

Hamilton Jet Model HJ211
Application Review

Triple HJ211 Waterjets for Snake River Tour Boat



▶ Brief Specifications

Maintaining a competitive edge over other tour boat operators in the Hells Canyon Recreational Area of the North-West United States means having the best equipment for the job. It was this philosophy that prompted Idaho's Snake River Adventures to commission a new custom built aluminium river craft powered by a triple Hamilton Jet waterjet propulsion system.

Jodee Pearl is a 42 foot (12.8 m) welded aluminium craft powered by triple Hamilton Jet model HJ211 waterjets directly coupled to Redline 460 c.i.d. Ford gasoline engines. Since a typical days tour of Hells Canyon is about 12 hours and 200 miles for the round trip, speed and reliability is critical. This propulsion package enables the craft to cruise at 30 knots with a full payload of 57 passengers at a modest engine speed of 3100 rpm. Full speed unladen is an impressive 52 knots (60mph) at 3600 rpm.

Owner, Mike Luther reports "there's places where I haul 50 people in less than 14 inches (355mm) of water. And I can keep up with cars on the adjacent highway, even with 40 people on board", all because of the good load carrying capability of the *Jodee Pearl*, the responsiveness of the Hamilton Jet propulsion system and the clean underwater lines.

Rather than traditional wheel steering, an innovative feature on this craft is a vertical lever beside the helm seat to control the jet steering deflectors through a hydraulically assisted linkage in the stern. The reverse deflectors are similarly hydraulically operated, with their movement being actuated by an electrical switch on the throttle. Snake River Adventures claim this system provides them with the means to respond quickly to avoid debris in the water or to stop quickly to yield right of way to other craft on the river.

A bonus advantage of the triple waterjet propulsion system has been a much lower fuel consumption than anticipated. Compared with other craft operating in similar circumstances, fuel usage per passenger trip is considerably lower, adding to the operators overall pleasure in their new craft.

NAME:	Jodee Pearl
SERVICE:	Tourist Passenger Craft
CERTIFICATION:	US Coastguard
LENGTH:	12.80 metres (42' 0") [LOA]
BEAM:	4.12 metres (13' 6")
DRAUGHT:	0.35 metres (1' 2")
CONSTRUCTION:	Aluminium (welded)
WEIGHT:	6.0 tonnes (13,450 lbs) light 11.1 tonnes (24,910 lbs) laden
PAYLOAD:	57 passengers
SPEED:	52 knots (60mph) max. [light] 30 knots (35mph) cruise [laden]
WATERJETS:	Triple Hamilton Model HJ211
ENGINES:	Triple Redline 460 cubic inch Ford gasoline engines, each 246kW (330hp) @ 4400rpm
DESIGNER/BUILDER:	Bentz Boats, Lewiston, Idaho, USA
OPERATOR:	Snake River Adventures, Lewiston, Idaho, USA
Hamilton Jet DISTRIBUTOR:	Hough Marine & Machine Inc, Seattle, WA, USA