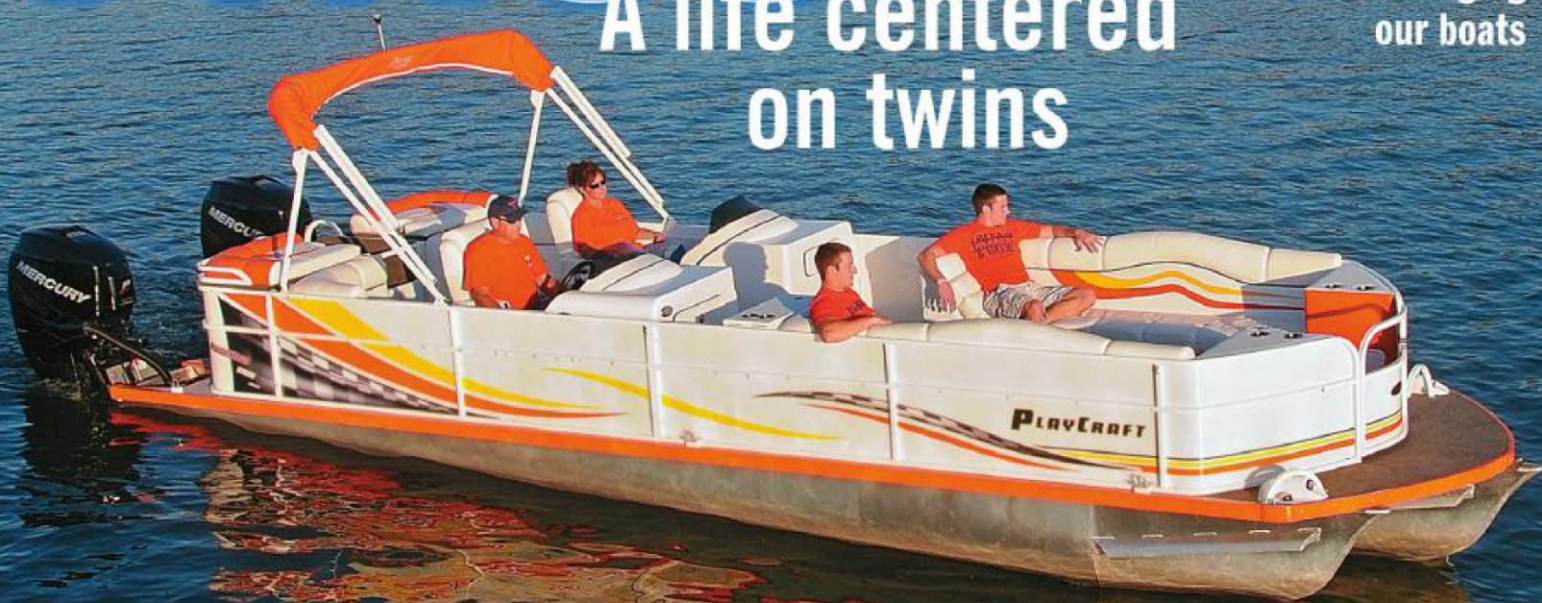


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# Pontoon Water Glide

## Going back to what works

By Brady L. Kay



**Custom Fit.** Each Pontoon Water Glide is specifically designed to fit your specific model. The Glide for this 24-foot pontoon is based on the dimensions that were sent to the manufacturer by the pontoon owner.

### Years ago, Tony Sandoval

### and his wife, Lea,

were tired of the kind of performance they were getting from their 22-foot pontoon with a 90hp four-stroke engine on the back. The two 23-inch diameter pontoons just didn't give them enough flotation when it came to boating on the upper Mississippi River

They came across the Pontoon Water Glide online and decided to give it a try.







“On our first time out we noticed how well it took the wake, how it improved our gas mileage and we loved the increase in our top speed,” recalls Tony. “But after a few years we were ready for a bigger pontoon.”

The Sandovals went shopping, but they didn’t look at any three pontoon models, but instead ended up finding a 2006 Sweetwater that they liked. And like their first pontoon, this one also had two, 23-inch diameter pontoons, but they knew another call to the Pontoon Water Glide headquarters could fix any performance doubts they might have.

