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Twenty months passed before this awesome project was completed. The boat was christened *Strider* and launched July 2, 2003. Unfortunately, Dave's work prevented his attendance at the launching, but Joe and his wife, Linda, helped the yard step the mast. Joe delivered *Strider* to Dave's slip without incident.

When I asked if he had ever looked at the mess and wondered what he'd gotten into, Dave replied that he'd enjoyed every step because it was a learning process and a challenge. The results, he said, were always gratifying. He had Joe, Diane, and another friend, John, to help him throughout the project.


Longer than expected

“What was the worst part?” I wondered. “The last few weeks were hard because every step seemed to take longer than expected,” he told me. Joe

noted that sanding was the part he liked least. Looking back later, Dave said he'd figured the project wrong. He had expected a lot of work and a little money. Well, he'd missed the target on the cost. He figured he had about \$30,000 Canadian in the refit. Based on the results, it's still a bargain.

Strider races out of Port Colborne, Ontario, in the Wednesday-evening fleet. We caught up with Dave and had the chance to take photos during the 2005 Lake Erie Interclub Race series (three distance races between the U.S. and Canada and two triangular courses). In these races *Strider* was a real eye-catcher. She is essentially a new boat with classic looks.

When asked why he chose the name *Strider*, Dave replied, “When I read *Lord of the Rings*, I felt *Strider* was a

cool character: a ranger who quickly and quietly roamed the kingdoms.” To Dave, that's what sailing is all about: quietly and quickly roaming the seas. That's exactly what *Strider* does. 

Scorpio 35

Builder: Scorpio Yachts
Located: London, Ontario
Year: 1981
LOA: 35 feet 0 inches
LWL: 26 feet 6 inches
Draft: Was 5 feet 10 inches; Mars Metal bulb kit shortened to 5 feet 4 inches
Beam: 11 feet 2 inches
Engine: Yanmar 2GM (15-hp)
Tankage: 15 gallons fuel, 30 gallons water, 30 gallons holding tank
Construction: Balsa-cored fiberglass deck and hull



Payoff time after all the hard work: *Strider* sails beautifully. *Strider's* chute is up for a light-air Tuesday-night race.