

# SUNSATATION DOMINATOR 32'

MERCURUISERHP500EFI

**The Builder:** Sunsation Powerboats has carved a relatively small but devout following with a well-built, three-model line of open-water vees (all are now step-bottoms), ranging from 25 to 32 feet. Steady growth has followed as Sunsation has become better known: For a time, its existence seemed somewhat of a national secret. Built by and for sport boat enthusiasts, the Sunsation is a pure driver's machine, a rugged and durable open-water experience that blends tight control with superior efficiency. A long-time test team favorite that has only gotten better through the years, the Sunsation hull is a perennial hot-boating all-star. Soon, there will be another reason to rave, as a new 40-foot is due out in the near term.

**The Boat:** You've read it here before: The 32-foot Dominator is one of the fastest, best-accelerating hulls on the water in its size class. This boat is a classic driving machine, a handful of hot-boating bliss that begs to be dri-



ven, and driven, and driven some more. Like a breath of fresh air, the Sunsation defines the sport boating experience with crisp, hard acceleration. It's as though the twin-HP setup was made to order for the Dominator, which strapped down a staggering 87.8-mph top end. Sunsation has dialed in this hull to perfection, with a litany of performance options that includes IMCO hydraulic steering, Corsa Quick & Quiet exhaust with angled stainless tips and Kiekhaefer K-planes (over the standard Bennett tabs). Solid mounts and stainless steel tie bar are standard. Sunsation invites the closest possible scrutiny of their glass work, which is a flawless canvas for painted graphics that have become more aggressive and more attractive in recent years. Our boat's optional painted fairing provided sharp graphic accent.

**Interior/Amenities:** On board, the Dominator bears little resemblance to the first-generation model released in 1993, aside

CONTINUED ON PAGE 102



## SUNSAT ION CONTINUED FROM PAGE 46

from the hull's generous freeboard and deep passenger positioning within. The interior tooling has been completely revamped, both in the cabin and cockpit; the lines are softer, and the upholstery more firm and luxurious. Our Dominator's optional McLeod interior upgrade intensified the high-end cockpit feel. Large, electrically-adjustable bolsters and footrests and standard Zero Effort controls contributed to the overwhelming sense of something special, and the performance certainly did not disappoint. All rigging and workmanship was sound on our test machine, and the drive train installation was clean and tight. Ritchie compass and booming Sony CD system are standard. The cabin design is sleek and smart—a balance of flash, function and comfort. It's not the most luxurious out there, but certainly adequate as an extended weekender. A wrap-around bench seat (with lots of head room) and full-sized sleeper contribute to the boat's overnighting potential. Standard amenities include portable head, sink, bead and indirect lighting, cupboards and closets and custom embroidery.

**Performance:** Sunsatation's recipe for creating a hard-edged marinized hot rod is simple: Take one ruggedly-built Dominator hull, rig it up with the correct supporting hardware, fill the wells with a set of HPs and hang on for the ride. The resulting setup creates a driving experience all its own—a full-fledged hot boat that accelerates more

quickly than anything you're likely to encounter this side of an APBA racing course. The Dominator rears onto plane in an instant. It went from zero to 40 in 7.65 seconds, and found a 60-mph glide in an astounding 10.69 seconds. That's quicker than all 32 boats we tested at last year's bi-coastal annual performance evaluations. We also liked the boat through the turns, where it handled like a compact version. As great as the Sunsatation looked from every angle, our favorite perspective remains that which was gleaned from behind the wheel.

**Impressions:** A driver's boat to the extreme, the Sunsatation is put together with an evident (and justified) sense of pride. With the upgraded McLeod interior installation, the ongoing enhancements below and Sunsatation's impressive list of standard features, the Dominator delivers a full-bodied hot-boating experience. Set up as tested, with the HP500s, it's also a world class value.

### H A R D   D A T A

Test Conditions: Moderate  
Centerline length: 30 feet  
Beam: 96 inches  
Bottom: 24-degree step-vee  
Engines/drives: Twin MerCruiser HP500EFI  
Horsepower @ prop: 470 ea.  
Ratio: 1.5:1  
Props: 28-inch Bravo 4-blades  
Overall weight: 6,400 lbs.  
Base retail price (incl. trailer): \$96,411 (with twin 7.4s)  
Standard features: Twin 350 Magnum/Bravo Ones, standup bolsters, cockpit/cabin beverage holders, stainless grab handles, dual batteries, auto bilge, external flappers, locking cabin door, dual Bennett tabs, hydraulic sun deck lift, stainless tie bar, custom graphics, bomar hatch, embroidered cockpit/cabin, closet, cupboards, cabin bead lighting, portable head, Ritchie compass, Gaffrig controls, Sony CD stereo, Zero Effort controls with trim, indirect lighting, lighted rocker switches and galley/sink.  
Options on test boat: HP500EFI upgrade (43,856), IMCO hydraulic steering (\$5,865), Corsa Quick & Quiet exhaust (\$2,655), four-inch angle tips (\$621), K-planes (\$1,728), auto Halon system (\$351), McLeod interior (\$4,307), depth finder (\$428), painted fairing (\$419) and internal engine flush (\$278)  
Price as tested: \$151,054  
Top speed, radar: 87.8 mph  
Builder's estimated speed in optimum conditions: 90 mph  
Maximum rpm: 5,150 rpm  
0-30: 6.38 seconds  
0-40: 7.65 seconds  
0-50: 9.11 seconds  
0-60: 10.69 seconds  
Speed at 3,000 rpm: 53.0 mph  
Speed at 4,000 rpm: 68.7 mph  
Speed at 5,000 rpm: 85.9 mph  
Sunsatation Powerboats  
9666 Kretz Drive  
Algonac, MI 48001  
(810) 794-4888