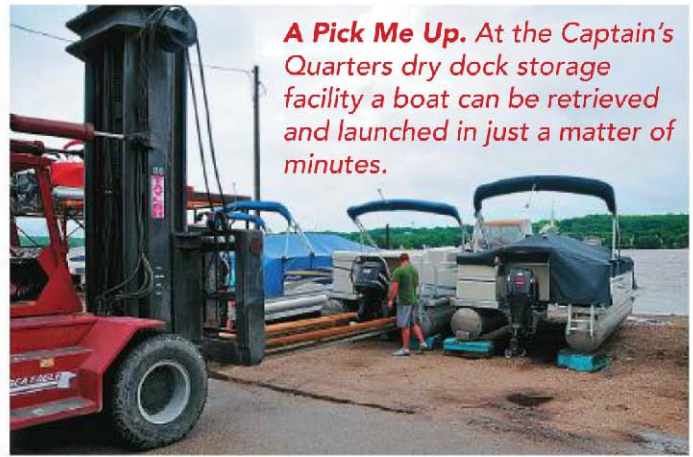
The 24-foot Sweetwater with a 90hp two-stroke gave them more room than what they had before, but it could only reach the 17 mph mark at full throttle.

“We bought a 115hp Mercury OptiMax and were doing 20 to 21 mph, but we knew we still needed to call Pontoon Water Glide,” says Tony.

## New Owners

When Tony called he discovered Pontoon Water Glide was now under new ownership. The company was previously owned by the inventor Leroy Price and his daughter and son-in-law Donna and Trent Burkdoll, but they had sold their business since.

Dave and Ginger Schaefer purchased the company after finding success with the product themselves. The couple bought a 21-foot pontoon boat with a 115 hp engine in the



**A Pick Me Up.** At the Captain’s Quarters dry dock storage facility a boat can be retrieved and launched in just a matter of minutes.

spring of 2009. With the new Water Glide it went from 22 mph to 32 mph and they decided it was a great product and wanted to promote it.

“In a nutshell, we liked the product so much we bought the company,” says Dave with a smile.

When Tony purchased his second Pontoon Water Glide from the new owners, he noticed the product had been refined to promote ease of installation. It is now sold as a kit containing the Performance Sheeting to skin the underside of the boat and it includes all the stainless steel hardware required to install.

“Probably the most significant difference has been the development of a program that balances the boat and determines the exact location to mount the Water Glide for maximum performance,” says Dave. “With the information that was gathered through years of installing the Water Glides, the software program was developed to reduce installation time and maximize the boat’s performance.”

## What Is A Water Glide?

The Pontoon Water Glide is a fiberglass foam-filled planing hull that mounts under the center of a pontoon boat. It has 700 pounds of flotation built into it, which, along with the planing characteristics of the hull, lift the boat, greatly reducing the hull’s drag in the water.

“The idea of a triple pontoon boat has become pretty common in the pontoon boat industry over the last five years, but what the Water Glide does that a standard



*(See photo right)*  
**Head Up.** Tony Sandoval (center) and his wife Lea watch as the pontoon is lowered. Carl Hoyt Jr. (R) works for his dad at the marina and is always on hand to assist.







**Family Ties.** According to customers who frequent Captain's Quarters often, Carl Hoyt Jr. is one of the hardest working guys on the dock.

third pontoon cannot do, is get the boat up on plane with less than 100 horsepower," explains Dave. "Every day we see these high performance triple pontoon boats with 200hp engines screaming across the

water, but what does that mean to a guy with a 24-foot boat and a 90hp motor? If you install a third pontoon on a boat like that you will gain stability and reduce submarining. However, there will be no appreciable increase in the speed of the boat, a matter of fact. Unless you add planing fins and more horsepower you may lose speed."

## Even Better The Second Time

After adding the Pontoon Water Glide to their 24-foot Sweetwater, Tony and Lea found those same positive results they had experienced with their first Glide.

"We added the Water Glide and went from around 20 mph to the 30 to 31 mph range," says Tony. "But really it does a better job with a load and we get great gas mileage and more buoyancy now."

