



May, 2019 Newsletter

Welcome to the May, 2019 newsletter.

This past month, four Stingers were added to the registry, bringing the total to 924. One of the Stingers added this past month is a 1988 Stinger 312 Fittipaldi called "Red October". Always excited when I come across a Fittipaldi as there weren't many of them built.

Exciting news this month! The article featured in this month's newsletter, "The Real Story of the Golden Gate to Spruce Goose Chase," was written by none other than Mr Ernest Schmidt, ex-president of Chris-Craft beginning in 1986 (as well as president of Glastron later on). Ernest's article provides a first-hand perspective of what it was like to be a crew member of the

Stinger 312 that won the Golden Gate to Spruce Goose Chase. In addition, he fills in the historical details of how Chris-Craft ended up with a Stinger in the race. The article is a great read, and I'm sure you'll enjoy it as much as I did. Due to the length of the article, I've split it into two parts, the second part will be published in next month's newsletter.

Until next month,
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The Real Story of the Golden Gate to Spruce Goose Chase

Part 1 of 2

By Ernest Schmidt

Here's the real story of the Golden Gate to Spruce Goose Chase as told from a competitor's point of view in the cockpit of the Chris-Craft 312 Stinger.

"THE GREAT AMERICAN RACE" - The Golden Gate to Spruce Goose Chase to benefit the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles, California.

The story all started after Los Angeles was selected to host the 1984 Summer Olympics. For the first time in history, an Olympics was to be held without government support. The burden of raising the millions of dollars required to host such an event all had to come from contributions, sponsorships and fund raising

Peter Ueberroth was elected Chairman of the LA Olympic Committee and his first effort was a fund raising effort. Shortly after that, for the first time ever, a television broadcast company, ABC,

paid \$225 million for the rights to broadcast the Summer Olympics. After that, sponsorships and contributions started pouring in, and soon it became obvious that Mr.

to showcase offshore powerboat racing pass by.

In the fall of 1983, Bob approached Mr. Ueberroth with the conception of a powerboat race from the

for the right to participate in the race. The race was to have four legs, the start at the San Francisco Yacht Club, a fuel stop in Monterrey Bay, an overnight stop in Morro



Figure 1 - Dick Genth, John McCoy and Ernest Schmidt, crew of the Chris-Craft 312 Stinger raced in the Golden Gate to Spruce Goose Chase.

Ueberroth was on his way to producing the first Olympics in history without support of government funds of any nature.

Bob Nordskog, a native Californian, publisher of "Powerboat Magazine", and a noted offshore racer in his own right, was not one to let an opportunity

Golden Gate Bridge to Long Beach harbor (location of the Queen Mary and the famous "Spruce Goose" built by none other than Howard Hughes). It was to be called "The Golden Gate to Spruce Goose Chase", and Bob told Mr. Ueberroth that he would solicit powerboat companies to contribute \$25,000 each

Bay, another fuel stop in Santa Barbara and the finish at the Queen Mary. Bob told Peter that he would solicit sponsors at each stop, and that overall he planned to raise over \$250,000 to support the 1984 Olympics. Mr. Ueberroth bought into the idea, and the "Golden Gate to Spruce Goose Chase" was

officially announced in the Fall of 1983.

Bob produced an entry packet for the race, and the packets were mailed out to a select group of companies who were producing boats of a size suitable for offshore racing.

By January, 1984, seven companies, Chris-Craft, Wellcraft, Fountain, Cigarette, Baja, Formula and Cobalt had all ponied up the \$25,000 entry fee.

In January 1984, at the New York Boat Show, Mercury Marine (one of the non-boat sponsors) held a lottery drawing for the engines which were to be used by each boat company in the race. The engines were 370HP Mercruiser Sterndrives, and were serial numbered and factory sealed to be sure that none of the companies tried to tamper with the engines before the race. Each company drew two serial numbers from the hat, and those were the engines shipped to each company for use in their race boat. The only option allowed on the engine package was each company's selection of props to use.

In January, 1984, Chris-Craft started construction of the 312 Stinger that was to be used in the race.

While the boat was to be a "factory production" boat, including a full cabin with upholstery, Bob did allow certain items to be added or modified in the sake of safety. The 312 Stinger included a balsa cored hull featuring KynTex fiberglass, lexian windshield, racing bolster seats and two high capacity bilge pumps and a larger compass (keep in mind, at that time GPS for powerboats did not exist). Other than that, no modifications were made.

The race was originally scheduled for the end of March, but Mr. Nordskog, being a native Californian, realized that March in California can be quite unpredictable weather-wise, announced that the race would be postponed until mid-May.

After our Chris-Craft was finished and prior to shipment to San Francisco, Dick Genth, President of Chris-Craft and driver of the boat, insisted that we test the boat on local waters prior to shipment. "The last thing I want to happen is we get to San Francisco only to discover that we have an engine problem".

