

## **Spring time commissioning:**

It's that time again to start thinking about commissioning your outboard engine after a long winter layover. Since there are Squadron members that have outboard motors for primary power and power for the dinghy here are a few tips to make your initial start up easier.

Brentwood Bay Squadron does not endorse any cleaning or lube oil products mentioned herein. I use them regularly and they work. I do however endorse regular preventative maintenance.

If you have a kicker on your boat when was the last time you ran it up? Or does it just sit there? I run my kicker about once a month year round because it is mounted on our boat. I maintain it regularly.

### **Maintenance:**

On four stroke outboard engines change the engine crankcase lube oil at the end of your cruising season or as per the manufacturers recommended time. Clean lube oil is cheap insurance.

Two stroke outboard engines lube oil is pre mixed with gasoline.



My preference is Opti- 2 two cycle lubricant. It has excellent lubrication specifications that exceed most over the counter two cycle lube oils.

Changing leg oil should be done at the end of the cruising season. Assuming you have changed the gear oil in the leg after last cruising season prior to putting your outboard away, you will have fresh oil in the leg for your spring start up.

Changing the oil prior to storage serves to eliminate a couple of maintenance problems.



### Draining the outboard leg oil.

1. If your oil drains out clean, it is easy to refill with fresh OMC leg oil.
2. If it drains out white and milky you have an emulsification problem, you have water in the oil. A trip to an outboard repair shop.

Another tip is using “Salt Away” if you run your outboard in fresh water prior to putting it away. Fresh water alone will not remove salt deposits that build up in the legs pickup tube, and then circulate through the thermostat and power head.



Salt Away is a product that you add to your fresh water flushing tank to dissolve salt build up in the cooling water pickup tube and water passages in the power head.

It also circulates through the outboard motor thermostat. This reduces the possibility of a thermostat sticking in either the open or closed position. Salt Away is environmentally friendly.

You add a few ounces to the fresh water flush tank and run it up. Almost instantly salt will start bubbling out. Run it for five or ten minutes then drain. Add clear fresh water and run for another five or ten minutes.

Some say Salt Away is expensive, but considering the \$75+ per hour mechanic bill you will get if you don't do regular maintenance; it's a cheap investment any way you look at it.

Remember; remove the salt before it builds up.

### **Engine Heat**

Most outboards have a "pee tube" and a strong stream of water will be pumped out. It should be cool. If not cool to the touch, here is another item to be checked out at the outboard shop.

When was the last time you changed the impeller in the water pump? They don't last forever. They are neoprene and they do wear out. A worn impeller will cause your outboard engine to run hot.

### **Fogging**

If you have fogged your engine prior to putting it away, put in a new set of spark plugs. This is easy to do. Your old plugs will be oil fouled. Spark plugs are cheap.

Clean out your rubber gasoline line hose before you attempt to start your engine.

### **Hard Starting**

Did you ever wonder why it is so hard to start each season after pulling on the starting cord? There is enough old fuel in the fuel line to prevent your engine from firing up right away. Today's gasoline has a storage life of about three months then it goes flat.

An easy solution is to buy a fitting that you would have on your outboard motor. Connect it to a fuel line bleed you can easily manufacture. It is an inexpensive part. Use a short piece of fuel line hose to make a bleed line.

Connect the fuel line with the primer bulb to a fresh tank of fuel to the bleed line and pump out the old gasoline in the line.



By following these few tips, your spring outboard start up should be a lot easier.

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