

**Owner (TJM) Comments:**

# “It’s the Best!”: Wooldridge AK XL Sportjet

Wooldridge Boats has been blessed with many customers of superior boating skills over almost 100 years of boat building. These are folks of great talent and ability, from whom we share and learn.

These relationships speed along the evolution of the boats, it provides an additional learning platform and it’s a means of growing friendships that last life-long.

A sterling example is TJM (Alaska Outdoors Forum/Alaska Power Boating). This guy is a serious boater and his photo and video work is heralded by many. His forte is sport jets and he recognizes and appreciates boat designs that work. That combination resulted in TJM buying the first Wooldridge AK XL with a sportjet.

Short story is TJM ordered a boat. He showed up in Seattle to test run it and do extensive performance evaluations (see back page) and had it towed back to Alaska by family. He’s been putting it through the paces and posting on Alaska Powerboating.

His posts are ever-evolving as he continues to run and challenge the boat. When the following summation appeared on the forum, it seemed a natural to answer many questions from those looking at sportjets and Wooldridge boats.

Here’s just one of his posts on the Alaska Powerboating forum after putting some water time on his new Wooldridge Alaskan XL Sportjet in his home waters. There’s lots more to read and see, including access to some great action video. Here’s TJM’s summation:

“Well, here’s the video from the other night. Like I mentioned before, it was tough to find any challenging water as the river was up pretty high. We tried using a wide angle lens and I’m not sure I like it....it distorts the river and the bow of the boat a bit...We had a good time but you’ll have to wait for the next video if you want to see any really shallow water. The video is pretty mellow, just us messing around...we’ll try to find some clear water this weekend...”

Here’s the link....be sure to change the quality setting to 720p to get the clearest



*“Absolutely no comparison to any sport jet I’ve been in. You really have to take a ride to appreciate it...”*

picture, the footage is pretty grainy if watched on the 360p setting:

[http://www.youtube.com/toshiroak#p/u/0/O\\_2xspLUZ3o](http://www.youtube.com/toshiroak#p/u/0/O_2xspLUZ3o)

With 15 hours or so on the new boat, my final opinion of it is pretty solid now. I’ll make some pretty bold claims so I want to preface my comments by stating that I think all of the sport jets are neat boats. They will all get the job done, they’re all fun, they are all impressive, and they’ll all take you to neat places. I’d enjoy owning any one of them. But my intention was to compare the Wooldridge with the other sport jets I’ve run or rode in, so here it is...



I have spent hundreds of hours running sport jets, the majority of which was in the Jetcraft. I hate using terms like "best" but it is my opinion that the Wooldridge is, hands down, the best sport jet that I’ve been around.

Before we even began running the boat I figured that it would haul a bit more weight and handle a bit better. What I was afraid of was the trade off I would suffer to gain the better handling and payload. For example, I assumed that the boat wouldn’t run as shallow. The boat test in Washington confirmed that the boat does haul more weight and does handle better. Since then, every time I took the boat out here in AK, I kept waiting for the ‘other shoe to drop,’ so to speak. I figured that if the boat was better in one area, it must be a bit worse in a different area. My assumptions couldn’t have been more wrong. I tried to

find one aspect of the Wooldridge that I felt was inferior to any other sport jet I’ve been in....I absolutely could not...

Now if I was reading this, I would think that I was a guy that was full of poo and was just bragging up his new boat....So I’d like to invite all of you guys to experience it for yourselves...especially you guys that currently own sport jets....I can talk about the boat all day long but you have to experience the difference to appreciate it....besides, I’d love to hear the opinions of other guys, perhaps they will be different than mine....

Here’s a run down of the traits of the boat that put it at the top of my list...

**Results on back page**

## Special Introductory Price: Wooldridge AK XL Sportjet

Special pricing for a special boat. That’s this introductory offer of the new Wooldridge AK XL powered with Mercury’s Sportjet. Wooldridge combines the superior handling and shallow water running, load hauling and tough construction of its Alaskan XL hull with Mercury’s Sportjet (200 Optimax powerhead) to present a this option in inboard power.

This AK XL Sportjet features a swim step, complete interior sound deadening carpet package, side trays, 50 gal. fuel tank, wiper, bilge pump, nav lights, gas/water separator, sport rails and much more.

Recognized for its proven superiority in shallow water running, maneuverability and load hauling this Wooldridge Alaskan AK XL also features a 3/16” internal reinforcement pad 16” wide down the center of the planing surface for extra strength making a total of 5/16”.

### Weight hauling

Hauls more weight...that fact has been proven to me multiple times...just a function of the hull suppose...

### Handling

Absolutely no comparison to any sport jet I've been in. You really have to take a ride to appreciate it...

### Shallow water running

The boat will absolutely run as shallow as any other competing sport jet...I confirmed that the other day without a doubt...

### Cavitation

A lot less than any other sport jet I've experienced. I believe that is largely due to not having a tunnel...the boat simply stays hooked up...

### Noise

Less than any other sport jet I've been in...the exhaust tone is lower than the Extreme Shallow we compared it to the other day and noticeably quieter...we tested it with the decibel meter to confirm what our ears were telling us...it is quieter...

### Fit and finish

Again, no comparison here...other than being sexy as heck...lol...the boat is absolutely solid and very well built...I think that contributes to the lower noise levels in the boat as well...

### Ride quality

Here's something that my wife commented on immediately...the boat is quite a bit smoother than any other sport jet I've experienced...I know that there are a few other sport jets out there that are smooth as well, ie, the Willie and Hewes...I've just never been in one so I can't compare...

