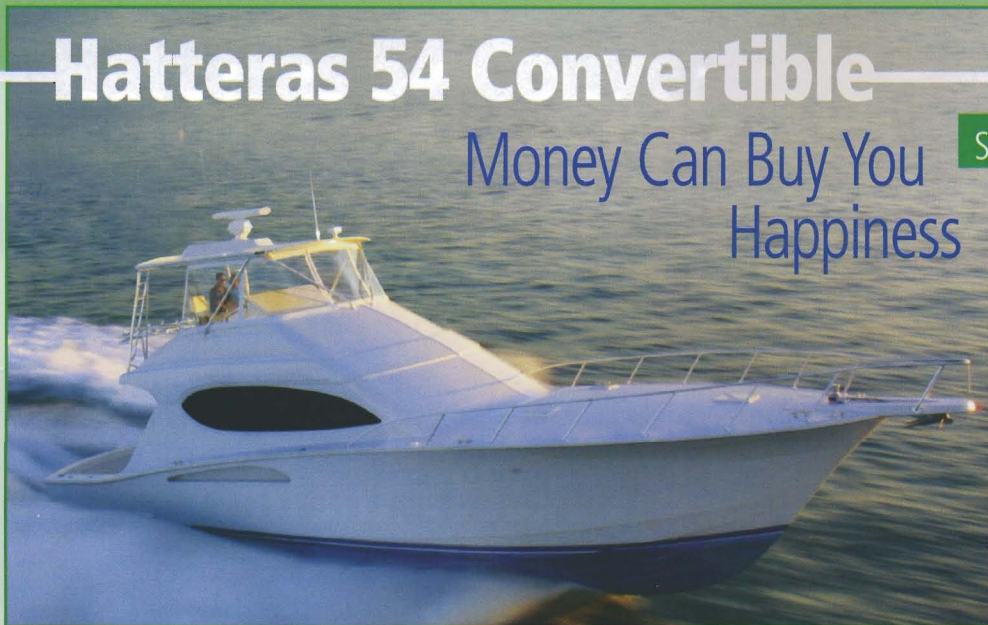


Hatteras 54 Convertible

Money Can Buy You Happiness

SPECIFICATIONS

- LOA: 54'0"
- Beam: 17'3"
- Draft: 4'2"
- Fuel Capacity: 1,250 gallons
- Water: 192 gallons
- Displacement 74,000 lbs



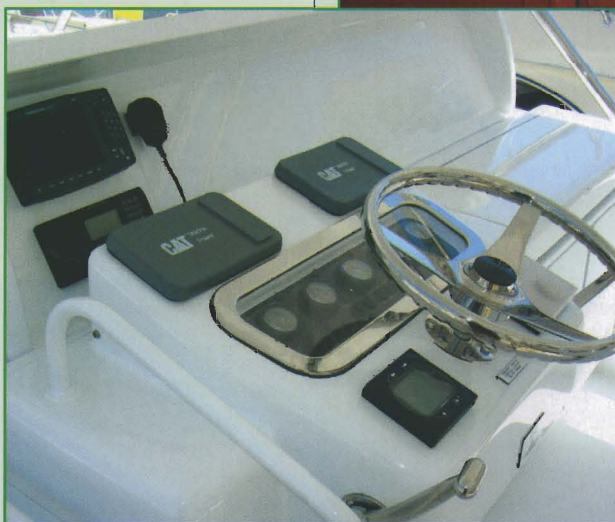
Whoever said money can't buy happiness hasn't looked at the new 54 Hatteras Convertible. More than 40 years ago, Willis Slane set out to build a boat that had the strength and seaworthiness to handle most anything that the seas off of Cape Hatteras could dish out. This boat would turn out to be a 41-foot convertible sportfisherman built entirely of fiberglass. Until that time, no one had ever built a boat this size from fiberglass and in doing so, Slane established the modern boat-building industry as well as Hatteras Yachts.

Though technology has changed over the years, one thing remains the same, Hatteras Yachts continues to produce one of the finest boats available today. The hull bottoms are hand-laid solid fiberglass with no coring below the water. What this means is a hull built to take the seas with confidence and enough weight to make it comfortable. While it's true that manufacturers are always scrambling for more speed with lighter hulls, I will take a few less knots for better stability and comfort while fishing for several days at a time.

