

PUBLISHER'S NOTE



Over the years I have been privileged to review various craft of all shapes, sizes and mode of propulsion. None quite as unique as the blue-water cruiser recently launched in New Zealand – the Dashew Offshore 83 *Wind Horse*. An 83-foot (25.4 metre) powerboat designed by Steve (Skip) Dashew and built in New Zealand by Kelly Archer, *Wind Horse* is a truly unique vessel. In fact intriguing is the word I would use. A leading American designer of offshore sailboats for more than 25 years, Skip and wife Linda set about replacing their similarly sized ketch *Beowulf* with a powerboat. Over the years they have clocked up more than 250,000 miles sailing the globe. Based on their wealth of experience and hours of tank testing and computer modeling, Skip has designed a powerboat that, quite possibly, could become the new paradigm for long passage making. Imagine cruising at an average speed of 12 knots from New Zealand to California without refueling. Just one of the astonishing facts that emerged from my day aboard *Wind Horse*. And don't be fooled by her military looking exterior; although she may not be the most attractive boat in the marina below decks she is luxuriously appointed.

Our destination feature in this issue is also a compelling read. Despite the devastation wreaked by the Boxing Day tsunami, the shores of stunningly beautiful Phuket suffered minimal damage. Readers may be interested to know that there is a large population of resident expatriates and the island plays host to numerous superyachts each month. In partnership with Phuket's largest superyacht provisioning organisation and several other local companies, each issue of SeaSpray will now be sent to Phuket for placement on visiting superyachts and local distribution.

Continuing on this theme, the success of recent marketing and partnership programmes in New Zealand, Australia and now Phuket has resulted in a doubling of the SeaSpray print run. This is an exciting achievement as we work toward realising our vision for the publication. The hard work and dedication of our small team have made this growth possible.

Further milestones in our quest to bring customers a publication of unprecedented quality has been the recent implementation of an on-line customer relationship management (CRM) program and the appointment of Mark Lannoy and Kris Lovell to our Australian team.

David Rhodes
PUBLISHER