Over the Easter Weekend, John McCoy our test engineer and myself, Executive Vice President of Chris-Craft and

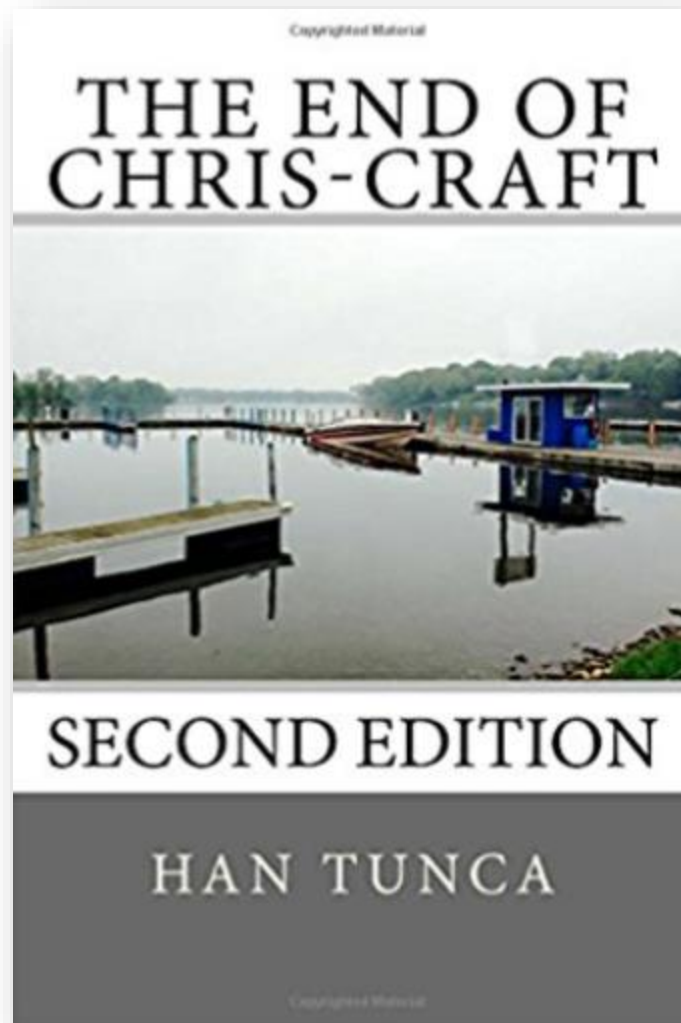
navigator of the 312 Stinger, spent over 15 hours running the boat from Sarasota to Tampa Bay down to Sanibel and back to be sure there were no hiccups in the engines. Shortly after, the boat was transported to San Francisco to await our arrival.

We, and our families, left on Thursday, May 10th for San Francisco. The planned schedule was for testing on San Francisco Bay on Friday morning, with a boat parade Friday afternoon and a gala cocktail party and banquet that Friday night. The wind kicked up around noon, and with waves of 4-5 feet in the Bay, the boat parade was cancelled. At the banquet that night, Bob announced that the weather forecast for Saturday and Sunday (the days of the race) was deteriorating quickly, and that fog and high winds were forecast for all weekend up and down the coast. A drivers meeting was to be held at the San Francisco Yacht Club early Saturday morning at which time further weather updates would be discussed.

All night long (couldn't really sleep) I kept looking out my window at a flag atop the building across the street. Between breaks in the fog, the flag

was standing straight out!
Not a good omen.

*Part 2 of this fantastic
article will be published in
next month's newsletter.*



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 260
Location: Buffalo, NY
Asking Price: \$9,500

For Sale - 1984 Chris Craft Stinger with Twin 350 260HP Mercruisers and Alpha one drives. Drives have stainless steel Michigan props. Comes with an Aluminum Venture Trailer with surge brakes and LED lights, purchased new. New interior upholstery with McLeod hydraulic drop down bolster seats. Boat starts and runs great. Max speed is 60 MPH on GPS and cruises great at 50 MPH. Cabin is spacious and clean. Also has bimini top and canvas cockpit cover. Still winterized from last year.



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: Baton Rouge, LA
Asking Price: \$14,000

1985 Chris-Craft 260 Stinger Limited this is a one owner boat . The boat has been well taken care of , its always been stored in a covered hanger or on the trailer in a building. Motors where replaced with new one Mercruiser 260 s (original equipment) in 2002 . Boat has 1200 hours on it . The 2002 engines have 200 hours on them . The outdrives where replaced in 2018 they have less than 50 hours on them . The trailer is an aluminum trailer that had complete new 6500lb axles with new breaks, wheels and tires put on in 2003 . Tires have been replaced in 2017 . It's a great boat it's been in our family for a long time , I hate to see it go but we just don't get time to use it much anymore.



