**FIRST IMPRESSIONS**

The deck layout is well designed, with large L-shaped bench seats in the bow and stern and three swiveling and reclining “captain’s” seats — one at the helm, one in the bow and one amidships. The forward bench seat features a lean-back on the starboard side, great for relaxing and reclining a lazy afternoon away. Underneath the starboard bench you’ll also find storage and a removable trash receptacle. The port-side bench seating features a ski locker to safely secure your slalom skis and other sports gear. Heavy 28-inch sculptured carpet and new, more deeply cushioned seats and backrests further increase passenger comfort.

The fiber-glass-reinforced console features simulated burlwood accents, tilt sport steering, soft-touch digital switches and a full complement of gauges and instruments including a digital depth sounder and flush-mounted Ritchie compass.

By Go Boating Test Team

*“Barge,” however, belies this boat’s sporty feel, attractive interior and spirited performance. As a matter of fact, the outboard-powered Party Barge 26 Regency Edition is ideal for water sports excitement as well as casual cruising. It scoots along smoothly through turns. Sun Tracker’s NV Performance pontoon design provided a smooth ride and helped the Party Barge 26 get onto plane in just over 4 seconds. Keep on the throttle, and this roomy 26-footer will crack 30 mph in just over 11 seconds. The sporty console with tilt-hydraulic steering (standard with 90 hp outboards and up) gives the driver a family runabout feel and helps the Party Barge 26 track confidently and smoothly through turns. Sun Tracker’s heavy-duty construction adds to the solid feel and quiet ride. It’s made with 26-inch multichambered pontoons with full-length deck support, full-width “Z” bar floor supports and one-piece “M” bracket floor supports. Special sound- and vibration-deadening insulation is used on the fuse for reducing noise when running in choppy waters.*

**INFORMATION**

**SPECIFICATIONS**

- **Sun Tracker Party Barge 26**
- **Base Price:**
  - **w/Mercury 90 ELPT 2-stroke:** $28,495
  - **w/test power:** $34,795
- **Power**
  - **Engine:** Mercury 135 OptiMax
  - **Horsepower:** 135 hp
  - **Cylinders:** V6
  - **Displacement:** 2.5L
  - **Cylinders:** V6
  - **Displacement:** 2.5L
  - **Horsepower:** 135 hp
  - **Cruising Speed:** 15 mph at 3000 rpm
  - **Maximum Speed:** 36 mph at 5300 rpm
  - **Fuel Efficiency:**
    - **Cruising:** 3.8 mpg at 156 mph
    - **Peak:** 2.3 mpg at 94 mph
- **Fundamentals**
  - **Weight:** 3,460 lbs.
  - **Dry Weight:** 3,000 lbs.
  - **Beam:** 8 ft., 6 in.
  - **Length:** 27 ft., 1 in.
  - **Cruising Weight:** 3,000 lbs.
  - **Beam:** 8 ft., 6 in.
  - **Length:** 27 ft., 1 in.
  - **Cruising Weight:** 3,000 lbs.
  - **Cruising Speed:** 15 mph at 3000 rpm
  - **Maximum Speed:** 36 mph at 5300 rpm
  - **Fuel Efficiency:**
    - **Cruising:** 3.8 mpg at 156 mph
    - **Peak:** 2.3 mpg at 94 mph
- **FIVE NOTABLE STANDARDS**
  - **Tubes/Diameter:** 2/26 in.
  - **Weight:** 3,460 lbs.
  - **Max Power:** 135 hp
  - **Fuel Capacity:** 45 gals.
  - **Length:** 27 ft., 1 in.
  - **Beam:** 8 ft., 6 in.
  - **Cruising Speed:** 15 mph at 3000 rpm
  - **Maximum Speed:** 36 mph at 5300 rpm
  - **Fuel Efficiency:**
    - **Cruising:** 3.8 mpg at 156 mph
    - **Peak:** 2.3 mpg at 94 mph
- **FIVE NOTABLE OPTIONS**
  - **Decking:** Dura-Deck decking material and range of outboard engines
  - **Prop:** 15-inch-pitch aluminum
  - **Fuel Capacity:** 45 gals.
  - **Weight:** 3,460 lbs.
  - **Max Power:** 135 hp
  - **Length:** 27 ft., 1 in.
  - **Beam:** 8 ft., 6 in.
  - **Cruising Speed:** 15 mph at 3000 rpm
  - **Maximum Speed:** 36 mph at 5300 rpm
  - **Fuel Efficiency:**
    - **Cruising:** 3.8 mpg at 156 mph
    - **Peak:** 2.3 mpg at 94 mph

**PERFORMANCE**

**0-30 MPH Acceleration**

- **Time to Plane:** 4.1 seconds
- **Range Based on 90 percent fuel capacity**
- **Power**
  - **Engine:** Mercury 135 OptiMax
  - **Horsepower:** 135 hp
  - **Cylinders:** V6
  - **Displacement:** 2.5L
  - **Weight:** 431 lbs.
  - **Cruise Range:** 5000-6000 rpm
- **WOT Range**
  - **Mph rpm mpg range dba**
  - **Peak:** 36.0 5300 2.3 94 87
  - **Cruise:** 15.0 3000 3.8 156 75

**FINANCING**

- **Retail price:** $37,000
- **Down Payment:** $296/month for 15 years
- **Interest Rate:** 7.75%
- **Payments:**
  - **Base Price:** $34,795
  - **Base Price:** $28,495

**BUILDER**

Sun Tracker

Sun Tracker Marine, 2500 East Kearney, Springfield, MO 65803; (417) 879-5000; www.trackerboats.com. Sun Tracker is an NMMA certified builder.

**Circle 31 on reader service card, page 89**
ABOUT THE BOAT:

**SUN TRACKER PARTY BARGE 26 (REGENCY EDITION)**

**FEATURES IN BRIEF:**

1 **The Entertainer:** Ideal for food, drinks or a friendly card game, Sun Tracker’s removable table easily mounts in three different locations.

2 **Store It:** A unique seat headrest opens up to provide useful storage space for small items.

3 **Pon-Tunes:** Sun Tracker includes a four-speaker Sony sound system with a handy CD tray to keep your tunes organized.

4 **Chill Out:** The fiberglass-reinforced console features innovative interior storage for the standard 38-quart ice chest.

5 **Center of Attention:** Just aft of the console is a refreshment center with a sink, freshwater, countertop, storage drawers, drink holder and fiddle rail to keep things in place.

**TECH NOTES:**

- Its open, roomy cockpit layout encourages passengers to move about and enjoy themselves.
- Sound-deadening insulation and the quiet OptiMax outboard make conversing pleasant.
- Fuel-efficient performance and 45 gallons of fuel capacity keep the fun going all day long.