

Brunswick Landing Marina Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 6

1701 Newcastle Street, Brunswick, GA 31520
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June 22nd, 2010

What To Do When Aground

There are two kinds of boaters: those who have run aground and those who refuse to admit it. The facts are, navigational aids can, and do, drift off-station; every sounding on every chart isn't accurate; and, well, we've all suffered distractions. Here's what to do if your boat's draft should suddenly exceed the water's depth.

1. Check out the bilge and all hull penetrations (transducers, engine mounting bolts, pod flange rings, rudder posts, shaft logs and any fitting that penetrates the hull below the waterline) before trying to dislodge and, as a result, possibly making a bad situation worse. You might have put a hole in the hull, ruptured a through-hull fitting or bent an out-board or stern-drive mounting bolt. Aground is better than sunk.
2. No leaks? Next make sure the engine's cooling water intake won't suck up mud and sand. Kill the genset. Many an engine overheats when the operator tries to power off a grounding and clogs the intake. Raise the drives, shift weight to raise a through-hull off the bottom, and proceed slowly to stir up as little muck as possible.
3. Once off, go easy on the throttle. A bent shaft or propeller can cause more damage in operation than most groundings will.
4. If there's current, you may be able to get off by rocking the boat. Have the crew move from port to starboard. Each time the boat leans, the draft decreases, hopefully allowing the current to move the boat a few feet. Repeat until afloat.
5. "Hard aground" means you're high and dry, with little chance of getting off until the tide rises. "Soft grounding" usually results in little more than scraped paint.

Sound Signals: Know the Basics

- Vessels meeting *port to port*, crossing or overtaking, should sound one short blast. Both vessels then alter course to starboard. Response in kind is required.
- Vessels meeting *starboard to starboard*, crossing or overtaking, should sound two short blasts. Both vessels alter course to port. Response in kind is required.
- Vessel in reverse propulsion should sound three short blasts.
- Danger signal is sounded with five or more short blasts.
- When rounding a bend or obstruction, sound one long blast. This is also appropriate in situations where line of sight might be impaired.

Upcoming Events

Every Wednesday throughout the month we invite you to attend a casual get-together for our boaters. Please bring your own beverages and appetizers to the bathhouse located between Dock 9 and Dock 10. See ya there!

July 2nd — The First Friday of each month in Downtown Brunswick restaurants and stores are open 6-9.

July 4th — Marina party at 2pm. Fireworks right here at the marina around dusk. Great seats right at dockside. See Sherri for details

Seven Tips for Living with Ethanol

1. Check and drain water separators regularly. Enough water will cause phase separation, even within the filter.
2. Inspect rubber parts, primer bulbs and fuel hoses — even ethanol-resistant hoses marked J-1527 — for swelling, softness or cracking. With electricity and fuel turned off and a bucket to catch spills, check fuel hose innards too.
3. Monitor fuel tanks, vents, fills and gauge-sender gaskets for water leaks, and check bilges for gasoline.
4. Advice is missed on fuel storage levels. Full tanks don't breath much as temperatures change, so a full tank of ethanol is less likely to absorb moisture from humid air, but E10 shouldn't sit unused.
5. Stabilizers seem to mitigate many problems. Use recognized brands labeled for E10, like those from StarTron, ValvTect and Sta-Bil, particularly if fuel won't be used completely in a week or two.
6. Don't switch frequently between E10 and unblended gas.

Recipe of the Month

Pineapple Glazed Mahi Mahi

Ingredients:

- 1 1/2lbs mahi mahi steaks
- 2 Tbsp. rice vinegar
- 3 Tbsp. pineapple preserves
- 1 tsp. hot sauce
- 1/4 c. pineapple juice
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 2 Tbsp. chopped fresh basil
- Pepper to taste

Directions:

In a small saucepan, combine preserves, juice, vinegar, hot sauce and garlic over medium heat. Stir in basil and season with pepper.

Season fish with salt and pepper. Prepare grill. Grill fish about 6 minutes per side, depending on thickness. Baste with sauce the last 5 minutes. Remove from heat and baste again with the sauce. Let rest 5 minutes and serve.