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 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



Model: 1986 222
Location: Brockport, NY
Asking Price: \$6,500

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

	<p>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: Tavares, FL Asking Price: \$15,000</p> <p>Classic 1986 Chris Craft Stinger with Radar Arch....25 hours on rebuilt 350's, outdrives just serviced, 4 bladed prop, foam core-fiberglass transom, nice interior, wrap has normal wear, includes dual axle trailer.</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>
	<p>Model: 1986 390 Location: Tulsa, OK Asking Price: \$4,800</p> <p>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.</p>



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 202
Location: Rochester, NY
Asking Price: \$8,000

I have a super rare 88' chris craft stinger 202 for sale. It has 165 hours on the hull. This boat is like brand new. I literally just finished it. This is the coolest fiberglass speedboat that Chris Craft ever made and was made for the Miami Vice tv series. They were built in very limited quantities and there are only a handful of these left. There is a website dedicated to them, I know of no other boats that have a cult following. I built this one to be better than it was originally. It is an attention grabber. I get compliments on it wherever I am and have had numerous offers on it even before I restored it. I'm selling it because I'm getting married and need the money. I just put well over \$7500 into it this summer alone and have well over 12K into it total. I had planned to use it but sadly, it needs to go. Weddings are insanely expensive and I'm finding out the hard way. I replaced the motor and outdrive. It has an OMC 4.3L v-6 and an OMC cobra outdrive. Next, I gutted the boat completely and installed

new marine ply, fiberglass, carpet, custom-built seats and engine cover and had everything professionally upholstered. I installed a new GT steering wheel, a Sony marine cd/mp3/satellite radio, which sounds awesome, a new bilge pump, new fuel lines, new aluminum swivel/slider/adjustable height seat posts and new Tracker style folding seats. The interior work cost over \$4K alone but was well worth it. It came out awesome. I had a 4bbl. Rochester carb installed which brings the HP up to 205 and will do over 60MPH. I had the pin striping re-done on the boat and matching Shorelander trailer. I replaced the tires, lights, and started to strip and repaint the entire trailer. It also has a new deep cycle battery. There are 2 swim platforms molded into the stern that have teak footboards and they were also refinished and look great. I also just purchased a new trailerable cover for it. I even just filled the tank with ethanol free 93-octane fuel. I'm probably forgetting a lot. If you're interested you must include the words eighty-eight chris craft to get a response due to spammers. I know it's the wrong time of the year to sell a boat and I could get more for it this spring which is why I priced it where it is. It is well worth the money. Chris craft builds the very best boats around and this one is better than new.



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: 1984 260
Location: Richboro, PA
Asking Price: \$7,000

Im looking for offers on a very nice stinger 260. The alpha drives are good both engines are out. One engine is good the other was blown but have new short block assembled here. Newer paint and cockpit interior. Full jbl sound system, custom made aluminum windshield. The engines are 383 stroker small blocks at 500hp. The boat sits on an aluminum I beam fast load trailer. Tires are newer but it needs brake work. Make me an offer! This is a very nice stinger. Its 28 ft long.



Model: 1986 260
Location: Cornwall, ON, Canada
Asking Price: \$9,800

1986 chriscraft stinger for sale or trade has stainless 23 pitch props through haul exhaust twin 350s does about 58mph has 750 hours but motors have been tuned up new batteries bilage pumps blowers and hoses alpha 1 drives new water pumps seals and gaskets can sleet 2 will be ready to go as soon as weather is nice trim tabs ect ect



Model: 1988 312 Fittipaldi
Location: Novato, CA
Asking Price: \$20,000

Hello I have a beautiful 1988 Chris Craft Stinger offshore twin-engine brand new interior mechanically sound this boat was in the movie Tequila Sunrise with Mel Gibson and Michelle Pfeiffer it's a great conversation piece. This boat also comes with a custom built three axle aluminum trailer. This is an awesome boat in great condition no mechanical problems come check it out whoever gives me the best offer gets his boat price is negotiable



Model: 1984 260
Location: West Greenwich, RI
Asking Price: \$600

Go fast boat project. Motors ran a couple years ago, were pulled to replace and go through everything. Time got in the way, too many projects. Comes with motors and drives. Boat should run 70mph



Model: 1987 390
Location: Cummins, GA
Asking Price: \$24,900

yes we put a wrap on the Stinger a few years ago for some updating (42ft LOA). We completely reupholstered the sun pad, bench, and captains chairs etc. Also upgraded the sound system just a little. The vinyl wrap can be changed every few years to any design we like, but this was most recent. She's powered by twin 675HP with Demon Carbs, also has AquaDecking soft floors, and quilted stitching on the cockpit interior. Have the trailer as well, and we are debating selling this Summer. More pics and videos to come. Again thanks for the add- great group, great boats!



Model: 1987 202
Location: Marmora, ON, Canada
Asking Price: \$7,500

Chris-Craft, 383 stroker small block Chev Engine, OMC Out drive, 2 new battery's, new bellows, fan belts, trim motor, oil pan gasket. Comes with stereo, 150 watt speakers, trailer with new tires and new hitch. Serious inquires only