

58' Commander Sport Fisherman History
By Dick Avery 2002

Preparing for our recent move I discovered these old Chris Craft drawings. They had been stored for over 20 years, and some were too damaged to save. The rest, along with pictures of some of the boats that I had designed, I donated to the Chris Craft Commander Club at the Spring Meet in Bradenton, FL, 2002 for the benefit of the club.

This book is the presentation I made to Genth & Murray, and was approved by them. The boat is 58' Commander Sport Fisherman.

While working on a design for a 58' Flush Deck Motor Yacht that dealers had requested, Dick Genth and Dale Murray went to the Bahama's to see the Bertram – Hatteras "Shoot Out" fishing tournament. When they returned, they told me to forget the Motor Yacht and design a 58' Sport Fisherman instead. They wanted two boats produced. They liked the designs I proposed and asked how long it would take to build them. I replied that since only two were to be produced, a mold could be made instead of a plug, the way we usually built production molds. Engineering made shop drawings for the molds, and we lined the frames with gloss Formica and wax for the best possible finish. When we started laying he parts, Genth & Murray began looking for engines for their boats.

Genth drove Murray nuts by telling him he was getting some super fast Diesels for his boat. He wouldn't tell Murray what they were, so Murray fired Genth. We went on to finish the first boat for Murray. It turned out beautifully. I don't know if they built the second boat, but Genth did not get his. This story is possibly a big part of why Murray Chris Craft went out of business.

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2019

Kirk Pfaff on March 3, 2019

HUNTER Hull Number DBKYH102H586 Engines Detroit 12V72, Other Diesel

The unofficial story from the seller I bought it from was that Murray kept both boats. One on the East Coast and one on the West coast. Supposedly they were held by the corporation as if they were in inventory and not officially named or documented under Chris Craft filed chapter 11 and was sold to OMC. Unofficially the boats were named HUNTER and HOTROD and painted on the transoms with no hailing ports. When the boats were sold officially the name was kept on HUNTER. Don't have any idea what happened to the HOTROD. I don't know how much of this story is true, the man who told it was trying to sell me a boat. When I bought the boat it came with a lot of fishing poles and gear that are monogrammed with the logos of HUNTER or HOTROD.

I would sure like to find the other one if it's out there. Even if it was never finished or finished and damaged or destroyed. The unofficial story from the seller I bought it from was that Murray kept both boats. One on the East Coast and one on the West coast. Supposedly they were held by the corporation as if they were in inventory and not officially named or documented under Chris Craft filed chapter 11 and was sold to OMC. Unofficially the boats were named HUNTER and HOTROD and painted on the transoms with no hailing ports. When the boats were sold officially the name was kept on HUNTER. Don't have any idea what happened to the HOTROD. I don't know how much of this story is true, the man who told it was trying to sell me a boat. When I bought the boat it came with a lot of fishing poles and gear that are monogrammed with the logos of HUNTER or HOTROD

