

# ACB 32 EXPEDITION FLYBRIDGE

A pleasure craft built to military specs



**A**luminum Chambered Boats Inc., of Bellingham, Washington, has announced its new 32' Expedition Flybridge cruiser, based on its patented military hull. According to the company, its pleasure boats are built to the same specifications as the vessels the company provides to almost every branch of the U.S. military.

Many boaters attending boat shows in the Northwest have noticed these vessels, primarily because they look like inflatables made of aluminum, and most ask the obvious question, "If it looks like an inflatable, why not just make an inflatable?"

**WHY ALUMINUM?** According to the manufacturer, true inflatable boats are not tough enough for many situations. Aluminum is stronger and tougher than glass or traditional PVC or Hypalon. The company's aluminum chambers—more or less oval in shape—also have a major structural advantage over traditional hull designs. If properly engineered, one of the lightest, stiffest structures is a tube, and the

builder says that the use of side tubes adds to the rigidity of all its boats and reduces flexing. The vessels have, in effect, not only the traditional double bottom created by the space between the floor and the hull but also double sides above the waterline created by the side tubes.

Each side tube is divided into three compartments and is pressure tested at three different production stages. The company says the result is that ACB is the only production hard boat that is U.S. Coast Guard certified without the use of foam flotation.

The company says that the marine-grade aluminum they use will not corrode in saltwater. Once it develops an oxide coating (that dull grey look of unpainted aluminum), no further oxidation occurs. Except for antifouling, paint is used only for cosmetic purposes.

The hull thickness is 1/4" below the waterline and 3/16" above, with an additional 1/4" "skid plate" welded along the keel to protect the hull if it is beached, either deliberately or by accident, or if it clips a log or rock.

**DESIGN** Despite the non-traditional look of the hull above the waterline, the vessel is much more traditional below the waterline, with a 21 degree deep-vee and reverse chine. This underwater configuration gives a soft ride and good lateral stability. The reverse chine allows the boat to turn sharply without skipping or skidding.

**INTERIOR** The ACB's interior is traditional for vessels of this type—galley and control station along one side, and convertible settee and standup head/shower combination along the other.

The 32's exceptionally long deckhouse was designed in recognition of the fact that boaters spend most of their time in the saloon, not the forward cabin. Therefore, the company has fitted the fo'c'sle with an upgraded standard V-berth, rather than a island queen bed. As well, a relatively large after cockpit will appeal to serious fishermen.

With a cruise-away price of \$288,144, the new ACB 32 will appeal to anyone looking to cruise with the comfort, stability and unparalleled security of a military spec aluminum chambered hull. 🚤

## ACB 32 EXPEDITION FLYBRIDGE

<b>LOA</b>	10.66 m	35'
<b>Beam</b>	3.2 m	10' 5"
<b>Draft</b>	0.56 m	22"
<b>Displ.</b>	6,124 kg	13,500 lb
<b>Fuel</b>	984 L	216 Imp. gal
<b>Water</b>	189 L	42 Imp. gal
<b>Max hp</b>		700
<b>Speed</b>		37.8 kts

**Built & Sold by**  
 Aluminum Chambered Boats  
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