

SPORTYAK "DOCK"
Grand Canyon Boats
Grand Canyon National Park
Grand Canyon Village
Coconino County
Arizona

HAER AZ-84
HAER AZ-84

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

FIELD RECORDS

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

SPORTYAK “DOCK”

HAER No. AZ-84

Location:	Grand Canyon National Park, Grand Canyon vicinity, Coconino County, Arizona Sportyak “Dock” is located at latitude: 36.050189, longitude: -112.132891. The point represents the building housing the Grand Canyon National Park Museum Collection. It was obtained from Google Earth on April 22, 2021, and there is no restriction on its release to the public.
Date of Construction:	Prior to 1963
Manufacturer:	Dayton Marine Products, Inc.
Original Owner:	Unknown
Present Owner:	National Park Service
Significance:	Sportyak “Dock” is significant for its association with its namesake, Otis R. “Dock” Marston, the famous river runner and historian of the Colorado River. Dock Marston made a complete traverse of the Grand Canyon on the Colorado River from Lees Ferry to Lake Mead in August 1963 in this boat.
Description:	This Sportyak II model is vacuum formed linear polyethylene and filled with Styrofoam for floatation in case of rupture. ¹ It is 7'-5" long with a 3'-8 3/4" beam and weighs 38 pounds. The height of the bow is 21-1/4" while the transom is 16" tall and the midship more than 14". The boat was equipped with oars.
History:	The well-known river runner and historian, Otis R. “Dock” Marston (1894-1979), used the Sportyak bearing his name in a complete traverse of the Grand Canyon on the Colorado River from Lees Ferry to Lake Mead between August 5 and 31, 1963. ² Otis Marston’s friend, Buzz Belknap, wanted to swim the river and suggested they utilize an additional three Sportyaks. The traverse was made possible by the lower water flow resulting from the construction of Glen Canyon Dam and the closure of the dam’s gates. Sportyak “Dock” also ran Cataract Canyon between

¹ Sportyak “Dock” has been accessioned as Catalog Number GRCA 9085.

² Dock Marston’s log of the trip is housed at Northern Arizona University Library and has been digitized here: <http://archive.library.nau.edu/digital/collection/cpa/id/43285/>, accessed April 2021.

March 28 and April 4, 1964, as part of an expedition to find Dennis Julian’s 1836 inscription before it was covered by waters impounded by Glen Canyon Dam.³ Its final trip was on the Colorado from Whitmore Canyon to Lake Mead from May 5-12, 1965, which required backpacking it into the canyon via the Whitmore Trail.

Upon receipt in June 1966, Sportyak “Dock” was placed on exhibit at the Grand Canyon Visitor Center’s courtyard until December 2003. With assistance from Western Archeological and Conservation Center (WACC) conservator Brynn Bender, the boat was moved to the Science Center Warehouse for conservation as part of the “Save Our Boats” historic boat conservation project. The Grand Canyon historic boats were then moved again to a new storage area in the Powell Building in December 2013.

Sources:

The report is based on information from the Grand Canyon Museum Collection and the following additional source.

Martin, Tom. “Chapter 15 1963 Sportyak.” Available on Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/466729631>, accessed April 2021.

Project

Information:

Sportyak “Dock” was documented as part of the Historic American Engineering Record’s Maritime Recording Program. The Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) is part of Heritage Documentation Programs, a division of the National Park Service. Todd Croteau, HAER Architect, served as project manager. Ryan Pierce produced the measured drawings in 2012. Grand Canyon National Park staff provided the information for the historical report, which was formatted by Justine Christianson, HAER Historian, 2021.

³ Tom Martin, “Chapter 15 1963 Sportyak,” on Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/466729631>, accessed April 2021.

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Photos taken in the storage warehouse.