For those of you that were disappointed when I said "a few less knots," keep reading, you'll be pleasantly surprised. How does a cruise speed of 35 knots with a top speed of 38 sound? This 54 Hatteras Convertible was equipped with twin C30 Caterpillar diesels that pump out 1,550 horsepower per engine. When running at a cruise speed of 30 knots, the effective range on her 1,250 gallon fuel tank is a little over 400 nautical miles.



Once we cleared the jetty at Newport Beach Harbor, we were greeted with a two-to four-foot swell and a 25-knot wind. The throttles were pushed forward and we were soon flying along at 34 knots. I made the mistake of turning my head to the stern and found out



that a 25-knot head wind coupled with 34 knots of speed translates into my sunglasses being removed from head and flying around in the cockpit.

SPORTFISHER SHOWCASE - Please Tell Them You Saw It In PCS

The flybridge offers excellent visibility forward and aft while providing a very comfortable ride. With the push of a button, the electronics console pops up with the Northstar 6000i and ICOM VHF radio flush mounted and ready for use. There's a Simrad AP26 autopilot and a Simrad IS15 depth and speed gauge as standard equipment as well. If you're worried about space to mount additional electronics, don't be. There's more than enough room for



all of the latest hi-tech gear to be flush mounted in the pop up console. When not in use, the electronic console retracts into the dash protecting your electronics from the elements while providing a secure location for your valuable equipment.

The cockpit features 149 square feet of fish fighting room with an 80-inch removable fish box with macerator located in the deck. The bait and tackle center is located on the salon bulkhead with an 80-gallon bait tank in place of the double freezer. There's a bait freezer to port and a refrigerated box located under the step to the salon. Freshwater and saltwater wash down outlets along with a power retractable shore power cord are located under the starboard gunwale. There's an aluminum mounting plate laminated into the deck for a fighting chair. Entrance to the engine room is located in the cockpit to keep dirty feet and greasy hands out of the salon.

Once you enter the salon, you know you're home with African mahogany throughout with wood blinds, a leather sofa, and an entertainment center. The entertainment center is based on a 42-inch plasma TV set along the starboard side. The TV is set at a height that makes viewing from the sofa very good but it is located close to the floor, which could make for a foot through the screen in rough weather if you're not careful. In speaking with the Hatteras representatives from Stan Miller Yachts, they assured me that if you have that concern, it could be handled at the factory with a pop up console for the TV. The settee has plenty of room for meals and is located next to the galley to feed hungry anglers quickly.

The Hatteras 54 Convertible is equipped with a galley that features under-counter refrigerator and freezer drawer units, a four burner ceramic cooktop, and a microwave/convection oven covered by a cabinet door. There's plenty of storage including drawers behind the sink that seem to slide out forever. The solid counter tops

make for easy cleanup and the trash compactor keeps the trash, well, compact. The counter has been narrowed just a bit to allow for easier access to the berthing below and the dinette to starboard.

The Master stateroom includes a queen-size berth with storage underneath and night stands on either side. The private master head has a stall shower with seat and solid counter tops as well. The entertainment center in the master stateroom includes an LCD TV, AM/FM, and CD/DVD stereo. The storage under the bed and the closets are cedar lined with plenty of drawers for storage. The bow stateroom is much the same as the master with queen-size bed with cedar-lined storage underneath and closets for your clothes. To starboard is the guest stateroom that features side-by-side berths and enough head room for a seven footer.

I could go on and on about the new 54 Convertible with her new convex hull design and electrical distribution panels located throughout to reduce amp loss but it would serve you well to see her first hand. The Hatteras 54 Convertible comes with a base price of



\$1,684,000 and a price as tested of \$2,117,388. I'm sure you can tell there's a lot more to this yacht than what I've touched on. She's built to fish hard and relax in style. The professionals at Stan Miller Yachts treated me like a king and they love to talk about the Hatteras. Stan Miller Yachts has three offices located in Long Beach (562 598 9433), Newport Beach (949-675-3467), and San Diego (619 224-1510), or StanMillerYachts.com. Give them a call to take a look at the new Hatteras 54 Convertible and I'm sure you will agree that in this case, money can buy you a little happiness. ■