

Winter work

We have a list of routine maintenance items we feel every boat owner should consider carefully. When there are so few weeks of summer on the water each year, it is a shame to waste any days to breakdowns and repairs. These dark winter months are the best times to examine and maintain your boat's systems. Please consider the following items and call Aaron if you would like the crew to address any of them:

STEERING - clean, inspect and lubricate the mechanical parts of the pedestal and other steering components. Edson recommends servicing these parts every year.

SEACOCKS and thru-hull fittings - each and every thru hull should be inspected, cleaned and get new clamps and an appropriately sized emergency wooden plug secured in the vicinity.

WINCHES - clean, inspect & lubricate. When was the last time you had your winches inspected?

PUMPS - clean & inspect all pumps onboard. Electric bilge pumps, emergency bilge pumps & domestic water pumps all should be checked. The electrical connections should be visited, wires examined for problems such as fraying insecure leads. Hoses should be examined carefully to see they are not kinked, abraded or damaged, and clamps should be checked and replaced as required.

RUNNING LIGHTS - a common spring problem, overlooked until that perfect evening presents itself. Now is the moment to check the system carefully - change light bulbs, replace corroded connections, be sure everything works each and every time you need them. The mast lights and wiring should be checked before stepping the mast at launching.

ENGINE CONTROLS - cables for shift and throttle, key switches and critical gauges. Now is the moment to check each of these for proper operation, lubricate and clean as required, make sure that connections are secure.

ELECTRONICS- VHF radios, GPS units, EPIRBs and other units should be tested onboard on the bench. Many times when delivering vessels in spring and fall we discover that the Yard's handheld works better than the ship's VHF. Let us check these units and their antenna's over the winter months. (Many of these items will be sent out for expert technical service.)

LIFERAFTS - many boat owners ask us to send their rafts out for inspection and certification. This is also the ideal time to take stock of your PFDs and make sure your vessel is in compliance with USCG regulations, and common sense safety.

Lifelines and stations

Propane lines and controls