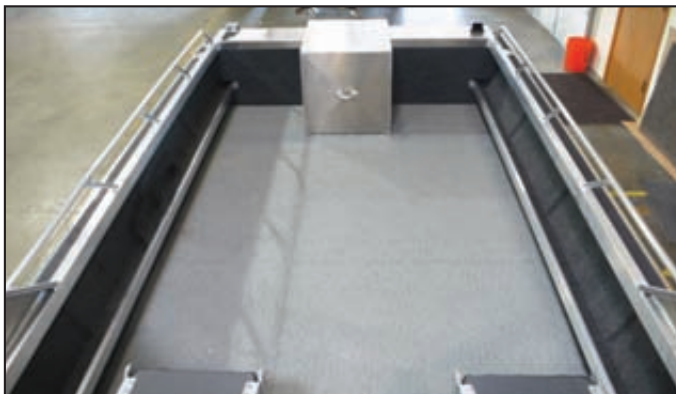
### Visibility

No need to stand up any more, I still do on occasion, I just don't feel the need to because you can see so much more...in fact, the boat corners so hard I can't stand up if I'm turning hard, it knocks me over...no BS...so the

visibility is a very good thing to match the handling...

### Price

Basically the same as the competitors...(imagine that)...all of the boat manufacturers are going to maximize profits as best as they can, however, you get a lot



more boat for your dollar with the Wooldridge...

### Getting unstuck

One surprising trait I noticed the other day is, once you do get stuck, the boat is noticeably easier to man handle than other sport jets I've wrestled with...I don't know



why exactly, but it is very noticeable...perhaps it is a wider bottom and no lifting strakes...I don't really know why...I just like it...

### Porpoising

Does not porpoise like the other sport jets I've experienced...it is a boat, so I'm sure some condition will cause it to porpoise, I've yet to find it...

### Room

Pretty simple, more room...the boat is a touch wider and the dog house is substantially smaller, so less wasted space inside...

### Slow speed ability

All of the sport jets can run relatively slow...this one runs the slowest of any I've been in...

...and last but not least...Customer service...there are a lot of builders that treat customers well...Wooldridge is among the best...

### Dislike

To be fair, here's my list of dislikes about the boat...it is a short list so far, and 2 of 4 items can be fixed with a couple \$20 bills and 30 minutes of work...

- No 12 volt power outlet
- Steering wheel is about 1 inch

too low

- Swim step looks goofy...(although it is growing on me)
- Seats don't swivel (I forgot to add the plates)

I'm sure there's more that I'm not thinking of at the moment. Like I said earlier, if you

guys would like to check out the boat and form your own opinion we can get something setup...perhaps a Saturday on the Su...and for you Fairbanks folks, I have a couple dates set to be in your neck of the woods too....

If anyone wants to just see the boat at the dealer, it will be at Marita Sea and Ski in Anchorage from July 19th to 22nd...it will be in Fairbanks on August 1st and 2nd...and sorry to disappoint with the video, once the water drops I'll get something a bit more exciting put together..."

For more info call Wooldridge Boats, check out the web at [www.wooldridgeboats.com](http://www.wooldridgeboats.com) and the Alaska Powerboating forum.

## Results of Wooldridge's Extensive Testing of AK XL Sportjet

### STOCK IMPELLER & LINER

#### 750 LBS

RPM	MPH	GPH	MPG	DB
3500	21.1	4.8	4.39	93.5
4000	26.9	6	4.48	94
4500	32.4	8.4	3.85	96
5000	37	11.8	3.13	96.5
5600	42.6	18.5	2.3	98

#### 2240 LBS

RPM	MPH	GPH	MPG	DB
4000	11.6	6	1.93	94
4500	25.7	8.4	3.05	96
5000	35.4	11.8	3	96.5
5600	40.8	18.5	2.3	98

#### 3725 LBS

RPM	MPH	GPH	MPG	DB
4500	10	8.4	1.19	96
5000	26.4	11.8	2.23	96.5
5600	36.5	18.5	1.98	98

### HIGH SKEW IMPELLER & STOCK LINER

#### 750 LBS

RPM	MPH	GPH	MPG	DB
3500	18.8	4.5	4.17	93.5
4000	26	6	4.33	94
4500	31.1	7.9	3.93	96
5000	37.5	11.8	3.17	96.5
5600	43.2	16.3	2.36	98

#### 2240 LBS

RPM	MPH	GPH	MPG	DB
4000	10.5	6	1.75	94
4500	25.7	7.9	3.25	96
5000	35.7	11.8	2.85	96.5
5600	40.9	18.3	2.23	98

#### 3725 LBS

RPM	MPH	GPH	MPG	DB
4500	9.7	7.9	1.22	96
5000	24.4	11.8	2.06	96.5
5600	37.1	18.3	2.02	98

### RE-BUILT IMPELLER & SS SLEEVE

#### 750 LBS

RPM	MPH	GPH	MPG	DB
3500	21.1	4.3	4.3	93.5
4000	28.2	6.3	4.47	94
4500	33.6	8.7	3.17	96
5000	34.4	12.5	2.75	96.5
5450	44.5	18.4	2.41	98

#### 2240 LBS

RPM	MPH	GPH	MPG	DB
4000	12.4	6.3	1.96	94
4500	27.6	8.7	3.17	96
5000	34.4	12.5	2.75	96.5
5450	39.4	18.4	2.14	98

#### 3725 LBS

RPM	MPH	GPH	MPG	DB
4500	9.5	8.7	1.09	96
5000	28.5	12.5	2.28	96.5
5450	36.8	18.4	2	98