

MIKE FULLER



Whether you're headed toward your favorite fishing spot or just want to take the family out for a day on the water, the Sun Tracker Party Barge 20 can help fulfill your dreams. This newest member of the brand's Signature Series is designed to be tough and versatile. When fishing is on the menu, two bow-mounted fishing chairs, featuring pinchless hinges, are comfortable perches from which to cast a line or two. But when a party is in the forecast, the chairs can be removed for extra space.

The boat features a doublewide helm seat, L-shaped aft couch to port and bountiful bench seating in the bow. There is no shortage of stowage under the well-padded seats. And with the standard entertainment center, you can let the good times roll with the help of an AM/FM/CD stereo, while a Bimini top provides relief from the sun. Featuring a rear entry gate, the Party Barge 20 is surrounded with anodized rails to enhance the safety factor and an aft flip-down boarding ladder makes for easy access from the water. With so much going for it, the Party Barge 20 gives new meaning to the term "progressive party."

We tested this boat on Missouri's Table Rock Lake and found her to be a comfortable platform with lots to appreciate, from her burlwood helm to her extended engine pod. The 24-inch-diameter, multichambered logs with wave deflectors are designed to provide balanced flotation, and our boat handled well in light chop, though steering seemed a bit sticky. Powered by a Mercury 50 four-stroke and carrying a crew of two, our test rig turned in a top end of 18.4 mph at 5650 rpm — not hair-raising speed, but just fine for those who feel that half of the fun of boating is just getting there.

Rebecca Stone

SPECIFICATIONS

SUN TRACKER PARTY BARGE 20

Base Price

(w/ Merc 50 4-stroke) \$13,995

Price as Tested \$13,995

Length 21' 8"

Beam 8' 1"

Weight (boat only) 1595 lbs.

Fuel Capacity 30 gals.

Maximum Horsepower 115

Engine as Tested Mercury 50 4-stroke

Propeller 10x14"

Black Max
aluminum 3-blade

Sun Tracker, Dept TBM, 2500 East Kearney St.,
Springfield, MO 65803, 888/487-2253;
suntrackerboats.com

TEST RESULTS

Engine (rpm)	Speed (mph)	Fuel (gph)	Range ¹ (mpg)	Range ¹ (miles)
1000	2.2	0.3	7.3	197
1500	3.2	0.4	8.0	216
2000	4.6	0.6	7.7	207
2500	5.6	0.9	6.2	167
3000	7.1	1.2	5.9	159
3500	8.0	1.6	5.0	135
4000 ²	11.2	2.3	4.9	132
4500	13.1	2.9	4.5	121
5000	15.4	3.4	4.5	121
5500	17.8	4.3	4.1	110
5650(WOT)	18.4	4.5	4.1	110

¹ Based on 90% fuel capacity

² Optimum cruising speed



REBECCA STONE PHOTOS

■ There's room for everyone aboard the Party Barge 20, which can accommodate a range of favorite activities — from swimming to picnicking. Anyone want a grape?

