

Performance Pontoons

Bennington Marine

2875 RCW I/O



for 2009

Number of Occupants	Price As Tested With Power	Maximum MPH Speed	Horsepower As Tested	Number of Gates	0-20 MPH
16	69 ^K	41.4	320	3	6.32

The Ed Factor
 POSITIVE: All LED lights • Raised Helm • Unique dash layout • Electric engine hatch • Rear lounge chairs
 ONE THING I'D CHANGE: Needs space under changing room for a Porta-Pottie.

> Why We Love This Boat
 It's rated for 16 people and there are plenty of comfy seats for everyone. Plus the performance is amazing, especially for a 31-footer.

> Just Being Picky
 We love innovative, space-saving ideas, but even with the cylinder-assisted design it still takes some added effort to raise the stern lounge to access the changing room below.

OUR FIRST IMPRESSION

With the rear swim platform this boat stretches to an amazing 31 feet in length and even at that size, we were amazed by how many amenities Bennington was able to get on this model. The first thing that caught our attention were those rear-facing stern lounges, which are hands down the two best seats onboard.

CONSUMER TEST

Speaking of those rear chaises, this is arguably the best place to start this review. The unique design gives you the ideal seat and for safety reasons we like that there is a gate to help keep smaller kids out of this area. With a push of a button, you can raise the hatch to access the engine. Included in the swim platform design is a ski/tow pylon, washdown, telescopic boarding ladder with handholds, a remote stereo control, plus the speakers face out towards the water for perfect sandbar tunes. Below one of the stern lounges is probably the largest pop-up changing room at our test. It's cylinder assisted, but it still takes a little bit of extra effort to lift it up and access the changing room below. It's an innovative and space-saving idea, but it's not exactly light.

The raised helm for the captain is a nice touch and the console includes large multi-function gauges, a Garmin 430s depth finder, Rockford Fosgate stereo (with a total of eight speakers onboard), a 12-volt outlet and a lockable glove box.

Other key amenities worth noting include the deep in-floor storage, dent-resistant panels, a floating ottoman, two bow chaise lounges, two bow helm chairs, 15 drainable cup holders and behind the helm seat is a refreshment center that includes a sink, small trash can, paper towel

holder and below the sink are the controls to the electric engine hatch.

INSPECTION TEST

The two outside pontoons are 25 inches in diameter and the center elliptical pontoon is 32 inches wide, but still only 25 inches tall. The chambered logs have a keel as well as speed strakes on each of the pontoons. With the elliptical tube you get better displacement so you get more performance using less horsepower.

The cross members are on 24-inch centers and are bolted to the plywood deck. There is a full splash skin and the weld quality below the deck is excellent. Also worth noting, the bow eye is reinforced to the front pontoon for added strength.

There is over 27 feet of usable deck space up top and the single-walled Rotocast seat bases, like the fiberglass helm console, is bolted to the deck. The wiring craftsmanship under the helm as well as the overall fit and finish work is exceptional. Overall we consider this to be a very safe and family-friendly vessel. As far as the construction and quality is concerned, it lives up to the high expectations that Bennington has set for itself.

PERFORMANCE TEST

For such a large boat, it really does have a nice kick of power out of the hole. At full throttle we reached speeds over 40 miles per hour with the MerCruiser 350 Mag Bravo III engine. But it's the way she banks beautifully in the corners that impressed us the most. This 31-footer can turn a tight, sharp corner without any hesitation.



FINAL THOUGHTS

With a pontoon like this, you buy it for the comfort amenities and then enjoy the performance that it gives you. From space-saving innovations to overall quality, Bennington goes the extra mile with this luxury pontoon. If the unique features on this boat don't excite you, the elliptical center pontoon will. 🏆

NOTABLE STANDARDS

Fiberglass swim platform with ladder, heavy-duty rub rail, playpen cover, underdeck spray deflectors, two reclining bow seats, 62-gallon in-hull center-mounted fuel tank, mahogany kidney table, mid-ship spring line mooring eyes, reclining helm seat with head rest and self-leveling arms, under-seat storage tray/paper towel holder, waste container in chaise lounge, 12-volt outlet, Garmin depth finder, bilge blower and hydraulic actuated power steering.

OPTIONS ON TEST BOAT

DRP dent-resistant side panels, almond limited interior package, galley, elliptical center tube storage, ottoman, washdown system, elevated helm, satellite radio and Rockford 8 speaker/subwoofer upgrade.

BOAT SPECS

LOA	31'
Beam	8' 6"
Hull Design	Elliptical Center Tube
Dry Weight	4262 lbs plus engine
Fuel Capacity	62 gallons

ENGINE

Engine	MerCruiser 350 Mag Bravo III
Cylinder Type	V8
Cubic-inch Displacement/Horsepower	350 cu/300hp
Lower Unit Gear Ratio	2.43:1
Propeller	Dual Prop

RPM	vs. SPEED	vs. DBA
485	1.3 mph	75.5
1000	4.6 mph	86.5
1500	7.0 mph	96
2000	10.5 mph	98
2500	14.6 mph	92
3000	20.3 mph	93.5
3500	25.2 mph	94.5
4000	31.3 mph	99
4500	35.9 mph	99
4960	41.4 mph	102

PRICES

Price As Tested..... \$69,036 (Boat and Motor)

Base retail with standards \$57,639 (Boat and Volvo 5.0 GL/DP drive)