Should I buy this used boat?

Almost every used boat has a few problems, some major others minor but most are easily fixed.

New boats are like new homes, there maybe a few glitches in them but there is some sort of warranty, and that is what you are paying for.

Used boats on the other hand, like preowned houses come with additions and minor problems as well as lots of things that new boat buyer need to buy. If the hull and core of the boat is good the rest is just $’s and elbow grease.

Now I can only speak for myself but I enjoy working on the boat almost as much as sailing her. When I got the good old boat, a 1976 Columbia 8,7 she had been treated well and came with lots of stuff that a boat owner wants to have, for example: she had autopilot, GPS, full instruments, tools, spares for everything, upgraded sails, fuller, 3 anchors plenty of chain, a nice dodger, solar panels, tons of lines and halyards, fenders, all safety equipment required, AC, power cables, redesigned electrical systems etc down to even floodlight, binoculars, horns and such. All for the price of 8k, I figure that there was close to 4k worth of things on the boat that I would have had to buy down the road.

I have owned her for 4 seasons, and reworked the nav systems, changed old lights to led replaced bilge pump and added a second one (just in case), just went through the spare filter sets (change every year) and added a belt to the kit but on the whole most of what I have spent was in maintaining normal things and a few upgrades that I just had to have.

My Dad always told me that you should follow your gut and if you need money you can always find that somehow. I have followed his advice, maybe I am lucky but I sailed my boat week after I bought her and still do every weekend I can and a during the winter on the hard I add in things I want to have.