

# BENNINGTON



## BOAT SPECIFICATIONS FOR 2011

Number of Occupants:	<b>14</b>
Price As Tested With Power:	<b>\$54.8K</b>
Maximum Speed:	<b>46.1 mph</b>
Wild Ponies:	<b>225hp</b>
No. of Gates:	<b>3</b>
0-20 MPH:	<b>5.1 seconds</b>
Ladder Measurement:	<b>3' deep</b>

## SHOOTOUT SCORES

Value	<b>19/20</b>
Layout/Design	<b>10/10</b>
Craftsmanship	<b>9.5/10</b>
Fit & Finish Work	<b>8.5/10</b>
Safe Design	<b>8.5/10</b>
Performance	<b>18.5/20</b>
Handling	<b>9/10</b>
Fun Factor	<b>10/10</b>



## Why we love this boat

The innovative and stylish design is like nothing else out there. No detail is too small on this very well-thought out Bennington that goes beyond what is expected on a high-level model.

## Just being picky

The helm console is beautiful and we love everything about the helm station overall except that it lacks a lockable glove box for the driver.

## Our First Impression

Welcome to the world of high-end boats. It's hard not to be impressed when you first come aboard this Bennington, especially when you start to notice the fine details that go into the layout as well as the luxurious-looking helm console. Quality never looked so good.

## Consumer Test

Nothing is an afterthought on this boat, as even the portable cup holders have been molded to perfectly fit the contour of the seat cushions. We also like the extra-wide chaise lounge in the bow where the bench seat has been flared out to accommodate the design. Plus built into the lounge seat is a fold-down armrest, complete with a drink holder.

To compare the helm console to a Jaguar in the automotive world might not be a high enough compliment for this dash. The next generation console is very stylish, elegant and has a distinctive look like no other. The easy-to-read multi-function gauges flow well with the design, and included in the standard features is a Garmin depth graph that is recessed into the dash. There is also a Sony stereo remote at the helm, while the actual unit is safely mounted below the helm console, keeping it away from the harsh elements.

For the captain is a large, fully-adjustable reclining two-tone vinyl helm chair and the throttle is perfectly within reach. Below the helm console is a pocket in the lockable console door, but we still would like to see a console glove box or a designated spot for loose items such as keys and wallets if we had to be picky.

We saw plenty of in-floor lockers at our test, but the biggest advantage this unit offers over the others is the extra width that you gain with the elliptical locker that has its own auto bilge and a raised floor.

Below the large two-person sundeck is a large pop-up changing room that stands just under six feet tall when fully opened. The Surlast fabric used on the enclosure

has zero stretch so it will stay nice and tight for years to come.

Other features worth noting include the snap-in carpet, ski/tow pylon and vinyl non-skid in the rear-entry section on the back deck.

## 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 for easier trailing options. The outside logs are chambered and each has an inside performance foil to grab in a turn. The elliptical center tube has a pair of lifting strakes. With the elliptical tube you get better displacement so you get more performance using less horsepower.

The cross members are on 16-inch centers and are bolted to the plywood deck. There is a full splash skin, and the weld quality below the deck is excellent.

There is over 15 feet of usable deck space from inside the bow gate to the rear bench seat. Overall we consider this to be a very safe and family-friendly vessel. As far as the construction and quality are concerned, this boat lives up to the high expectations that Bennington has set for itself.

## Performance Test

The Sea Star power-assist steering combined with the new Yamaha 225 SHO engine earned this 'toon a perfect fun factor score. She's quick and responsive, and with the ESP Performance Package with center elliptical tube we banked beautifully in the sharp turns. Even in rough water we enjoyed a smooth ride while reaching a top speed of 46.5 miles per hour.

## Who Should Buy It

For those looking to make a big jump from their current model and get right to the good stuff, this Bennington is worthy of a closer look. It's well-built, fun to drive and the attention to the little details is amazing.

## NOTABLE STANDARDS

Wide-berth chaise lounge, portable cup holders, aft vinyl floor, Duraframe seat bases, fire extinguisher, palm carpet, soft-touch java upholstery vinyl, stainless steel cup holders bimini top, Blue Ice LED mood lighting and kicker speakers.

## OPTIONS ON TEST BOAT

ESP Performance Package w/center elliptical tube, power-assist steering, vinyl floor w/snap-in carpet, elevated helm, retractable ski pylon, stainless rub rail, in-floor storage and 55-gallon center tube fuel tank.

## VITAL STATS

LOA	<b>21' 11"</b>
Beam	<b>8' 6"</b>
Hull Design	<b>ESP Performance</b>
Dry Weight	<b>2,799 lbs.</b>
Fuel Capacity	<b>55 Gallons</b>

## TEST DRIVE

Engine	<b>Yamaha 225 SHO</b>
Cylinder Type	<b>V6</b>
Cubic-inch Displacement/Horsepower	<b>254ci/225hp</b>
Lower Unit Gear Ratio	<b>1.75:1</b>
Propeller	<b>14 1/4 X 18 Reliance</b>

RPM	vs.	SPEED	vs.	DB-A
500		2.8 mph		77
1000		4.3 mph		83
1500		6.6 mph		83.5
2000		7.6 mph		87.5
2500		9.0 mph		89
3000		12.4 mph		85
3500		18.2 mph		92.5
4000		22.5 mph		92
4500		28.8 mph		97.5
5000		36.4 mph		104
5500		41.3 mph		102
6000		46.1 mph		106.5

## PRICE

Price As Tested	<b>\$54,864</b> <small>(Boat and Motor)</small>
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