

Sunny solutions

The new Jeanneau Sun Odyssey 409 faces a stiff test and shows she has a lot of good solutions on board.

Words Rebecca Hayter Photos Will Calver



At a glance ▶ length 12.34m ▶ beam 3.99m ▶ displacement 7860kg ▶ engine Yanmar 40hp ▶ price as tested NZ\$390,000 (including shipping, GST, duty and options)

New Boats

The wonderful part of our day on the newly-released Jeanneau Sun Odyssey 409 was that the weather was awful. Those who had organised the day scored “could do better” with me, but it did mean we tested an important aspect of the owner’s wishlist: that the yacht is easy to sail short-handed, including in unfriendly weather.

So although the squalls of 30 knots and chilling rain between bouts of 14 knots and sunshine didn’t thrill me, they did prove that the single-line reefing system was oh-so-simple to operate. Taking reefs in and out also provided a good excuse to shelter under the Doyles-made dodger.

We did plenty of tacking too, to show our sunny side to the photographer whenever we had a sunny side. Owner/skipper Mike Good has opted for a self-tacking headsail on *Good Solution*, so tacking was mostly a one-person job. For a bear-away or to come up on the wind, we trimmed the jib sheet on the coachroof winch.

Mike first featured in *Boating NZ* on his second Jeanneau, a 39i also named *Good Solution*. He purchased the 409 earlier this year, shortly before the New Zealand Jeanneau agency changed hands; it is now with Jason Snashall of Orakei Boat Sales in Auckland.

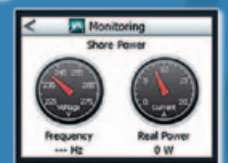
CZONE™ digital control & monitoring



BEP Marine’s new CZONE™ system combines all of your monitoring and circuit control into one intelligent package, an integrated solution that looks after the technical side of boating while you enjoy the fun side.

CZONE™ is expandable, set it up as a monitoring system or install the complete package for the kind of user friendly integration that you have come to expect from your car.

YOUR INTEGRATED SOLUTION



- Waterproof colour screen
- Tank Monitoring (Fuel, water etc)
- Battery monitoring
- AC power monitoring
- Alarm monitoring (High bilge water, tank levels, power levels...)
- Turn your entire electrical system on and off with one push of a button
- Wireless remote controllers
- Integrated timers and dimmers
- Circuit protection and switching
- Automated control
- Reduced electrical installation times and cable costs

0212501

MARINCO
ELECTRICAL GROUP

BEP

Ph (09) 415 7261, 13 Tarnedale Grove, Albany,
Auckland, New Zealand.
enquiries@bepmarine.com www.bepmarine.com

Test conditions ▶ Squally SW gusting 30 knots

“Squalls of 30 knots and chilling rain did prove that the single-line reefing system was oh-so-simple to operate”



Hard chines contribute to the 409's admirable stiffness

Mike and his partner Mandy Leoni enjoy cruising two-handed, and Mike believes the best boats to race on are other people's, so *Good Solution* is a dedicated cruising boat.

Jeanneau developed the Sun Odyssey 409 model with designer Philippe Briand and launched it in 2011. There are several options in layouts, fabrics and flooring, and packages such as electronic and navigation, which Mike selected along with an extra 200-litre water tank.

The Sun Odyssey range features hard chines, which are making a comeback in yachting trends, including among grand prix racing yachts. The chine seems to contribute to the boat's upwind performance. In the squalls, we heeled over to around 22 degrees and then comfortably maintained that angle, something which will be appreciated when *Good Solution* has novice sailors onboard.

The Yanmar 40hp saildrive spins a three-bladed Gori prop with overdrive,



Well designed T-shaped helm station with twin wheels



The self-tacking jib is easy to use

which Mike sourced locally.

“The overdrive has advantages when motorsailing,” he says. “It revs out at 3200rpm but if you put it into reverse gently then put it in forward quickly, it changes the pitch and won't rev past 2600 to 2700rpm, but it goes faster.”

