

[Richard Joslin](#) Experience and education!

- Here's what I do : I made a laminated list, one copy in truck and one in boat so I never forget things like: (charger cord in boat. drains checked. wheels greased. ratchets tight. lights work. etc)- then:
- Go get your serial number, engine serial, hull and registration # and insurance card/phone and EMERGENCY CONTACTS that are local.
- If you have friends with boats, ask them if you can use them in an emergency if you need a truck/help.. offer to do the same for them and get their # on card) etc all together on BACK of that sheet before laminating: oil concentration (mine's 50:1). tank capacity. filter/spark plug #;s..etc.)
- Then go buy the engine manual and use YOUTUBE to start learning about annual service, inspecting and lubricating steering and throttle cable.. impeller change. oil change. buy the special tools as you need then (ie lower end oil change hand pump).
- Build a tool bag JUST for the boat (I keep mine in toolbox of truck when boat is stored:
 - Mine has everything from wire cutters to the ratchets id need to tighten the engine and transom bolt.
 - Buy a LARGE box of fuses on Amazon- cheaper. I carry the following:
Tools.
 - Spare 2 cycle oil so I don't have to pay outrageous dock prices if I stay overnight and need gas the next day)
 - 12V Jump Start box \$50,
 - spare 5 gallon can(with 2 more in truck), fuses,
- Flashlights (do rechargeable work lights at \$20/each),
- starter fluid,
- Hardware for Bimini (easy to drop overboard or behind seats),
- Spare emergency water under seats,
- Plenty of new rope \$8,
- 4 spare ratchets \$10,
- 12V Test light,
- Wire splices/crimper,
- Set of bungees \$5,
- Depth Finder \$115,
- home first aid kit (nail clippers scissors,

- matches/lighters,
- Medical:
 - Sunscreen,
 - bug spray,
 - burn spray with lidocaine,
 - tylenol- benadryl-
 - triple antibiotic-cortisone-
 - travel toothpaste and spare brush-
 - band aids- vet wrap- etc,
- Huge rambo knife for cutting lines in emergency \$5,
- cell phone charger pack \$20, Spare USB cords for Iphone-USB-C and micro-Usb,
- required coast guard stuff
 - (air horn- life jackets-throwable buoy),
- spare set of spark plugs and wrench to remove them,
- Waterproof bag for Depth finder when stored,, keys, wallet, boat insurance/registration, etc).
- Get a routine for greasing trailer and getting ready to tow.
- PRACTICE launching boat- DONT PREP ON RAMP. get on the dock-get GOOD at backing and launching- then CLEAR the ramp.
- You can prep dock at sea or dock while she parks truck and the next guy can get in....
- Learn your consumption rate for what you normally do- skiing/ full out gives me ~4 hours. Putzin around and I can go 2 days.
- Don't trust gauge..that's why the premixed 50:1 5 gallon gas can... Most toons can't carry enough anchor line/chain to anchor properly (lakes here are 400' deep, meaning you're NOT gonna be able to anchor to wait for help if you run outta gas (lesson learned, bought the depth finder the next day).
- PRACTICE handling your toon near dock and training your partner to moor and trailer so you can be quick and stress free. I watched enough videos and had a friend come teach me about how to adjust the carbs/idle speed cause mine was running rough at low idle and would stall and not restart (1 of two carb needle valves was nearly shut).. It's nerve racking but you will be fine if you learn BEFORE you need it and it will be much less stress and bickering at the dock:) Hope this helps!