

REPOWER YOUR BOAT—WITH THE RIGHT TEAM

After 24 years of highly reliable service from twin Volvo inboards on my much loved 28' Topaz, I faced the tough question, buy an all new top-of-the-line, outboard-powered boat or repower? (Buying an equivalent diesel-powered new sport fishing boat was far too expensive to consider.) While I knew outboards had greatly improved in recent years, it was still hard to overlook the fact that one of my best friends had gone through three pairs of big outboards during the same timeframe as life with my Topaz. Although my diesels were still running, I decided to change rather than wait for failure.

I carefully weighed all the pros and cons of each choice, and then it came down to—repower and do some upgrades for \$50K or buy an equivalent twin outboard boat for \$180K? If that wasn't enough incentive, imagine the look on my face when I got the insurance estimate for the outboard with a pair of 250 hp engines (almost four times the insurance cost of my upgraded Topaz—an additional \$3K, each year). Nevertheless, in the end, the keys to repowering were finding the “right diesels,” and most importantly, the “right dealership.”

Having owned four previous boats and much experience with many dealers, I had the good fortune to meet the “best of the best.” Jody Kennedy and his Marine Maintenance dealership simply can't be beat. Anyone looking for honesty and dependability and someone who will stand by his product as well as workmanship will need to look no further. Jody steered me to a pair of new 5-cylinder, aluminum-block Volvo engines that turned out to be a perfect match for my Topaz. He assured me I would see a very significant weight reduction and increase in horsepower that would result in much improved speed and fuel savings yet retain the high standard or reliability I had grown to expect from Volvo diesels. During the repower planning and installation process, Jody left no stones unturned. His prop and shaft size estimates were right on target, and final shaft and prop alignment yielded even better efficiency than the previous setup.

Jody even sold my old diesels that were still performing well, and got me an excellent price, well beyond my expectations. Jody is a hands-on, top-notch professional who inspires his technical and support staff to consistently match his professionalism—and they do! Since the repower 2 years ago, these folks have always been there for me to resolve my slightest concern. They have met or exceeded all installation and preventive maintenance schedules and graciously honored any warranty issues. I have significant knowledge of competing sport fishing boats and have great admiration for their construction and performance, but I'm not aware of any similar sized boat/power combination that tops the efficient setup achieved on my Topaz by the Marine Maintenance Team—especially important in this era of high fuel costs!

Bob Nichols
Captain of TEASER