

I rent a house for the summer in Orient, but usually only get out for long weekends. I have an 18-foot Mako center console that sits on a mooring. Last year I had problems with the battery and replaced it. But is there anyway I can keep the battery from discharging — or at least having to worry about it? — *MJK from New York City*

Just to ease your mind, there is something you can do even if you're not hooked up to shore power to ensure the battery stays fully charged and will run the bilge pump while you're away — as well as start the boat when you've made the trek out from da' city. Hook your battery to a solar charger.



PulseTech, a Texas company (800-580-7554; www.pulstech.net), makes a two-watt and a five-watt version of their SolarPulse (SP) solar charger. What's neat about it is that it will not only keep your battery charged but reduce the size of the lead-sulfate crystals that form on battery plates, which allows the battery to stay as fresh and performance-ready after six months of inactivity as they were the day they were new. These folks have been making these charger/refreshers for a while — I've been using one of their AC chargers for

ASK CAPT. GARY

By Capt. Gary P. Joyce

several years and will be mounting the solar charger on a boat we're rebuilding. Anyway ...

It's a snap to hook up. If you've got a space that isn't going to be walked upon or sat on — it's about 8.5 inches square and as thick as a magazine, you can place it there. The control module has to be visible (to see that it's on) and also has to be within about a foot of the battery. The panel itself can be as far as 17-feet away, and if you don't want to mount it permanently, you can just do it as a temporary mount and then stow it while you're using the boat. The two-amp MSRP is around \$99, the five-amp around \$179.

Okay, I give up. What in the blankety-blank is a bat drive and what does it have to with boating? — *MP from Pawcatuck*

So glad you asked. Well, first off it has nothing to do with comic book heroes. The BAT (for Bayview Auxiliary Tug, so christened by its in-

ventor Ronald Voegeli of Oak Harbor, Washington) is an auxiliary power unit that is an emergency get home unit in which a PTO (power take off; a hydraulic pump) unit running off your genset is attached to your prop shaft.

Voegeli sold the patent rights to Washington-based Wesmar in September 2007. They rechristened it an APU, auxiliary propulsion unit.

The idea isn't new. Vetus has offered a belt-drive hydraulic unit to drive your prop for a while. The difference with the Wesmar APU is that the entire drive is set up *on* the prop shaft. Should the main engine take a hike, the generator will power the hydraulic APU, which engages the propshaft via opposing crenelated (think: those gap-tooth-looking things on the top of castle walls) rings. When the APU is no longer required, the crenelations separate. The entire process can be controlled from the helm via a joystick for speed, forward and reverse. Turn a key, and you have control of your get-home engine.

Boaters who have these installed also use them to quietly putt away from the dock on early morning trips so as not to wake the neighbors. If you're interested in more info, contact Wesmar in Woodinville, WA; 425-481-2296; www.wesmar.com.

E-mail your questions to: Captain Gary at captgaryli@gmail.com

or mail to: LI Boating World
620-B W. Montauk Hwy.,
Lindenhurst, NY 11757

High Tides For June 2010 Fire Island Democrat Point

June 1	11:18 AM	11:24 PM	June 16	11:14 AM	11:22 PM
June 2	-----	12:06 PM	June 17	-----	12:10 PM
June 3	12:12 AM	12:52 PM	June 18	12:18 AM	1:05 PM
June 4	12:57 AM	1:37 PM	June 19	1:14 AM	2:00 PM
June 5	1:43 AM	2:21 PM	June 20	2:11 AM	2:55 PM
June 6	2:31 AM	3:07 PM	June 21	3:10 AM	3:52 PM
June 7	3:23 AM	3:55 PM	June 22	4:12 AM	4:49 PM
June 8	4:19 AM	4:45 PM	June 23	5:13 AM	5:44 PM
June 9	5:15 AM	5:34 PM	June 24	6:10 AM	6:34 PM
June 10	6:07 AM	6:20 PM	June 25	7:00 AM	7:19 PM
June 11	6:55 AM	7:06 PM	June 26	7:47 AM	8:02 PM
June 12	7:43 AM	7:52 PM	June 27	8:32 AM	8:44 PM
June 13	8:31 AM	8:39 PM	June 28	9:16 AM	9:26 PM
June 14	9:22 AM	9:30 PM	June 29	10:00 AM	10:08 PM
June 15	10:16 AM	10:25 PM	June 30	10:44 AM	10:50 PM

High Tides For Other Locations:

South Shore

Amityville	+ 2:59
Bay Shore	+ 2:46
E. Rockaway Inlet	+ 0:32
Freeport	+ 1:16
Jones Inlet	+ 0:19
Moriches Inlet	- 0:18
Shinnecock Inlet	- 0:12

North Shore

Pt. Washington	+ 3:23
Oyster Bay	+ 3:32
Pt. Jefferson	+ 3:29
Mattituck Inlet	+ 3:35
Greenport	+ 2:45
Sag Harbor	+ 2:35
Montauk Point	+ 0:29

All times are approximate • Not responsible for errors.

Moon Phases



High Tides For June 2010 Bridgeport, CT

June 1	2:42 AM	3:14 PM	June 16	2:31 AM	3:09 PM
June 2	3:27 AM	3:59 PM	June 17	3:29 AM	4:05 PM
June 3	4:14 AM	4:46 PM	June 18	4:29 AM	5:03 PM
June 4	5:03 AM	5:35 PM	June 19	5:31 AM	6:03 PM
June 5	5:55 AM	6:24 PM	June 20	6:34 AM	7:03 PM
June 6	6:48 AM	7:14 PM	June 21	7:38 AM	8:03 PM
June 7	7:41 AM	8:03 PM	June 22	8:39 AM	8:59 PM
June 8	8:33 AM	8:51 PM	June 23	9:36 AM	9:53 PM
June 9	9:24 AM	9:39 PM	June 24	10:29 AM	10:42 PM
June 10	10:13 AM	10:26 PM	June 25	11:17 AM	11:29 PM
June 11	11:01 AM	11:13 PM	June 26	-----	12:01 PM
June 12	11:48 AM	-----	June 27	12:12 AM	12:42 PM
June 13	12:01 AM	12:37 PM	June 28	12:53 AM	1:22 PM
June 14	12:49 AM	1:26 PM	June 29	1:32 AM	2:01 PM
June 15	1:40 AM	2:16 PM	June 30	2:12 AM	2:40 PM

High Tides For Other Locations:

City Island	+0:17	Stamford	+0:03	Madison	- 0:21
New Rochelle	- 0:04	S. Norwalk	+0:09	Essex	- 0:05
Mamaroneck	+0:12	Housatonic Rvr	+0:26	Saybrook Pt	- 0:31
Cos Cob	+0:05	Milford	- 0:08	New London	- 1:45

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Moon Phases

