

## Norm's CS 36 Maintenance Checklist

Don Grovestine      CS 36T *Gadgets*  
(with help from noted friends)

One evening a few weeks ago, Stephanie and Captain Carsten (CS 36 *Polaris*), and Wendy and your intrepid editor (CS 36 *Gadgets*) were visiting with Joan and Norman Smyth (CS 36 *Cashelmara*) who recently moved here from Ottawa. Not surprisingly, the topic of conversation turned to boat maintenance. Being relatively new to salt water, Norm asked "What do I have to do differently out here?" He had started a checklist based on his freshwater experience. Together, we adapted it for local conditions.

Since the need for Spring maintenance will soon be upon us and in view of the emphasis placed on maintenance by Ron Drane (the guest speaker at the November Meeting), we thought it might be worthwhile sharing that checklist with you. (I have reformatted the list to make it more generally applicable and also taken the liberty of adding a few recommendations from the maintenance sections of the CS 36 Owner's Manual.)

### Monthly (at least):

- clean and top up batteries
- check and clean bilge
- check engine oil and coolant levels
- check and clean/dry engine sump. Investigate anything other than a few drops of engine oil or, if you don't have a drip-less shaft-seal, a small amount of salt water.
- test automatic bilge pump.

### Quarterly:

- inspect/replace engine heat exchanger zinc
- inspect, adjust and oil steering cables
- lubricate pedestal steering mechanism and chain
- check navigation, running, deck and anchor lights.

### In the Spring:

- perform quarterly and monthly items
- inspect mast fittings and rigging; retune rigging if necessary; ensure cotter/split pins are in good condition
- inspect life lines and stanchions
- remove (if necessary) and clean dodger, bimini and other canvas
- scrub deck (using bleach or cleaner) and clean and wax cabin sides and cockpit (after haulout)
- oil/Cetol/varnish any exterior wood
- clean all lockers and wash/wax interior fibreglass
- apply orange/teak/other oil to interior wood (every second year)
- clean potable water tanks
- spray WD 40 on furling gear bearings and put sail-track lubricant on mainsail lugs
- strip down, clean and lubricate winches
- change fuel filters – primary filter every year; secondary filters every second year
- check raw engine water impeller and replace at first sign of deterioration
- inspect alternator belt, replace at first sign of wear and maintain proper belt tension

- change engine oil (CS recommendation - Shell Rotella-T SAE 30 for Westerbeke 30/33 and Shell Rimula 10W-30 for all other engines)
- change engine oil filter (Capt Carsten published an article some time ago in CS West cross-referencing OEM oil filters with other readily available – and less expensive – equivalents)
- test manual bilge pump
- test batteries with a hydrometer.

### **At Haul Out**

- have the following items on hand – before haul out:
  - shaft and/or propeller zincs
  - acetone/soap/cleaners/wax/cloths
  - scraper/steel wool
  - sandpaper, sander, masks
  - wire brush
  - epoxy filler, applicator
  - gloves, coveralls,
  - masking tape (green or blue)
  - antifouling paint, roller, pan, brush
- remove sumlog/knotmeter impeller - before haul out
- pressure-wash hull and bottom
- paint bottom with anti-fouling paint - preparing per paint manufacturer's instructions
- replace shaft and propeller zincs
- check cutlass bearing for excessive play
- inspect all thru-hull fittings
- wash hull, repair gelcoat “dings”, touch-up graphics
- wax hull (two coats at least).

### **In the Fall**

- perform quarterly and monthly items
- top up fuel tank and add conditioner
- winterize tender engine
- clean and fold tender
- drain pressure water system (including water heater) or add potable anti-freeze
- remove and fold #1 genoa
- install space heater/dehumidifier
- run air circulation fans
- change engine oil and, depending on engine hours, oil filter.

### **At Other Times:**

- change transmission oil (CS recommendation - Type A Shell Donnax TG) every second year
- change W30/33 V-drive oil (CS recommendation - Shell Rotella-T SAE30) every second year
- for engines with heat exchangers, change coolant every five years (50/50 mixture of fresh water and anti-freeze).

Almost certainly, there are still a few essential items that we missed. And, of course, we were focussed on CS-36s. The other CSs may have their own special requirements.

Nonetheless, if you do everything on Norm's checklist at the recommended intervals, you should have one of the better-maintained boats in your marina/yacht club and be well on your way to having your *WOW!* factor.