

Flag Lt. Boats: Anthony Bianchini

When asked to take on the duties of Flag Lt. Boats I wasn't sure what I was getting into. I was promised that if I had any difficulties the past flag lts. would be happy to help. I must say that was absolutely true. I'd like to first thank Steve, Bill and Rick, who often took care of problems before I even knew they existed, and were always there when I needed help. I also would like to thank those at the fall and spring work parties who worked so hard getting the boats ready for the season and winterized after the season.

We have had a relatively uneventful year as far as the boats go. I started the season by replacing the solenoid of the horn on the Flat top and adding PVC pipes for the racing flags. The horn continued to be a problem because a bird chose to make it's nest on top of the new solenoid. Once the nest was no longer in use the solenoid was replaced again. Next I made two sets of duplicate keys and made sure each boat had the required safety equipment and laminated paperwork on board. I then ordered the first tank of fuel. A second filling was needed about midway through the season. The rubber boat was put back into service by replacing the solenoid and keeping it inflated. The 13 ft Whaler ran well all year. The 17 ft Whaler had some running problems, but that is to be expected with the frequency in which it is used and the abuse it takes. Some simple fixes included getting rid of water in the engine and changing spark plugs. The large Whaler also required replacing the starter, not a particular easy job but one successfully completed. Thanks to Bob Barringer for his help. The flat top ran well but at one point the engine wouldn't start. As I investigated the problem the whole throttle assembly literally came off in my hand. It simply required reinstallation. The only boat with problems extensive enough to take to a mechanic was the green metal boat. It ran well at the start of the season and for no apparent reason began running poorly. Once Bill, Steve, and I had exhausted our combined knowledge we agreed it was time to hand it over to a professional. We have not heard back from them yet.

In summary the year went fairly smoothly. There were at least three boats available for every Sunday and Wednesday race as well as every regatta. We stayed close to budget which is pretty good considering the gas was purchased at it's highest price for the year. I expect no significant changes for next year.

Respectfully Submitted,
Anthony Bianchini