

# Mainship

## Pilot 34



Photo by Scott Leigh

BY BILL FEDORKO

To many, the mission design of a boat is what makes it appealing to the buyer. You may say that this statement is a bit broad, but it's the buyer, that really decides the mission of any given boat. To translate, this means the where and how you use the boat, will establish the true meaning of the mission. To give you an example of what I mean by this, I recently had the chance to spend some time aboard a boat that had a definite mission statement to it. While cruising down the coast from Huntington Harbor to Newport Harbor, with the clear image of Catalina Island on our right, I discovered this particular boat's mission statement.



Photo courtesy of Mainship

## BOAT TEST

The boat, a **Pilot 34 Mainship**, powered by a pair of 4-cylinder Yanmars had a mission statement written all over it: "long weekends relaxing in one of the harbors of Catalina Island". The mission of this boat was as clear that day as the island was in contrast to the clear blue sky.

So, what identifies the mission as a perfect weekend boat? First, the engines that power this very sharp looking 34 footer, were selected to get you to there and back. When you don't have a lot of time and relaxing at anchor is the goal, you want to get there and when the time comes, get home. In this case, a pair of **Yanmars**, each cranking out over 240 hp, easily pushed us to a cruising speed of 17 knots at 2600 rpm, an impressive statement towards fitting the mission.

### Comfort and Convenience

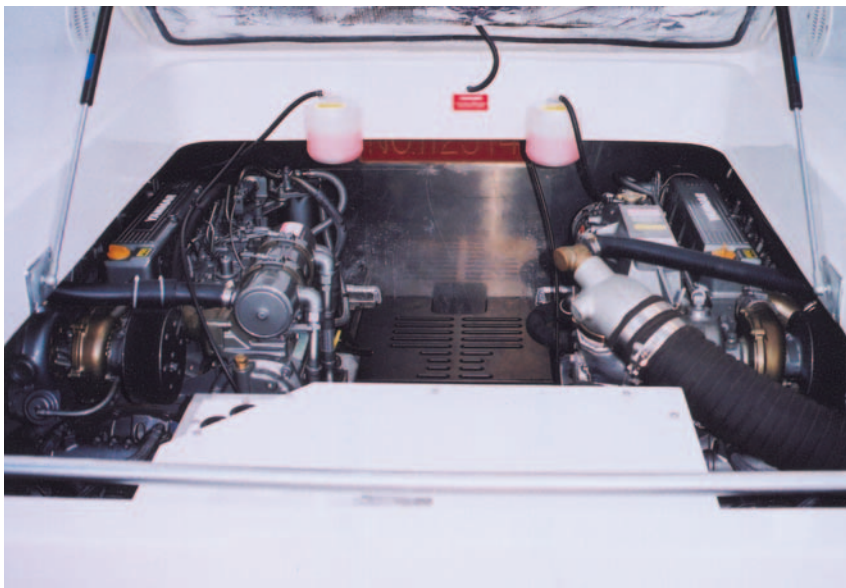
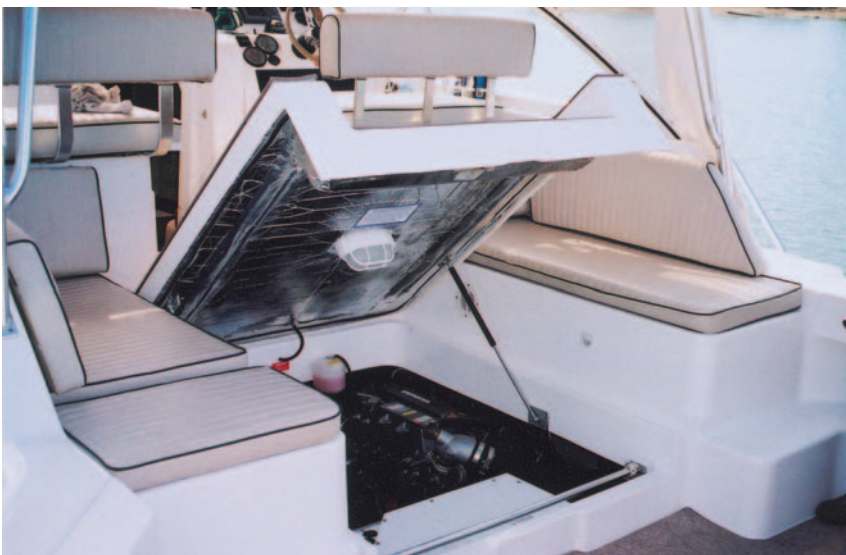
Another must have in the engine room for anyone interested in long weekends at anchor, and adding to the mission statement, is a 5.0 KW **Northern Lights** Genset. Shore power is not always an option when sitting at anchor, so a generator is a must. 5,000 watts of power is plenty for a 34-foot boat. When you crank up the air conditioning and power up the microwave and other comfort and convenience devices, you will appreciate the power and quiet running of the Northern Lights power plant.

