

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

SUMMERTIME BOAT PROBLEMS

Paying attention to the little things on your boat makes a huge difference in the kind of day your going to have on the water...

You cannot treat your boat like you treat your car! Maintenance on a boat is an "every time you use it" requirement. Even if it is just rinsing it off with fresh water!

The simple fact that adding to the equation of things that can happen to your boat being in the presence of water, 24 seven, adds a significant factor to the possibility of things that can go wrong.

Corrosion: Water in any form is corrosive. If you add salt to the mix as you have in the southern part of the Hudson River you must protect all metals.

Part of the protection is a good spray that covers the metal parts, (in many cases it also adds a bright shiny look to the surfaced). Most importantly, zincs, which are attached to metal surfaces underwater such as propeller shaft, steer rudders, swim ladders and other items is a must where salt water is present. The zincs act as a sacrificial lamb and are eaten up by the electrolysis created by exposed metal being place in salt water.

Speaking of propellers have you at least taken the key out of the ignition, and then checked the prop for nicks and dings with your had. Obviously if the boat is kept in the water it is the only way to check it.

Then there is the very basics, oil levels in your engine, power steering, trim pumps, generator oil levels, (if you have one on board) and most importantly the float switch on the bilge pump as well as the intake on the bilge pump screen. "Oh" is the discharge hose connected so that the water is going outside of the boat. You may laugh but is a very common occurrence to

have the bilge pump disconnect through vibration or rot, and the bilge pump making a complete circle instead of a one-way trip out of your boat.

How about the fuel filters. Have you had them changed, how about the water separating filter on your fuel line. Speaking of fuel lines, another very common occurrence is to have the breather tube from the fuel tank clog up with bees, spiders or what have you and suddenly your engine is starving for fuel.

Most importantly is USE YOUR BOAT, there are far more problems created by boats not being used than by another other means.

Enjoy!

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