



1977 Sparkman & Stephens US-27 Enterprise

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or scheduling a showing?

Please reach out to connor@usmmasailing.org

1977 US-27 Enterprise

Designed by Sparkman & Stephens (Olin Stephens & David Pedrick) and built of aluminum at Minneford Yacht Yard in 1977, Enterprise (US-27) was conceived as an “improved Courageous” for the 23rd America’s Cup. Pioneering in both hull design and sail technology, she remains one of the most innovative Twelves ever built – and today is among the best-prepared Modern Division 12 Metres in the world.

Refit Summary:

Virtually everything on Enterprise was upgraded or replaced – except the hull and original framework – during a two-year refit ahead of the 2019 12 Metre World Championship.

Structure & Deck

- New keel design developed with Sparkman & Stephens and David Pedrick
- Replacement of original barn-door rudder with a modern spade rudder
- Redesigned deck with new cockpits, spinnaker pole trough, and chainplate structures
- Cockpit lowered for better grinder ergonomics and improved boom clearance
- Optimized working deck layout with spartan, carbon-enhanced detailing

Rigging & Spars

- New aluminum mast (class-compliant)
- Extensive use of carbon fiber for spars, fittings, and support structures
- Foretriangle “J” dimension restored to 24 ft, correcting original design limitation
- Modernized sail handling systems, including TP52-style spinnaker take-down through forward hatch

Winches & Systems

- All-new Harken hydraulics integrated throughout
- Custom carbon trumpets for clean, efficient control line runs
- Halyard reels upgraded with ratchet-based systems for effortless hoists and drops
- Pedestal-driven rotary pump added to power hydraulics during racing
- Streamlined traveler and mainsheet systems, including a Harken “magic wheel” below decks



Specifications:

- **LOA:** 20.15m (66ft 1in)
- **LWL:** 13.41m (44ft 0in)
- **Beam:** 3.78m (12ft 5in)
- **Draught:** 3.78m (12ft 5in)
- **Displacement:** 25.7 tonnes
- **Sail area:** 168m² (1,808ft²)
- **Design:** Sparkman & Stephens
- **Year:** 1977
- **Builder:** Minneford Yacht Yard, Inc.

Vessel History:

- **America’s Cup Heritage** – Built for the 1977 Cup defense, skippered by Lowell North.
- **Innovative Design** – First 12 Metre to undergo large-scale tank testing; first to use laminate sails.
- **Proven Race Record** – Winner of NYYC’s Lipton Memorial Trophy and Caritas Cup; 2nd place in the Modern Division at the 2019 12mR Worlds.
- **Extensive Refit** – New keel, spade rudder, modern deck, carbon systems, and race-ready rig by New England Boatworks.
- **Actively Campaigned** – Maintained by the US Merchant Marine Academy Sailing Foundation and sailed by David Askew.



Race Results:

- **2023 12 Metre Pre-Worlds:** Won the Modern Division of the Pre-Worlds in Newport, RI, sailing under the US-27 sail number.
- **2019 12 Metre World Championship:** Achieved second place in the Modern Division, completing the nine-race series with two first-place finishes.

Earlier Achievements (1977–1980)

- Won the Lipton Memorial Trophy (NYYC, 1977) and Caritas Cup (NYYC, 1977 & 1980) in New York. (From your supplied history)
- Served as trial horse to Freedom in the 1980 Cup program. (From your history)

Summary:

Enterprise (US-27) blends America's Cup heritage with modern race-ready performance. Fully refit and actively campaigned, she remains a standout in the 12 Metre fleet. Please reach out for more information, full specifications, or to arrange a viewing.





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USMMA Sailing Foundation Inc. | Page 3