

Advice from an Expert as . . .

Interest in Outboard Racing Soars

By JOHNNY SANDERS

Since the first time I stepped into an outboard boat my bag was racing. I know everyone is not in this category. But I'll bet everyone who buys a boat and motor shares my desire of getting every bit of performance out of their rig that they can. And maybe a little more.

To most outboard racers no expense is too great if it will increase their speed by a mile an hour or so. This isn't true of pleasure boaters, and I don't blame them. But there are a number of things the average boater can do to his rig to increase its performance.

Check Performance

First, make sure your outboard is putting out like it's supposed to. A good tachometer will tell you if you're reaching the necessary RPMs. Or take it to your outboard dealer for some help. This would also be a good time to check propellers.

The correct propping of your boat has become highly specialized. Tell the dealer what your situation is. Describe the RPMs you are getting, how many you would like, how you use your boat (water skiing, fishing, etc.), how many people you take along. For speed alone, aim for the prop that will give you the highest RPM your motor can tolerate with the highest pitch possible.

Sharpen Chines

Here's a little tip the professionals use. Sharpening chines. The chines are the edges along the bottom side of your boat and at the transom. On fiberglass boats these edges are almost always dull and rounded. Water will cling to this type of surface and cause a dragging effect. Sharpen them until they are square with the transom and the bottom. Finish with a wet sanding and rubbing operation.

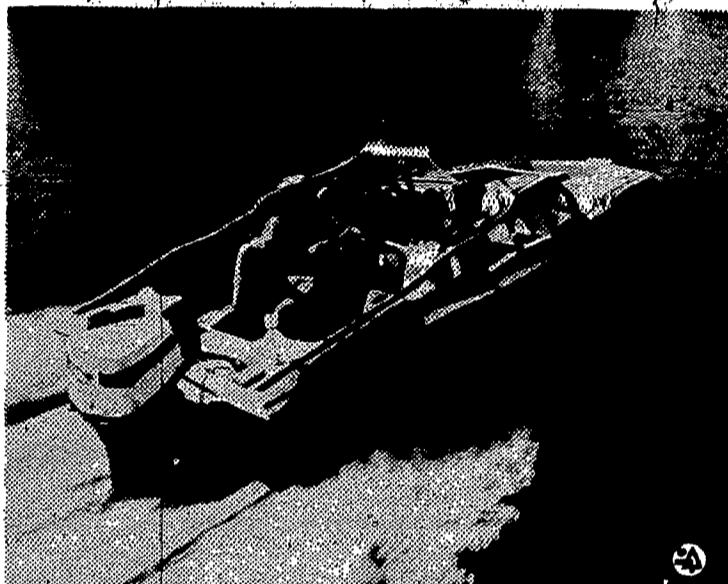
Balance is one of those words of advice boaters receive all the time, then seem to ignore. But it's one of the most important improvements toward increased performance you can make.

For speed, the best boat balance occurs when the

Editor's Note: Johnny Sanders qualifies, without a doubt, as one of the foremost outboard motor racers in the 50-year history of the sport. Working with such successful Johnson Outboard race teams as Abilene Marine in Texas and McCune Marine in Denver, Sanders has accumulated hundreds of major first-place trophies. One of his latest victories was the most prestigious of all, the Outboard World Championship in Lake Havasu City, Ariz.



Boats will generally perform better when the center of balance is as far to the rear as possible. Note how driver has positioned passengers toward the stern. This means that the boat will require less horsepower to keep the bow out of the water and that extra horsepower can be used to make your boat go faster.



Just plain cruising, or running around, rates third among favorite boating activities according to the Boating Industry Association. Cruising rates 32.6 percentage points, just ahead of hunting (from a boat) which registered 30.2 percentage of the mentions.

center of balance in your boat is as far to the rear as possible. This will mean that the boat will require

less horsepower to keep the bow out of the water and that extra horsepower can be used to push your hull faster. Eliminate all necessary weight, especially water in the bilge.

When you've made these improvements, take your boat out and see if you don't feel a little more wind in your face. Happy boating.

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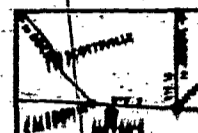
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