



## Ranger Reata 243C

**E**STABLISHED PONTOON BUILDERS PROVE the growth of performance pontoons is still on the rise by yearly introducing new models to capture boaters' attention. This year, Ranger is the surprise player that is expanding its line of premium bass, walleye and fish-and-ski boats to include pontoons. Not just everyday pontoons either, but high-performance, triple-tube models with luxury seating, high-horsepower outboards, and beautiful powder-coated pontoons and rails. Further, Ranger includes more luxury appointments as standard equipment than the competition.

The 26-inch-diameter powder-coated tubes (the coating is done in Ranger's proprietary factory kiln) and beautiful

### EXTRA POINT

**Pontoons are multi-chambered**, each pressurized and tested for air tightness in the factory. Schrader valve ports in each section facilitate long-term maintenance.

underpinning below deck is standard on the Reata.

A deck forward of the bow gate has curved corners and adds convenience for anchoring or mooring to the dock. Aft, the swim platform boasts rounded corners — a beautiful look that we found also offers easier close-quarters maneuvering, lacking aft corners to catch on the

complementary side rails give the Reata a sleek look that raw aluminum tubes cannot. True to its durability DNA, Ranger Reata boats are built using 0.04-inch-thick aluminum panels, while most builders use 0.032-inch-thick panels. Even the performance-enhancing aluminum

dock. A stainless-steel boarding ladder adds to the gleam of this new entree, and the optional tow pylon adds fun.

From a performance standpoint, triple tubes add plenty of buoyancy for crews of up to 12 people. Lifting strakes improve performance by reducing drag and increasing hole shot and top speed. The ride is solid too, thanks to extruded, full-length M-brackets welded to the tubes and bolted firmly to the deck.

To pamper your ride, all lounges have multidensity foam and rich marine vinyl nicely contoured with deep bottoms and thick backrests. A fiberglass helm gives an excellent view over passengers lounging forward, and aft seats and a changing room complete the comfort package.

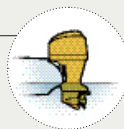
All this is surprising from a premium fishing-boat builder, but what is not surprising is that Ranger offers Reata pontoons in fishing models as well, complete with locking rod storage, livewells and a Lowrance Hook 5 fish finder at the helm. — *Randy Vance*

### MORE ONLINE

To see a photo gallery of the Ranger Reata 243C, visit [boatingmag.com/2990](http://boatingmag.com/2990).

### AVAILABLE POWER:

OUTBOARD



### High Points

- ▶ Pontoons are powder-coated for long-term corrosion control.
- ▶ Lift-assist Bimini top deploys and stows with fingertip effort.
- ▶ Snapless mooring cover is standard on all Reata boats.
- ▶ Woven deck mat is durable and easy to care for.
- ▶ Gates are spring-loaded to close and latch.

### Low Points

- ▶ Splashwell cover plate eliminates a platform hazard but prevents outboard from tilting up fully.

### Toughest Competitor

- ▶ Bennington's SX 24 Swingback (\$47,228 with Mercury 150) boasts the rounded corners plus a convertible aft sun lounge and a comparable woven mat deck. It's sleek but lacks the cool powder coating.

- ▶ LOA: 26'2" ▶ Beam: 8'6" ▶ Displacement (approx.): 3,140 lb. ▶ Fuel Capacity: 52 gal.
- ▶ Max Horsepower: 200 ▶ Available Power: Mercury, Yamaha, Evinrude outboards

**Price: \$47,795 (with test power)**

### BOATING Certified Test Results

rpm	SPEED			EFFICIENCY			OPERATION		
	knots	mph	gph	naut. mpg	stat. mpg	n. mi. range	s. mi. range	angle	sound level
1000	3.2	3.7	0.6	5.4	6.2	250.8	288.6	1.0	56
1500	4.8	5.5	1.0	4.8	5.5	223.7	257.4	2.0	62
2000	6.1	7.0	1.4	4.3	5.0	203.3	234.0	2.0	69
2500	8.0	9.2	2.2	3.6	4.2	170.1	195.7	4.0	69
3000	10.6	12.2	3.2	3.3	3.8	155.0	178.4	5.0	71
3500	15.6	18.0	4.7	3.3	3.8	155.8	179.2	4.0	73
4000	17.1	19.7	5.8	2.9	3.4	137.8	158.6	5.0	78
4500	19.8	22.8	7.9	2.5	2.9	117.4	135.1	5.0	79
5000	22.9	26.4	10.1	2.3	2.6	106.3	122.3	5.0	81
5500	27.5	31.6	12.8	2.1	2.5	100.4	115.5	5.0	82
6000	31.1	35.8	14.9	2.1	2.4	97.7	112.4	5.0	86
6500	33.3	38.3	17.2	1.9	2.2	90.6	104.2	5.0	90

MOST ECONOMICAL CRUISING SPEED

### HOW WE TESTED

ENGINE: Mercury Verado 200 DRIVE/PROP: Inertia 14" 3-blade stainless steel GEAR RATIO: 1.85:1 FUEL LOAD: 25 gal. WATER ON BOARD: 0 gal. CREW WEIGHT: 240 lb.

Ranger Pontoons Flippin, Arkansas; 800-373-2628; rangerpontoons.com