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V-6 MAINTENANCE GUIDE
How To Get The Most From Your 4.3L V-6
Engine Tuning • Drive Service • Exhaust

MODEL LINE REVIEW

Sunsation's 28- And 32-Footers, Single Or Twin?



All-New
39



HOW-TO's
WINTERIZE
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SMARTCRAFT
GAUGE INSTALL

VST
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SHOULD KNOW
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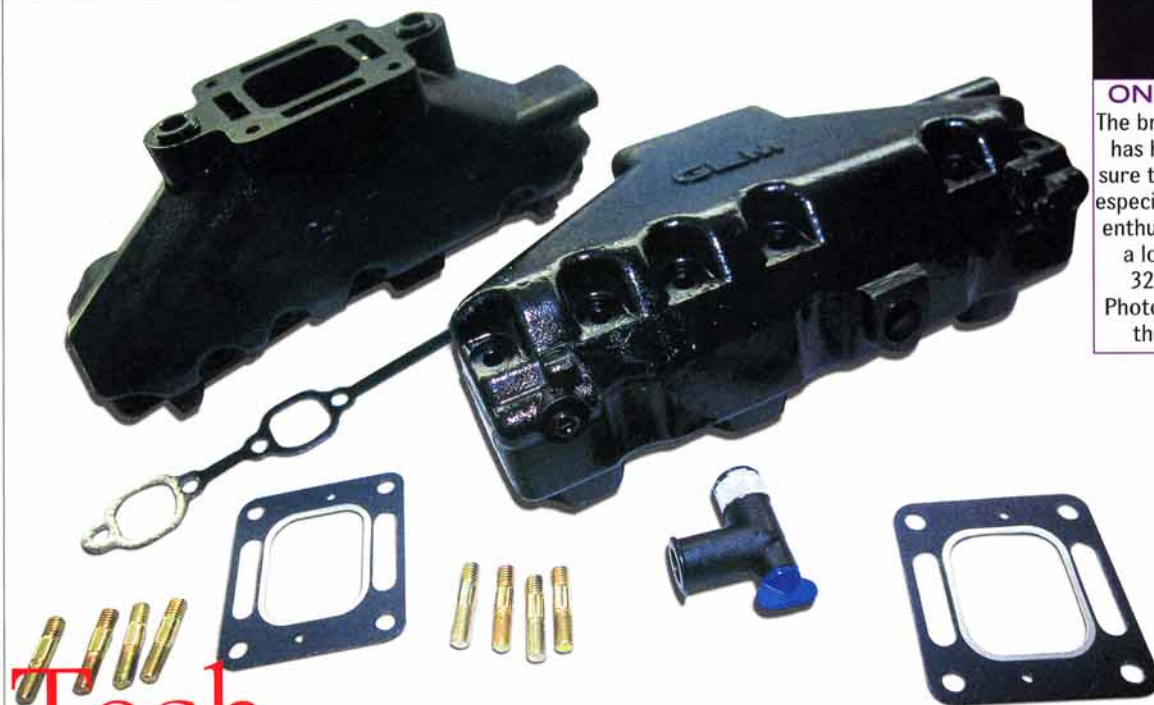


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ON THE COVER

The brand new 39 Top Gun has hit the water and is sure to be a popular boat, especially among Cigarette enthusiasts. We also took a look at the 28- and 32-foot Sunsations. Photography provided by the manufacturers.



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Exhausted Exhaust Manifold



Corrosion from Saltwater Use has Taken Its Toll On Our Stock Exhaust Manifolds. We Turned to GLM Products and Its Two-Piece Replacement Parts to Fill the Bill.

Parts wear out—it's a fact of life. Sometimes we cause parts to wear out sooner than expected. In the case of our project runabout V-6, we came to a crossroads a couple years ago. The boat was spending much more time in the garage under the cover than on the water. One of the reasons for this was because the crowded waterways of Southern California freshwater lakes had just become a deterrent. Long lines on the ramp and general crowding every weekend just sucked the fun right out of boating.

We made a decision to splash the old runabout in salt water.


Long Beach, California, was an easy tow, the launch ramps were not too crowded and the boating there was great. There was plenty of protected water, lots of scenery and great places to cruise and stop for lunch. Admittedly, we did cringe when the trailer first encountered the salty stuff, and we were expecting some sort of smoke to rise from the water from a chemical reac-

tion, but there was none of that. What did happen was that we found a new place to go boating, and we really enjoyed what Long Beach Harbor had to offer. Soon we were taking the boat to San Diego and doing harbor cruises in Channel Islands Harbor.

We flushed the motor each time it was dunked in salt water, but recently, corrosion began to take its toll. The exhaust mani-

