



This is what our 1955 Wagemaker Wolverine looked like before we started the restoration process. I read once that if you want something to look good you'll need to wet it down to bring out the colour, and to hide any imperfections. The photo above is of a drenched, soaking wet, saturated boat. There's not a seam or a joint which is not loose or leaking in the boat. Celeste wants to name it Barco de Madeira, which is Portuguese for boat of wood. Celeste's father was from the island Madeira, and Madeira means wood, which is a nice play on words.

We think it's a 1955 model because of the hull number, pictured below.



This Evinrude plate on the helm makes me think that it originally came with an Evinrude outboard motor.



Most of the hardware seems to be correct for the period, but we have little evidence that it came as standard equipment on the boat itself when it was purchased new.





After removing the hardware, we removed the transom riser which someone had added so that they could fit a 20 or 25 inch outboard. Luckily the existing transom plate was still in good condition. It will be removed later during the restoration process to be rebuilt.





It helps to have teenagers to get into small corners.

This is Sebastian removing the bench rails. The rails are the exact same height as the chine/rub-rail on the outside of the hull. Clever design. The helm plate also acts as a bulkhead, which I thought would release a whole bunch of tension once removed, but the hull pulled away very little. The hull is surprisingly flexible but has a great memory. At this stage we started seeing evidence of all the repairs that had been made over the past 62 years.



One of the nice things about disassembling such an old craft is that you get to see what the wood looked like originally. There's also some notes and markings on the wood which I think must have

been made by the builders.





Here Sebastian is helping me remove some of the hardware so we could get to a completely stripped down hull before we start the restoration project in full force. Given that I only have weekends available to work on the project, it is a blessing to have Celeste, Sebastian, and Gideon help.

