

BOAT TALK WITH

Alex Salomatoff



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

If you remove the batteries from the boat it is still a good idea to put the batteries in a warm place and use a float charger on them. Considering the cost of large boat batteries to replace the ones you neglected, I highly recommend you do this.

Ask Alex: When I winterize my boat can I leave my battery or batteries in the boat for the winter?

Answer: The answer really depends on the boat, personal watercraft or sailboat. Every boat, properly wired has a master switch with off/1/2. Some modern boats have a draw, or drain on the batteries even with the battery switch in the off position.



Ask Alex, I had a two-stroke Yamaha personal watercraft that I winterize myself. I always ran a bucket of non toxic anti freeze through the system to be sure the water left in the machine would not freeze and crack something. I now have a four stroke and see on the web that some people are recommending that doing this is not needed.

Answer: I would use the rinse out port on the rogue stroke machine to run a gallon of non toxic anti-freeze through the machine just to be extra sure.

If you leave the batteries in the boat the number one rule is that they be fully charged. Here in the northeast, cold weather and a drained battery or batteries spells the end of the battery for sure.

Since it may be as long as four months before the boat is used again, having a float charger connected to the battery to keep the batteries "up" is a must. Manufacturers such as Schumacher SC-600a-CA Speed charge, Roughly 44 dollars, is a good way to go. There are at least 20 float chargers on the market ranging from 12 dollars to the Schumacher.

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