INDEX TO BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS

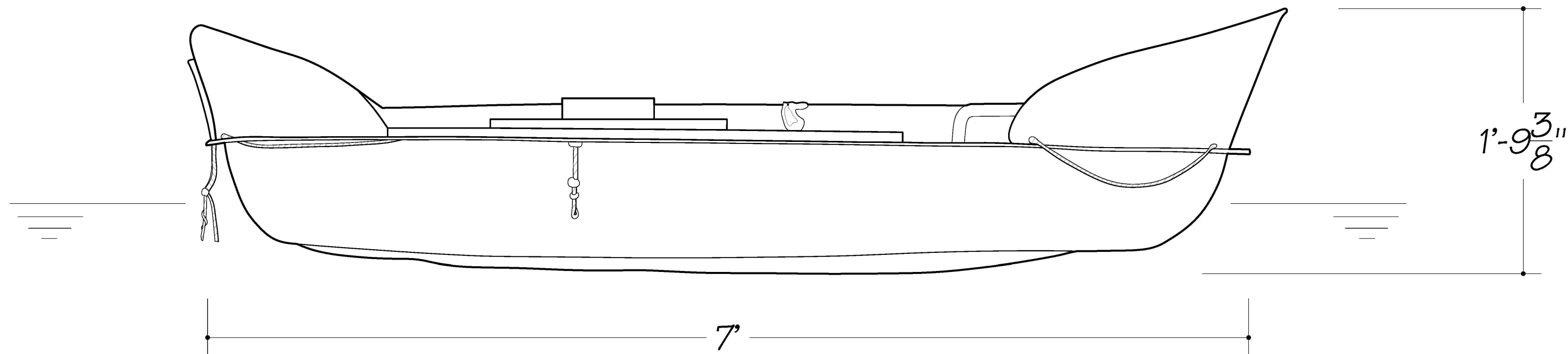
Michael C Quinn, photographer, 2012

AZ-84-1	3/4 view from the bow looking aft along the starboard side with the skunk painting on the spray shield.
AZ-84-2	3/4 view from astern looking forward along the port side including oars.
AZ-84-3	3/4 view from astern looking forward along the port side.
AZ-84-4	Port side elevation.
AZ-84-5	Top view showing interior.
AZ-84-6	Bottom view.
AZ-84-7	Front view at bow looking aft showing skunk painting on the spray shield.
AZ-84-8	Stern view looking forward with "DOCK" painted on the spray shield.
AZ-84-9	Detail at bow showing spray shield interior and oars.

