

Neel 45

"Everything old is new again" is a common theme in yacht design, and the Neel 45 is a perfect example. Many sailors younger than 60 won't remember that the very first trimarans were full-bridgedeck boats built in plywood, and to them this boat will seem revolutionary. Those who do remember will be impressed at how effectively the concept has been modernized here. The Neel's hulls and deck are all foam-cored glass. Interior components have honeycomb coring as well. All three hulls have super-fine entries and narrow waterplanes. The sailplan features a square-headed mainsail and a sexy carbon sprit for flying screechers and A-sails.

Our judges were impressed by the scale of the accommodations, which include three double staterooms (two with en-suite heads) and nearly match those of a comparably sized catamaran. They were even more impressed by the Neel's sailing performance. During our first test sail on the west coast of France in early spring, the boat was fully powered up sailing at a 40-degree apparent wind angle close-hauled, without the bother of having to

CRUISING MULTIHULL
(41-50ft)



mess with daggerboards. Speeds routinely were between 9 and 11 knots. The bottom line: this is a true cruising multihull, rife

with creature comforts and storage space (it even has a basement!) that is exciting to sail, too.