

# BOAT TALK WITH



# Alex Salomatoff

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*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](mailto:AlexsMarine@aol.com)*

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*Hi Alex, when my straight shaft, 1985 20' Shamrock is in slow speed, I can hear a knocking that sounds like it is coming from the transmission. What can it be?*

**Alex:** It could be the tranny but there are plenty of other areas of the propulsion system to check first.

- The propeller: Is it bent or damaged in some way?
- The shaft itself could be out of alignment.
- The cutlass bearing that holds the shaft that is located just before the rudder could be worn. My guess is that is where the problem is. If you can shake the shaft sideways or there is play in that area, or you know for a fact that it has never been changed, then my guess is that is where the noise is coming from.

If we were to replace the cutlass bearing we would probably disconnect the shaft from the transmission, there are some set-screws that go into cups on the shaft. It is very important that you mark the shaft and coupling before you take it apart so that you can put it back together accurately when you replace the cutlass bearing.

We may have to remove the rudder as well as it is usually directly behind the propeller and will not allow the shaft to come back out all the way.

Once the shaft is out it is fairly easy to use a cutlass-bearing remover to push the old bearing out of the strut. (You can also cut the bearing however you had better be careful in doing this.)

Now you may say to yourself, "What the hell! I am not going to do this! It's too much work, I will just live with the noise!"

Bad idea as the wobbling in the shaft is going to start harming your transmission and that my friend is not a cheap fix!

Please note: There is a kit that is specific to removing cutless bearings on a propeller shaft. It is very expensive and few locations have one!

**You Have Boat Questions and Expert Mechanic Alex Salomatoff Has Answers!**

Boating On The Hudson is starting our brand new Call-In Online Radio Talk Show That Is All About Boat Repair called "Ask Alex!"

Alex Salomatoff is the Owner and an Extraordinarily Exceptional Mechanic at Alex's Marine Plus in New Windsor, NY. If you have any questions at all about your boat, your trailer or your Jet-Ski, Simply Call or Text Lex Now at 845-363-0004 to arrange a time ASAP to ask your question directly to Alex "On The Air."

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