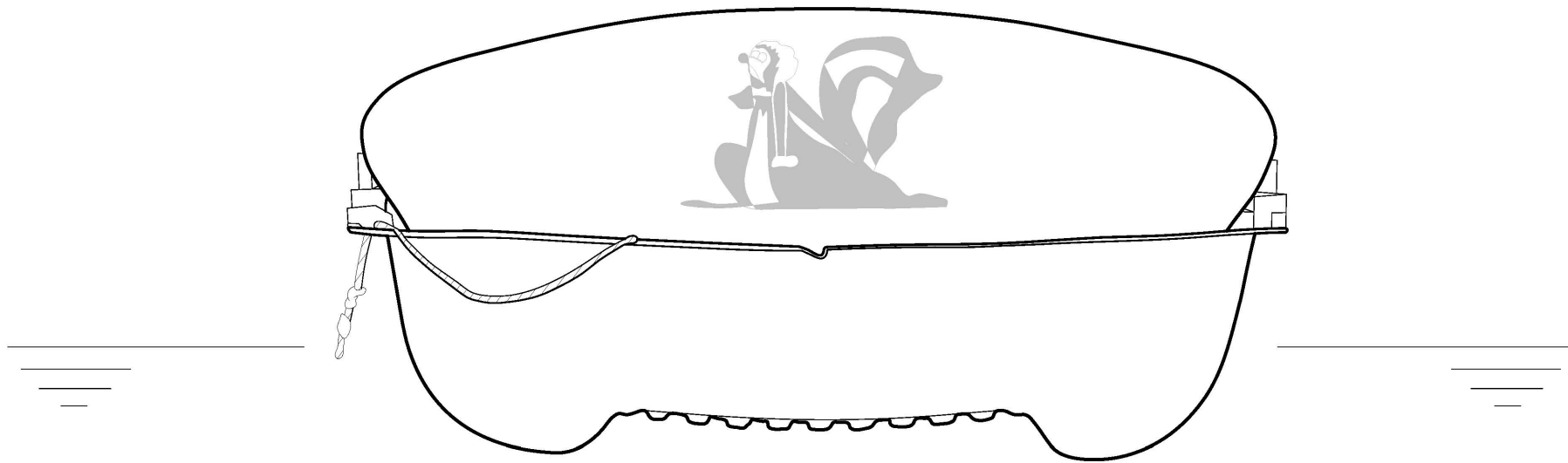
Sportyak *Dock*

Colorado River Boat

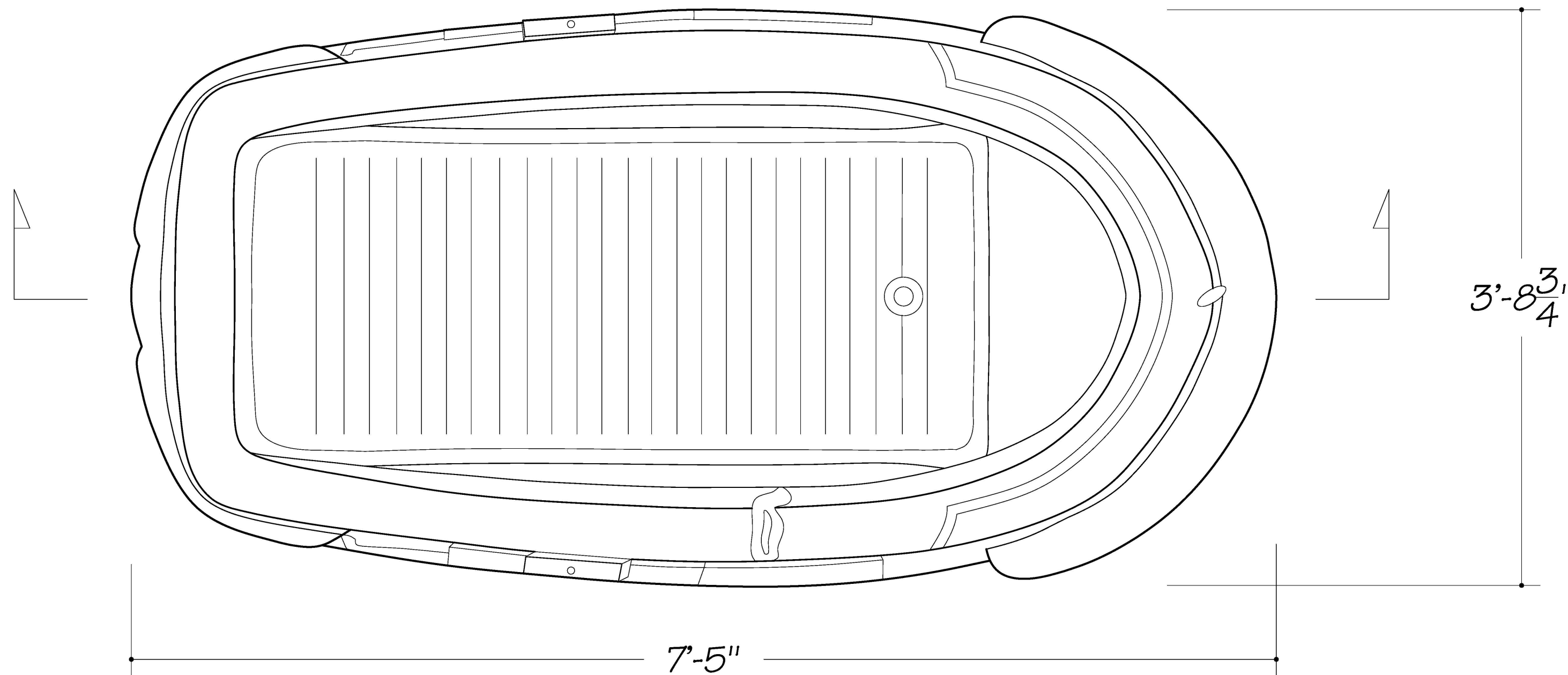
Plan/Elevations



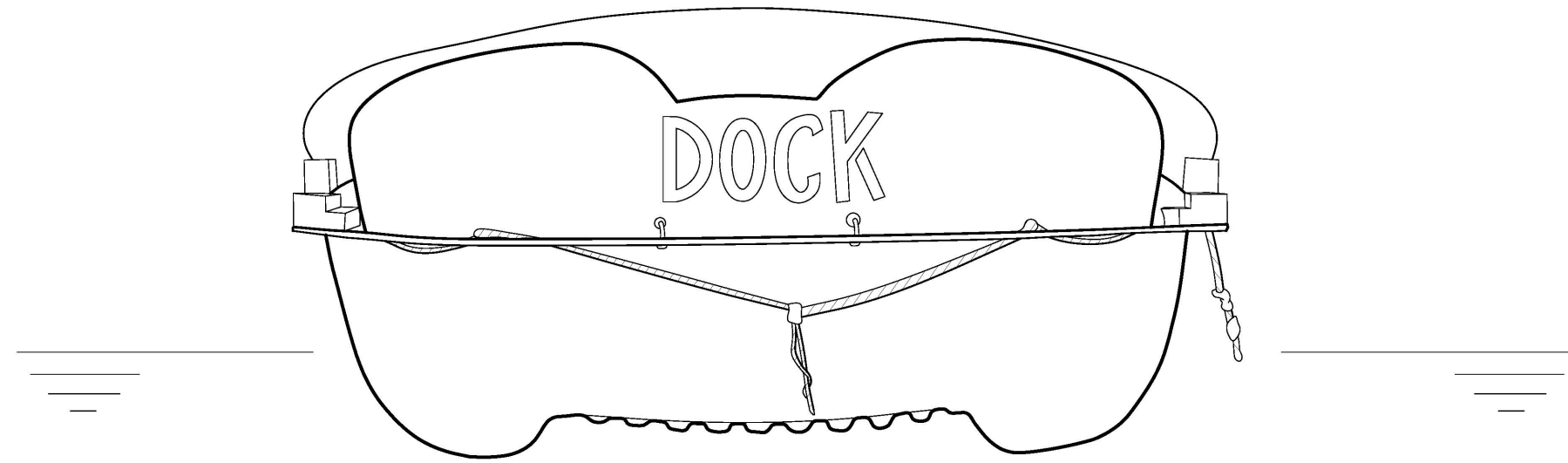
