

Healey Marine Boats

By Bill Emerson
Author, "The Healey Book"

Donald Healey was an athletic man, who liked to snow ski in the Alps and waterski just about anywhere there was water. It was this love of water-skiing that led to the formation of Healey Marine in the mid-1950s.



Healey Ski-Master

Boat designer, Geoffrey Lord, was working out of an old mill in Cornwall, working with Donald Healey, Lord designed the initial boat. It was a sharp chine design that was 16 feet in length with a 1500 CC BMC engine that had been "marineized". This boat is serial number 1001. This boat was displayed at the 1956 London boat show and purchased by a dealer from the Netherlands. It



Sir Stirlig Moss

currently resides in the USA where it has won the prestigious "Wooden Boat" Concours. A limited number of similar, but slightly smaller (14 feet 6 inches) [or 4.42 meter] boats, the "Sports Boat 55" were produced in Bridport, Dorset.



The first Healey boat

1957 saw an updated and up-rated "Sports Boat 55" brought out with a 1,600cc BMC B-series engine producing 80 hp and having twin carburetors. This engine was coupled to a US-made Warner



Healey Boat 55 engine

Velvet hydraulic gearbox instead of the Morris navigator box used in the early type 55 boats.

Geoffrey Lord also designed a clinker-built hull powered by an outboard for Healey Marine. This boat named the "Ski-Master" (see picture on opposite page)



55 cockpit



75 cockpit



707 cockpit



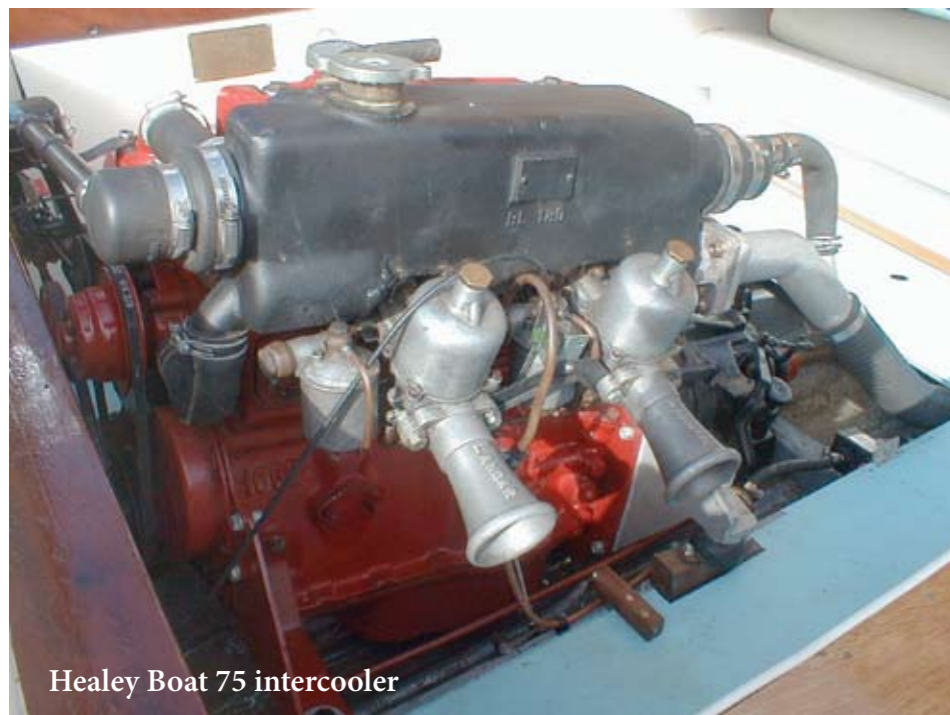
Healey Boat 75 in water

was also 14'6" long, powered by a variety



boats were produced for sale worldwide. Always in search of speed, Donald Healey updated the Healey Marine product line with the "Sports-Boat 75" in 1958. Moving from the wooden hull of the type 55, the type 75 uses a fiberglass hull with teak wooden decking. The "Sports-Boat 75" was again a sharp chine-designed hull, however the engine cover had been significantly redesigned and now went to the full width of the cockpit. The use of a teak deck with white caulking on the bow,

of outboard engines in the 30 hp range.. Almost 1000 of the "Healey Ski-Master"