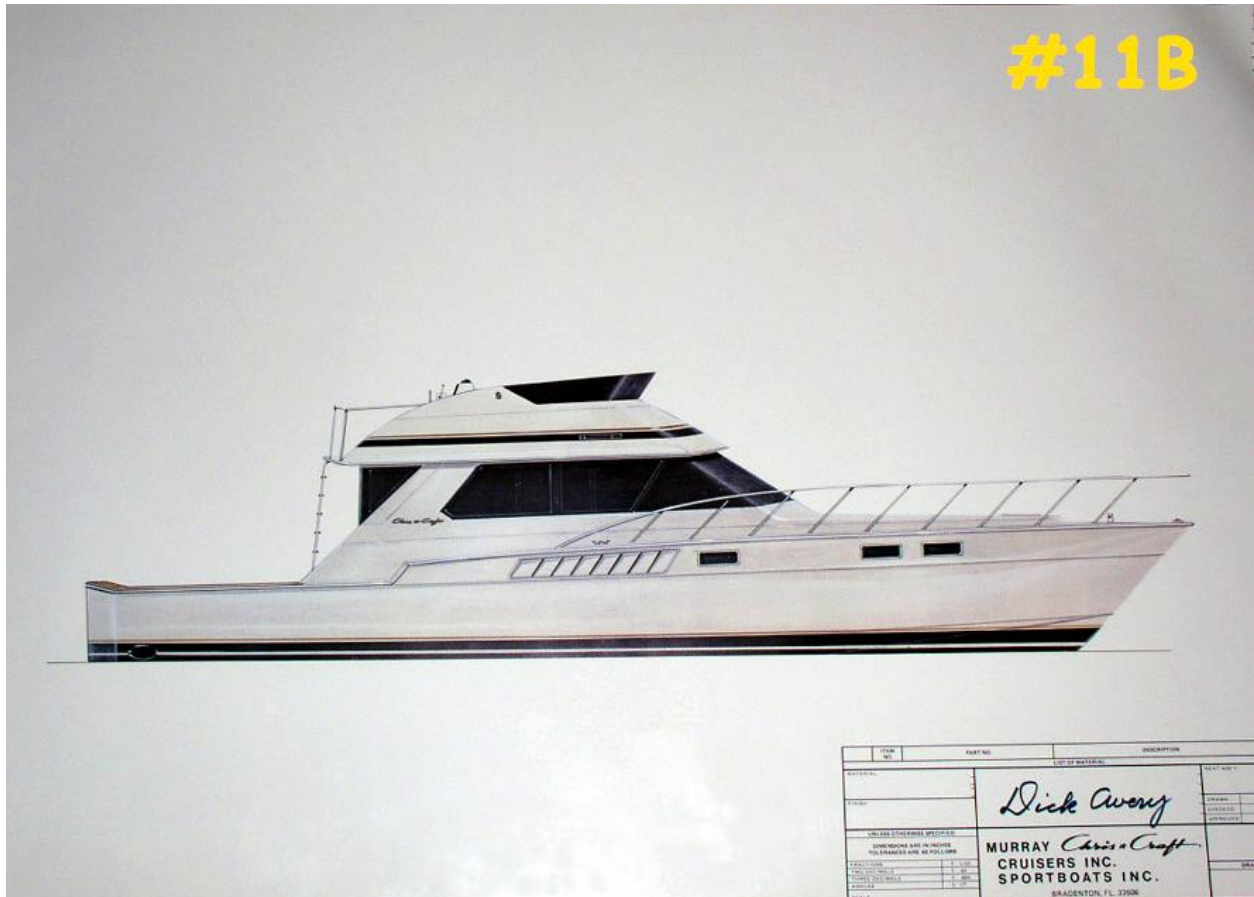
Some of the stories I was told at time of purchase could be completely inaccurate. The one thing that everyone seems to agree on is that the boat I bought, HUNTER, was Dale Murrays boat. The broker that has the listing for SEA YA , the sister ship that was being built for Genth has represented the last two owners and has the history and records back to 2006. I did read the story about the engines but after talking to Bob Schwarz, the current listing broker, I found out that Genth's boat was built with the same

turbo charged and super charged 12V92 Detroit 1080 HP engines as the HUNTER. It was repowered with Cat C18 engines in 2006

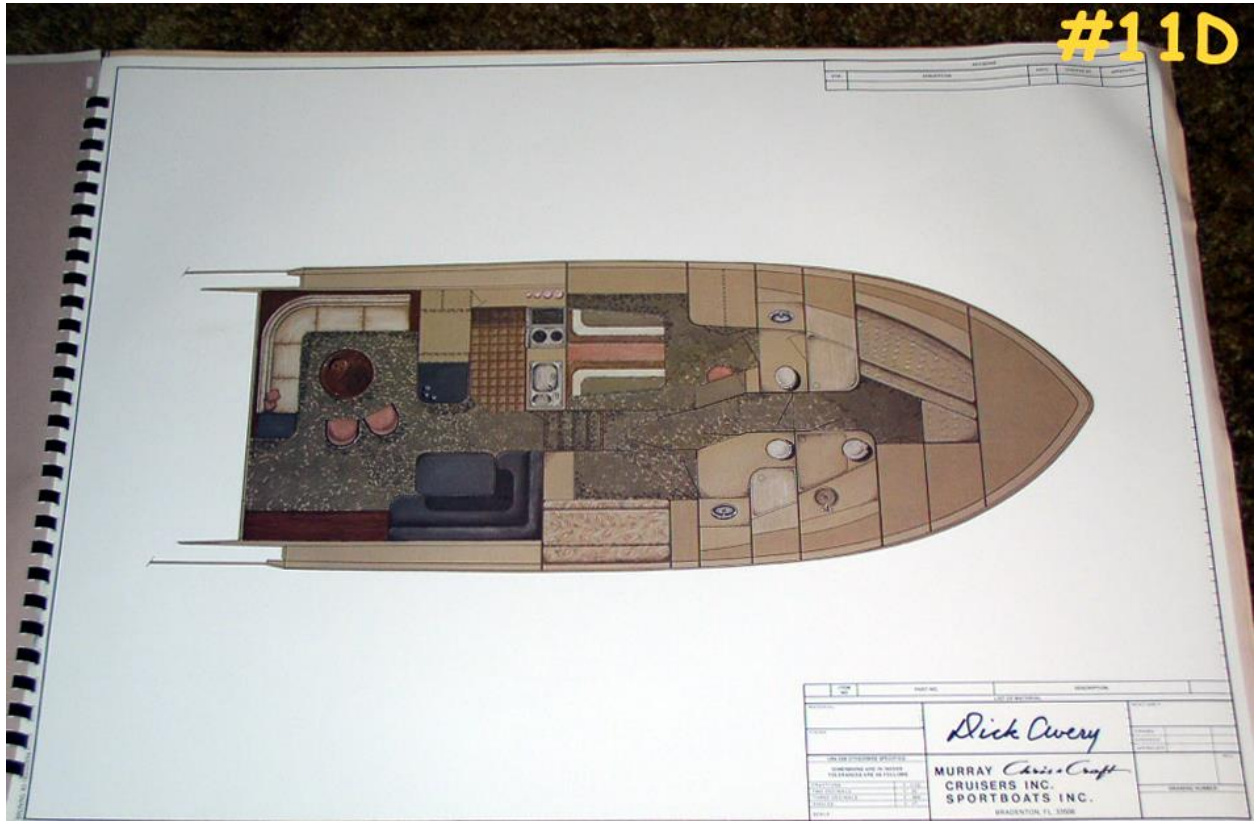
#11A – 58' Commander Sport Fisherman.



