

Pocket Cruiser

There was a Boat/US-sponsored trip to the Bahamas a few months ago. Approximately 20 boats crossed from West Palm Beach as a "mini-flotilla," that added a safety factor and eased the fears of those first time "crossers." It was a 10-day trip that included traveling to seven different islands in the Bahamas. Aboard an MC30 PowerCat, Clyde Nix, his wife Meredith, and their 5-year-old daughter Lucy, were participants in this event. The trip going to the Bahamas was a relatively "calm" 4'-6' seas, and over the next 10 days, touring various islands in the Bahamas, proved to be the vacation of a lifetime for the Nix family. A constant occurrence of considerable amusement to Clyde was watching the average fuel consumption from the other boats. He watched and joked with the captains who were spending between \$300-\$400 per day while



Clyde and Motorcat at the dock



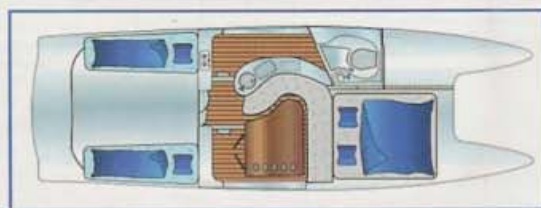
his total fuel burn in the MC 30 was 115 gallons for the entire 10 day trip! A cost of approximately \$328, total. (Fuel is expensive in the Bahamas!) Being a well-designed power cat with a semi-displacement hull shape also proved to be an important factor in the family's "comfort" while at sea. During the trip back, seas grew to 8'-10', and the other boats, much larger monohulls, had to throttle back because of the intensive pounding most of them were experiencing. About halfway across the Gulfstream, the Nix crew decided the boat could safely and comfortably maintain between 18-20 knots, and there was no reason to wait for the other boats and unnecessarily endure these conditions. They left the pack behind and headed for Jupiter, FL, arriving first, well ahead of the rest of the flotilla. All this was achieved with twin Suzuki 50-hp four-stroke outboard motors.

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Motorcat 30

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