Good Solution is berthed at Half Moon

Bay Marina, east of Auckland City. Motoring forward out of the berth was easy but when we reversed into the berth later that day, there was a reasonable breeze on the starboard aft quarter. The yacht tracked well in reverse, with Mike exhibiting confidence on the throttle.

For less experienced owners, Jeanneau

has recently launched the first 360-degree docking system for a production yacht. It combines a joystick and bow thruster with a saildrive that turns through 360 degrees. The helmsman spins the joystick or moves it forward, back or sideways, and the yacht mirrors those moves with sail drive and bowthruster. The concept has



Clean, uncluttered decks with sheets run neatly under the coamings



Plumb bow demands care weighing anchor

been available for powerboats for about a decade, but now yachts can go sideways too. The cockpit is standard T-shaped with twin helmstations. The swim platform with folding ladder lowers manually for easy boarding from the marina or the water. A dedicated slot in the transom stows the washboards; we like that.

The cockpit table has ice bin or storage in the centre, cup holders, lifting flaps either side, and LED lights for evening ambience. The touchscreen, 7-inch Garmin chartplotter combo swivels so it is easy to see from either helm station.

Hatches in darkened glass curve over the cockpit edge of the coachroof. The hatches can be set at various stages from open to closed and are handy for managing control lines from the jammers as the lines fall to rest on the cabin soles, not on the berths.

The jammers for halyards, mainsail and reefing controls, genoa/jib furler, sheet for self-tacking jib and traveller are on the coachroof, with Harken 40 winches. The self-tacking jib gives a working sail area of 71.7m². The 105 percent overlap headsail gives a working sail area of 76m² and the 140 percent overlap headsail increases the working sail area to 89.6m². These overlappers would be trimmed on the primaries, but Mike is so happy with the



Hella marine

Vision and Innovation



Light up your life

Advanced LED lighting offering class leading energy efficiency, completely sealed housings and sophisticated electronic protection to ensure you enjoy your surroundings without excess strain to batteries or compromising safety. The true 'Fit and forget' solution for peace of mind on the water.



Ultra durable and power saving Hella marine LED technology is the preferred choice of boat builders, owners and operators worldwide. Hella marine LED navigation, interior, floodlight and courtesy lamps carry a 5 year warranty.

Hella marine



www.hellamarine.com info@hellamarine.com +64 9 577 0000

0212230

ease of the self-tacker that he may not order a bigger genoa.

The mainsheet is on the German system, so the mainsheet runs forward either side from the end of the boom to the mast and then back down both sides to the two-speed Harken 46 winches in the cockpit.

The mainsheet and genoa sheets run under the coamings to emerge at the jammers just in front of the helmstations; the tails stow neatly in bins which double as coaming seats for the helms, an unusual feature in a production yacht.

We put one reef in the mainsail at 27 knots true wind speed and were doing 6.9 knots boat speed with just-cracked sheets. Easing away to a broad reach in 11 knots, we were doing 6.0 knots under the self-tacking jib and with the yacht fully laden with 500 litres of water and 200 litres of fuel. In 10 knots, at an apparent wind angle of 35 degrees, our boat speed was 6.4 knots.

Below decks, the interior has a noticeably better finish than previous ranges of Jeanneau yachts. Mike installed the navigation pack which includes Raymarine instruments and autopilot, and also selected a Fusion stereo with iPod coverage from his iPhone, and a fixed wire remote to the pod for the chartplotter so he has full access to his music from the helm.

There are several layout options involving three cabins, or two cabins and a cockpit sail locker. The forward cabin represents a third of the yacht's length and can include an en suite with head or a vanity table. Mike chose the three-cabin layout with no head or vanity in the forward cabin.

"We thought we had made a mistake and should have had the other toilet or make-up table but the more we use it, the more we both love that dressing space," he says. "We would rather have it than the bathroom."

On *Good Solution*, the port quarter-berth is for friends who come cruising and the starboard one is Jack and Jenny's room, Jack being the Lazyjacks bean bag, Jenny being the gennaker.

