

# ALEX SALOMATOFF HAS THE ANSWERS TO YOUR BOAT QUESTIONS!



*If you have a question for Master Mechanic and Owner of Alex's Marine Plus in New Windsor, NY, simply call Alex at 845-565-9199 or e-mail, AlexsMarine@aol.com*

**Q:** Hi Alex, I own a 2007 Yamaha waverunner and it is hard to start. I charged up the battery and the battery will last a few turns and then the whole thing dies. I bought a new battery, and everything I think the waverunner has a dead short somewhere, yet it ran great when I put it away last year! I'll drop it off at your shop today to see what I find.

**Alex:** After checking out his waverunner, here is what we found. First, all new batteries come dry, that is you need to fill the cells with

electrolyte after you buy the battery and get it into the waverunner. There are usually two bottles of electrolyte fluid that you must use completely to fill each cell. The caps are removed, the little hose that comes with the bottle is attached and each cell is then filled.

This fluid is very corrosive and will eat up anything it comes in contact with. When filling the cells you must ALWAYS wear eye and hand protection and after filling the cells, you need to

immediately wipe up any fluid that you have spilled. In the case of this wave runner, I found one cell of the battery was never filled, so the battery, when placed on a battery charger was not giving the battery the proper charge. Once we found the empty cell in the battery, and charged it up the entire system ran fine.

**Q:** Alex, my jet-ski is acting as if it does not have full power. What could it be? I want to get back on the water ASAP!!!

**Alex:** A very common problem with jet-skis or boats and the first thing we check is water in the fuel. Especially on the older Waverunners, the fuel filling location is close to the water, so if your filling it at a bouncy, wavy location, there is a good possibility of getting water directly into the fuel tank. Since most people using these ski's have not got a clue as to how they work, this problem comes up all the time.

Usually we pull the fuel filter and there is usually enough fuel in the filter to tell if there is water in it. It is simple to just dump the gas in a clear glass container and if there is any water in it, you will see the water on the bottom of the glass with the gasoline on top. I know you would never do this but to be really clear, DO NOT SMOKE WHEN DOING THIS!

**Q:** Is there any way of keeping my battery or batteries charged up on my boat without using a trickle charger hooked up to the dock?

**Alex:** There are a number of excellent solar chargers that are very inexpensive and simple to connect to your batteries. These solar chargers must be placed in a sunny location of course. One way to attach the solar charger to the boat is to use heavy duty velcro on the back of the solar charger as well as on the boat. It is easy to remove it or just leave it in place for the season. If you're not sure how to do it, simply give me a call and I can tell you more. A good place to buy these is at your local boat supply house. Most carry them and they are usually under \$50.00.

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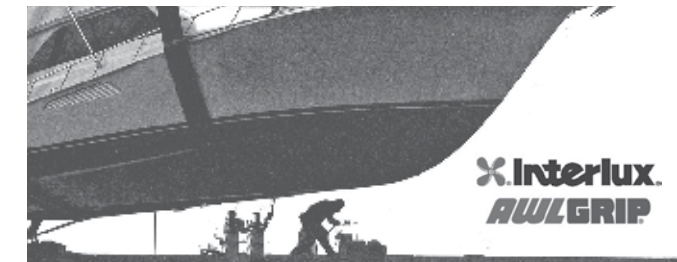
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