

WINNERS NEVER QUIT is back in the Marsh. Front Yard Airboat rebuild

Front Yard Airboat rebuild uses 'Hickman templates of a Palm Beach' riveted open hull, with sideboards and hunt-style metal works. The engine is a Lycoming Upstack I0540 Aircraft Engine 300hp built by Tom Schmidt, and it is paired with a brand new 72" NGQ Sensenich Propeller. Fuel and oil lines and push-pull cables were designed and put on at Mako Hose & Rubber: single front and rear seats with matching cushions and rain slips by Outdoor Creative Designs. The entire process has been a labor of love, and I'm grateful for the support of my friends and their dedication to the Gladesmen culture.

The construction of this airboat hull uses a 6061-T6 aluminum sheet and an aluminum T-bar that is 2 x 2 x 1/4 inches. Using old-school steel flex technology, the bottom surface is heavily riveted and coated with black Polymer. The seat is aluminum and incorporates air ride functionality, and there are fiberglass seat shells with conduit guards. A steel motor stand is included in the construction.

Using templates, my dad "Bishop Sr." built a single airfoil rubber. This custom-made rubber holds exceptional value and sentimental meaning. I can certainly appreciate the sentiment behind my dad's creation. It's fantastic that I have something so distinctive to cherish, and I hope it brings me joy in the memory of working with him on this project for years to come.

The project began in June 2020 when the previous Airboat, built in 1997, showed signs of wear and tear. Instead of rebuilding it for the third time, I started from scratch. Disassembled the old boat, salvaged the usable parts, and used them to create this new Airboat.

The Gladesmen culture is a unique and cherished part of American heritage, particularly in the Florida Everglades region. Gladesmen are known for their deep connection to the natural environment and their self-reliant way of life. The tradition of American craftsmanship and community support is evident in their boats and vehicles and how they assist each other.

Palm Beach-style boats are specially designed to navigate the Everglades' shallow waters and marshy terrain. They typically feature a flat bottom and rounded sides,

allowing them to glide through the water and vegetation easily. These boats have become an iconic symbol of the Gladesmen culture. They are essential for their way of life, enabling them to explore, hunt, fish, and navigate the unique ecosystem of the Everglades.

The sense of community and mutual support among Gladesmen is a core aspect of their culture. They come together to help each other with various tasks, whether repairing boats, sharing knowledge and techniques, or assisting during challenging situations in the wilderness. This camaraderie allows them to preserve their way of life and ensure that future generations can experience and appreciate the Gladesmen culture.

For those who embrace the Gladesmen lifestyle, it becomes an integral part of their identity. It represents a deep connection to nature, self-sufficiency, and belonging to a tight-knit community. An old friend of mine, Frank Dienager, who is a true Gladesman, shared some wisdom with me about the airboat community. He mentioned that the problem arose when people started building airboats for profit rather than as a hobby in their yards. According to him, this shift in motivation led to a lack of understanding and appreciation for the Gladesmen culture. I agree with this sentiment, as I find it true in many aspects of Airboating today.

Overall, my friends and family have poured a lot of effort, time, and dedication into this Airboat rebuild, and Carroll and I are grateful for the support of your friends throughout the process.

Bishop