

## Stabicraft 829



**M**ORNING TEMPERATURES in the 40s on test day held a shiver in the Seattle air, so when I met the Stabicraft 829 at the dock, I quickly stepped through the watertight door through the gunwale to the cockpit, noting the boat listed minimally as I transferred my weight to the sole. The door swings on heavy hinges and, when latched closed, completes the boat's side from deck to gunwale. The all-aluminum Stabi's broad-shouldered stance comes from buoyant chambers welded around the gunwales from stem to stern and vertically from

chine to gunwale. At rest, the tubes meet the water, holding the boat's footing as passengers move about to battle or gaff fish. At speed, the tubes serve as hard reversed chines that get the boat up on plane quickly; should the boat take heavy seas, the tubes carried all the way to the bow serve to lift the craft over seas and deflect spray away from the boat.

Evinrude engines connected to NMEA 2000 I-Command gauges and a Lowrance chart plotter gave me digital and analog readouts on speed, rpm, gallons per hour and miles per gallon. Hydraulic

**The Geezer Gate**, as Stabicraft dubbed its watertight swinging door, lets passengers step from dock to deck without having to climb over the gunwale.

### High Points

- ▶ The built-in transom bracket includes a place for a low-horsepower kicker motor for economical trolling.
- ▶ Tallon Multi-Holders can accept cupholders, rod holders, dive-tank brackets and more.
- ▶ Aft bait station is covered with a cutting board and features a glass front for monitoring bait conditions.

### Low Points

- ▶ The cabin is Spartan in design and style, offering little eye candy for luxury cruising.
- ▶ Higher bow rails would improve safety when managing the anchor.
- ▶ Shipped from New Zealand, a Stabicraft brings a higher price because of transportation and duties

### Toughest Competitor

ACB Boats are patterned after the long-established Stabicraft brand and also feature watertight aluminum chambers surrounding the cockpit.

- ▶ **LOA:** 29'4" ▶ **Beam:** 8'2" ▶ **Draft (max):** 24" ▶ **Displacement (lb. approx.):** 3,434 (without engines) ▶ **Transom Deadrise:** 21.8 degrees ▶ **Bridge Clearance:** 9'
- ▶ **Fuel Capacity:** 95 gal. ▶ **Water Capacity:** 30 gal. ▶ **Max. Horsepower:** 400
- ▶ **Optional Power:** Twin 200 hp

- ▶ **Price: \$135,000** (w/ test power and trailer)

### BOATING Certified Test Results

rpm	SPEED			EFFICIENCY				
	knots	mph	gph	naut. mpg	stat. mpg	n. mi. range	s. mi. range	
1000	4.43	5.10	0.30	14.77	17.00	1263	1454	
1500	6.60	7.60	0.90	7.34	8.44	627	722	
2000	8.26	9.50	1.80	4.59	5.28	392	451	
2500	11.34	13.05	4.00	2.84	3.26	242	279	
3000	17.03	19.60	8.30	2.05	2.36	175	202	
3500	24.51	28.20	10.20	2.40	2.76	205	236	
4000	29.41	33.85	14.70	2.00	2.30	171	197	
4500	32.37	37.25	25.00	1.29	1.49	111	127	
5000	34.85	40.10	29.60	1.18	1.35	101	116	
5500	35.41	40.75	31.60	1.12	1.29	96	110	

MOST ECONOMICAL CRUISING SPEED

**TIME TO PLANE:** 3.9 sec. **TIME TO 30 MPH:** 14.7 sec.

### HOW WE TESTED

**ENGINES:** Twin Evinrude 175 **PROPS:** 15" Rebel, stainless steel **GEAR RATIO:** 2:1 **FUEL LOAD:** 95 gal. **PASSENGERS ON BOARD:** 4

**Stabicraft Marine** Mount Vernon, Washington 360-220-2860; stabicraft.com

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steering eased maneuvering away from the dock and, in normal maneuvers, allowed effortless steering.

Side windows in the pilothouse slid aft to allow ventilation. Two of our crew settled into the four-seat dinette while one checked out the forward berth conveniently accessible in the cuddy. A galley

stove and sink made long-range fishing or coastal cruising comfortable. The head was located in the cuddy beneath the berth. Equipped to fish with an aft bait station and livewell and plenty of rod holders, the Stabicraft serves as well for those wanting an easy-to-handle, compact cruiser — *Randy Vance*