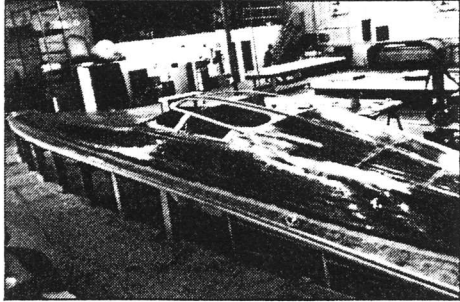


Schoell's Testing Shows Balsa Boat

"The foams don't show sufficient compression strength until you get into the very high densities, which means additional weight in the core, and honeycomb cells are so much larger than balsa's elongated hexagonal cells that there is much less cellular material for the fiber-resin skins to adhere to for optimum bond strength," Schoell explained.



A view of the 50' Varne-infinity offshore raceboat designed and built by Harry L. Schoell of Fort Lauderdale. The semi-enclosed cockpits can be seen.

In the boat business for more than 30 years as builder, designer and marine owner-operator, Schoell presently owns three companies — Schoell Marine for design work, Nautical Engineering for construction, and Marina 84, the yard and marina. They build power yachts to 145 feet, all cored with Baltek balsa.

Varns' Infinity is 50 feet overall with an eight-foot beam and dry weight of five tons. It carries 350 gallons of diesel fuel. a 14-foot wing with a 15-degree dihedral gives the boat some 1,600 pounds of lift when running at race speeds.

Owner Roth chose diesel power over petrol, Schoell said, because of the reliability and lower flashpoint of diesel fuel. Also, as diesel engines use 30-50 percent less fuel than petrol engines, in a long race a diesel boat has to carry less fuel. That translates into substantial weight reduction and faster speeds.

The Merlins, engineered by Bill Lawson of Ft. Lauderdale, head of the Merlin Marine Engine Corp., are high-speed, light-weight 7.8 liter engines.

Varn Racing plans call for nine APBA national races in 1988-89, three record distance races, the U.S. World Cup Championship at Key West this November, and racing in Hawaii next January. The boat's premiere on the racing circuit will be the Trump's Castle Race at Atlantic City, N.J., Sept. 24 followed by the Miami-Nassau-Miami Sea Race Oct. 15. Chris Von Zwehl of Port Washington, N.Y., is the Team Director and driver with his sister Joanne, also Port Washington, as navigator. Crew chief and systems analyst is Ben Ligeri with Bruce Kaplan as promotion manager.