

PassageMaker[®]

— The Trawler & Ocean Motorboat Magazine —

STEVE D'ANTONIO

SIMPLIFY IMPELLER CHANGES WITH SPEEDSEALLIFE

I often tell attendees of my Trawler Fest “Ship’s Systems” seminars that there are, at the very least, three engine room tasks every cruiser must master: replacing a fuel filter, bleeding the fuel system, and changing a raw-water impeller. No matter how reluctant you may be to pick up a tool or how mechanically disinclined you are, these gearhead eventualities are as inescapable as death and taxes.

I also recommend that all cruisers replace their impellers annually,



regardless of the number of hours they place on their engine. Taking this approach virtually ensures that you will never experience an age-induced impeller failure. But, even if you follow this advice, your impeller can come to grief in a matter of seconds in the event of a blockage—if it sucks up one of those ubiquitous plastic bags, for instance.

SpeedsealLife promises to make such inevitable emergency impeller

changes easier while offering other benefits, as well. Its predecessor, the SpeedSeal, is a proven product with thousands of units in service, offering users the convenience of hassle-free impeller replacement sans tools. While installing a SpeedSeal makes impeller replacement significantly simpler, it won't increase the life of an impeller or offer any means of protection against the dreaded run-dry scenario.

The SpeedsealLife, on the other hand, is capable of enduring repeated dry starts and dry running for as long as five minutes (although your exhaust temperature alarm would sound long before the latter would happen—you do have an exhaust temperature alarm, right?). This is possible because the SpeedsealLife features a two-piece pump cover plate that incorporates a proprietary bearing material. The impeller doesn't rub against the cover plate; instead, it spins with a brass disc, which itself rides on the low-friction bearing material.

The SpeedsealLife has been proven to extend impeller life by two to three times, which is ideal for those who place lots of hours on their engines or generators each season. Check it out at www.speedseal.com.—S.D'A.