Starboard Elevation



Bow Elevation

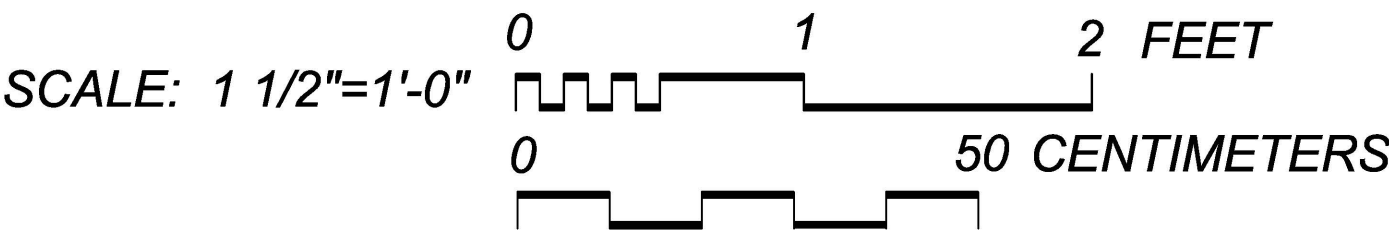
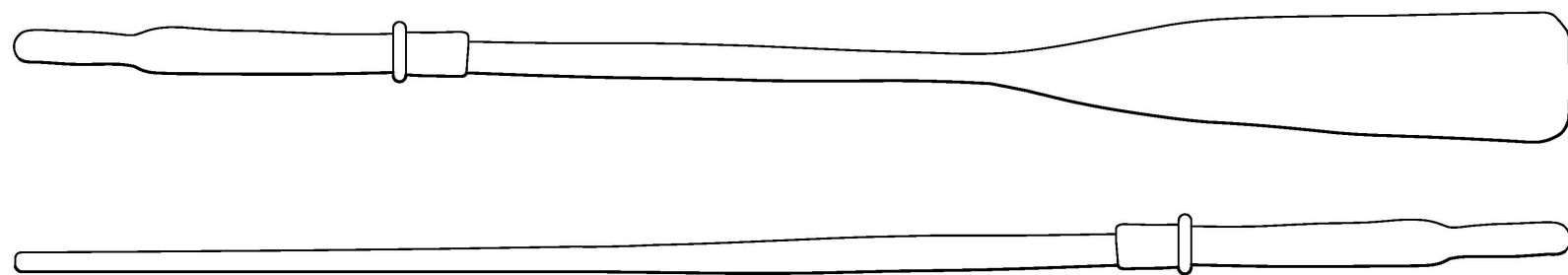


Plan



Stern Elevation

Sportyak Oars

