

Hull # 16-689

DMR 166891075-C

1975 Ski Sporter

This boat was purchased brand new from Markley Marine in Harrison Township Michigan by Ken Skiver and lived it's life a few houses down from our family cottage on Wamplers Lake. It was used for a few years and then was put away when he decided to purchase an 18 but only had one lift. Being a master carpenter craftsman he built an arched wooden structure that matched the contour of the boat deck and sat on towels so that no tarps would touch the boat and nothing would ever sag with water. He wrapped and interwove 5 military canvas tarps so that nothing would get inside, and like that the boat would sit for the next 18 years.

Our dad (and dozens others around the lake) always heard about the boat, knew about the boat and wanted the boat but he had never seen the boat uncovered in our whole time at the lake. One day Ken finally decides he's going to tear the tarps away to bring it out of its hibernation and being very close with our dad told him that if the boat is in decent shape he finally agrees he would sell it to him. They unwrapped the boat and after 18 years of sitting looked exactly as it did the day it rolled out of the showroom. Unfortunately once word got around that dad was set to buy the Donzi, Ken's now adult daughter finds out and is devastated. Ken never knew how she felt about the boat but with the care and detail that he had taken to preserve it she always imagined it would be hers one day when he ever decided to part with it. Ken came back to dad to tell him and said he was sorry but he can't sell him the boat. Dad was disappointed but understood.

12 years after that, my mother brother and myself tried to purchase a newer 16 for dad for his 60th birthday to replace the legendary boat that slipped through his fingers, but the deal was a mess and we were unsuccessful. What we had to go through was such a story that I called Ken's daughter who was now at the time the current owner of her father's Donzi and proceeded to tell her the almost comical story of what we went through to try and buy dad this boat to try and replace the one he almost owned. She enjoyed the story but then followed it up with "well, how would you like to get him a Donzi for his 61st?"...she was finally ready to sell her dad's boat and she said "there are no fewer than 25 guys that would come running if they ever heard I was selling this boat, and it's not for sale to any of them....but to your dad, it is"

In 2019, in the same driveway on Wamplers Lake that he had always seen the boat sitting and fantasized over it, surrounded by friends and neighbors, we surprised dad with the keys to his priceless Donzi.











16-689  
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TNG/W/W/TANG

300 C.C.

Eng. 620 808  
OD 2816800B

Inv. 11/17/75  
0716

2489

MARKLEY MARINE



Classic Certification Form

Number: 43

Classic Model: 16 SkiSporter Owner: John Doherty Registration Number:

Hull ID: DMR166891075 Engine: 300 C.C. 620808 Drive: AQ 280 2816800 B

Colors:

Bottom: White Sides: Tangerine Deck: White Stripe: Tangerine Interior: Tangerine and White

Awards: 2022 LGDCC Most Original , 2022 LGDCC Oldest Classic