

ETHANOL FUEL COMING TO A MARINA NEAR YOU

Starting in the spring of 2009 all fuel docks on Lake Winnepesaukee will begin selling ethanol fuel. This can create a number of problems that you, as a boat owner, should be aware of.

1. Older boats were not built to handle ethanol. Starting in 1990 manufacturers started to build boats with ethanol fuels in mind. This is not to say that boats 1990 and newer are safe, just that this is when manufacturers started to change over. If your boat is not built to handle ethanol, the ethanol can attack your fuel system, possibly causing fuel leaks.
2. Ethanol is a solvent. This means that all of the things that have built up in your fuel system over the years are going to be broken down and flushed into your engine. This can clog your fuel filter or worse, cause damage to your engine.
3. Ethanol fuel has a much shorter shelf life than regular fuel. This means that if you leave your boat for a period longer than two (2) weeks you should use a fuel stabilizer built for ethanol fuel. A good rule is to only put as much fuel in as you think you'll use.
4. Ethanol fuel and water create a big problem. Regular fuel stays separated from water which sinks to the bottom of the tank. Ethanol fuel absorbs the water. When it absorbs enough water the fuel begins to separate in what is called "Phase Separation." Even small amounts of water can cause damage to your engine. The worst part is that the humidity in the air is all it takes to get water in your fuel.

What you can do:

- ! If you have an older boat call the Service Department at your local marina to see what can be done to upgrade your fuel system.
- ! Make sure you are regularly changing your fuel filter and carry a spare. Your marina will have the right filter with the right micron level.
- ! Stabilize your fuel with compatible ethanol stabilizers.
- ! Use up your fuel. Think of it as an excuse to use your boat more. The longer that the fuel sits in your tank the more likely it is to absorb water.
- ! Let's protect your boat and our waters.
- ! For more information contact your marine dealer.

Compliments of Melvin Marina