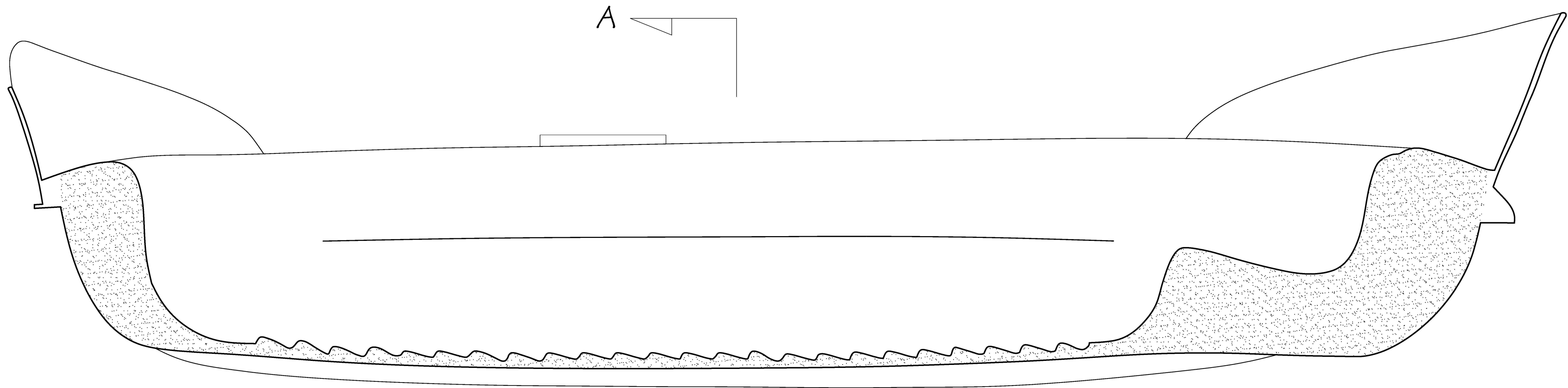


Note: This boat is made from two roto-molded polyethelene halves welded together and filled with styrofoam for flotation in case of rupture.

