

ALEX SALOMATOFF HAS THE ANSWERS TO YOUR BOAT QUESTIONS!



Alex Salomatoff.

Question: *I have a 1980 26-foot Sea Ray with an inboard/outboard drive and I just noticed some oil film behind my boat the other day. Any ideas for me?*

Alex: The first thing to determine is to find out where the oil leak is coming from. It could be leaking from the outdrive, the trim tabs, the trim pistons etc. For example, if the oil is leaking from the outdrive, the first thing you would need to do is to pull your boat out of the water and then take your boat to a certified mechanic and have the outdrive pressurized. That will determine if your outdrive is leaking. If it is leaking, your mechanic would replace the seal or seals. Keep in mind that there are a number of places oil could be leaking from and if you're not sure where the leak is, it's best to take your boat to a certified mechanic so they can determine where the leak is coming from, repair it and get you back out and the water as soon as possible.

Question: *I own a 1995 Regal 26 Foot Commodore which I just bought and the bottom of the boat looks like it has never been painted. I'm going to keep the boat in the water at my marina. Do I need to get it painted or would it be ok to put it in the water as it is?*

Alex: If you're going to leave it in the marina you will need to get the bottom of your boat painted. You will need to have it cleaned, prepped, sanded or primed and then painted with the proper anti-fouling paint. If you're not sure how to do it yourself, I highly recommend taking it to a certified boat mechanic.

Question: *Hi Alex, my boat idle is very low and when I put my boat into neutral, the engine seems like it's on the edge of stalling. What can I do?*

Alex: It could be as simple as a carburetor adjustment or it could need a tune-up. Ideally, you have a record of when your boat was last serviced and tuned up and if it has been a while, I'd recommend getting a tune up. One of the factors that determines how often you need to get your boat tuned up is by how often you use your boat. If you use your boat very regularly, you won't need a tune-up as soon as you would if you only use your boat once every few months. When your boat sits idle parts on your boat tend to plug up, gum up etc., so the more you can use your boat the better.

Question: *How often should I service my trailer?*

Alex: It depends on how much you use it. If you use your trailer to put your boat in the water only in the spring and take it out in the fall, then servicing your trailer once a year will usually be fine. If you use your trailer more often, like once or twice a week, then you would need to check and service your trailer about once per month. This would include checking the tires, tire pressure, tire wear, bearings, grease for the bearings, lights, brakes and brake fluid as well as thoroughly checking the general condition of the frame, bunks/rollers etc.

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