

# SEATRIALS



MEDIA MARINE

## Cruisin' Cat

PDQ's MV/34 gives you more of what you want in a cruiser—room, range, safety. By BRAD KOVACH

**C**rab pot at 12 o'clock. "Take it down the middle," said charter captain Wes Jung, who had come along for my test of the new PDQ MV/34 Passagemaker. We were running down the Gulf Coast of Florida south of Sarasota, and the shoreline was strewn with more crab pots than a Maryland harbor. Sure, why not take it down the middle, I thought. That's one of the advantages of cruising aboard a beamy power catamaran like this one—if you have to avoid a piece of flotsam in close quarters, you can just straddle it.

I have to admit that the idea of running over that float made me a little nervous; after years of driving mostly monohulls, I'm just not wired that way. Nevertheless, the 34's tunnel accepted the pint-size buoy with ease. The boat

### Specifications:

LOA.....	34'6"
Beam.....	16'10"
Draft.....	2'4"
Disp.....	10,000 lbs.
Bridge Clearance.....	12'3"
Transom Deadrise.....	NA
Water.....	80 gals.
Fuel.....	184 gals.
<b>Base Price</b>	
<b>(w/test power):</b>	<b>\$215,900</b>

### Contact:

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cruised along at a fairly smooth 19 mph (3250 rpm) despite that fact that we were being struck beam-to by an unruly two-foot chop. The "planing effect" produced by the twin sponsons' flat aft sections had a lot to do with that. It kept us riding higher in the water as the sharp sponsons sliced through the waves.

The 34 registered 21.8 mph (3550 rpm) at wide-open throttle. That's pretty darn quick (PDQ, get it?) for a cruising

cat. According to factory tests, range at 3000 rpm is a long-legged 1,000 miles with a 10-percent fuel reserve. Driving from the flybridge was comfortable, with clear sight lines all around. I'd like to see the instruments grouped above the wheel instead of splayed out to port as they currently are. (A PDQ company rep told me this was in the works.) I'd also like to see an electronics flat nearby for flush-mounted displays.

The 34 has a host of smart cruising features. The replaceable aluminum toerail, for example, is the most outboard part of the boat, so you can really grind up against a piling to pivot into a slip. The transom has deep steps on each side of an optional dinghy davit that fits perfectly between the two sponsons. The 34 offers huge side decks, full wraparound grabrails on the cabin housing and safety rails with intermediate lines surrounding the entire deck.

Below, the big 16'10" beam means you're getting a lot of acreage. Eight or nine people can comfortably sit around the central salon table with fold-down wings; another three on the settee opposite the lower helm station, and two on the bench behind the wheel. The well equipped galley is down to port; the head with shower is down to starboard. Dual staterooms with double berths lie aft, above the twin diesels.

The engine compartment, generator space and electric panel are all readily accessible and well organized for practical upkeep and maintenance. The 34 is built to be managed easily by a crew of two. I can hardly think of a better way to spend my days than exploring the Gulf Coast with my wife aboard a cool cat like the PDQ MV/34 Passagemaker. ☺

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**Test Power:** (2) 75-hp Yanmar four-cylinder turbo-charged diesel inboards. Standard power is twin 55-hp Yanmar four-cylinder diesels.

### Performance:

RPM	MPH	Knots	dB-A
Idle	5.0	4.3	59
900	5.6	4.9	59
1200	7.2	6.3	62
1500	8.3	7.2	65
1800	8.9	7.7	67
2100	9.3	8.1	69
2400	13.2	11.5	70
2700	16.7	14.5	72
3000	18.7	16.3	75
3300	19.6	17.0	76
3550	21.8	19.0	79

Speeds recorded by GPS on the ICW off Cabbage Key, Fla., in a one- to two-foot chop and 15-knot winds w/three people on board and full fuel and water tanks. Sound levels measured at the helm.

**Standard Equipment** (major items): Galley w/two-burner stove, microwave and 12-volt refrigerator/freezer; hot/cold pressurized water system; salon table w/ drop-down leaves and cushions; twin steering stations w/flying bridge; VHF radio; GPS chartplotter; speed/depth/temperature gauges; full AC/DC electrical panels.

**Optional Equipment** (major items): Anchoring package; electronics package; 12-volt cabin fans; day/night solar fans; dinghy davits; air-conditioning system; 4.2-kW diesel generator; inverter/charger.

**Warranty:** Five-year limited hull and deck warranty against osmosis.