

New Zealand entrepreneur Alan Gibbs founded the company in 1996 after having difficulties using boats in a shallow harbor where the tide went out a long way, Jenkins said.

Gibbs searched in the United Kingdom and United States to obtain the right people and technologies, he said.

"The team that's been assembled over 15 years encompasses the creativity of the Kiwis and the ingenuity of the Brits and the industry of the USA," Jenkins said.

The company, based in Auburn Hills, Mich., has spent more than \$200 million developing its products, dedicated more than 2 million hours' worth of engineering time to those efforts and patented more than 100 inventions.



Besides solving the technical challenges of high-speed amphibious craft, the company also faced the discipline of turning them into real products, Jenkins said. Gibbs has produced eight distinctly different products since the company's founding, he said.

Recent natural disasters, such as Hurricane Katrina, the tsunami in Japan and flooding in Australia, demonstrate the need for such vehicles, Jenkins said.

The Phibian, which is 8.3 feet wide and about 12 feet tall, is constructed largely from strong, lightweight carbon fiber and can carry up to three crew members and 12 passengers. Only one person is needed to operate the vehicle, which has a ground clearance of 14 inches, said Orest Ukrainsky, vice president of sales and manufacturing-commercial.

While seemingly top-heavy to the casual observer, the vehicle is designed to be hard to capsize, he said. The vehicle is propelled in the water by twin water jets and is designed to be effective in shallow depths, officials said. The Phibian's tires retract up out of the water to reduce drag.



Besides drastically reducing the time needed to place the vehicle in the water, the Phibian eliminates the need for separate boats and trailers, company officials said.

The Phibian on display was a prototype and company officials hope to begin production soon. Prices for the vehicles, which can be customized for different users, will be set this summer, Ukrainsky said.

While the company will market the Phibian to emergency-response, law-enforcement and military clients, the vehicle also could be ideal to transport equipment for offshore industry, he said.

A 20-foot-long amphibious vehicle, the Humdinga, also will be offered by Gibbs and is designed for operations on rough terrain in remote locations, officials said.

Impressive as the Phibian's demonstration was, another Gibbs product captured the fascination of civilians present. The Aquada, which looks like a wide, tall, convertible sports car, can achieve 100 mph on land and 30 mph on water.

The vehicle, which draws allusions to the Roger Moore's submersible Lotus Esprit in "The Spy Who Loved Me," has three seats in front, with the driver's positioned in the middle for balance.

"It's probably the only vehicle with a bilge pump and a stereo system," Ukrainsky said.

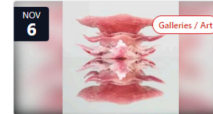
(Click on the video below for more on this story.)



LOCAL EVENTS

CREATE AN EVENT

Search for events

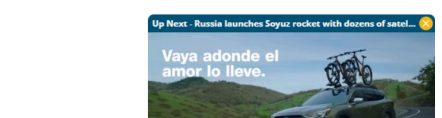
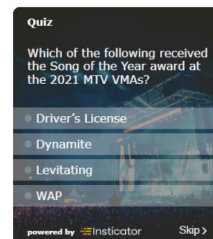
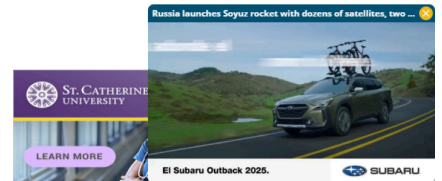
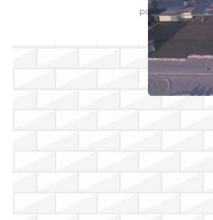


The 10th Annual Workhouse Glass International
Workhouse Arts Center 11:00AM



Voices of Service in Congress
The Vault- Capital One Hall

MORE EVENT

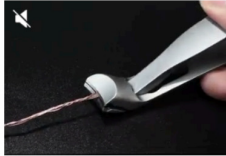


Around The Web



Here's The Average Price Of Gutter Protection In The U.S

LeafFilter Partner



This Nail Clipper is Recommended by Senior People Around the World

Sheram



Costco Shoppers Say This Wrinkle Cream is "Actually Worth It"

Vibrance



Susan From Minneapolis Lost 70 Pounds With This Little Known Method [WATCH]

Anius Solution



Always Squirt Dish Soap in Your Bath at Night if Alone, Here's Why

Life Hacks Garden



Ditch Your Car Insurance Bills if You Live in These Zip Codes

OTTO Quotes



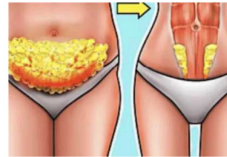
Spray WD-40 Up Your Faucets, Here's Why

10LifeHacks



Forget Furosemide, Use This Household Item To Help Drain Edema Fluid

WellnessGuide



Cardiologists: How Older Women Are Slimming Down Quickly

Health Wellness Journal

MOST POPULAR ARTICLES ON INSIDENOVA

Articles

- EXCLUSIVE: Virginia High School League bans Fairfax County's Hayfield High School football from the postseason
- UPDATED: Driver identified in I-95 chase and deadly police shooting in Triangle
- Three charged in murder of Triangle man found handcuffed and shot in his car
- Prince William schools investigating alleged assault in Patriot High School locker room
- Potomac Mills mall plans to transform food court into 'food pavilion'
- White Oaks Elementary assistant principal charged with failing to report teacher assaults
- Man charged with involuntary manslaughter in Woodbridge commuter lot shooting
- Prince William Planning Commission recommends approval of 350-home 'Thomas Farm' rezoning
- A first look inside The Rose gaming resort in Dumfries
- VHSL appeals committee to determine Hayfield football's fate over next two days

SECTIONS

- News
- Opinion
- Things to Do
- Obituaries
- Sports
- Online Features

SERVICES

- About Us
- Contact Us
- Media Kit
- Subscription Services
- Site Forms
- Find Our Papers
- Email Alerts
- Weather

CONTACT INFORMATION

insidenova.com
1360 Old Bridge Road
Woodbridge, VA 22192
Phone: 703-318-1386
Email: info@insidenova.com

FOLLOW US

f X in

© Copyright 2024 Rappahannock Media LLC 1360 Old Bridge Road, Woodbridge, VA | Terms of Use | Privacy Policy

Powered by BLOX Content Management System from BLOX Digital.

amazon Shop. Connect. Enjoy.

Shop now

Privacy

