

HOW WE TESTED

Taking the Dinks for a Spin

Practical Sailor testing was done in two stages. First, the boats were inflated to their specified air pressure and examined closely. *PS* examined grab and carrying handles, oars, lifting rings, seating, storage space, drain-plug design, rub strakes, nonskid, and towing eyes. Testers also looked at the transom design and construction. Each boat was folded and stowed in its respective bag twice.

For on-the-water testing on Sarasota Bay, Fla., the test motor was a 9.9-horsepower Mercury four-stroke, which we rated highly in the June 2007 issue. *PS* recorded each vessel's top

speed and time to plane with two passengers with a combined weight of 350 pounds. If performance seemed less than optimal (slow to plane, etc.), the riders' positions were adjusted to achieve the best result, and this shift was noted. *PS* evaluated how each RIB handled at low and high speeds. Testers judged their ability to track while cornering at high speeds. Stability at high speed and the riders' comfort level also played a part in recommendations. How well the boats deflected spray when powering through a 1- to 2-foot wake was also noted. Finally, testers rowed each boat with the engine tilted up.