

Winterizing And Storing Boats In The Off-Season

Winter is rough on boats, and Mother Nature doesn't discriminate between skiffs and water-ski boats. Unless you live in a warm climate and use your boat year around, there are certain steps you'll need to take to winterize and store your boat.

The first thing you'll need to decide is whether to store your boat on land or in the water. Laying up on land is the most common method and tends to give owners more peace of mind (no need for bilge pumps, etc.).

This method, however, creates its own problems in the spring. Depending on the layout of your boat yard, you may have to do some climbing and hauling if you like to putter. If, however, you store your boat in your own garage and call your trailer "home port," (as about half the boat owners in the United States do), your boat will be accessible to you and will generally need less maintenance than boats laid up in the water.

There are also advantages and disadvantages to water lay-ups. Boats kept in the water are more accessible to their owners and tend to stay cleaner than those stored in large dry docks and garages (less dust, dirt, and mud). They are easier to get into in the spring, and you won't have to wait for others to get their boats out ahead of you on that "once-in-a-spring weekend."

It will be important that you check on your boat regularly, how-

ever, for leakage, frozen batteries, and frozen lines. Remember that if the battery is frozen and the boat starts to leak, the bilge pump is of virtually no use.

The following is a checklist of things to do as the winter approaches. Keep in mind that most of these steps should be taken at least once a year regardless of whether you use your boat in all seasons or just in the spring, summer and fall.

✓ Clean the bottom of your boat while the bottom is still wet. This will make it much easier to clean off barnacles and seaweed. If your boat is already in a dry dock, keep a hose handy to wet the hull as you go.

✓ Drain all unnecessary fluids. These include, but are not limited to, toilets, iceboxes, and hoses.

✓ Give the deck and inside a thorough rub down with a powerful cleanser. After drying, use a fungus control treatment to inhibit mold and mildew. This will prevent rude surprises in the spring when fungi thrive. Note: Leave the icebox and all food drawers ajar. This will allow air to circulate and keep bad odors from accumulating.

✓ Remove all electronics that are not necessary on-board. This will not only protect against damage, but will prevent theft as well.

✓ Lubricate all moving parts such as joints, hinges, and locks. This will help assure that nothing is "stuck" in the spring.

✓ Open all faucets and valves and drain all water lines. If you choose to add an anti-freeze instead, make sure that you run all the lines to make sure the anti-freeze has made it all the way through the system before you shut it off.

✓ If you are storing your boat on land, take out the battery and keep it in a dry, warm place. If you're keeping your boat in the water, be sure to keep the battery charged for the bilge pump and check on your boat regularly to guard against problems caused by freezing and power outages.



THE GOVERNOR DANIEL RUSSELL is the lead vessel in the Southport-Fort Fisher ferry that makes the Cape Fear River crossing many times each day.

Have A Ferry Nice Trip!

BY MARJORIE MEGIVERN

Whatever your mission as you navigate between Brunswick and New Hanover counties, I have the transportation mode for you.

Is it your daily trip to work and home again? Do you fancy a little shopping or sightseeing in the Southport or Kure Beach area? Are there house guests to be entertained? Are the kids nagging for something "different" to do? No problem. Solve all these quandaries the same way: take a ferry ride.

The Southport-Fort Fisher ferry, whose Gov. Daniel Russell departs either dock every 50 minutes (100 minutes in winter) will accomplish your goal and leave you relaxed, entertained and in good standing with your kids, visitors or boss (who wants you at work on time).

This North Carolina ferry celebrates this year some 30 years of impeccable operation. It hauls commuters, tourists, bicyclers, pedestrians and many who just enjoy the experience of getting from port to port.

The 30-minute trip affords a panorama of Brunswick County industry as you see the back-door operations of Carolina Power, Light and Archer Daniels Midland and Sunny Point Ocean Terminal.

