



Chesapeake Tartan 30 Association

WATER IN THE GAS TANK

Hank Mortimer, T-30 #158, *Robin's Raven*, May 1998*

I have been having problems for some time with water in my fuel. It caused havoc with the engine and my confidence to take it on a long run. It changes the fuel mix and fouls the plugs. Water in the carb stops the engine cold. I had to drain the fuel/water separator before, during and after every run of the engine.

I tried everything in the way of additives, etc. to eliminate it. I replaced the O-ring on the gas filler cap. Vosbury Marine (local Atomic 4 wizards -*ed.*) could not figure it out, and they have serviced this engine for twenty years. They installed resistance plugs to help fight any water problems and keep the plugs from fouling. But none of these things worked.

What I finally discovered is that the gas cap screws in and “bottoms out” on the through-deck filler *before the O-ring can seal it*. The deck filler plate is original and the filler cap has never been replaced. Since the filler cap is directly under the spinnaker pole, it is subjected to a lot of water running off the pole. For now, I have solved the problem by adding a second O-ring that seals the cap before it “bottoms out.” Eventually, I will sand down the filler cap so there is enough gap to allow the ring to seal.

If you have been experiencing unexplained water in your fuel, check out the deck fill cap. For a long time I thought it was just condensation developing inside the aluminum tank when it was not full.

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