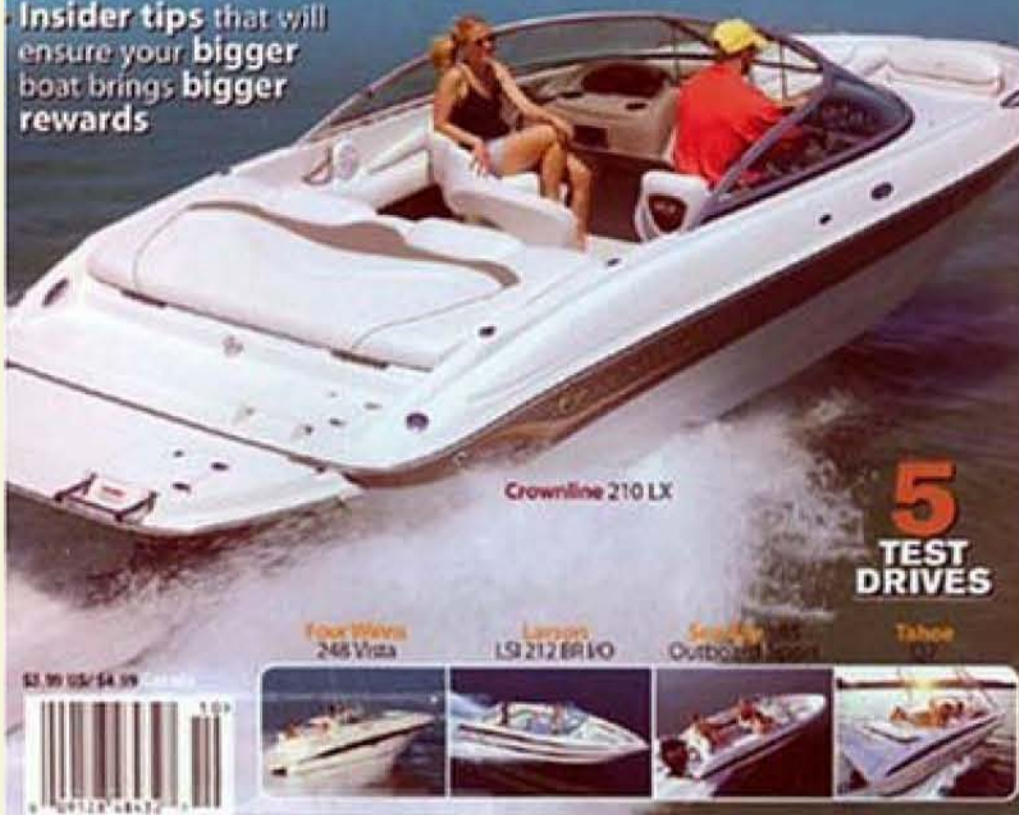


Go Boating MAGAZINE

THE TOTAL FAMILY EXPERIENCE

THE SECRETS TO TRADING UP

Insider tips that will ensure your bigger boat brings bigger rewards



bowshots



Un-Touchy Subject

If you have a boat on a lift, you're doing your best to protect it from the harmful marine environment, right? Unfortunately, water damage is only the beginning — don't forget about the sun's damaging rays, windblown debris and feathered guests. What you also need is a good boat cover.

If no ordinary boat cover will do, consider investing in an automatic boat cover like the Touchless Boat Cover from Innovative Marine Technologies. Since they are custom made to your specifications, the covers fit neatly over your boat and come in numerous colors.

The best part is, you don't have to go through the arduous task of actually covering the boat yourself. With the press of a button from a remote control unit, the cover will release or retract and gives you one more reason to go boating.

The Touchless Boat Cover is also available for PWCs. The price for the covers starts at \$2,645 for boats and \$1,950 for PWCs (not including installation). To see the cover being used, visit www.automatic-boat-cover.com or contact Innovative Marine Technologies; (877) 679-2217.

WAKERIDING REBELLION

Wakesurfing and wakeskating are some of the hottest new trends in watersports. What are these sports you ask? Well, they're basically like riding a specialized surfboard or skateboard that is specifically designed to free ride the wake of a boat. And whether it's a 20-foot wakeboard boat or a 110-foot long range cruiser, the bigger the wake the better.

You start the ride similar to normal

wakeboarding — floating on your back with your feet toward the towboat, one hand holding the board to your feet, the other hand holding the towline. The towline is shorter than normal in order to get the rider in closer to the good curl.

Once the rider is in the sweet spot, he or she can let go of the towline — enabling the rider to surf the wake of the boat without being pulled by anything. That free ride is a feeling some people just can't get enough of.

There is concern that, because the wakesurfer is closer than a normal rider to the stern of the boat, the danger of carbon monoxide poisoning might exist. However, it has not been proven that wakesurfing or wakeskating can cause a potentially deadly amount of CO to be inhaled.

Some states are proposing a regulation that will make it illegal for a rider to be within 20 feet of the stern of the boat. The wakesurfing community is very unhappy about this proposition and is afraid that its sport is being confused with the extremely dangerous and stupid activity of "teak dragging," where a person holds onto the swim step of an underway vessel with no life jacket. For more information visit www.wakesurfinghotline.com.

WAKE UP AND SMELL THE COFFEE
Wakesurfers are angry that their sport is being categorized with teak dragging, and are trying to get people to open their eyes to this discrepancy. One wake boat manufacturer, Centurion, has acknowledged wakesurfing as a legitimate sport and even offers a specialized exhaust design called the Sideswipe System, which pipes the exhaust to the side of the boat, away from the surfer.

