



## SWEDISH STYLE SEDUCES SOUTH FLORIDA ENTREPRENEUR

Swedish yacht builder Delta Powerboats has inked a deal with Miami-based entrepreneur and racecar driver Chapman Ducote for an exclusive importer-dealer arrangement for the Americas. Ducote may be well known as a Le Mans driver and team owner but he also is a life-long boater, avid spear fisherman and diver. As a racer, he also has first-hand appreciation for the virtues of carbon fiber.

Delta has built carbon-fiber sport and cruising boats from 26 to 86 feet for a decade. All Delta vessels are semi-custom and blend strong, lightweight, offshore-capable hulls with sophisticated, Scandinavian-inspired interiors. The yard's founders include sailors, and the boats they build are sturdy vessels with economical fuel consumption and practical thinking built into their minimalist interiors.

One of the first yachts Delta showcased in the Americas is a 54-footer with Volvo Penta IPS drives. A sea trial on this model demonstrated just how great a ride this Lars Modin-designed, 100-percent carbon-fiber hull provides. Fuel consumption for the 15-ton displacement (light) boat is about a gallon a mile at 20 knots

and top speed is around 38 knots.

Two of the flagship Delta 88s, also equipped with IPS drives

and joystick operation, have been delivered to date, a third is in the beginning stages. "We are in serious discussions with two American customers about this hull," says Ducote, who hopes to have a Delta 88 available to showcase in the United States no later than 2015.

Although the 54 and the 88 will be his primary focus, Delta Powerboat's new director of the Americas sees other opportunities for the brand to grow here. "Our 26-footer will make a fantastic megayacht tender, so I'll be bringing a few of those over for that purpose," he says.

Thinking long term and convinced of the brand's ultimate success in this market, Ducote foresees using a site he's purchased along the Miami River as a potential service center. [www.deltapowerboats.us](http://www.deltapowerboats.us); (305) 439-5803

