

BOAT TALK WITH



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

Help me Alex: *My engine stalls in neutral, at idle, only.*

For example your outboard starts right up, keeps running with throttle applied in neutral, but shuts down the moment you come back to idle speed in neutral, the issue is likely to be a sticky or broken AIS (automatic idle speed) valve. This valve controls idle speed by regulating air intake, and when it gets stuck in the wrong position, it can shut you down cold.

Answer: You need to clean or replace the valve; replacing is the favored option, because once the valve fails you, it always seems to get stuck again at some point down the road. (Again a poor design and poor quality part) In this case you should bring it in and we will find it quickly for you. If you want to try to replace it yourself you can save yourself a trip by starting with the throttle slightly advanced in neutral, and bringing the throttle back as close to idle as possible without actually going into idle. In most cases, you'll be turning about 700 RPM. Then shift into idle and then directly into forward, without any hesitation or pause. It may take a few tries, but when you do it fast enough, you can get the engine into forward while it's still running. Once it's in gear and running, your problems are over (throughout the RPM range).

We don't recommend this as it is not designed to be used this way, however you can get away with it for awhile, just remember not to shift back into neutral, or the engine will cut out again. This is why we don't recommend this. Shifting this fast can be hard on the engine; it's okay to do it once or twice to save the day, but before taking the boat out again please drop it off at our shop as sooner than later it will lead to much more expensive problems.

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."



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