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# DICK De BARTOLO

## HYDRO LITTLE

*(Editor's note: Last year after testing eighteen boats for our Performance Guide, Dick returned to New York and did a path-variant test of his 30' Sea-Doo-Duck Houseboat. If you read Dick's column last month you have our sympathy, but you also know that through a strange series of events Dick ended up with a 12' fuel tank and a 12 1/2 hp. Evinrude motor. Although this is not your average family combination, he did put the combination through its paces and the same curious test follows.)*

**T**alk about your storage space! Talk about your spacious seating accommodations! Talk about your indoor/outdoor capping and your convertible tops. Talk about them all you want, but you won't find any of that nonsense in this combination. This is the smallest runabout I ever tested.

All our tests start with the crew sitting weight...I'm forward, then aft, then side to side. This boat gave us a perfect score, mainly because there's no room to shift your weight forward, aft or more than twelve inches side to side. As one test observer noted: "You don't get into this boat, you put it on."

What made the single bench seat seem even smaller was the fact that I tested this rig between Christmas and New Year's on the Hudson River. We carried 50 pounds of fuel and 250 pounds of clothing. We had enough fuel, but we still froze out...or very off.

Speaking of fuel, the Evinrude Hustler gave us quite a pleasant surprise. After an hour of testing...much of it high speed, we had only burned 2 gallons of gas. A second hour of testing burned another 3.2 gallons, far less than we would have expected. And the Hustler is super quiet. On one high speed run the passenger complained about the noise...or rather the lack of noise. "I wish this engine would scream more," he said. "Noise makes me feel like I'm going even faster." I wouldn't make the engine any louder, so I took us over a turbulent wake and he never complained about going faster again.

The creation of a boat this small was one of Howard Pignoni's ideas. Trying to describe Howard Pignoni's bottom is difficult. And trying to describe the bottom of his boat is hard too. It's sort of like a kind of a tunnel. I suggest you look at the photo and make up your own mind.

The bottom of the boat is surprisingly comfortable, but what amazed me more than anything was that the boat withstood the engine without moaning or groaning or chipping or cracking. Before it or not, the only disappointment was speed. There are several guys around with 18 foot tunnel boats suited along with Hustler 70's, and they can get 70 mph with ease. But our 12' Hustler only settled on 53 to 54 mph. Actually this proves what some of our readers have found out for themselves...you can sometimes get the same engine on a bigger boat and increase speed. What we had was too much motor...of 500

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like a boat. Most must see when the weather warms up a bit and we take with motor boating we might see a few more makes partner... but if you want to go around a lake in style, this boat with a 25 H.P. motor should get you a safe and sane 25 to 30 mph.

You wouldn't expect any storage space in a boat this small, but we found room for six gallon gas cans, a battery, the propellers, a pump, a first aid kit, some flares and we had room left over for three beer chugs.

The Evinrude Hustler is a beauty,

and with its red, white and blue upholstery paint job looked at 30 mph with the top off!

All in all you can't go wrong with either an Evinrude Hustler or a HydroStream Little Hustler... provided you use each for its best intended application.

#### Test Comments:

Water conditions.....27° C (81° F) surface air temperature.....60° degrees

Wind velocity.....4.5 mph, gusting to 20 mph

Sea state.....(Slightly choppy)

Test observers.....Andy Robinson, Jack Steiner, Jack Healy, Ed Kunka, Jeff Hoff, Ed. G. THE BOAT AT THE SALES YARD

#### Test facts:

Top speed.....23.54 mph

Distance in top speed by foot observers.....77.0-100.0 mph

Maximum rpm.....3000

Time to reach plane.....4 seconds

Time to recover motor after killing (no compression) at a rough sea.....100.00

# STREAM HUSTLER

#### PERFORMANCE (See chart)

#### Size of landing/docking

#### Thrill/excitement

#### Passenger comfort



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The only way to show you the bottom design of this Little Hustler was to drive it up a ramp and OVER the PB photographs. 1,0000 speed stopped action of boat and prop. (Andy Robinson photo)



Click into the HydroStream Little Hustler (foreground) Next year he'll probably beat the log and bumper (background)



Evinrude Hustler is electric start, but has provision for manual operation too, although we never had to use it.