

PCS BOAT REVIEW BY STEVE QUINLAN

HAVE IT YOUR WAY

Specifications

L.O.A.: 60' 10"
Beam: 16' 8"
Displacement: 60,000 pounds
Maximum HP: 2,030
Draft: 4' 2"
Fuel Capacity: 960 gallons
Water Capacity: 200 gallons
Price as Tested (w/twin Cummins
670 hp QSM 11 diesels): \$1,240,139



ACTIVA 55 SKYLounge MOTORYACHT

SPORTFISHER SHOWCASE – Please Tell Them You Saw It In PCS

It's not every day we get to test the very first of a new-model sportfisher, so when we heard that the Activa (High Star) 55 Long-Range SkyLounge Motoryacht was making its premier at the San Diego Boat Show and would be available for testing afterward, we were all over it.

Built to ABYC and ABC standards, the Activa 55 is great for family boating and is more fishable than many sportfishers in its class. It can be built semi-custom to order with a live-bait tank, an extended cockpit, cockpit controls, a fighting chair, outriggers, and fish boxes in the swim-step. In addition, it can sleep nine in five separate areas.

A Stern Look

As we boarded the Activa 55 via its large four- by fourteen-foot swim-step, one of the first things we noted were the three fish boxes (one was six feet, and two were three feet) built in with a sump in the center that allows you to pump ice in and pump water out. Best of all, this arrangement keeps fish blood and slime out of the cockpit. Three U-shaped stainless rails make fishing and boarding safer and can be moved forward into spare sockets when you need them out of the way to boat a big fish.

We entered the cockpit through the hinged transom door, and the next thing that really stood out was the huge two-scoop, lighted bait tank molded into the transom, complete with a sink and storage cabinet. There were cockpit controls and next to them, a freezer. Six Precision rodholders are built into the coaming, and there are several storage compartments in the panels. Measurement from the cockpit sole to the top of the coaming is 27.5 inches – ideal for stand-up fighting.

The bridge deck has been cut back two feet to open up the cockpit overhead and eliminate the conventional upright side supports. This design, along with tall gunwales and stainless two-inch rails, provides safe, unobstructed fishing from the cockpit to the bow inside a full 360-degree protected walkaround.

Access to the standup lazarette (five feet, five inches of headroom) and engine room (five feet, two inches of head-

room) is through a large gas-assisted hatch in the cockpit sole. In the lazarette you'll find a 13 kW generator, workbench, inverter, Norcold freezer, water heater, battery charger, automatic fire-extinguisher system, central vacuum, and space for an icemaker.

Forward of the lazarette is a well-lit engine room that can also be accessed through four hatch openings in the salon, and there's lots of headroom and space to get around the engines. Each main has its own start/stop switches and Vessel View monitor mounted to the bulkhead forward of the engines where they're easily accessible. Stainless grab rails frame each engine to provide a measure of safety when you're moving about the area.

Step into My Salon

Our test boat features a forward galley with a dinette to starboard; however, you could also opt to move the galley aft to create a full pilothouse helm to starboard with a side door out to the walkaround decks. The raised galley and dinette (eight inches above the salon floor) gives you a 360-degree bird's eye view looking out from the dinette. The dinette seats six. Galley appliances include two U-Line drawer refrigerators and two U-Line drawer freezers, an icemaker, a stainless steel double sink, Corian countertops with brushed stainless backing, Fisher/Paykell dishwasher, three-burner Seaward Gourmet cooktop, and a GE convection microwave.

Adding to the rich look is the salon's teak and holly floor. A trash compactor and wine cooler are built into the cabinetry, as is a 42-inch flat-screen TV (optional), and an L-shaped leather sofa pulls out to create a double bed. The full-length teak overhead grab rail is as functional as it is good looking, and Bose Life Style 48-DVD entertainment system with surround sound is icing on the cake.

As you make your way forward down a wide stairwell, the guest stateroom (starboard) features two big closets, storage beneath the bed, and seven feet, eight inches of headroom. Captain's quarters are across the way. Forward is the master stateroom, featuring teak paneling, seven

feet, five inches of headroom, queen-size bed, laundry room, and plenty of storage (including beneath the bed), and the master bath is large and decked out with tile floors. Between the guest room and the master stateroom, the guest bathroom features a large shower and tile floor.

