SUN TRACKER
Party Barge 20
Springfield, Missouri
888-487-2253

COURTESY SUN TRACKER
Sun Tracker’s first baby pontoon was called the Bass Buggy, but its new model has been upsized: The 20-foot Party Barge is the station wagon of family fun and fishing.

We liked it because most of its 20-foot overall length is committed to deck space. It has a wide beam and, stepping aboard, we found that the boat gives all the stability we’d expect from a pontoon in spite of its smaller size and lighter weight. It also has the features most families will need to hang out on the lake and maybe catch enough fish to stink up the skillet.

Two removable bow-mounted fishing chairs can be stowed when swimming instead of fishing is on the day’s agenda. When the chairs are in place two anglers get prime casting positions for working docks, shorelines or deadfalls. A side benefit to the wide, nimble footprint is the shallow draft of this boat. Sneaking into skinny waters, up creek channels or even fishing the flats on intracoastal waterways is within reach of this pontoon.

We like the way the motor pod is welded solidly to the chassis of the boat. A 30-gallon fuel tank is integrated into the pod and is easily accessible, making long-term maintenance convenient.

A side benefit to the Mercury four-stroke power is the long, long range this rig has between fill-ups. And with a motor this quiet, nobody — not anglers, fish or nappers — is likely to be disturbed when it’s running. — R.V.

CIRCLE #189 ON P. 187 FOR BUYING INFO

TEST DRIVE
Test Engine: Mercury 50 EFI 4-stroke
Test Prop: 10” pitch aluminum
Test Load: People (360 lb.); Fuel (30 gal.)

TOP SPEED: 18.6 MPH @ 5,800 RPM
Time to 20 MPH: n/a

VITAL STATS
Length Overall: 21’8.5”
Beam: 8’1”
Dry Weight: 2,098 lb.
Seating/Weight Capacity: 12/1,800 lb.
Fuel Capacity: 30 gal.
Maximum HP: 115
NMMA Certified: Yes
MSRP (test boat): $13,995

PERSONALITY PROFILE
Cruising: High-Performance
Hanging Out: Multi-Purpose
Economy-Size: Super-Size
Value: Premium

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VALUE PREMIUM
Hanging Out Multi-Purpose
Economy-Size Super-Size

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