



Pontoon & DECK BOAT

Fall 1997

SpeakOut

—letters to the editor

Happy Winner

Chaparral is very proud to receive the "Best Value, Boat of the Year" award for 1997 from Pontoon & Deck Boat magazine. We appreciate the opportunity to participate in this year's testing program and your staff should be commended for a job well done. We look forward to working with you in the future.

Mike Munsch
Director of Marketing, Chaparral

ED—For those interested in learning more about results from this year's tests, give us a ring at 800-638-0135 and we'll send you our July issue. It features annual awards and specs on a variety of top performance, fishing and luxury boats. Back issues run \$5, shipping and handling included.

Outboard vs. I/O

I plan to buy a 22- to 25-foot deck boat to use in the Florida-Indian River. My question involves the engine. I have been told that I should buy an outboard because my maintenance cost would be a lot lower.

Yet, recently I talked with a Mercury service representative concerning outboard vs. stern drives and he projected the cost to be about the same. Engine size would be 120 hp - 200 hp. What's your opinion?

Robert B. Hardy
Jackson, MI

come from the dealer who will set you up. Be very specific about your plans for the boat and the choice will be much easier.

Toon Convert

I just wanted to drop you a quick note regarding an exciting experience I had not to long ago. Last month, the boat a friend and I were racing had broken down at the end of a poker run in Oshkosh, WI and we were stranded in the middle of Lake Winnebago. To the rescue came Malcolm Sohm and his wife.. in a pontoon boat. After towing our 30' boat several miles to the closest marina very easily, I had the pleasure of riding in this pontoon about 25 miles back to staging area of the race. Suffice it to say, I have a new opinion of pontoon boats. Mr. Sohm's boat was a pontoon on steroids! Between the 45+ MPH speed and the boats tight handling, I found myself considering a pontoon boat as my next purchase. Mind you, I had just been racing an 800 horsepower, 90+ MPH boat a half hour earlier. The pontoon really handled 3-4 foot swells easily. And finally, the layout and construction seemed flawless.

I'm not familiar with your magazine, but something's pulling me towards the pontoon-deck boat lifestyle and your magazine. It's Malcolm Sohm's incredible boat.

Bert Neuland
Lincolnwood, IL