The boat has plenty of natural light throughout from eight ports in the topsides and flush hatches. The saloon has good handholds, attractively presented in stainless steel with faux leather covers or as recessed timber trim in the ceiling. Lockers either side provide storage but they're not deep. All stowage spaces have covers, which makes for a tidier boat.

The port side has the nav station and a



The boat's interior displays a better finish than previous ranges of Jeanneau yachts



The 40hp Yanmar is standard; the Gori propeller with 'overdrive' is not



Natural light streams in through hatches and ports – with sliding covers in the sleeping cabins





The master cabin: plenty of room to dress but no en suite bathroom



The port quarter-berth is for guests; the starboard cabin is used for sails



The day head has a Perspex shower door

tight two-seater with chart table between, which could double as a coffee table or even dining for two. The day head has a Perspex shower door to keep spray off the toilet and towels. The hot water cylinder heats from the motor or 240V shore power. The saloon table is to starboard, separated from the galley by a low Perspex screen.

The galley has a small double sink, top loading fridge, swing-out rubbish bin, a gimbaled two-burner stove and a magazine/chart rack at the end of the galley bench. Lockers give excellent space behind the galley but bench space is sparse. The best solution would be to pass the breadboard, knife and vegetables with a request for chop, dice or julienne please, to those sitting at the saloon table.

Construction is GRP hand-laid with a barrier coat to protect against osmosis, and isophthalic NPG gelcoat. In Jeanneau's Prisma Process, the coring and laminate materials for the deck are laid up dry before the mould is closed and resin

"Jeanneau has recently launched the first 360-degree docking system... now yachts can go sideways too."

is injected into the void. This process reduces the weight by 30 percent, according to Jeanneau.

The bulkheads are bonded to hull and deck using high performance polyurethane adhesives. Hull and deck are joined on an inward turning flange and bonded with high performance adhesives and through-bolts.

As a dedicated cruising boat for two, *Good Solution* is well-mannered, easy to handle and comes with home comforts such as a spacious bathroom and hot water. Her marina berth is often empty and she's sure to do many miles this summer. ■

BEACON

SAILS RIGGING ELECTRONICS



Affordable racing with **BEACON SAILS**

Exclusive supplier of cordage to **ICEBREAKER**



FULL TECHNICAL SUPPORT from the Beacon Team from conception to the water, "couldn't be happier" **Icebreaker**

Supply, install, commission, calibrate, **BEACON ELECTRONICS**



Cnr Westhaven Drive & Curran Street, Westhaven, Auckland
T (09) 360 0121 ANGUS 021 585 310 SCOTT 021 394 393
E info@beaconmarine.co.nz



BEACON SAILS Unit 2, 4 Madden Place, Wynyard Quarter
T (09) 360 0121 Simon Kidd M 021 466 674
Ben Costello M 021 878 875
www.beaconmarine.co.nz

0212241

Jeanneau Sun Odyssey 409

technical

- overall length 12.34m
- waterline length 11.00m
- beam 3.99m
- displacement 7860kg
- standard draft 2.10m
- shoal draft 1.55m
- engine Yanmar 40hp
- standard sail area 76m²
- performance sail area 89.6m²
- performance self-tacking sail area 71.7m²
- liferaft locker under aft cockpit floor
- price as tested NZ\$390,000
(including shipping, GST, duty and options)
- enquiries Orakei Marina 09 524 8444,
www.orakeiyachtsales.co.nz

PROS

- Easy to sail short-handed – mainsheet controls close to helms, self-tacking jib, single line reefing, a stiff yacht
- Full range of options in equipment and layout
- Gori prop, sourced locally, gives good control in reverse
- Although it doesn't feature on this boat, Jeanneau is the first production yacht range to offer a 360-degree docking system

CONS

- Bench space is sparse in the galley
- Performance reflects the yacht's full body and 7,860kg displacement – perfectly acceptable for cruising

