

# Sea Ray 280 Sundeck (2014-)

## Brief Summary

Sea Ray's 280 Sundeck has the nimble handling that power steering and DTS controls offer. But for many owners her main attraction is probably how well she handles long days on the hook. Her aft sun pad offers multiple configurations, a theme that Sea Ray has really gotten the hang of as of late. Her forward lounge seats are as quite comfortable, and if grilling is the game plan, she's got that covered as part an options package available. All in a size that accommodates a dozen people.

## Price

**Base Price**\$100296.00

*Prices, features, designs, and equipment are subject to change. Please see your local dealer or visit the builder's website for the latest information available on this boat model.*

## Key Features

- Adjustable "sun gate" transom seating
- Increased seating capacity from 12 to 14 people
- L-shaped cockpit lounge converts to 4 different configurations
- Large bow space and seating for 6
- Sunbrella Bimini top standard
- MerCruiser 350 MAG ECT Bravo III with Digital Throttle and Shift
- Stereo with wireless Bluetooth and media inputs
- Large head compartment with vanity, sink, and portable head

## Specifications

|                |                       |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| Length Overall | 28' / 8.53 m          |
| BEAM           | 8'10"   2.69 m        |
| Dry Weight     | 5,726 lbs.   2,597 kg |
| Tested Weight  |                       |

|                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Draft              | 42"   107 cm    |
| Draft Up           |                 |
| Draft Down         |                 |
| Air Draft          |                 |
| Deadrise/Transom   | 21-deg.         |
| Max Headroom       | N/A             |
| Bridge Clearance   | N/A             |
| Weight Capacity    |                 |
| Person Capacity    |                 |
| Fuel Capacity      | 85 gal.   322 L |
| Water Capacity     | 20 gal.   76 L  |
| Length on Trailer  |                 |
| Height on Trailer  |                 |
| Trailer Weight     |                 |
| Total Weight       |                 |
| Aft Deck           |                 |
| Salon Inside Width |                 |

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| Salon Fore & Aft     |  |
| Salon Height         |  |
| Salon Volume         |  |
| Galley Volume        |  |
| Master SR Width      |  |
| Master SR fore & Aft |  |
| Master SR Overhead   |  |
| Master SR Volume     |  |
| Eng. Room Volume     |  |

# Acceleration Times & Conditions

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| Time to Plane |  |
| 0 to 20       |  |
| Ratio         |  |
| Props         |  |
| Load          |  |
| Climate       |  |

Sea Ray 280 Sundeck

Here we see what a deckboat is made to do -- be a watersports platform for swimming, wakeboarding, tubing, and beaching. Not shown here is the 4-step beach boarding ladder, which is standard. The Sea Ray 280 Sundeck's high freeboard gives her added functionality because she is dryer in larger bodies of water with a deeper, more secure cockpit, which is important when young children are aboard.

## Deckboat Back Story

Originally deckboats were made for small bodies of water that were protected and the primary reason for the deck boat design was to be a low-cost, movable dive platform for swimming, tubing, beach boarding, with extra room in the bow seating area.

~~Sea Ray 280 Sundeck~~

The layout of the Sea Ray 280 Sundeck.

## New Challenges.

But that was before wakeboarding became popular -- and before people started using these boats in larger bodies of water. Low freeboard, lightweight, wet boats were not very good at that, particularly in larger bodies of water where wakeboards often seem to hang out. Most of the first generation of deckboats did not have swim platforms that extended beyond their lower units when in the down position. Because the boats were intended to be a swimming platform, that was problematical.

## Safer, Dryer.

Further, because of the speed of the vessels, parents were concerned about the relative modest cockpit depth in some of the early deckboats. By building a deckboat with more beef, more freeboard, and more up-scale amenities, the Sea Ray 280 Sundeck becomes a vessel that can be used in saltwater, the Great Lakes, or virtually any body of water. The added freeboard also allows the cockpit to be deeper.

~~Sea Ray 280 Sundeck~~

The Sea Ray 280 Sundeck is for people who want a higher caliber boat.