Up, Up and Away

From the cockpit to the bridge deck the stairwell is easy to climb and offers plenty of grab rails (interior stairs to the bridge are optional). This Activa 55's spacious 12- by-13-foot sky-lounge has an open look, but it's also loaded with trick standard features, such as an L-shaped settee with a teak table for six, entertainment cabinet that includes a sink and a Norcold combo refrigerator/icemaker, and a surround-sound system with subwoofer.

Analog gauges in the helm are mounted above Vessel View (SmartCraft) digital gauges and Twin Disc Quick Shift controls. In all, the Activa comes standard with three locations for helm stations: one in the cockpit, one in the sky-lounge, and one inside, next to the dinette. Two Stidd helm chairs are positioned to the customer's requirements. As a safety measure, the Activa 55 is fitted with backup throttles for each engine as well as backup transmission switches.

Nine hp bow thrusters come standard on the 55, and she is also available with stern thrusters. Her upper aft deck is laid out for a dinghy with a Davco bifold davit to port, and the starboard aft area can be equipped with a complete aft helm – ideal for billfishing. On the exterior of the sky-lounge, an aft-facing seat provides suitable storage for a six-man life raft.

Standard power came on the boat we tested: twin Cummins 670 hp QSM-11 diesels mated with Twin Disc MGX 5095 transmissions and EC300 controls that feature Quick Shift and trolling valves. Shafts are 2.5-inch Aqua Met 22s. The Activa 55 is also available with Caterpillar 1,015 hp C-18 diesels and Zeus drives. With standard power it has a cruising speed of 18 knots and a top speed of 23 knots at 2,300 rpm. Traveling at 7 knots and turning 800 rpm, its maximum range is 2,765 miles, based on 90 percent of its 960-gallon fuel capacity.

Designed by Naval architect Howard Apollonio, the 55's modified "V" hull features a sharp entry for cutting through head seas, hard chines, lifting strakes, longitudinal stringers, and an extensive network of transverse frames in the inner hull for additional support. For stability the keel is weighted, and the reverse tangent on the chines helps reduce roll in rough water. Richard Boland and the builder, Charles Chang, designed the Activa 55's styling and layout, both interior and exterior.

A sportfisher the whole family can appreciate, the Activa 55's ride is as sweet as its styling and amenities, and it was designed so that the customer can order it semi-custom and "have it his way." This is one of the best-designed interior layouts – with 360-degree viewing from the galley and dinette – and the most spacious, comfortable and family-safe exteriors we have been aboard in some time. Theatre-like viewing from the sky-lounge makes this a superb yacht for cruising or sportfishing. But don't take our word for it. Check out the Activa 55 for yourself by calling Richard Boland Yacht Sales at (510) 521-6213 to schedule a sea trial. And tell them PCS sent you. ■



Captain Stubing would feel at home in this sky-lounge, complete with seating for six and an entertainment cabinet.



The spacious salon steps up to the galley that features a 360-degree bird's-eye view.



A galley fit for the gourmet fisherman features teak and holly flooring, recessed double sink, granite countertops, plenty of refrigerator/freezer space and more.

Richard Boland Yachts

SEE US AT
YACHTFEST
MARINA VILLAGE FEB 19-22

ACTIVA (HI STAR) YACHTS
RIVIERA YACHTS
QUALITY BROKERAGE

SEE US AT
TRAWLERFEST
SAN DIEGO FEB 26-28



2010 55' Activa
(FORMERLY HI-STAR)

Skylounge Motoryacht

1070 Marina Village Parkway, #107, Alameda, California 94501

PHONE: (510) 521-6213 • FAX: (510) 521-0118

www.RichardBolandYachts.com



STRIPER

**LIQUIDATION SALE
DEALER INVOICE**

THE #1 SELLING FISHING BOAT IS CURRENTLY ON
**SALE @ ALLISON MARINE. ALL STRIPERS AT
RIGHT NOW ON SALE. COME DOWN TO
ALLISON MARINE FOR THE BEST
PRICES OF THE YEAR.**

18' THROUGH 33' - DIESEL,
GAS, STERNDRIVE, OUTBOARD

Seawire

YAMAHA OR VOLVO PENTA POWERED

ALLISON MARINE

**800-642-4404
COSTA MESA, CA**