



Winterizing Your Boat

■ by VINCENT T. PICA, II

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Even with an Indian Summer to bathe us, it is but a reminder that many months of kindly weather is behind us and many months of dark, cold and dreary weather is ahead of us. Winterizing your boat falls into two types - you hand it off to your dock master and say, "see you in the Spring" or it is DIY time (Do It Yourself).

Clearly, there are some basic steps and one of them is to get the boat safely "onto the hard", as the old-timers call dry-dock. Storing your winterized boat in the water can only be done in a very controlled environment with, generally, professional and near-constant attention. Even with signs of global-heating all around us, (I think "global warming" sounds too benign), the creeks and coves of "Out East" freeze up for much of the winter. Even Moriches Bay itself has frozen across over the years and I am talking about recent years. The only two upsides to storing your winterized boat in the water is, one, that the temperate nature of the water might protect your boat from freezing damage if a cold snap hits us in the middle of an Indian Summer and you weren't ready for it. Secondly, you don't have to pay to haul the boat and return it to the water in the Spring. I still believe that that can be penny-wise and pound-foolish if this watery winter berth isn't a very controlled environment... Remember that about 80% of boat sinkings happen at the dock (see SSP "The Dangerous

Dock", 12/06/06)! So, let's focus this column on spending the winter "on the hard"...

If you are going to hand the boat over to the dock master and say, "see you in the Spring", do so with a written check list, especially if you intend to do some of the work yourself. As you'll see, the advice below is not 100% extensive. I'd need most of the newspaper to give you a check list that could be used by every boat. (BTW, if you want a copy of the Boat-US/Seaworthy article on winterization, email me below and I will email a copy to you.) So, work with your dock master in signing off on what will be done by the yard and, if you desire to be involved, by you.

Other than covering the boat, the "mechanical system" is the most obvious place to start. Your mechanical system may only be your gasoline-powered 90-HP Johnson outboard. If so, you are going to flush the engine with fresh water (attached a garden hose to the intake and let it flush - engine OFF!), "fog" the engine with lubricating oil (be sure the fuel system is disconnected from the engine when you start the process), clean/replace the spark plugs and fuel filter, lube the carburetor and anything else that moves - choke, cam, starter linkage etc. Don't forget the lower unit (what the prop comes out of). Replace the lube oil. BTW, if you open the drain plug and water comes out first (oil floats), you need to replace the seal. Inspect the prop(s). Any dings? Get a profes-

sional to look at that. A bad "wheel" can shake your engine apart...

So that's your outboard. Did I ask if you had a diesel engine or an I/O? Does the boat have a transmission? In-board water system (sink/shower)? Air-conditioner? Don't forget that the fuel tanks need winterizing too... Electronics going to stay aboard or come home with the owner? So, as you can see, the list is extensive.

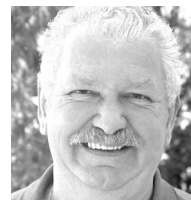
With that said, it can be very satisfying to lay up a boat for the winter. You saved yourself some amount of money and you have the satisfaction of knowing that your boat, from stem to stern, has enjoyed the owner's caring and knowing touch.

BTW, if you are interested in being part of USCG Forces, email me at USCGAUX2007@aol.com or go direct to MaryJo Cruickshank, who is in charge of new members matters, at FSO-PS@emcg.us and we will help you "get in this thing..."



