

## **Winterizing a Fairmont 2 cycle Speeder**

By Dick Forde

This article contains the steps that I take to prepare my Fairmont M14 for storage over the winter. The thought that is foremost in my mind while doing this is being able to get it running again in the spring with minimal effort.

A few facts to consider before we start: I live in New Hampshire where we have snow from November through March; I have an open speeder, just a windshield and a roof; I leave the speeder on its trailer; the speeder remains outside all winter.

- √ Starting on the first of October, add fuel stabilizer to each gallon of fuel that you get for the speeder. This insures that all of the fuel that you have when you finally winterize will be stabilized.
- √ After the last run of the season, thoroughly wash all of the season's dirt and grime off of the speeder, and let it dry completely.
- √ Open (or remove) the drain plug from the engines water jacket to completely empty the engine and water hopper. Then close the drain and add two quarts of 50/50 antifreeze/water mixture; this insures that any leftover water in the engine will not freeze and crack anything.
- √ Remove the spark plug. Into the spark plug hole, squirt 2-3 squirts of Mystery Oil. Then give the engine a couple of cranks to spread the oil throughout the cylinder. Replace the spark plug to seal up the hole.
- √ Thoroughly grease all grease fittings.
- √ Oil all linkage points on the brakes, belt tensioner, spark linkage, and throttle linkage.
- √ Drain the engine crankcase, using the drain petcock; close the petcock.
- √ Remove the battery and bring it indoors; if discharged and left out, it will freeze. This is also a good time to clean the battery cable ends with a baking soda solution to get rid of all of the crud that has built up.
- √ Remove the spark coil and bring it in. Accumulated moisture may destroy it.
- √ Remove the first aid kit and fire extinguisher and bring them inside; just because.
- √ Remove spare water jugs. I use gallon milk jugs, so I just empty them and discard the jugs; there will be more available in the spring.
- √ Completely fill the fuel tank with fresh fuel (remember that it contains stabilizer, from above). This will eliminate water condensation in the tank, which can cause rust inside the tank. Check to insure that the fuel shut-off at the tank is in the off position. Remove and empty the fuel bowl at the tank; wipe it clean and replace it.
- √ Leave the spare gas cans in the speeder. The fuel in them is stabilized so it will do no harm for them to stay outside. (Would you want to keep them in your basement?)
- √ Cover the speeder with a tarp and secure with bungee cords. Make sure that it is secure enough that the winter wind does not blow it off. Leave a little room at the bottom for some ventilation; if it was air tight, mildew might develop.
- √ Finally, place reflectors around the trailer so that an overly aggressive snow plow will not snag the trailer tongue or a fender.

Now, go inside, have a hot chocolate and watch the fireplace crackle for the next few months with full knowledge that your speeder will start right up in the spring.