



+



Order your own copy of "The Story of Nimbus" at [www.nimbusboats.com](http://www.nimbusboats.com) and get a free Nimbus pennant.







## True craftsmanship at Storebro school

# Boat Building

Estonian boat builders – refugees from World War II – created an amazing boat building and joinery tradition in Storebro, deep in the forests of Småland province.

They taught a superior standard of craftsmanship, that a decade later was to provide the foundations for the district's unique school of boat building. The school has recently celebrated its 50th anniversary and is fully active, providing education at upper secondary level.

Håkan Phalén is a teacher at the Storebro School of Boat Building and his background is undeniably appropriate:

I went to this school myself," he says. "When I'd finished my training I worked at the Storebro Bruk yard for ten years. The yard was a good training ground, just as the school had been. I got to work with "everything" and then left to start my own business. But when I was offered a teaching position at the school I didn't hesitate."

He works at the school together with colleague Kenth Alexandersson on shaping these sometimes unruly youngsters into skilful boat builders.

They tell us that the school was founded by the yard in 1955, celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2005, and was taken over by the Vimmerby municipality in 1964. Since then the Storebro school of boat building has been one of the very few boat building upper secondary schools in Sweden, taking about a dozen new students each year from many



different places. The school includes an adult education curriculum.

The students study their regular syllabus subjects at the Vimmerby upper secondary school, ten kilometres to the north, while practical boat building education is conducted in Storebro.



"The students can work with their own projects – a dingy and a more advanced boat design – and they can renovate old boats," says Håkan Phalén. "In order to become

accustomed to working in wood, each student gets to begin by making their own beautiful toolbox according to our universal design".



The students learn to work with hand tools, they practice modelling, design and joinery and work in different woods such as oak, teak and mahogany.