

Learning about Inflatable Boats



Bridget & Rob O'Brian
Owners - We are here to help you!
Maine-based, Family Owned

North Atlantic Inflatables

- ★ Filling a need for an affordable, good quality dinghy (SIB or RIB)
- ★ Bridget and Rob O'Brian have been the owners since in 2014
- ★ Based in Maine



“Inflatable Boat”

means the tubes on the sides are inflated

Our Hulls vary

- ★ Rigid Inflatable Bottom- RIB
- ★ Soft Inflatable Bottom - SIB (keel is inflated)

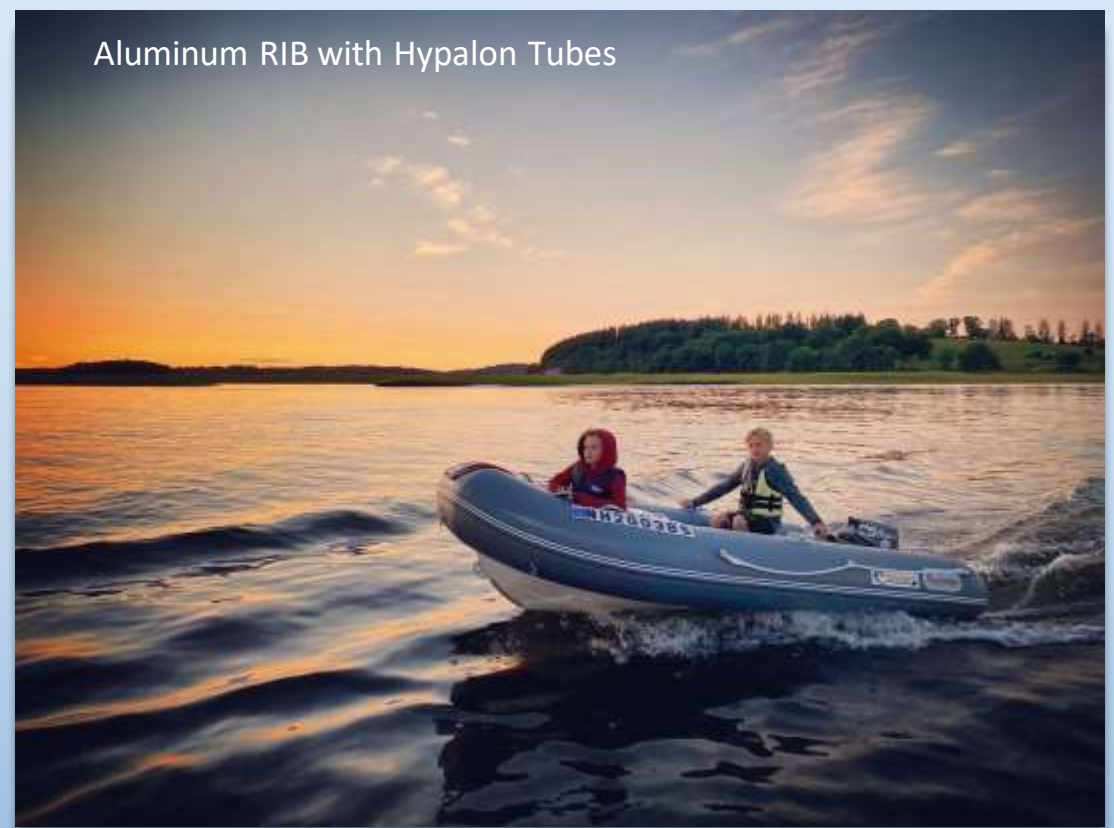
Our Materials vary

- ★ Rigid Hulls can be fiberglass or aluminum
- ★ Soft Hulls are PVC or Hypalon fabric
- ★ Tubes can be Hypalon or PVC fabric

Our Construction varies

- ★ # of chambers (3 min to 6 max)
- ★ Welded seams on PVC & glued seams on Hypalon
- ★ Extra handles, lifting eyes, pressure relief valves on RIBs, reinforced keel and stern tubes, and more!

Aluminum RIB with Hypalon Tubes



Air Deck Floor in an Inflatable Keel Boat



Trade offs with more Traditional Boats

Why do police, FD, and Search & Rescue groups use Inflatable Boats?

- Very Stable
- Super Buoyancy
- Can carry more weight / foot
- Light to tow or pick up
- Affordable



Europeans are heavy users of Inflatables

- Economical (lighter & more fuel efficient)
- Easy storage (tubes deflate, some roll up & all are lighter)

Biggest trade off - maintenance/longevity

- Fabric tubes do require care & maintenance
- Fabric must be strong quality
- Tubes can be punctured, most are easily repaired



Tube Fabric choice: Hypalon vs PVC

Hypalon is a must for southern climates, more expensive but lasts 20+ years, higher resale value

PVC is fine for northern climates, lasts 8-12 years, can prolong life with sun protection, ours have welded seams

How to Care for Either Fabric

Boat Covers

Inflatable Boat Cleaners

Sun Protectants

Storage

Wash off Salt for Long Term Storage



Sun and Chemicals impact Inflatable Boat Fabrics



Hull choice: Soft or Rigid Hull?

SIB

**Soft Bottom Boat
or Inflatable Keel**

RIB

Rigid Bottom Boat



Hull choice: Inflatable or Rigid Hull?

SIB Options

- V comes from an inflatable keel under floor
- **Air Deck (Blow Up) Floor** - light & easy to assemble, a little less stable, like a paddle board floor
- **Aluminum Panel Floor** - harder to assembly but very stable, heavier boat



RIB Options

- Deeper V Hull than SIB
- Welded in Lifting & Towing Eyes
- **Aluminum Hull**
- **Fiberglass Hull**



How are you going to use your inflatable boat?

As a ...

- **Tender** from your larger boat to your mooring or short beach runs?
- **Commuter Boat** to go longer distances
- **Primary Boat** to explore, water skiing, or fish



What kind of **environment** will you be boating in?

- Sandy bottom?
- Rocky bottom?
- Rough waters?
- Calm waters?



Where is your inflatable boat going to **live**?

Towing Behind a Trawler

You can use either an SIB or RIB

Towing Behind a Faster Boat

You need a RIB



On Davits

Weight/Size matters

(don't assume SIB is less weight than a RIB)

On a boat deck or on a dock

In the water next to a dock

On a trailer

On a beach



What are you **transporting** with your inflatable boat (i.e. people, pets, stuff)?



Dog claws do not hurt the fabric



What Accessories Do You Need?

- Console (for RIB only)
- Seats
- Handrails / Grab Rails
- Cushions
- Ladders
- Navigation Lights
- Dinghy Wheels
- Safety Equipment
- Anchors
- Covers
- Trailer

Motor options

- Motor - electric or gas
- Remote or Tiller Steering
- Electric or Manual start
- Weight & Horsepower
- Configuration - internal or external fuel tank
- Shaft length