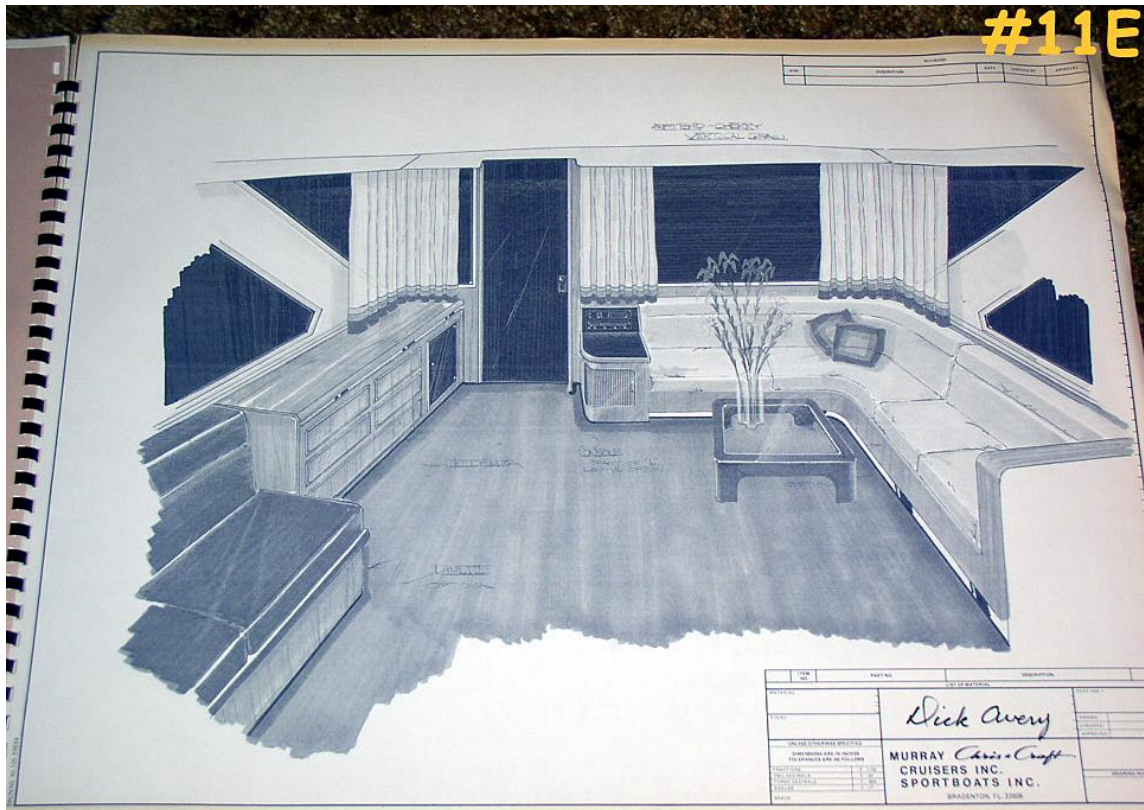
#11B & #11C - 58' Commander Sport Fisherman proposal.