"The more people onboard the better," adds Lea. "Even with seven



people it runs well."

With the help of his friend Tim Carpentier, Tony installed the Water Glide and again raved on how easy the process really is.

"It's very easy to install, you just need basic tools with no specialty tools required," says Tony. "You give Dave your dimensions and waterline and he'll send you exactly what you need."

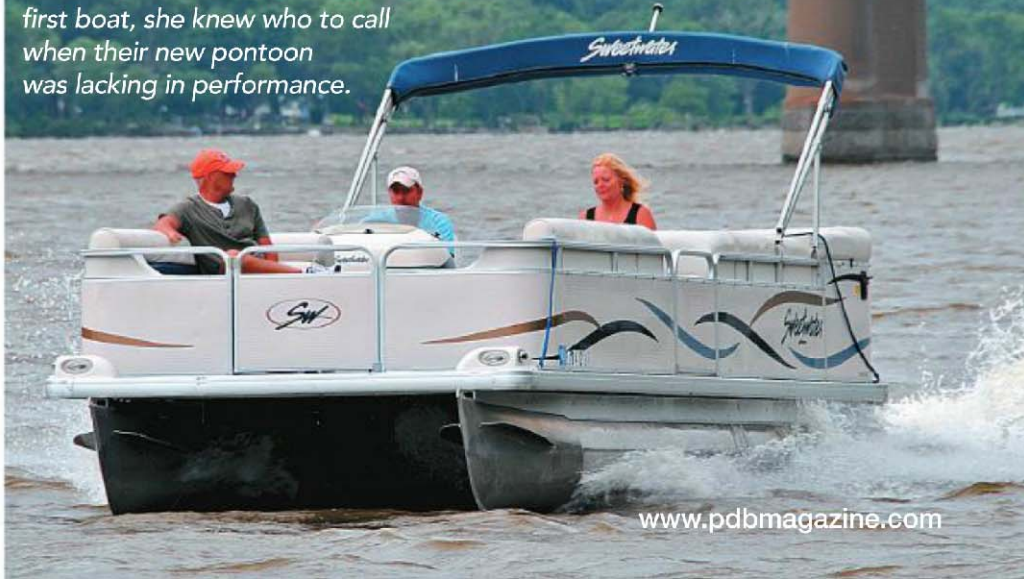
"It's fiberglass, just slide it under and attach it with stainless steel tappers," adds Tim. "It's easy if you have some intelligence. After reading the claims I didn't believe it at first, but the added buoyancy is great. It's the cheapest way to pick up 10 more miles per hour."

## Captain's Quarters

The Sandovals today are enjoying their boat even more after installing the Pontoon Water Glide. Boating has become a big part of their lives. But another good discovery this



**First Mate.** Lea Sandoval holds the boat off the dock while her husband Tony gets the boat ready to go. After seeing all of the benefits of the Pontoon Water Glide on their first boat, she knew who to call when their new pontoon was lacking in performance.



Iowa couple came across to make boating even better is The Captain's Quarters marina. Even with a trailer, the Sandovals prefer to keep their boat at this dry stack marina for the convenience. The marina is owned by Carl Hoyt and staff members come with a forklift and get the boat out of storage and do all the work.

"It takes five minutes to get it out of storage, even on a busy day and that's a lot nicer than facing a long line at the launch ramp," says Tony. "Then we just tie it up to the dock when we're done and they'll take care of it. It really is a very accommodating place and they'll even put it on our trailer if we want to go somewhere else."

For now the Sandovals are happy with their 24-footer and have no plans to upgrade to a larger pontoon. Their Sweetwater with the Glide gives them everything they need to enjoy life out on the water. But if that day ever does come when they do decide to upgrade, you can be sure they'll be giving Pontoon Water Glide a call. 📞

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

**Pontoon Water Glide**  
888-311-8313  
[www.pontoonwaterglide.com](http://www.pontoonwaterglide.com)

**The Captain's Quarters**  
1211 Canal Shore Drive SW  
Le Claire, IA 52753  
563-289-5050  
[www.gracemarine.com](http://www.gracemarine.com)