

By Tyler J. Baum

16 DECK BOAT THE BEST OF THE BEST ALL-STARS

If you're in the market for a new deck boat, we know you're probably feeling a little overwhelmed by your choices. We'll make it a little easier for you. We've searched for the best-selling deck boats around—the all-stars.

Now, when we say, "all-stars," we're not talking about the junior high school definition, which was synonymous with "the misfits who don't belong to any one team." No, we're talking the caliber of the original Dream Team—NBA legends finally unleashed from this side of the pond to rock the world of the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona, Spain: Larry Bird, His Airness Michael Jordan and Magic Johnson, just to name three. Below you'll find the deck boat all-stars—not just rookies of the year, but also seasoned veterans with proven experience a team can rely on.

Azure AZ 240 OB Sport Deck

The AZ 240 has all the space and comfort you expect out of a deck boat, but with the features and style of a sport boat. Along with Azure's patent-pending DripDry ski locker, this boat features a self-bailing cockpit, full wet bar with sink and cooler storage and fiberglass head with shower. Passengers who lunge for the bow as soon as they board—so they can snag their favorite spot—will not be disappointed by the fact that it's deeper than on other deck boats, nor will they miss the same level of comfort as the unique, convertible SunPad in the stern. Those who prefer spending most of their time on the SunPad will find it allows almost two feet more usable space.

Because Azure is a Bennington brand, you know the construction is backed by years of boating experience. The well-designed hull handles the water with ease, is quick to plane and true-tracking, free of bow wander at slow speeds. Style lines are graceful and detailed. The curves and style features make the Azure hull stronger and more rigid.

The AZ 240 is made with hand-laid, high-performance fiberglass, features a Vinylester Barrier coat below the waterline, premium gel coat with a two-year warranty and stainless steel for many metal parts including cleats, telescoping ladder, rub rail and other hardware. It has a large swim platform for you and the other 11 passengers to take a dip when the temperature gets high. The boat comes standard with bimini top and boot as well as a cover for trailering.



SPECS

LOA: 24 feet
Hull length: 22 feet
Beam: 8 feet, 6 inches
Dry weight: 4,311 pounds
Dead rise: 20 degrees
Fuel capacity: 55 gallons
Maximum horsepower: 320hp
Bridge clearance: 57 inches
Maximum passenger capacity: 12 persons
Maximum passenger weight: 1,800 pounds
Phone: 574-264-6336
Web: www.azureboats.com

Chaparral 244 Sunesta Wide Tech

The 244 Sunesta Wide Tech is a boat that has performance, features and design innovations written all over it. Chaparral's revolutionary new patent-pending Wide Tech hull design is making waves with a deeper, wider and roomier bow area than what you're accustomed to. Storage space seems like it never ends. At the helm, a high-tech control panel encourages you to chase the sun wherever it leads. Aft, a clever rear-facing seat makes it easier for everyone to join in.

For those who will only go boating if the boat has a portable toilet, don't fear: the 244 Sunesta comes standard with an enclosed head with lockable door and portable toilet with opening port light. Or, you can upgrade to a pump-out toilet and throw in a VHT VacuFlush system. Cool standard features abound, including—but not limited to—an insulated bow ice chest with a drain, a 25-quart carry-on cooler, lockable glove box with storage net and a solid surface wet bar with sink, trash receptacle and storage. For even more entertainment possibilities, a premium sound system that's Sirius satellite-ready (with a six-month free subscription), four water-resistant speakers, AM/FM CD player and MP3 jack are also standard features you and your friends won't be able to do without. If that's not enough, you can upgrade the speakers, add a bow filler cushion, stainless steel transom and bow shower, snap-in carpet and table with side mount bases in the cockpit and bow and more.



SPECS

LOA w/ swim platform: 24 feet, 4 inches
Beam: 8 feet, 6 inches
Approximate dry weight: 4,700 pounds
Dead rise: 20 degrees
Fuel capacity: 60 gallons
Water capacity: 10 gallons
Holding tank capacity: 3.8 gallons
Maximum horsepower: 320hp
Bridge clearance w/ wakeboard tower: 107 inches (56 inches w/o)
Maximum passenger capacity: 12 persons
Phone: 229-686-7481
Web: www.chaparralboats.com

Ebbtide 2400 Single Console Fun Cruiser OB

The 23-foot, 8-inch long 2400 Single Console Fun Cruiser seats up to 14 people and will fulfill every entertaining need, from a cockpit table, convenience center with sink, cooler and storage, to plenty of seating and storage throughout. For fishing enthusiasts, the boat is equipped with built-in rod holders and an insulated cooler with a drain built into the bow that converts to a livewell (with optional fishing package). An in-floor storage area is perfect for fishing rods, wakeboards or water skis.

The spacious interior of the single console provides plenty of space to move around or stretch out and relax under the sun or shaded by the bimini top. The bow quickly converts into a sun lounge for a lazy afternoon on the water, while listening to the upgraded Sirius-ready deluxe stereo system with CD player and four speakers. It doesn't matter which end of the boat you prefer to swim—this boat offers a bow and stern swim platform, both with stainless steel boarding ladders.

The cockpit comes equipped with adjustable flip-up SAS high back captain's seat with a special shock-absorbing comfort suspension for a smooth ride. The soft vinyl-wrapped dash includes a speedometer, tachometer, trim, oil pressure and fuel gauges, and a safety tether switch. Stainless steel is all around, from the bow and stern rails and eyes, to the ski tow eye, props, cleats and cup holders. The 2400 SC Fun Cruiser accommodates with a generous complement of premium features, including an enclosed head and changing room with portable toilet.

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SPECS:

LOA: 23 feet, 7 inches
Beam: 8 feet, 6 inches
Weight: 3,850 pounds.
Fuel capacity: 68 gallons
Maximum horsepower: 200hp
Maximum passenger capacity: 12 persons
Maximum passenger weight: 1,800 pounds
Centerline floor depth: 33 inches
Dead rise: 17 degrees
Phone: 615-797-3193
Web: www.ebbtideboats.com