

Clyde Tries out Tony's V10S

Just dropped off Tony's V10S at Go Bananas via a detour to Hawaii Kai to test it out. First of all, no wonder this ski has become popular with the recreational inland water group, for it is very light and a snap to carry, load and store. At about 20 ft. long, it's just as long as most of my standard skis, however, much much lighter. Little people can handle the craft on their own without any help (if not very windy).

Compared to those back breaking overly heavy and cumbersome plastic fantastics, this is the craft of choice for fair weather paddlers. On the very first stroke, wow! The boat really moves. Paddling anything else, is like pushing a barge upstream. Plus, its got a really smooth rudder that turns quickly and keeps you heading straight as an arrow - no wasted steering strokes and lots of distance per stroke (especially in flat water). A kick-up over the stern rudder will sell this boat like hotcakes, for those who like to cruise around and sightsee in shallow water.

Man, how can anyone go back to paddling those plastic boats after paddling this ski? Its got a built in breather tube, so don't have to puff it up, or remember drain plugs or corks. It comes with a bunch of trippy things like bungee tie downs behind the cockpit and in front of the foot pedals. Also, removable pads on the sides of the cockpit, so you can adjust the trim you want for your narrow or wide hips. The foot pedals tilt towards the paddler and don't lean back and are adjustable for tall or short legs. The footstraps are adjustable also. With my fat hips, I felt rather snug and comfortable in the cockpit, but most of all, my back didn't complain at all.

The ski felt really good heading out to the breakers and the "Blinking Buoy" and beyond. Since it wasn't my boat, I played it safe and codled it through the waves. Normally, on my conventional old style skis, I like to go airborne over the incoming and crashing waves, so I stuck to the side and avoided the big stuff. Turning the ski around and catching the baby stuff on the side was easy with hardly any effort on my part. The ski responded very well and was very maneuverable, riding the waves and turning left or right using the rudder or leaning outside while pulling the tail to the blade. She didn't breakaway from me in small stuff at all.

This ski is a pleasure to paddle and does the job it was designed for in going downwind and is versatile enough for those weekend flatwater cruisers. For me, the ski is very stable, and I would do the Molokai in it without hesitation. However, it was quite an effort for me to do a deep water remount on it, so don't get dumped when you're tired. I would prefer less volume behind the cockpit, to minimize pearling. And with a lower cockpit and deck, the ski would be much easier to remount, especially in Victory at Sea conditions out in the Channel.

Clyde