



The 28 Sport Deck is the first catamaran from Howard Boats to be honored by POWERBOAT.

# HOWARD CUSTOM BOATS

## 28 Sport Deck

When our lead test driver described Howard Custom Boats' 28 Sport Deck as "a deck boat with a Corvette attitude," he wasn't exaggerating or being clever. Having put the boat through a number of speed, acceleration and handling drills, the Corvette description was the first—and best—comparison he could think of.

Truth is, most Corvettes would do well to handle like the 28-footer. The boat was appropriately responsive to steering wheel input and handled as precisely as any model we tested during the 2006 Performance Trials. In handling drills, the deck boat, which made its debut in late 2005, earned straight A's across the board and left us wishing we had a little more time in it.

That it ran 91.3 mph with a 700-horsepower

engine from Taylor Performance Inc. producing 6,000 rpm didn't hurt. We reckon that's fast enough for any deck boat designed to handle a crowd.

Also worth noting, the cat wasted no time coming up to speed. From a standing start, the catamaran reached 61 mph in 15 seconds and 70 mph in 20 seconds.

Tracking was perfect at all speeds. With the throttle hammered, the boat stayed on line without requiring driver correction. When we yanked it back, the boat held its course without wandering. And the cat danced lightly and sweetly through river chop at all speeds.

Sure, even custom deck boats are social platforms. But anyone who drives the 28 Sport Deck will have a hard time letting this amazing performer sit still. **P**



Custom engine builder Taylor Performance Inc. delivered an eye-catching package and 700 horsepower. Pewter Auto Meter Pro-Comp Marine gauges were on the dash.



### HOWARD CUSTOM BOATS 28 SPORT DECK | PERFORMANCE TEST RESULTS

Centerline	28'6"	Cubic-inch displacement/horsepower	588/700
Beam	8'6"	Propeller	Mercury Maximus 15 1/4" x 26"
Hull weight	4,800 pounds	Zero to 20 seconds	70 mph
Price as tested	\$139,995	Top speed at rpm	91.3 mph at 6,000
Engine	TPI 700 EFI	Contact	661-257-9275, www.howardboats.com

► For the Performance Report on the Howard Custom Boats 28 Sport Deck, see "Carving Knife," December 2005, Page 84.