Healey Boat 75 intercooler



Healey Boat 707



707 drive

the engine cover and a stern gave the boat a very streamlined look. 1959 showed true innovation from the Healey Marine Ltd. This new product



707 engine-bay

was a 4.75 meter long beauty named the "Healey 707". Water speed record holder, Donald Campbell persuaded Healey to incorporate the New Zealand-based Hamilton Marine Jet system in his model for 1959. The 707, named after the Boeing jet airliner, utilized a fiberglass hull and the triple SU carbureted, 3,000cc, six-cylinder engine from the Austin-Healey 3000 provided the "jet drive" power. Top speed of the "707" was in excess of 65 kph with plenty of power to pull more than one water skier.

1960 was a fabulous year for the Healey enthusiast. The smiling "Frog Eye Sprite" was in production for the automotive enthusiast. The boating enthusiast now had the "Healey Sprite" to provide that same enjoyable experience on the water. In fact, the advertising of the day showed the "Austin-Healey Sprite" pulling a trailer with the "Healey Marine Sprite". Donald Healey once said, "The combination of



Healey Marine Sprite

Sprite car with Sprite boat can provide economical enjoyment for young people around the world".

The Healey Marine Sprite is a 4.1 meter fiberglass hull with two bucket seats. The owner has option when it comes to powering this beautiful boat; a maximum

of a 60 hp outboard motor from a variety of manufacturers may safely be mounted



Healey Corvette

on this hull. Because of the shape of the hull the "Sprite" is capable of very rapid turns even at high speeds. One Healey boat owner who has driven different of types of Healey boats reports that the "Sprite" is the best handling of all Healey boats!! From my point of view, the same can be said of the Austin-Healey Sprite both the car and the boat put a smile on the face of whoever is driving them...

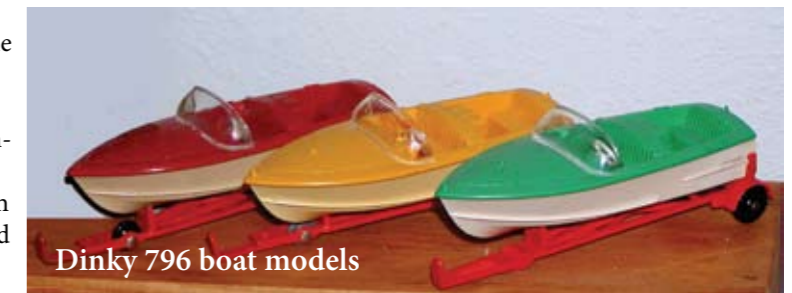
The final boat to be produced by the Healey Marine was the "Healey Corvette". This deep "V" hull design was provided for the fishermen who wished to go

offshore as well as the water ski enthusiast who wished to go fast. The fiberglass hull was 4.8 meters long, but much wider than previous Healey Marine products at almost 2 meters in width. The "Corvette" had a unique sliding top which could be moved to the rear to give the driver some sunshine, or closed against the windscreen to provide protection against the elements. The power options for the Corvette were also unique because it could be driven by one or two outboard motors depending on the owners' desire. In either case the maximum suggested horsepower was 80 hp for a single engine, or two 40 hp engines.

The products of the Healey Marine Ltd. were delivered around the world from 1956 to 1960. The trailers used for hauling these boats varies depending on the country. In England the trailers were prepared in Lemington Spa for the Healey Marine; each trailer was individually numbered to match the boat.

For those of you who do not have

room enough to keep a Healey boat the following photograph is added for your information. Finding a full-sized Healey boat can be a long and arduous search but finding a 1:43 scale Healey boat only requires opening your computer and looking on E-Bay for "Dinky 796 the



Dinky 796 boat models

Healey Sports Boat and Trailer". This beautiful small model was produced between 1960 and 1962 but is still available today.