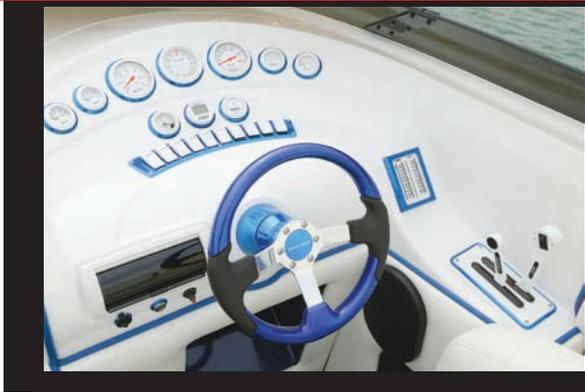


*Entry-Level Roundup*

**Right on Beat**

In sound and performance, the Water Rod 300 is a solid offering.



*B&W Water Rod 300*

Visit a local stereo shop and chances are there will be a boat or two among the rows of cars and trucks. Boat owners are spending big bucks on stereos, speakers and flat-screen televisions.

For some folks a loud stereo and a top-notch television picture are an important part of the boating experience. Take the owner of the Water Rod 300 from B&H Performance Boats, who had invested more than \$3,200 in stereo and electronic equipment. A modest sum for most performance boats, it was money wisely spent on the Water Rod.

For the money the cockpit was equipped with a CD stereo, six speakers, two 12" sub-woofers and two 1,000-watt amplifiers. If that weren't enough, the midcabin included another stereo/CD player with two speakers, a flip-down Concept television and a DVD player.

If listening to the stereo or watching television isn't your idea of entertainment, the Water Rod 300's performance should capture

your attention. B&H brought a test model equipped with a Volvo DPX 600 with power steering and freshwater cooling. The engine upgrade added more than \$26,000 to the base price.

As-tested the boat tipped the balance sheet at \$125,790. Strip away the big-block and various upgrades and customers can get into the 30-footer for less than \$75,000.

The Volvo DPX 600 delivered plenty of power. Within 20 seconds the boat ran 57.3 mph on the way to a top speed of 72.4 mph at 5,300 rpm. At cruise speed—about 55 mph—the engine was getting almost 1.8 mpg, and with an 80-gallon tank, a day on the lake won't require a midday fill-up.

With the Dana trim tabs dropped a hair, the boat had a nice ride and there was no water noise coming from the hull. A wrap-around windshield kept away water spray and wind while running at speed.

The 30-footer is the largest boat in the Water Rod line. That allowed the builder to provide a spacious cockpit and adequate space in the midcabin. For boaters who need all the stowage they can get, B&H Performance installed carpeted side panels with pouches on either side of the engine compartment.

The Water Rod 300 had seating for at least five people in the cock-

*Loaded with options, B&H Performance's Water Rod 300 has something to offer, whether it's for the audiophile or the performance fanatic.*

pit. A rear bench could accommodate three people, and the bolsters provided for the driver and co-pilot had manual dropout bottoms.

Inside the cabin, the builder installed long and deep facing benches. Work was top-notch, with plenty of stowage behind the benches and easy access to the back of the dash. The flip-down television with a built-in DVD player was installed in the headliner.

Other features in the midcabin were a General Electric microwave and an Igloo cooler set in a vinyl-padded and carpeted box that was built for it. A sliding acrylic door sealed off the center cabin from the open bow.

Passengers can enjoy the long and deep lounges of the open bow. In addition to the carpeted stowage lockers, there was an in-sole cooler.

Loaded with options, B&H Performance's Water Rod 300 has something to offer, whether it's for the audiophile or the performance fanatic. 



Clockwise from top: The instruments were fanned out on the dash and easily legible while at speed. The cockpit was fully carpeted and offered grab rails for all passengers and the co-pilot. B&H also provided manual dropout bolsters for the driver and co-pilot. Under the hatch, the optional Volvo Penta DPX 600 pushed the boat to a top speed of 72.4 mph. Inside the midcabin, B&H installed a video screen under the deck and included two coolers in their own recesses.