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Fishing Port O' Call: *Huron, Ohio for Walleye & Fun*

GREAT LAKES ANGLER

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SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2002

HARBOR PATROL FOR KINGS!

**Secrets of a charter captain
Snapweight breakthrough**

HOT BOAT! Cherokee



Pro's Pointers: Fall offshore

Kevin VanDam's Phat Fall Spinnerbait Tactics

**Attack of the carps!
Evinrude, Mercury, Yamaha
To (Fish) ID or not ID?**

Cherokee 300 Sportfisher

Big, yet fast, this boat can fish in almost anything the lakes churn up.



“It’s built like a tank,” says skipper Carl Stopczynski about his Cherokee 300. A tournament angler who runs a charter out of Michigan City, Indiana, he appreciates how well the boat handles big water.

“You can fish in four-footers on just one engine,” Stopczynski says. “And stable? I know for a fact you can fish the trough in 10-footers.”

Of course, not all potential Cherokee owners are going to fully utilize the 300’s big water fishability, but if it handles that kind of water and catches fish, it will chortle at the smaller seas that the less intrepid anglers of the world face.

With a beam of 11 feet, 6 inches, the boat can take six ‘riggers; Stopczynski has five. He’s also put enough rod holders on the hardtop and elsewhere to

carry 50—count ‘em—50 rigged rods.

The boat is deceptively fast for a “tank.” Construction that sandwiches balsa between 3/8-inch fiberglass (a process used by serious go-fast boats) keeps the weight relatively light. Dry, the 300 weighs just 7,800 pounds, which means it doesn’t weigh down the twin powerplants and is reasonably trailerable with most 3/4-ton vehicles as long as you secure the proper wide-load permits.

With twin 350 inboards from Crusader, the boat has fairly economical fuel consumption. While .8 miles per gallon isn’t exactly anorexic, it’s what Stopczynski’s boat got, laden down, on an 82-mile run from Michigan City to a tournament in Racine, Wisconsin while cruising at 28 mph.

The boat can sleep two in the vee berth and one on the fold-down dinette. It has a fold-down dinette under the hardtop and a head in the cabin. **GLA**

SPECIFICATIONS

LOA	30'
Beam	11'6"
Draft.....	32"
Weight	7,800
Fuel Capacity	185 gals.
Power.....	T/350 Crusaders
Base price	\$108,000

CHEROKEE BOATS

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