



# ARROWCAT 30

## Stand Out From The Crowd

**By Mike Brunn**

**D**esigned for the family but built for the serious angler, the new ArrowCat 30 is destined to make its mark in the recreational boating market.

Built in China by expert craftsmen and designed in New Zealand by a leading yacht designer, the ArrowCat 30 is a high-performance catamaran built to withstand the rigors of blue-water cruising. Unlike many boats, its fiberglass layers are hand-laid versus being sprayed in. From the fully enclosed pilothouse to the large, open cockpit, the folks at ArrowCat have thought of everything.

Our test boat was the first ArrowCat to be shipped to the U.S. The staff of *Bay & Delta Yachtsman* feels privileged to be the first magazine to test and critique this new Cat. As expected, there are a few minor issues that need

correcting but overall the fit and finish on this Cat were nearly perfect.

### **Fast and Dry**

I have always appreciated Cats for their blistering performance and serious handling characteristics. The ArrowCat was no exception. With more than enough tunnel height and a sharp bow, this Cat is not only fast, it's as dry as a bone. While crossing the Bay at 35 knots in moderate conditions, we never experienced any water on the windshield. However, had we experienced any large swell, the nicely sloped windshield and powerful single arm windshield wiper would keep your vision true.

Throw this Cat into a hard turn and hang on! The ArrowCat feels as if it is on rails. During high-speed maneuvers, this nimble Cat remains incredibly stable and level. Amazingly, the

ArrowCat never seemed to pound or land hard while crossing large wakes at full speed. The 30-foot Cat offers an incredibly soft ride for such a small boat.

While I loved the ArrowCat's unparalleled ride, the interior sound levels were a little more than I desired. The rear canvas enclosure with Strato Glass once zipped down did improve the cabin levels quite a bit, but it is possible that the sound levels will be dampened even further once the boat is completely outfitted with gear. Nevertheless, I think a little more insulation in future models would probably bring even that noise to a more preferred level.

### **Fuel Economy**

Given today's astronomical gas and diesel prices, fuel economy should be a serious consideration when shopping for a new boat.





Fortunately, the ArrowCat 30 is remarkably stingy when it comes to fuel consumption. Our test boat, equipped with twin four-stroke Suzuki DF 175 Outboards, recorded the following numbers: 2000 RPM-10 Knots-6.0 GPH; 3500 RPM-19 Knots-10.82 GPH; 4400 RPM-26 Knots-19.06 GPH; 5400 RPM-35 Knots-30.00 GPH.

The ArrowCat's sweet spot seemed to be 3500 RPM. Equipped with a 156-gallon fuel tank, the ArrowCat has a range of approximately 317 nautical miles. Fuel economy and range will depend upon power choices. The Cat can be powered by a number of power choices with twin 250-hp Outboards being the max. If outboards are not to your liking then you are in luck as the ArrowCat can instead be powered by twin inboard diesels.

### **Fishing Machine**

It's hard to mistake the ArrowCat for anything less than a hardcore fishing machine. As mentioned earlier, the ArrowCat features a huge cockpit with a unique catwalk between both outboards. The catwalk-like swimstep allows one to safely reel in the big one without fouling your line on the engines. It also has a large fold-up swimstep that serves as the aft railing and once folded down makes boarding from the water easier than the standard swim step.

Often overlooked but always appreciated once out of the water, the cockpit shower featuring hot and cold water is a very nice addition. Stainless rocket launchers, insulated fish box with macerator and stern rails with rod holders are just a few of the items that make this Cat a real battlegon.

However, don't let the ArrowCat's hard exterior fool you. Inside, this is one soft kitten. I know, that was bad but I couldn't help myself. The comfy pilothouse/salon is well equipped and practical. Located on the starboard side, the galley includes an electric two-burner range top, large fridge and large acrylic countertop with sink. I especially like the solid Canadian cherrywood cabinets with handcrafted dovetail joints.

The "L" shaped lounge is a great place for entertaining family and friends. Making for a comfortable place to sit while underway, but more importantly while you are not, there is more than enough room for family time or getting all your fish stories straight. There is no doubt that the pilothouse can accommodate up to eight adults comfortably for a day on the water. Although it can only sleep six, the lounge in future models will include a table that

drops down converting the settee into a double bunk for those extra guests. If the weather turns nasty, zip down the rear enclosure and the pilothouse transforms into a cozy, warm salon.

### **Maximum Comfort**

The helm station is positioned in the middle of the pilothouse for maximum visibility and comfort. To the starboard side of the helm, just above the entrance to the forward cabin, is a co-pilot seat that is not only comfortable but gives a terrific view forward and aft. There is more than

enough room for your choice of electronics on the ergonomic dash. Our test boat came equipped with the user friendly Raymarine® E-120 Chartplotter, GPS, Depth/Fish Finder, VHF and stereo. The throttle controls could be moved back a few inches making it easier to operate while running the boat from the helm seat.

As is common on most catamarans, both hulls have separate accommodations. Located in the starboard and port hull are quarter berths mid-ship. Forward on the port side is a spacious head that features an electric marine toilet, hot and cold water for the shower and vanity plus headroom that is more than adequate. The starboard side gives access to a double-sized berth with its own deck hatches for plenty of ventilation.

I am sure you have all heard the story: fisherman finds boat. Fisherman loves boat. Fisherman shows family the boat... No Deal on boat! This is truly a boat built for and around the idea of a family; the twist is that it is also a boat that will be admired by the most passionate of fishermen. This cool Cat stands out from the crowd.

**For information on the ArrowCat 30, contact Bay Island Yachts, the Northern California Dealer for ArrowCat Marine Inc., at 2099 Grand St., Alameda, CA 94501 or call 510/814-0400. ✉**

Non-standard options not included on test Cat: Twin Diesel Power; Live Bait Tank; AC Shore Power; 15000 BTU air conditioning; Gas or Diesel generator; Hard Rear enclosure; LPG BBQ.



#### **SPECIFICATIONS**

**LOA: 29' 10"; Beam: 10' ; Fuel Capacity: 156 gallons;  
Water Capacity: 40 gallons; Price as Tested: \$180,785**