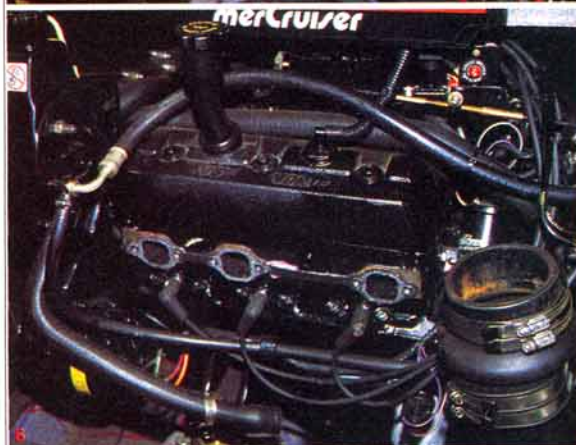
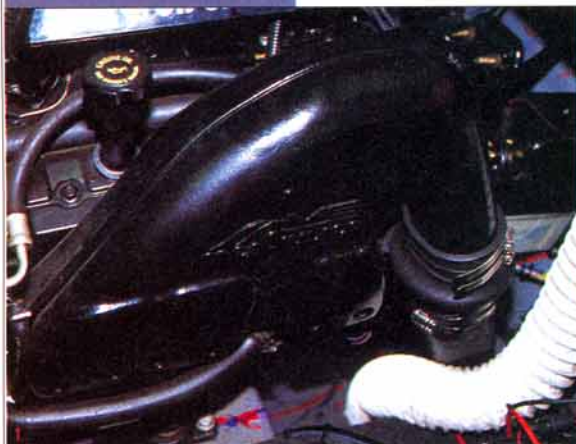
We flushed the motor each time it was dunked in salt water, but recently, corrosion began to take its toll.

folds were showing signs of corrosion, and the price we were going to have to pay for this were new exhaust manifolds. We turned to GLM Products in Monrovia, California, for its cast two-piece system. The company does offer aluminum manifolds,

but we thought that the cast system would work out better for continued occasional saltwater use. Yes, they are heavier, but in this case, we were looking for durability, not weight savings. The parts we ordered from GLM retail for less than \$600, an excellent price for what you get, especially compared to the OE price. The install was also pretty easy and straightforward. 

Continued 

Exhaust Manifold Install



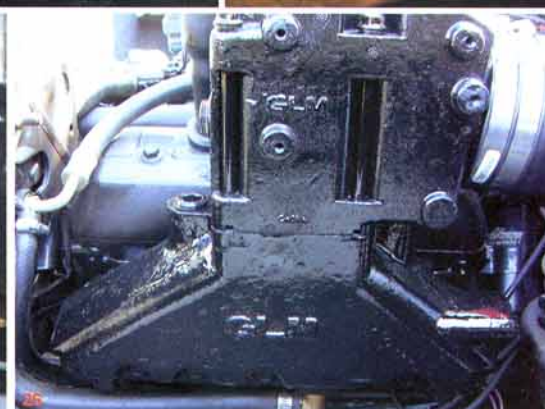
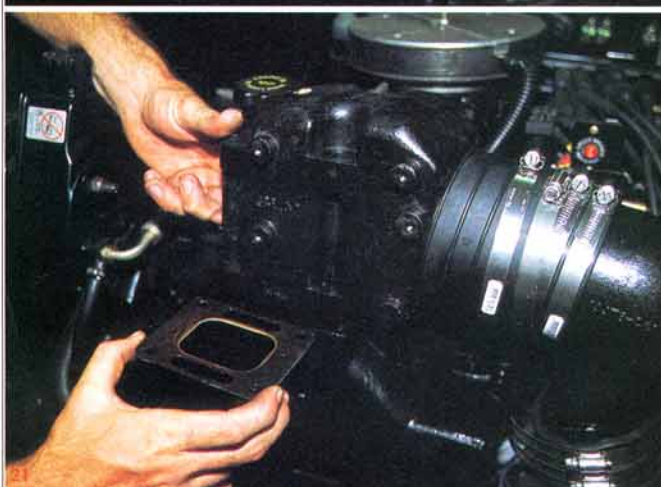
1 These stock exhaust manifolds have seen better days. They look fine on the outside but are rusted on the inside. 2 The job started with the removal of the old one-piece manifolds. First remove the manifold drain hose. 3 Continue by loosening the bellows hose clamps. 4 Remove the exhaust manifold mounting bolts. 5 Once the bolts are removed, the manifold will lift right off the block. 6 Here is the exposed block. This is an opportune time to examine the exhaust ports for corrosion. 7 Here is a view of the water/exhaust discharge portion of the old exhaust manifold. You can see the evidence of corrosion. 8 Here is a shot of the exhaust port on the old manifold. Again, note the rust inside the port. There should be no rust in this area. With this evidence, we performed a compression test on the engine to ensure that the exhaust valve/seat did not get corroded. In this case, we were lucky. 9 Remove the old exhaust manifold gasket. Scrape the old gasket off the cylinder head. 10 Maveric Marine always goes the additional mile and uses a 3M abrasive disk to thoroughly clean the gasket surface. 11 Next you want to paint the surface with Mercury's Phantom Black paint to prevent corrosion. 12 Install the new drain elbow into the exhaust manifold. 13 Apply Perfect Seal to the exhaust elbow gasket prior to installation (depending on the material that your gasket is made of). Some MerCruiser gaskets do not require sealant. 14 Install the new manifold. The tip here is to insert the two outermost screws through the manifold and the gasket to keep the gasket in place. Once everything is lined up, slide the assembly onto the head. 15 The new exhaust manifold in place. 16 Apply Perfect Seal into the exhaust tube prior to installing the new exhaust elbow. This will ease installation and provide a better seal. 17 Install the new exhaust elbow into the exhaust tube. 18 Install the tube that connects the riser to the elbow and attach the hose clamps.

Continued





Exhaust Manifold Install



19 Apply Perfect Seal to the inside of the exhaust tube. **20** Attach the new riser to the exhaust tube. **21** Align the gasket and exhaust riser. **22** Install the bolts through exhaust riser into the new manifold. **23** As an added touch, we painted the bolts to match the black engine. **24** Make sure all the hose clamps are in place and securely tightened. **25** Re-attach the hose from the thermostat housing to the exhaust manifold. **26** Here is the finished project.

