

# BOAT TALK WITH

# Alex Salomatoff

## You Have Boat Questions and Expert Mechanic Alex Salomatoff Has Answers!

Boating On The Hudson is starting our brand new Call-In Online Radio Talk Show That Is All About Boat Repair called "Ask Alex!"

Alex Salomatoff is the Owner and an Extraordinarily Exceptional Mechanic at Alex's Marine Plus in New Windsor, NY. If you have any questions at all about your boat, your trailer or your Jet-Ski, Simply Call or Text Lex Now at 845-363-0004 to arrange a time ASAP to ask your question directly to Alex "On The Air."

### Alex's Marine Plus

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*In finishing this column in time for July let me stress the fact that all children should be wearing life jackets on board your boat and most importantly everyone else should at the very least have a life jacket nearby.*



*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](mailto:AlexsMarine@aol.com)*

### **Question: My outdrive will not go up or down.**

**Answer:** I am assuming it is a Mercury. There are more of them out there than any other brand!

First it could be a bad switch on the control panel, a bad fuse. There are sensors on the outdrive that could be bad, As boats get older, say ten years or more, the wires that activate the trim drive could be worn, or, if the boat is in salt water, the entire wiring harness may need to be replaced.

Further if the oil in the trim reservoir is low then you have a leak that needs to be attended to. Every time you change your oil on the engine you should check all fluid levels on everything.

Most importantly the trim motor could be the problem.

If the water gets a lot of water in it, the hydraulic pump could take on water through the air vent on the pump. That will destroy the pump quicker than any other way.

If the boat sits in the water for a long period of time, the hydraulic cylinders can leak sucking in water into the hydraulic system. As you can see there are many and varied reasons why your outdrive is not working.

### **Question: My steering is sticking and very hard to turn!**

**Answer:** The boat steering system is very similar to a car's power steering system. The steering system can seize at the worst time, when you are in a turn or between two-boats. Before you put the boat in the water you should have an expert check out the entire steering system.

### **Question: When I turn the key nothing happens:**

**Answer:** First thing to check is the battery. (We are talking about an outdrive boat here) if the battery is strong, then the safety natural switch on the throttle or on the control unit may be bad.

Many new boats have what is called a tether switch. This switch lifts when you put the tether under the knob. That activates the electronics.

There are tests that need to be made with the proper equipment that most lay people will not have. You are better calling us, and having our technicians come to your boat.