restored MIAMI VICE like Stinger. Everyone wanted one of these boats when the show at its peek. With no expense spared on this incredible boat with only 70HRS on Mercruiser 496DTS with out the transom exhausts for extra sound affect. Speaking of sound, yes she has a sound system to match a boat of this quality. The paint and graphics have got to seen to be believed with the patriotic Aussie flag at the rear to set her off. Downstairs is a galley, saloon and front berth. She also has a toilet for those big days on the water. She could very well be a overnighter as well as shes just not a fast boat. SEEING IS BELIEVING SO COME AND SEE YOU WONT BE DISAPPOINTED. Owner will consider part trade with cash his way. Call us 7 days for an inspection.



Model: 1987 312 Fittipaldi
Location: Castaic, CA
Asking Price: \$4,000

This is the boat from the movie "Tequila Sunrise" starring Mel Gibson and Kurt Russell (editor's note: this is the type of boat used in the movie "Tequilla Sunrise", not the actual boat). Great for a flip. What it would take to restore would easily sell for double. Asking \$4000.