

It's a no frills kind of boat, built for the enthusiast that appreciates the simple but thrilling pleasures of a high performance outboard. While at rest the HydroStream Ventura II is sixteen feet of unassuming hull. When the throttle is jammed to wide open, its quiet serenity vanishes and is replaced by fast paced excitement. Its light weight form dances over the water with a feather-like feel. Not a sensation desired by everyone, but certainly enjoyed by a definite segment of the power boating populous.

Our test model HydroStream was appointed with only the basics. Many options and extras are available, however if a budget boater is shopping for price and performance, this is an attractive combination. Workmanship and quality of construction is adequate for a hull of this cost category. The floor is not carpeted but finished with a functional textured hard coating. The back to back vinyl seats could stand a little extra padding to absorb some of the occasional bumps. The interior transom compartment is open thus exposing

the standard twelve gallon gas tank. Storage area is nil and no windshield is furnished. Still, without these finishing touches, the HydroStream does accomplish its intended purpose of being a quick and responsive outboard runabout extremely well.

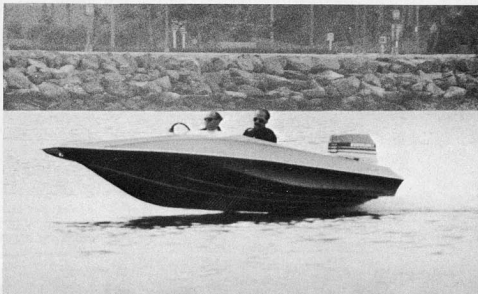
In its rather spartan condition, the Ventura II accommodates four persons and delivers one of the most lively performances to be found in outboard powered boats. The reason behind this success stems from its efficient hull configuration and relatively light weight. The Ventura II tips the scales complete, less engine, right at 600 pounds. Attach a big brute Evinrude 135 Strangler, add a dozen gallons of gasoline and the entire package is water ready under 1000 pounds.

With this kind of power to weight ratio, little wonder that an easy 57.2 mph was attained without any special rigging or trick set-ups. However, light doesn't always mean fast. The Ventura II produces much of its speed by virtue of its hull design.

The best way to describe its unusual form would be to say that it has the basic shape of a lapstrake vee-bottom with an air-trapping chine and bow section. The HydroStream does not truly capture air as would a tunnel hull since it has no definite sponsons. However, the elongated and gull-like bow area with sculptured outside chine imitates the air supported ride of a tunnel hull. It effectively lifts nearly the entire Ventura II out of the water at speeds in excess of 55 mph. At this clip the wetted surface is at a bare minimum. The driving feel is that of almost floating above the water. However, when crossing some mildly choppy water or encountering another boat wake at this speed, the Ventura II will rock and roll a bit since so little of the hull is in contact with the water. This is not a dangerous condition if handled with moderation and good common sense.

Turning the HydroStream can be somewhat tricky if proper respect is not shown. It will come around quickly

HYDROSTREAM VENTURA II



without problem unless an over-anxious throttle hand applies too much power in the midst of a corner, driving the stern end out from under the hull resulting in a possible spin.

The muscular Evinrude Strangler performed with spirited power throughout the entire speed range. It idled at a docile 600 RPM and never balked during a full throttle stab. Its SST prop with slight cup eliminated any cavitation during take-off. In fact the engine could have likely been raised an inch on the transom without suffering any objectionable loss in planing ability while possibly adding two or three miles per hour at top end.

For water skiers, the Ventura II offers a good tow for those interested in general recreational enjoyment. It would not be recommended for the serious slalom type skier. The Hydro-Stream has a difficult time tracking in a consistent path with a strong 180 pounder pulling from side to side. However, its smooth wake and easy planing attitude does give it value for the trick skier.



HULL

Make/model HydroStream Ventura II
Suggested list price . . \$1745.00 less engine
Length 16'
Beam 84"
Lay-up process hand/spray
Upholstery Vinyl
Weight with engine 900 pounds
Capacity 700 pounds

TRAILER

Make/model HydroStream custom
Number of axles One (1)
Type of brakes None

ENGINE

Make/model Evinrude 135 Strangler
Cylinder type V-4
Displacement 99.6
Bore and Stroke 3.5 x 2.588
Compression 6.5 : 1
Carburetion Two, 2 barrels
HP at RPM 135 at 5000
Type of fuel required Regular

POWER TRAIN

Drive Outboard
Gear ratio 13 : 25
Propeller type OMC SST
Propeller diameter/pitch . 12 3/4 x 21-3 blade



TEST CONDITIONS

Water condition light chop
Air Temperature 72
Wind Velocity 2 mph
Test driver Bob Nordskog
Test observer Dick DeBartolo
Ski driver Bob Brown
Ski observer Mark Spencer
Skier Ron Goodrich
Skier's weight 175 pounds
Length of ski rope 75 feet

PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

Ease of boarding/debaring
Shifting of passenger weight
Docking maneuverability
Low speed tracking
Cruise tracking
High speed tracking
Throttle response
Slalom course/20 mph
Slalom course/30 mph
Slalom course/40 mph
Turning right at cruise
Turning right at speed
Turning left at cruise
Turning left at speed
Wake jump performance
Visibility off plane
Visibility on plane
Visibility at full speed
Passenger comfort
Storage space
Noise level at idle
Noise level at cruise

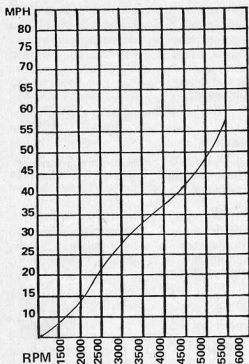
	Poor					Excellent
	1	2	3	4	5	
Ease of boarding/debaring			●			
Shifting of passenger weight				●		
Docking maneuverability				●		
Low speed tracking				●		
Cruise tracking					●	
High speed tracking				●		
Throttle response					●	
Slalom course/20 mph				●		
Slalom course/30 mph				●		
Slalom course/40 mph			●			
Turning right at cruise				●		
Turning right at speed				●		
Turning left at cruise				●		
Turning left at speed				●		
Wake jump performance				●		
Visibility off plane				●		
Visibility on plane					●	
Visibility at full speed					●	
Passenger comfort			●			
Storage space					●	
Noise level at idle		●				
Noise level at cruise				●		

MEASURED PERFORMANCE DATA

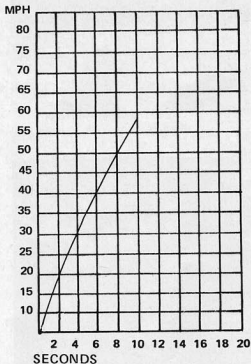
Top speed/measured 1/4 mile 57.2 mph
Top speed/calibrated speedometer 56.5 mph
Top speed/stock speedometer 58.0 mph
Maximum RPM 5400 rpm
Minimum plane speed 15 mph
Time to reach plane 2.5 sec.
Distance to stop from 35 mph 115 feet
Time to stop from 35 mph 6 sec.

HYDROSTREAM VENTURA II

RPM/MPH



ACCELERATION



STANDARD EQUIPMENT

Ride-Guide steering with stainless wheel; two-tone fire flake finish; self bailing motor well; throttle mounting block; fuel tank traps.

OPTIONAL EQUIPMENT

SE Package including: upholstered side panel, carpet, upholstered stern cover and windshield.



WATER SKI EVALUATION

- Take-off power
- Steering maneuverability
- Hull tracking
- Visibility at idle
- Visibility coming on plane
- Visibility at speed
- Wake
- Boarding/debarking

Poor						Excellent
	1	2	3	4	5	
				●		●
			●			
				●		
				●		
				●		