

"OUTBOARD MOTORS"

Terry Velting led an informative discussion on **repair and maintenance of outboard motors**. Terry has a real ability to get people in a group to open up and share information. Cal, Tom, and Shibly added much of their expertise to the discussion also, prompted by well-timed questions from Terry. **Marine Stable** (used to overwinter gas) **was recommended to use in our outboards all year long because of the ethanol used in gasoline now (10%). Gasoline can deteriorate more quickly with the ethanol in it.** 15% ethanol gasoline will soon be the norm, and one must be even more cautious. If you can **obtain ethanol free gas**, that would be best. **Check the labels on the gas pumps. Most boat gas sold at marinas is ethanol free.** Another problem with ethanol containing gas is that the **ethanol deteriorates old type rubber fuel lines in outboards.** If your motor was manufactured before the year 2000, you should probably replace the old rubber lines with the new style if you use gas containing ethanol. When **winterizing** an outboard, make sure **all of the water is drained out of the lines.** A **fogging spray** was recommended, but don't overdo it. Some run antifreeze first to decrease corrosion. **Always drain all gas from the carburetor in the fall.** Premium gasoline was recommended as the **best to use in all outboards.** Motors seem to **run better and smoother** on it and it **remains stable longer.** If you use your boat every week or so, gas stability may not be a problem. **For slow, smooth trolling, premium is best. Midgrade likely is better than regular.** Water in gas is a big problem, so **try to use up all the gas in your tank before you put the boat away** for winter storage. For **batteries**, it is best to **keep them warm and inside for winter storage**, and **keep them fully charged.** Always **drain or check the lower unit for water in the fall.** Any **water** in it could freeze and **cause serious** (expensive!) **lower unit damage.** One tip that many don't think of is to **remove the prop and check for any fishing line caught inside.** Serious damage and wear can result from that. Check your **trolling motor prop also.** Outboard and trolling motors are a big part of the investment in our fishing, and it is wise to maintain them properly. Many thanks to Terry and the others for a very informative program that could save us considerable money in the future!

Chase Klinesteker