This year’s 100-mph roundup was almost equally represented with cats and Vs. As usual, the cats were amazing with special acknowledgement to the great handling new Spectre 32 CS, the always incredible DCB 29 with Ilmor 625s, and the beautiful Eliminator 33 Daytona.

This year, I was especially impressed with the improvements among the V-bottom fleet. The new Fountain 42 Lightning bottom works perfectly with big power, even at 128 mph. The Outerlimits 39 GTX with just two 625-hp Ilmors ran 109 mph and handled the big water masterfully. The best handling single engine V-bottom this year was the Howard 28 Bullet with massive power, which took an awesome set above 110 mph. I like cats, but this year the recognition goes to the most improved V. Do I have to pick? Single engine: unquestionably the Howard. Between the GTX and the Lightning, it’s a matter of what turns you on. They both hit the mark in their own worlds.—BT

OK, because all boats represent a compromise of one form or another, it would be difficult to choose one, so I’ll break it down to a few categories: sport boat, V-bottom and catamaran. Since we tested only one sport boat in this roundup, the Howard 28 Bullet is an easy choice—because it is so choice. Even if this roundup were all sport boats, I’d probably still take the Howard. You have to drive it to believe how good it is. If I were looking for a big offshore V-bottom, I’d take the Outerlimits 39 GTX. With reliable Ilmor V-10 power, a nice cabin and 100-plus-mph top speed, that choice is easy. For cats, the field widens and the choice becomes more difficult, but Spectre’s new 32 CS was my favorite. It went 110 mph on a pair of HP500EFIs. Its paint catches the eye, yet shows tasteful restraint and the boat had great lines, and styling cues. Priced at $275k, it may be the bar-room gain of the bunch, and if I had to choose only one, the 32 Spectre would be it.—BB

The West Coast players brought serious game to this year’s 100-mph Roundup. Dave’s Custom Boats delivered a pristine Mach F-29 catamaran with a delightful power wrinkle—a pair of 625-hp Ilmor V-10 engines. Eliminator delivered a 33 Daytona with a paint job that could match anything we’ve seen from the Midwest and East Coast paint shops. And B&H, a newcomer to the 100-mph club, proved with its generously equipped C310 that a sport cat can be comfortable and plenty fast.

But a V-bottom, Howard’s 28 Bullet, stole the show. For this test, Howard went with a custom 1,110-hp engine under the hatch. At 110-plus-mph, the ride was steady, reassuring and comfortable. Do I have a soft spot for the 28 Bullet? Yes. Does it deserve to be there? Absolutely.—MT