Another aspect that makes the Pilot 34 ideal for coastal cruising, is the amount of room for family, friends and on-water activities. With a very large cockpit, the Pilot 34 is perfect for a group or another mission statement activity - fishing. Seating arrangements are simple yet functional, two can sit comfortably at the helm and two on the port side of the helm. Two bench seats just behind the helm create seating for another 4, 5 or even 6 adults. So don't be shy about inviting guests

**TOP:** Two bench seats just behind the helm create seating for another 4, 5 or even 6 adults.

**MIDDLE:** The engine room is easy to get to through the center engine hatch.

**BOTTOM:** A pair of Yanmars, each cranking out over 240 hp, easily pushed us to a cruising speed of 17 knots at 2600 rpm.



# BOAT TEST

aboard—you have the room.

Access to the engine room is from a center engine hatch that provides easy access down into the engine room



Photos courtesy of Mainship

Down below, the teak and holly floor gives this area a feeling of space and elegance found on much pricier boats.

and when inside, there is room to climb around the engines making service easy. This could be classified as another mission statement—ease of maintenance, which allows for more trips to the islands.

For cruising, the custom all-aluminum top from Fishing Boats Unlimited of Costa Mesa, makes relaxing and cruising a tad more comfortable. The mission here is well known for those who cruise on weekends, when weather changes, having an extended top with surrounding is in glass is a sure way to make a lousy weather trip more comfortable. The aluminum tubing was expertly welded and clean throughout. Plenty of room here to mount several rod holders, a place to mount the radar and GPS antennas. These are nice features for cruising to almost any West Coast weekend destination. The Mainship is an ideal vessel for Pacific Ocean cruising and it rides extremely well, even in rough water. While this particular trip to Newport Beach was not very rough, earlier rides on Mainships with the type of bottom found on this test boat, proved they are a good rough water boat.

## Below Decks

Below deck is another statement that deserves mention. It's very difficult to make a boat fit a mission for everyone and every boating situation. I believe the folks at Mainship must be boaters' as well as builders, since they incorporated creature comforts below that rival much larger motor yachts. The salon, while sharing the duties of the galley, is spacious and designed for movement. The settee and galley table are to port and the microwave, sink and refrigerator are positioned on the starboard side. Only a few steps are

required to negotiate down below where the teak and holly floor gives this area a feeling of space and elegance found on much pricier boats. Forward is the snug but comfortable v-berth, with more than adequate stowage for a weekend of island fun.

The head is just aft of the galley and for a boat this size, it is surprising big, important when thinking of your better half.

Every new owner has different ideas and plans when deciding on which boat is right. But I can honestly say, if you are looking for a boat that meets several missions, the Mainship Pilot 34 is one to look for. It is relatively fast and has a comfortable ride, it's comfortable at anchor and overall makes for a great weekend aboard. I've always said, if I could design a boat myself and have someone crazy enough to build it for me, it would meet every mission I could throw in. The Mainship Pilot 34 comes pretty close to having it all.

For more information on the Pilot 34 and the equipment mentioned in this story, contact:

**Mainship Corporation**  
548 Industrial Blvd.  
Midway, GA 31320  
(800) 578-0852  
[www.mainship.com](http://www.mainship.com)

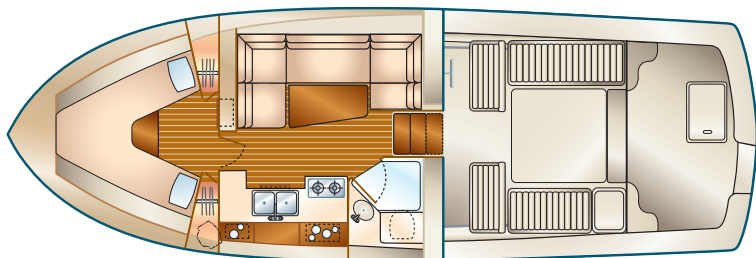
**Northern Lights Generators:**  
Valley Detroit Diesel Allison  
Costa Mesa, CA  
(949) 646-4483

**Northern Lights**  
Seattle, WA 98107  
(206) 789-3880  
[www.northernlights.com](http://www.northernlights.com)

**Yanmar Engines:**  
Boatswain's Locker  
Costa Mesa, CA  
(949) 642-6800

**Cascade Engine Center**  
Seattle, WA  
(800) 238-3850

**Aluminum Top:**  
Fishing Boats Unlimited  
Costa Mesa, CA  
(949) 642-0882



Seating arrangements are simple yet functional - two can sit comfortably at the helm and two on the port side of the helm.