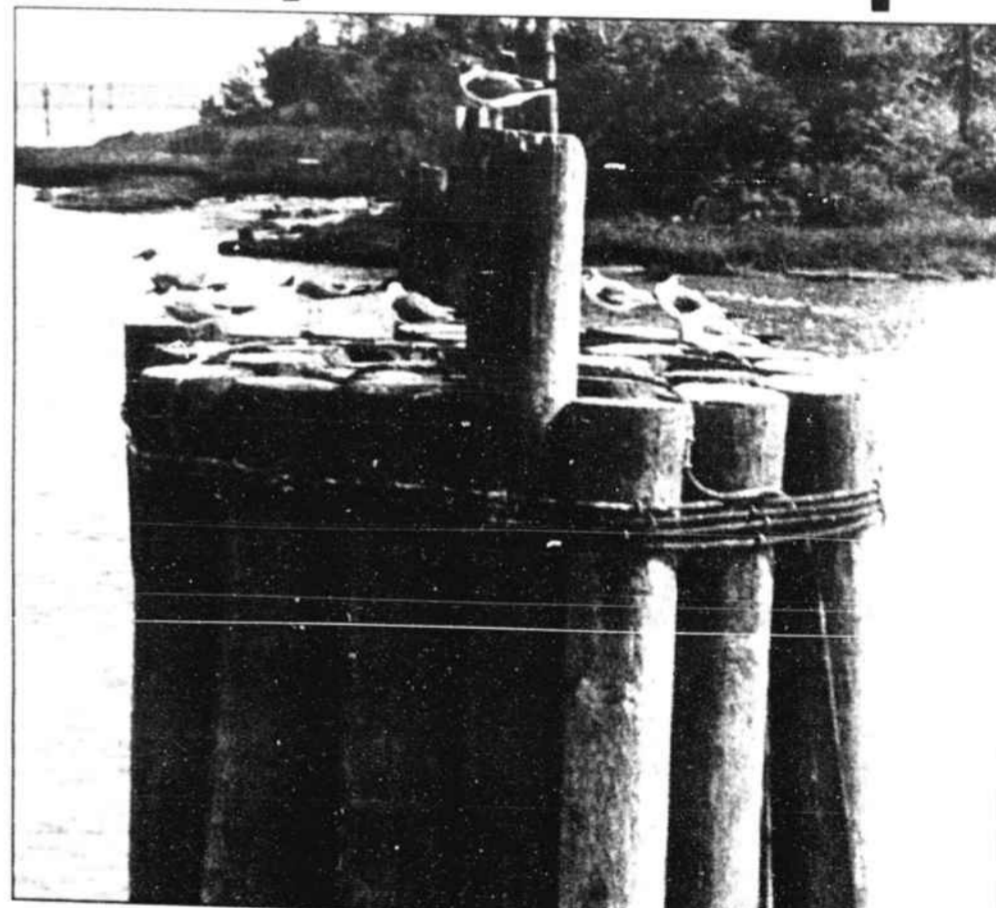


PHOTO BY MARJORIE MEGIVERN

PEOPLE AREN'T the only ones eager for departure of the Southport-Fort Fisher ferry. Gulls line up expectantly before the takeoff, anticipating a feast of crumbs from ferry passengers.

You see remnants of colonial life in and around the river, too, and above all, you become acquainted with about 100 bold and hungry gulls who await the crumbs you throw. That spirited game is sufficient entertainment to justify the trip.

You may delight simply in being on the water, kissed by a breeze, lulled by the quiet throb of engines. Weather permitting, you can stand

at the rail or take shelter in an air-conditioned lounge.

On the other hand, you may have planned excursions on both ends of this trip to entertain friends or family, and there are diversions of all kinds.

Whether it's Fort Fisher or Brunswicktown (see related story elsewhere in this issue), there is history galore to be found on this river trip.

Picnicking should be part of your day, with appealing picnic grounds opposite the Fort Fisher Museum and on the grounds at Brunswicktown.

The jaunt is not expensive. A one-way fare is \$3 per car, \$1 for a bicycle and rider, 50 cents for a pedestrian. The schedule changes November 1, so note the times below.

SUMMER SCHEDULE (Through Oct. 31)

Leaves Southport	Leaves Ft. Fisher
8:00 AM.....	8:50 AM
8:50 AM.....	9:40 AM
9:40 AM.....	10:30 AM
10:30 AM.....	11:20 AM
11:20 AM.....	12:10 PM
12:10 PM.....	1:00 PM
1:00 PM.....	1:50 PM
1:50 PM.....	2:40 PM
2:40 PM.....	3:30 PM
3:30 PM.....	4:20 PM
4:20 PM.....	5:10 PM
5:10 PM.....	6:00 PM
6:00 PM.....	6:50 PM

WINTER SCHEDULE (11/1-94 through 3/31/95)

Leaves Southport	Leaves Ft. Fisher
8:00 AM.....	8:50 AM
9:40 AM.....	10:30 AM
11:20 AM.....	12:10 PM
1:00 PM.....	1:50 PM
2:40 PM.....	3:30 PM
4:20 PM.....	5:10 PM
6:00 PM.....	6:50 PM

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