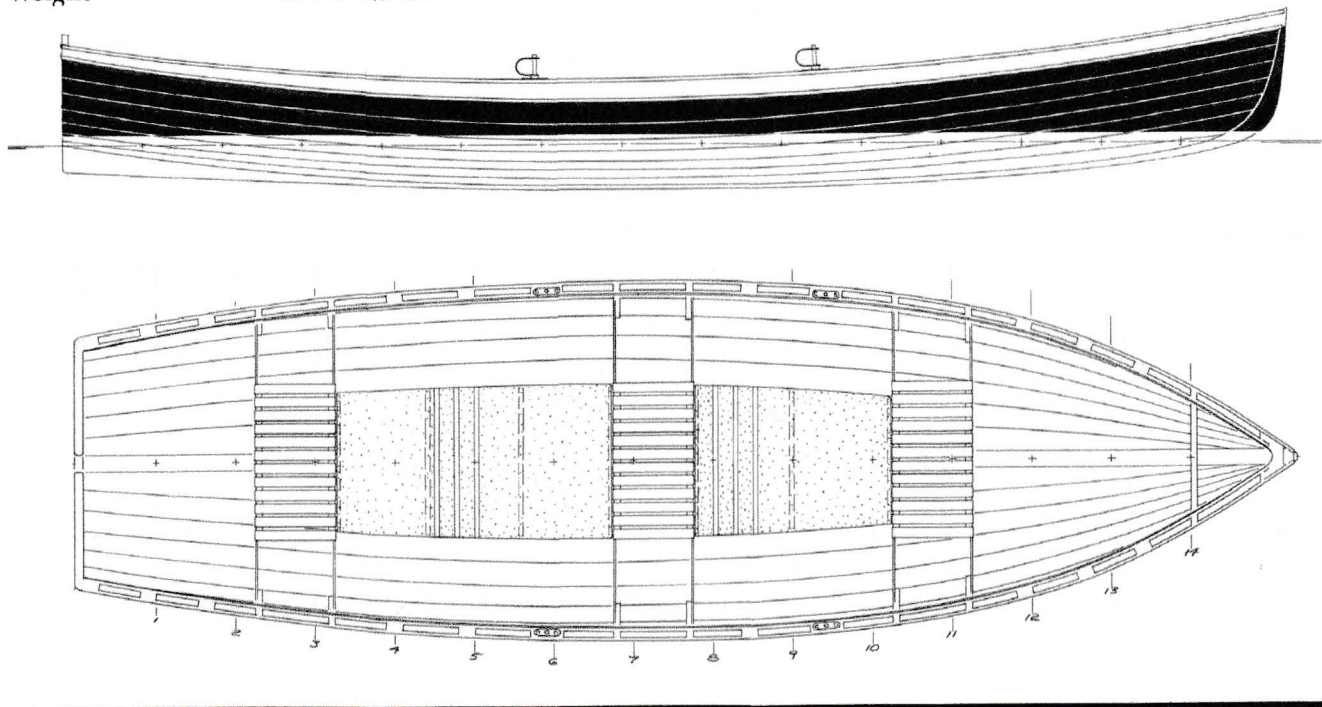


15'4" Spur II

by Philip C. Bolger

PARTICULARS

LOA	18'
LWL	16'6"
Beam	3'1"
Draft	4"
Weight	about 125 lbs



If boat design names were like book titles, this would surely be subtitled, "A Fast and Elegant Pulling Boat."

A long time ago, noted designer Philip C. Bolger designed a Whitehall-type boat named Spur, but the striking hull proved heavy and difficult to build. During the next three decades, he drew several lighter and more efficient pulling boats. This evolution culminated with Spur II, his Design No. 600 and the final boat that he created for his own use. Compared to her Whitehall forebear, Spur II shows simpler and gentler curves. The glued-lapstrake prototype went together in about 85 hours and finished out at less than 100 lbs.

This new Spur floats lightly. Bolger explained: "She disturbs the water noticeably less than some narrower boats.... With comparable weight, the narrow hull floats deeper and has to move the water she's encountering a greater vertical distance, generating comparatively deep waves." As we pull harder, Spur II simply goes faster without digging a deep hole. Her narrow waterline and strongly raked topsides help give smooth motion and easy speed in rough water.

Bolger created the auxiliary sailing rig in response to a chorus of "What a nice rowboat! Let's sail it!" He drew a rig that interferes little with rowing. The spars stow out to the sides, and all of the sailing paraphernalia can be removed quickly.

Tiller lines allow us to keep our weight far forward of the transom...which is just as well, considering this hull's soft quarters. We can sit on the wide thwart that connects the leeboards, and so won't need to endure discomfort from the hull's narrow rails.

Bolger kept Spur II for the rest of his years and often rowed the boat with his wife and design partner Susanne Altenburger. He held fond memories: "We've had some good times... a pull up the Sudbury and Assabet Rivers (Thoreau country), and out of Newport on a day when five 12-Meters were racing reefed, and everybody on Narragansett Bay got wet except for us."

We can learn much from a boat that a respected designer drew for himself.