



Dominator 560 Twin Hull Cuddy

Powered cat builder, Mark Hookham, has breathed new life into his Dominator range with the release of three great new models. Jeff Webster travelled to Coffs Harbour to test the latest 'canyon runner'.

Since the release of the new series of Dominator Canyon Runner cats last year, we've been itching to get our hands on one. The new models, designed and built by powered cat guru, Mark Hookham, are very impressive looking craft.

Late last year we previewed the first of the new rigs, the 7.0 m Canyon Runner. This created quite some interest with readers, due to the completely new and innovative deck layout and cabin structure. Since then, we have been waiting patiently for a 7.0 m boat to become available for testing. This hasn't happened, but we have been able to take a ride in the baby of the new series, the 5.6 m.

The new 5.6 m Dominator is essentially a smaller version of the big 7.0 m model. At a glance, the smaller boat looks identical to the 6.2 m and 7.0 m models because the cabin design

and layout is the same - albeit scaled down.

Having made this observation, it should be noted that the new 5.6 m Dominator is not a small boat. For its 5.6 m centreline length, the "baby" Dominator Canyon Runner is a big volume boat; the beam is out to the maximum at 2.5 m, and there is only marginally less topsides depth and freeboard than you'll find in the larger boats.

The Cabin & Interior The new cabin structure and interior layout is markedly different to previous Dominator cats. And doesn't it look fantastic? I reckon these new Canyon Runners are among the best looking powered cats I have seen for a long time.

But they don't just look good; they are also quite functional. Underneath

the forward cabin for example, is a large, transverse double berth. There's not a lot of headroom up here, but the berth is plenty big enough (2.26 m x 1.2 m wide) for a couple of people to bed down overnight.

I don't see this berth and cabin arrangement being suitable for weekend cruising, but it would be ideal for bunking down overnight while travelling on the highway - en-route to a fishing tournament for example.

The cabin berth is made up of three separate vinyl covered cushions. The centre cushion and board can be quickly removed or pushed aside to provide access to the forward hatchway.

Climbing out the cabin hatch to reach the bow is also easier than it looks. You do have to duck down to clamber through the cabin, but pushing open the forward hatch is easy because