## Major Features

## Up-Market Build Quality.

During the last two years Sea Ray has consciously up-graded the quality of its boats in a dozen small ways that include upholstery, styling, deck coverings, cushion and seat design as well as the addition of some amenities, such as stern shower, Bimini top, a cockpit table, and SeaDec matting on the swim platform.

## Size and Beef.

The dry weight of the 280 is 5,276 lbs. (2,597 kgs.) and this plus her 8'10" (2.69 m) beam – 4" wider than most boats in class – combine to give this deckboat more weight than many others.

### Sea Ray 280 Sundeck

In entertainment mode the 280 Sundeck can comfortably seat 7-8 people behind the helm. The size of the boat permits a large wet bar (at left) which can be optioned out many ways.

## Propulsion Package.

Sea Ray has not stinted on the propulsion system and related electronics. The standard engine is the 300-hp Mercury 350 MAG ECT with Bravo III lower unit with twin counter-rotating props.

## Instruments and Controls.

The boat comes standard with Mercury digital throttle and shift (DTS), SmartCraft diagnostics, power-assist steering and trim and tilt drive. This is about as complete as it gets.

## Swim Platform.

The 280 Sundeck has a large swim platform that is an extension and is bolted on to the transom. This not only becomes a good launching pad for watersports, but also covers the lower unit when it is in the down position.

## Higher Freeboard.

In addition to her slightly wider beam, which is carried well forward to make her bow seating larger, the 280 also has higher freeboard than a number of deckboats on the market, particularly the inexpensive ones. This is the major feature of the Sea Ray Sundeck Series that sets them apart from many boats in class.

### Sea Ray 280 Sundeck

The helm console is clean with instrument clusters just below the captain's line of sight. The tan dash reduces glare in the windshield. Windshield wiper is standard.

### Sea Ray 280 Sundeck

A chartplotter, Garmin GPSMap 640, is optional and only really needed if traveling to unfamiliar waters. But if needed, there is plenty of room for it.

## Standard Equipment (Partial List)

- Head compartment with vanity, sink, removable toilet, mirror, light and lock
- Stereo with Bluetooth and media input jacks
- Cockpit wet bar with solid surface counter, ss sink, faucet, pressure water and carry-on cooler
- 4-step bow beach boarding ladder
- Bimini top with boot
- Snap-in carpet
- Insulated cooler built into the bow
- Cockpit table with dedicated storage space
- Gel coated engine room
- Pressure water system with 3 sprayers and 20-gallon (76 L) tank
- Hydraulic trim tabs

### Sea Ray 280 Sundeck

In sunning mode the 280 Sundeck has prime real estate forward with two, very long chaise seats forward. Note the arm rests both inboard and outboard. An acrylic air dam in the walkthrough is standard.

### **Sea Ray 280 Sundeck**

In the stern, the cockpit seat back morphs into back rests for lounging to port or starboard, depending on where the sun is. Note that the swim platform extends beyond the lower unit when in the down position. There is a wet storage compartment in the transom.

## **Options**

The 280 Sundeck has a laundry list of options that allow consumers to direct the boat to any particularly watersport function or specialized use. Visit the builder's website for a complete list.

## **Observations**

### **Well-Equipped.**

The 280 Sundeck is remarkably well-equipped as standard and when comparing boats, consumers should take careful inventory of options and costs to get an idea of pricing on an apples-to-apples basis. When we looked down the options list, we found only two things that we consider a "must" on any boat of this type -- a battery switch with tray for a second battery, and a cockpit or mooring canvas cover.

### **All in the Family.**

Finally, as we think everyone knows by this time, Sea Ray is owned by Brunswick Corp., which also makes Mercury sterndrive propulsion systems and related instruments and controls. For those who remember the days when Sea Ray, Mercury and dealers went around-and-around as to who would take responsibility when something went wrong with the propulsion system -- things have changed. There is new top management at both Mercury and Sea Ray and all are agreed that the consumer comes first.

### **Top-Tier Positioning.**

Sea Ray has positioned its deckboats at the high end of the market in terms of build, capabilities, amenities, quality of finish and price. As such, she becomes an important benchmark for anyone considering a large

deckboat.