Moriches Inlet October 2007

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High
Mon 1		4:31 AM / 0.02 ft	11:06 AM / 3.57 ft	5:29 PM / 0.13 ft	11:46 PM / 2.86 ft
Tue 2		5:26 AM / 0.26 ft	12:07 PM / 3.38 ft	6:36 PM / 0.32 ft	
Wed 3	12:49 AM / 2.72 ft	6:33 AM / 0.47 ft	1:10 PM / 3.22 ft	7:49 PM / 0.41 ft	
Thu 4	1:52 AM / 2.66 ft	7:49 AM / 0.58 ft	2:13 PM / 3.11 ft	8:57 PM / 0.38 ft	
Fri 5	2:57 AM / 2.67 ft	8:59 AM / 0.55 ft	3:17 PM / 3.05 ft	9:54 PM / 0.30 ft	
Sat 6	3:59 AM / 2.77 ft	9:59 AM / 0.46 ft	4:17 PM / 3.06 ft	10:42 PM / 0.20 ft	
Sun 7	4:55 AM / 2.92 ft	10:51 AM / 0.36 ft	5:10 PM / 3.10 ft	11:25 PM / 0.13 ft	
Mon 8	5:43 AM / 3.09 ft	11:37 AM / 0.27 ft	5:56 PM / 3.14 ft		
Tue 9		12:05 AM / 0.07 ft	6:25 AM / 3.24 ft	12:22 PM / 0.19 ft	6:37 PM / 3.15 ft
Wed 10		12:42 AM / 0.06 ft	7:03 AM / 3.34 ft	1:03 PM / 0.14 ft	7:14 PM / 3.12 ft
Thu 11		1:18 AM / 0.08 ft	7:38 AM / 3.39 ft	1:44 PM / 0.12 ft	7:50 PM / 3.04 ft
Fri 12		1:53 AM / 0.13 ft	8:12 AM / 3.37 ft	2:23 PM / 0.14 ft	8:26 PM / 2.92 ft
Sat 13		2:27 AM / 0.22 ft	8:45 AM / 3.30 ft	3:01 PM / 0.20 ft	9:01 PM / 2.77 ft
Sun 14		2:59 AM / 0.33 ft	9:18 AM / 3.19 ft	3:37 PM / 0.30 ft	9:38 PM / 2.61 ft
Mon 15		3:29 AM / 0.46 ft	9:53 AM / 3.07 ft	4:14 PM / 0.42 ft	10:19 PM / 2.47 ft
Tue 16		4:00 AM / 0.58 ft	10:33 AM / 2.96 ft	4:54 PM / 0.54 ft	11:06 PM / 2.36 ft
Wed 17		4:34 AM / 0.69 ft	11:21 AM / 2.88 ft	5:43 PM / 0.65 ft	
Thu 18	12:00 AM / 2.30 ft	5:20 AM / 0.79 ft	12:16 PM / 2.84 ft	6:46 PM / 0.69 ft	
Fri 19	12:58 AM / 2.32 ft	6:32 AM / 0.85 ft	1:15 PM / 2.85 ft	7:56 PM / 0.62 ft	
Sat 20	1:57 AM / 2.42 ft	8:01 AM / 0.78 ft	2:15 PM / 2.91 ft	8:56 PM / 0.45 ft	
Sun 21	2:57 AM / 2.61 ft	9:11 AM / 0.59 ft	3:17 PM / 3.01 ft	9:47 PM / 0.23 ft	
Mon 22	3:56 AM / 2.89 ft	10:09 AM / 0.34 ft	4:17 PM / 3.15 ft	10:35 PM / -0.00 ft	
Tue 23	4:51 AM / 3.22 ft	11:03 AM / 0.07 ft	5:13 PM / 3.29 ft	11:21 PM / -0.20 ft	
Wed 24	5:42 AM / 3.55 ft	11:56 AM / -0.16 ft	6:05 PM / 3.40 ft		
Thu 25		12:08 AM / -0.34 ft	6:29 AM / 3.82 ft	12:49 PM / -0.33 ft	6:55 PM / 3.44 ft
Fri 26		12:56 AM / -0.41 ft	7:16 AM / 3.99 ft	1:41 PM / -0.43 ft	7:44 PM / 3.40 ft
Sat 27		1:44 AM / -0.41 ft	8:03 AM / 4.02 ft	2:33 PM / -0.44 ft	8:35 PM / 3.29 ft
Sun 28		2:33 AM / -0.33 ft	8:53 AM / 3.93 ft	3:25 PM / -0.36 ft	9:30 PM / 3.12 ft
Mon 29		3:23 AM / -0.18 ft	9:48 AM / 3.74 ft	4:17 PM / -0.20 ft	10:30 PM / 2.94 ft
Tue 30		4:14 AM / 0.03 ft	10:47 AM / 3.51 ft	5:13 PM / 0.01 ft	11:33 PM / 2.80 ft
Wed 31		5:11 AM / 0.26 ft	11:49 AM / 3.29 ft	6:16 PM / 0.19 ft	



The Street Corner Philosopher

The Stork Has Landed

■ by DON SORBIE

I am happy to report to the citizens that read my weekly prattle that me and Mrs. Sorbie had a beautiful new addition to our family. We now have a little Autumn Prince named Lea. She happily came into our lives and family and is doing just fine along with her mom Connie. Naturally Doug the Poppa was present at the delivery, which is now the custom. Of course, I told him that in my time I was the last of the gentleman fathers because I loafed around in the lounge area waiting for the happy event to take place. On my part there was no muss, no fuss, just the worrisome pacing back and forth.

The hospital is located in Port Jeff and what a nightmare of a trip that is to get there. Politeness and good driving habits have been completely forgotten on that stretch of roadway but happily we arrived unscathed. Me, Grandma and Uncle Donald brought Lea's brothers, D.J. and Paul to the hospital with us for the visit. Mostly, the boys really missed their mother a lot. D.J. understands about baby Lea but not Paul, well not yet anyway. At his age it will probably dawn on him when Lea starts touching his stuff.

The nursery was jam-packed with newborns and I couldn't help wondering in my thinking machine about the cost of higher education in 2027, when all these little infants will have by then

blossomed into full time and very expensive college students. The other thing that puzzled me kina was with the Zodiac signs. I question that if a baby is a C-section birth, will that little one grow up under the same astronomical alignment rules that apply if it had really been a conventional born kid? It might get confusing later supposing they are one sign, when they might honestly be another. In those particular cases if the stars don't really line up properly then some astrologer guru better get busy with a conversion chart for these kids.

In the hallways you hear some relatives remark that the baby looks like this relation or that person. Naturally I just smile while holding this bundle of joy and look down to marvel at her pretty little face and think, regardless of who she looks like, Lea will be her own person. Also at that same moment and as the grandparents, all the trials and tribulations of a lifetime just melt away and I know having grandkids is why it was all worthwhile. Later, I told Doug and Connie that children don't come with operating instructions, so most times you just got to make it up as you go down the road of life. If you do a reasonably good job, when they get all grown up, they will be the kind of people you will want to hang around with.

Follow your rainbow - Don