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A new fusion schooner from Covey Island

FOLLOWING THE LOSS OF FRANK BLAIR'S SCHOONER *MAGGIE B* in the tragic Covey Island boatyard fire in August 2008, the yacht's replacement, the so called "fusion schooner" named *Farfarer*, had its first sail

on Oct. 14, 2010.

Blair's new boat, built at Covey Island's new facility in Nova Scotia, Canada, and designed by Nigel Irens, who also designed *Maggie B*, is named for

feet, four inches long with a

much simpler rig, but when compared to *Maggie B* no power or speed were sacrificed in the trade.

The hull profile is similar to *Maggie B*. It has a relatively shallow full keel and hydraulically controlled centerboard. Above the waterline, the hull is every bit an ocean racer with a fine bow entry, full stern and straight and powerful run aft. Unlike *Maggie B*, the boat has an outboard rudder.

The rig has changed dramatically. While a schooner rig, *Farfarer's* two carbon fiber masts

Farley Mowat's book chronicling the Norse exploration of North America. This is Covey Island Boatworks' first new build since the fire and has been a technically challenging and exciting project.

After a successful circumnavigation with the 62-foot *Maggie B*, Blair, always the visionary, returned with many new ideas, many of which have now been realized in *Farfarer*. The new boat is slightly smaller at 57

are free standing and feature modern racing style square headed, full battened sails by North Sails that rotate on bearings fabricated by Ted Van Dusen of Composite Engineering — the same bearings used in Boeing 747 tail sections.

Like *Maggie B*, *Farfarer* is built from mostly salvaged Douglas Fir. The hull is strip-built composite sheathed in glass and epoxy.

It is unclear what Blair's plans are once work has been completed on *Farfarer*, but one thing is for sure — they will be ambitious.

A cat schooner, fusion schooner, call it what you will, but Blair's new boat will be setting a new standard for design and performance and turning heads wherever *Farfarer* takes him.



Courtesy Mark Duventoux/Covey Island

⚓ Frank Blair's new "fusion" schooner *Farfarer* on sea trials in Nova Scotia. Although a bit smaller than *Maggie B*, *Farfarer* is just as powerful. The new schooner features a massive outboard rudder and modern square headed sail on rotating carbon fiber masts.