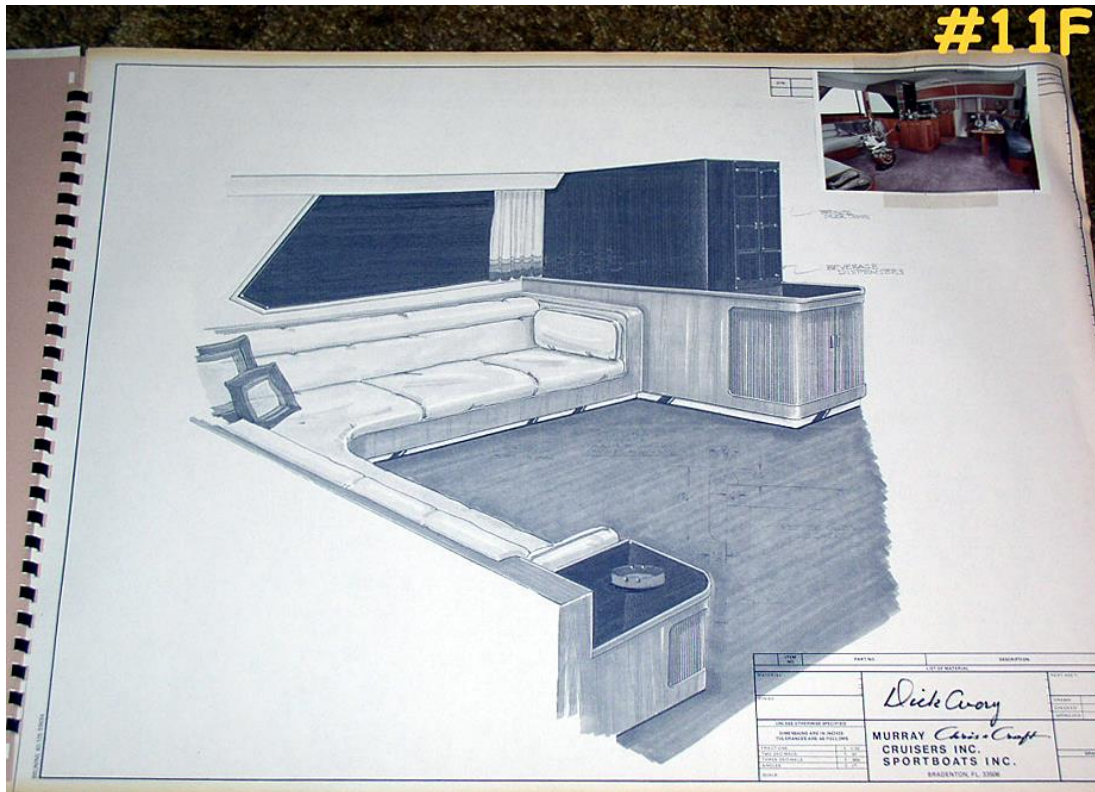


#11D – Layout of 58' Commander Sport Fisherman.



#11E & #11F - 58' Commander Sport Fisherman main salon sketch.

