

BEST BOATS OF 2008

MANITOU 22 X-PLODE CRUISE SHP

Just three years ago we named Manitou's SHP (Sport Handling Package) as one of the most innovative ideas

MAN WITH THE PLAN

Dave Curtis,
Vice President
of Operations
"Once we realized
the potential of
the SHP, a lot of

other things made sense: the wakeboard tower, the X-Plode graphics and colors. The boat isn't just trying to be sporty; it is sporty. People come up on the water and can't believe what they're seeing. That gives me a lot of pleasure."

we'd seen. We have to come back to Manitou because they've taken the success of the SHP (more than 30 percent of Manitou buyers opt for it) and made everything around it better.

The SHP uses what's called V-toon technology, where the 27-inch center tube is mounted lower than the 23-inch outer tubes. It's as close to a V-shaped hull as we've found on a pontoon. Manitou designers also set back the motor six inches from the transom, so the entire mix of concepts makes the front half of the boat lift off the water. Handling in turns is unreal.

When Manitou introduces a boat like this one, we know it's been through the testing gauntlet, as proved by the company's six straight Customer Satisfaction Index Awards from the NMMA and two of the past

WHY IT MADE OUR LIST

Continual innovations and an impeccable record on recent customer-satisfaction surveys put Manitou in elite company.

three JD Power Awards. An example of their expectations is the wakeboard tower we saw on our test boat. Custom made, it had no sway when pushed or pulled, and added an aerodynamic dimension — not a squared-off job just for the sake of being there. With it, this model is the pinnacle of athletic pontoons — so far.

Find our full test report at boatinglife.com/bbg08.