

Sculley...The Person

Sculley Boatbuilders may be working on Hull #4, but there are many years experience behind the design, the building and the fishability of the boat. Nowhere is that more evident than in the commitment of Jim Sculley, the senior member of the team.

It is necessary to note that there will be times when it may become a bit confusing for the reader. That is because there are three key members of the Sculley team and every single one of them is named Jim. There is Jim Sculley, the elder and the senior member. There is Jim Sculley, the younger, who has an active role in the marketing of Hull #1, Hull #2, Hull #3 and soon, Hull #4, to fishing folks who really appreciate the internal and external beauty



inherent in the Sculley boats. Then there is Jim Polatty, the General Manager of the Wanchese facility, lovingly referred to as the day-to-day guy.

Jim Sculley, the elder, has been a waterman since before he was ten years old working with his dad in Southern California. They worked out of Newport Beach, CA back in the "good-old-days" when most offshore saltwater boats were primarily made for commercial fishing or operations, which was the case with Jim. He cut his teeth on commercials that were either servicing diving boats harvesting Abalone from Catalina or San Clemente Islands or searching for what was then considered "trash" fish for cat food. Jim commented that "I saw some of the new Sportfishers

arriving at Newport Beach and dreamed as a kid that someday, maybe I can have one of those." Of course, he was doing this while shoveling shells and cleaning the decks of commercial fishing byproducts. A humble beginning for a future avid sportfisherman.

Fast forward now to the East Coast many years, some food services, a restaurant or two, and some Burger King franchises later and put yourself in Virginia Beach, more specifically, Rudee Inlet. Many people in the Virginia Beach, Rudee Inlet area, will know or remember Jim for his ownership of the marina. Remember Charlie Hayes the dockmaster of Pirate's Cove? Well he worked for Jim as dockmaster in Rudee Inlet before moving to the Outer Banks. How many of you know Ms. Heather Maxwell, the Pirate's Cove Big Game Tournament Director? Well, she started work with Jim in Rudee Inlet when she was only a very young teenager. Most of you know the one, the only, Rudee Inlet's Paula, she too was hired at the marina by Jim when she was very young.

In summary, Jim Sculley, the elder, has been around fishing boats for a long time. Jim's comments on sportfishing boats was "When I was part of the Rudee Inlet scene, I had a chance to ride and fish on a lot of sportfishers, both production and Carolina customs. I could see what worked and what didn't work. When it came time to fulfill my dream of creating the ultimate Carolina Sportfisher, it was pretty clear what was appropriate and what was just not quite right." He continued, "I also had the chance to look at and ride some pretty darn good Florida boats and we feel the Sculley boats are the culmination of all of the best features!"

Jim Polatty, the General Manager, also comes from years of boating experiences, but primarily from the design-up and building process. Jim was a member of the Buddy Davis team for many years and had several Senior Manager positions, especially in the engineering and production areas. When Jim Sculley was ready to assemble his team, Jim Polatty was the key guy! His job is to "Make it Happen!"

Next Issue... more on Jim Polatty. .

Written by Terry Beers
about Jim Sculley in
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OBX Regional Editor's Comment on Sculley. All careers start with small steps and I took my first at Fisherman's Wharf Marina in Virginia working as a secretary in a yacht brokerage for the summer. The following summer the marina was purchased by Jim Sculley. A complete reconstruction of the marina took place and I came to work for them as a "dockboy".

While I was hired by, and worked for, the Marina Manager, Charlie Hayes, that first summer and the years that followed provided plenty of opportunity to get to know our owner Jim Sculley.

As an ex-employee I remember the man fondly. He was nice, and didn't bother us much. In retrospect, I know that he was always keeping an eye out when I was in charge and Hayes was not on site. It has been a long time since my realization that Sculley gave me enough rope to hang myself, but made sure I never screwed up anything he couldn't fix.

As managers he and Hayes both allowed me to create confidence in myself. It was a gift that has been the cornerstone of my success... an invaluable thing, instilled without pretension, in a teenage kid.

Heather