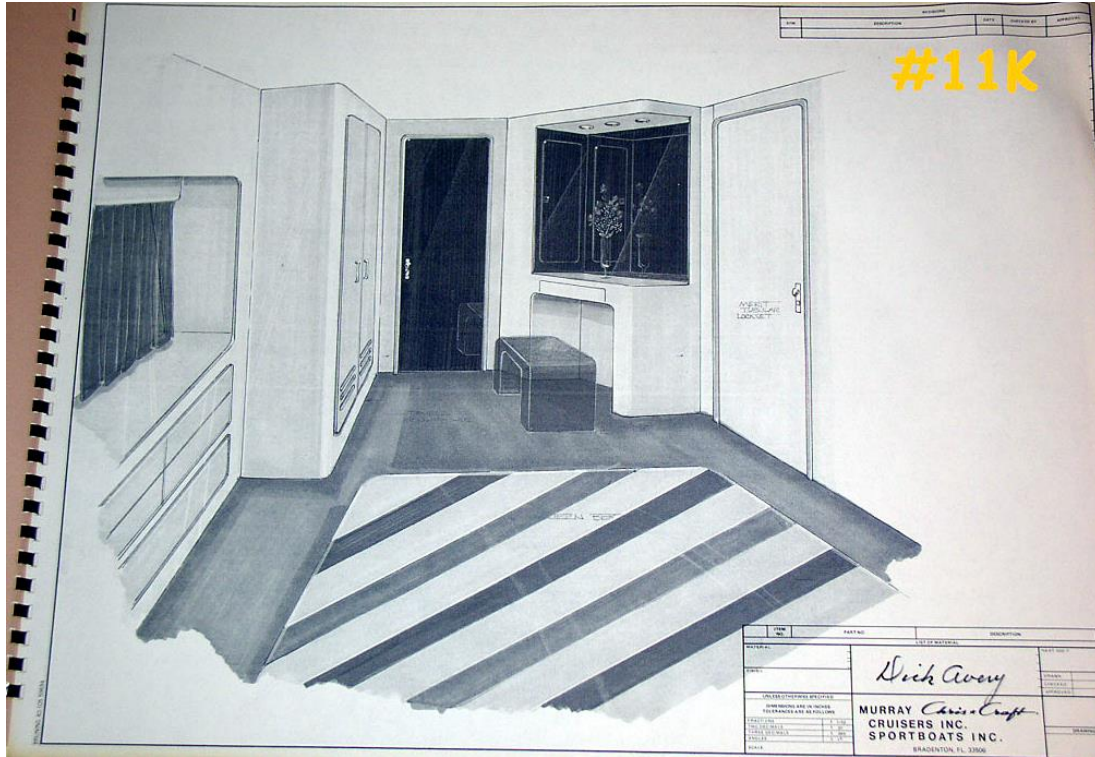




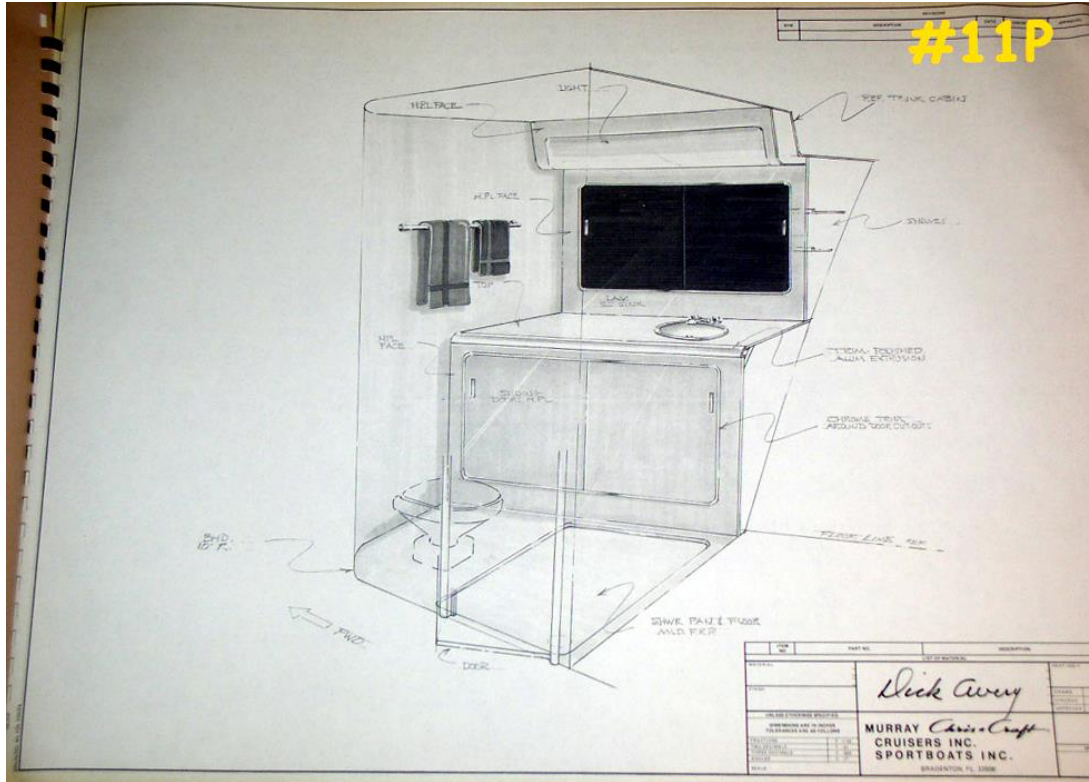
11G - 58' Commander Sport Fisherman dinette & galley sketch.



#11K & #11L - 58' Commander Sport Fisherman owners stateroom sketch.



#11P - 58' Commander Sport Fisherman guest bath vanity.



#11Q - 58' Commander Sport Fisherman specs.



