

## 2010 PERFORMANCE REVIEW: DCB M-35 WIDEBODY



## LOOKING INWARD

THE M-35 FROM DAVE'S CUSTOM BOATS IS MORE THAN EYE CANDY, IT'S A WORK OF ART.

**A**fter looking under the dash on the M-35 and peering into the pristine engine compartment, lead inspector Bob Teague was on the hunt to find something not so perfect on the sport catamaran from Dave's Custom Boats.

He did find a few stitches that were wavy on one of the cockpit seats, but outside of that he couldn't find a single item to criticize.

"The bilge finish is perfectly glossy and smooth," he said. "It's almost as if I'm looking at the outside of the boat."

There is a reason why Dave's Custom Boats has earned its loyal following over the years. Its employees—including owner Dave Hemmingson—pay as much attention to rarely seen details as they do to the boat's tooling and gelcoat.

### PERFORMANCE

The M-35 Widebody test model DCB brought to our evaluations in Lake Havasu City, Ariz., was equipped with middle-of-the-road power—two 700-horsepower Mercury Racing engines. When we tested the model for the first time last year, DCB went with big power in the form of two custom-built, 1,200-hp engines.

Our Test Team was intrigued to see if the sport catamaran

would be just as fun to drive with less horsepower. Not a surprise, the M-35 handled exceptionally well, even on a day when there was little wind chop.

DCB set up the boat for top speed, which was evident in the time it needed to reach plane (17 seconds) and in the midrange acceleration numbers (the 40-to-70-mph drill took 12 seconds). But that quest for top speed didn't compromise the boat's strong handling or tracking.

Once the 16 1/2" x 40" Hering propellers on the NXT<sup>1</sup> drives took hold, the catamaran was running 42 mph in 15 seconds and 57 mph in 20 seconds, where the engines were turning less than 3,000 rpm. Cruising at 100 mph, the engines were still 1,400 rpm off their top operating range.

The fastest top speed our Test Team could get was 132 mph at 5,450 rpm on the Livorsi Marine GPS. With a little wind chop on the lake, it may have been possible to get a couple of more ticks on the speedo.

Midrange acceleration times were better than we expected considering the horsepower and the boat's size. The M-35 ran from 40 to 60 mph in 7.9 seconds and from 70 to 100 mph in 10.9 seconds.