

Image courtesy of Kroger Express

Special Feature
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PassageMaker
Magazine

Life In The Fast Lane

Faster Cruisers

The Growing Need For

Speed

In One Segment Of The Trawler Lifestyle By Bill Parlatore

There is nothing worse than a dream that remains out of reach. So it is with cruising, for those of us engaged in the diverse demands of today's world. Kids, business and other worthwhile distractions keep the dream on the distant horizon. Even when budget is no object, there is a lack of free time.

For the above reasons, faster boats are now a cruising boat solution that simply did not exist before. Unlike the normal play toys that are fast boats, intended for limited runs at high speed, they have not really been taken seriously as cruisers.

But that has changed in a big way, and we now have some fantastic cruising boats that combine the swift speed potential of a planing hull in a package that includes most of the amenities of a genuine cruising boat. Just as the traditional trawler fits the lifestyle demands of those who have time to smell the roses and enjoy the journey, these faster motorboats provide owners with similar competence but offer higher speed in exchange for ultimate range and offshore capability. In this context, for many people these boats make all the difference between being able to go cruising and staying home with the unfulfilled dream out of reach.

The following boats highlight some of today's choices, with boats that offer surprising utility and comfort. If the idea of such a boat fits your current situation, it might be worth a look at the next boat show.

There is a growing segment of our trawler community that finds these boats ideal, and their growing popularity is proof of this trend.

Boat Tour At A Glance Krogen Express 52

The newly reintroduced Krogen Express is one of those boats that has always fit into the trawler niche ever so comfortably. Yes, it is a faster boat than many of the other traditional boats, but it achieves speed with class and style. "Elegant" is not a word typically used to describe a fast cruising boat, but the Krogen Express is every bit that kind of boat. And traditionalists love the looks.

A semi-displacement hull shape that complements the full displacement trawler line of Kadey-Krogen Yachts, the Express is a thoroughly modern boat, with looks that are based on the commuter yachts of the last century. It is a shining example of Taiwan's crafted blend of traditional and contemporary.

The 52-footer is capable of running at 20 knots with standard twin 440hp diesels but is relaxed and composed in the midteens. It has the feel of a traditional trawler, with beautiful cherry joinerwork and rich furniture, but Krogen has found a nice balance of liveaboard cruiser.

The key to this is hull shape, as its displacement of over 44,000 pounds is more than that of many other fast boats, yet it slips through the water easily. Such is the magic of the Krogen design team.

A covered aft cockpit leads into the comfortable saloon, which is similar to other Krogen trawlers yet brighter and more contemporary. Past the galley is a raised pilothouse, also unique in the faster cruising boats currently out there. Visibility is excellent from the pilothouse, which also has inside access to the flybridge and boat deck.

Image courtesy of Beneteau



Images courtesy of Krogen Express



Forward of the pilothouse are two staterooms and heads, with plenty of storage. The Krogen Express attracts people who want a boat as a traveling second home, which is a growing segment of our market.

Will and Sue Parry have put over 2,500 miles on their Express, and Will tells me it is the best cruising boat he has ever owned. The couple lived aboard a Krogen 48 North Sea for several years, but when they retired they decided to get something a bit more agile. Living in Florida, the need for speed is important, as most cruising destinations involve some distance, and it makes sense to run at a higher speed. Will thinks the Express has two speeds: one for gunkholing at 10 to 11 knots, the other 15 knots for crossing open water.

While the Express does not have the ultimate storage of the full displacement Krogen 48 sistership, it is more than adequate for living aboard for up to a year, which

the Parrys did while building a new home.

The couple report the boat tracks well and feels rock solid under way (the Parrys' boat is stabilized). Will loves the standup engine room and says the beautiful cherry interior raises his idea of quality for any home, afloat or ashore.

Will said the twin-screw Express offers superb maneuvering in close quarters. And visibility from the flybridge is outstanding at speed.

Will and Sue Parry really enjoy their Krogen Express and said they have had zero problems during their ownership experience. What more could one wish for?

Krogen Express 52

LOA	57' 6"
LOD	52' 6"
Waterline Length	51' 4"
Max Beam	15' 11"
Draft	4'
Displacement (Half Load)	44,480 lbs
Engines	Twin 440hp Yanmar 6LY2A dsIs
Fuel Capacity	650 U.S. gallons
Water Capacity	370 U.S. gallons
Headroom (maximum)	6' 6"
Bridge Clearance (mast down)	13' 3"
Bridge Clearance (mast up)	21' 8"
Price (Fully Equipped)	\$1,200,000

For More Information:
Krogen Express Yachts
163 Junaluska Drive, Woodstock, GA 30188
770.928.6575 Fax 720.293.4440 krogenexpress.com