

PETER'S WATERSPORTS

4.3 SEMI-RIGID



Getaway from the madding crowd!



Words and pictures by Vince Warriner.

Peter Kuffler, director of Peters Watersports had been at me for some time to do a review of this 4.3m semi-rigid duck. I could sense that he was very enthusiastic and proud of his boat and wanted more exposure for it.

Conditions for test

I had to review another boat at the picturesque Inanda Dam outside Hillcrest and invited Chad Llewelyn from Peters Watersports to bring his inflatable along so that I could do it at the same time.


We were treated to a cloudless day, flat water and hardly any wind. Picture perfect! Inanda really is a magnificent piece of water with excellent facilities.

General impressions

I was standing at the water's edge when Chad arrived in a bakkie towing the semi-rigid. My first impression as I walked up to the boat was its compactness, slightly deep stern and high pontoon bows.

She was comfortably nestling on a custom-made breakneck trailer which was galvanised, neat and well finished off. Launching was straightforward and in a very short time we were ready to go and have some fun.

Deck layout

Simplicity is the key to this semi-rigid which is not very big in size. Chad showed me around pointing out the different features. 



Compactness and simplicity is the key to this 4.3 m semi-rigid, perfect for the entry-level boater!

The pontoon tubes are made from 1000 gsm (grammes per square metre) imported PVC inflatable boat fabric. The chambers are split into three separate compartments and the boat is built strictly to the requirements of the law.

There is an anchor locker right up front, with a small removable hatch lid, with a fair bit of space between it and the stand-up console. The console has a small storage facility in the front and a much bigger hatch on the driver's side. There is a small windscreen on top of

the console with a stainless steel rail over it to grab on to when necessary.

The boat is fitted with a 40HP electric start Yamaha. The controls for the motor are fitted with a side-mount control box on the console itself. The steering is a push-pull system which is light to use and effective.

The fuel tank is situated at the rear against the transom and held in place with tie-downs. A roll bar for with a rod holder can be fitted for trawling. A big feature of this craft is despite its

size it still feels roomy and can take three adults comfortably. There are long flap-type scuppers fitted at the back of the craft to facilitate the self-draining deck. Grab lines are an added safety feature.

Handling

Being a light boat the 40HP Yamaha motor has more than adequate power. She was up onto plane in seconds with enough thrust to pull a water skier out of the water. One could literally fling the boat around to port or starboard and she held firmly on the water. Since there was no speedometer or rev counter I could not get an accurate idea of



The centre console features a small storage facility in the front and a much bigger hatch on the driver's side.

speed, save to say there is plenty of it to run away from the surf with the fitted 13-pitch propeller.

Conclusion

If you are looking for a general purpose utility-type boat then the 4.3 Peters Watersports Semi Rigid might just be for you. It would be ideal to load this boat and pop over the border into Mozambique, go bass fishing at Inanda or Midmar Dam - or simply treat friends to some water-skiing at Hazelmere Dam. A fish finder would complete the package. Enjoy and have fun!

For further information contact Peter Kuffler at Peters Watersports on 031 573 1465 or 082 951 2669. or email peter@peterswatersports.co.za or visit www.peterswatersports.co.za



The craft's 40 HP Yamaha motor was more than adequate. Not only does it plane quickly, but is more than capable of towing a skier.