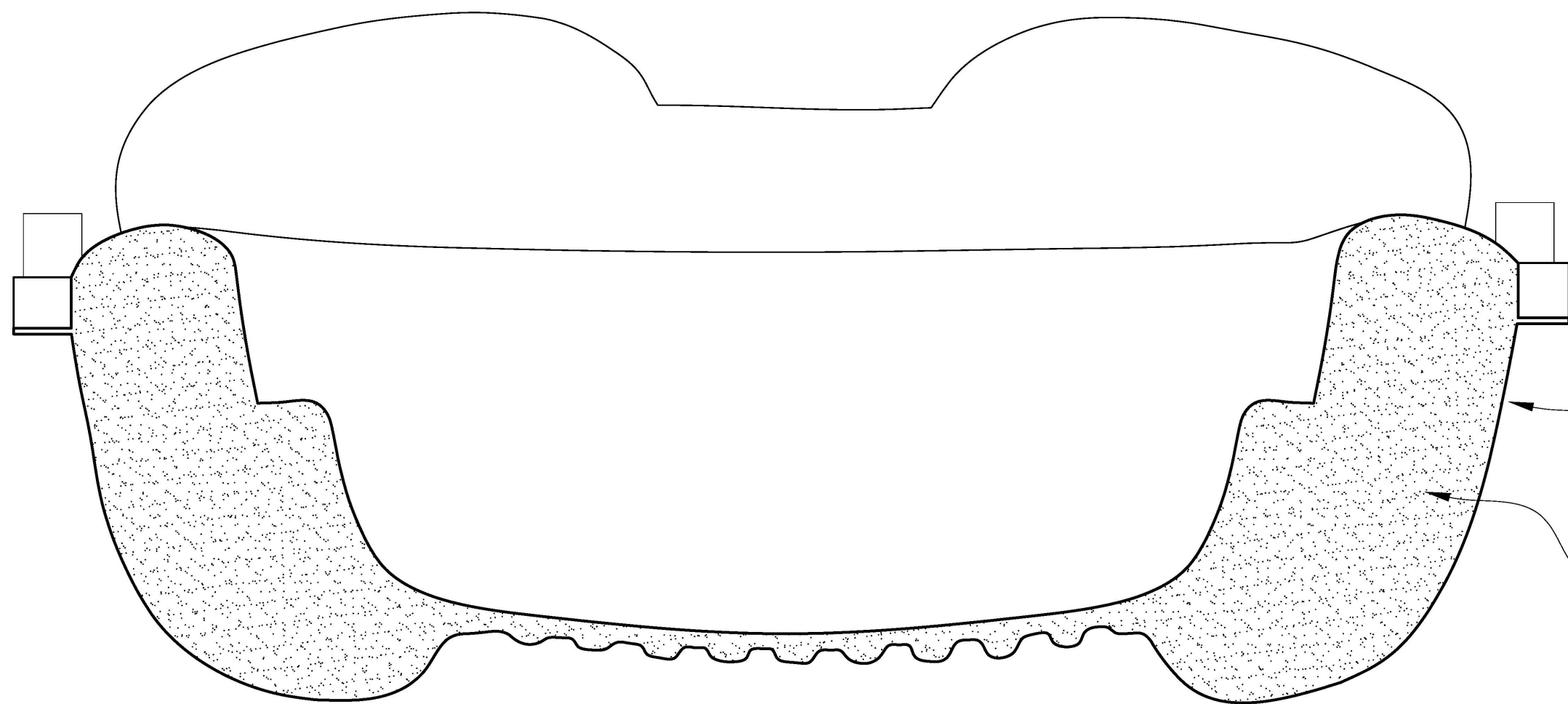
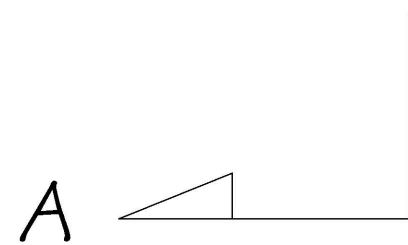
Sportyak *Dock*

Colorado River Boat

Inboard Profile/Section



Inboard Profile



Roro-molded Polyethelene Plastic Shell
Foam Fill

Section A-A

SCALE: 3" = 1'-0"

0	5	10	15	20
CENTIMETERS				

0	6 inches	1 FEET
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Note: This boat is made from two roro-molded polyethelene halves welded together and filled with styrofoam for flotation in case of rupture.

Sportyak *Dock*

Colorado River Boat

Lines

Station Sections

