

## Performance Pontoon Boats



BILL DOSTER (2)

### NOTABLE FEATURES

- The cover is standard on the Escapade, and it comes with a solar-powered vent built-in for circulating fresh air.
- Docking lights are built into the rub rail for a sleek look.
- Polished aluminum corner gussets on the rails and corner castings add good looks and solid durability.
- Bimini top is over 11 feet long and covers the boat from side to side.
- Quick-release Bimini clips ease raising and lowering efforts.
- Cup holder on the helm station flips over to reveal a paper-towel holder.

## ➤ PREMIER 250 ESCAPADE RE PTX

By Randy Vance

Step up to the helm of the 250 Escapade RE PTX and you really do have to *step up* onto a solid fiberglass pad that improves visibility and puts the captain in command.

That was the feel we got for the boat in a recent ocean test at Hawk's Cay Resort and Marina near Marathon Key, Florida. Yep, we ran this pontoon in the salt. Premier's saltwater-corrosion precautions start with heat-sealed, waterproof electrical connectors that keep salt water out. Plenty of sacrificial anodes on the tubes give the boat even more protection against corrosion. Premier uses all aluminum and stainless-steel con-



Forward lounge chairs create an optimum seating arrangement, with plenty of space left over.

struction in its full line of pontoons. Our Suzuki test engine — like all Suzuki engines — was also heavily protected from the salt, thanks to special coatings on the motor and to sacrificial anodes in strategic locations on the gear case and other parts in contact with seawater. Inspect all anodes frequently, keep them

fresh and the hungry salt water easily nibbles away at the anodes, leaving your pontoons and undercarriage and motor alone.

Comfort is the hallmark of a Premier pontoon, but when the PTX performance package is added to the name, performance tends to steal the thunder. Performance comes from a specially shaped center tube that planes quickly and easily. It adds support for more passengers and helps the boat handle more like a V-bottom boat in turns. The effect in our test was that it made the boat easily maneuverable and fun to drive.

When we were finished experiencing sharp, arcing turns and snappy acceleration, and when top speed

became less important than comfortable cruising, we slowed down and took a look around us. FlexSteel chairs are the foundation of Premier's comfort. With reclining backs and adjustable armrests, the cozy chairs have living-room "nap-ability," making the extra-long,

full-beam, 11-foot Bimini very important. The dark tan vinyl gives the seats a rich, Lexus-like feel.

We turned up the Kenwood stereo, punched in our favorite track on a CD and let the music belt out of the speakers, which are perfectly positioned

to flood the huge deck with pleasant sounds.

Buyers may choose the 250 Escapade RE PTX for comfort. Kids may love it for its tube-popping speed. And everyone else may envy it for all of the above.

### At a Glance

#### PREMIER 250 ESCAPADE RE PTX

The 250 Escapade RE PTX has posh furnishings, rich leather-like vinyl seats and quiet four-stroke performance.



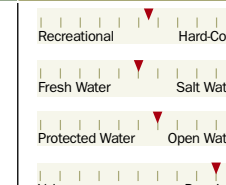
#### VITAL STATS

■ LENGTH OVERALL: 24'9"  
 ■ BEAM: 8'6" ■ DRY WEIGHT: 2,450 LB. ■ PEOPLE/WEIGHT CAPACITY: 14/2,861 LB.  
 ■ FUEL CAPACITY (W/ PTX): 53 GAL. ■ MAXIMUM HP: 225 ■ NMMA CERTIFIED? YES ■ MSRP (W/ SUZUKI 225): SEE LOCAL DEALER

#### TEST DRIVE

■ TEST ENGINE: SUZUKI 225  
 ■ TEST PROP: 19-INCH STAINLESS, 3-BLADE ■ TEST LOAD: PEOPLE (230 LB.), FUEL (53 GAL.) ■ TOP SPEED: 42.7 MPH @ 6,000 RPM

#### PROFILE



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