

# GRASSROOTS TECH BARN

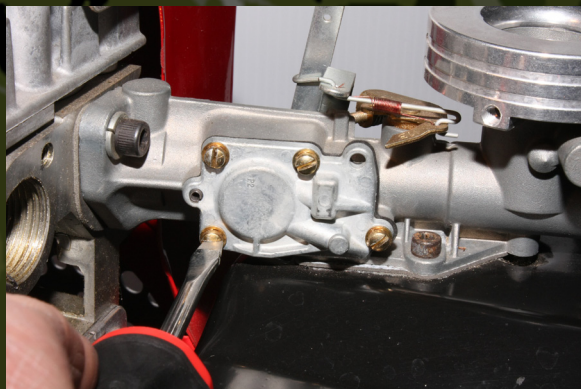
with: Jimmy Rivers

## Spring Fever

In this month's installment of the "Grassroots Tech Barn" we want to focus on getting your engines ready for the coming season. Certain areas are not as fortunate as us in the south to have an all-year racing season. Other racers put away their equipment as soon as the weather cools. The goal this month is to properly maintenance your engines to avoid any damage caused by winter storage.

**Just like the oil commercials on TV say, most engine damage is done at start-up.**

Hopefully you prepared your engine for a long winter's nap by draining the fluids and properly oiling and lubricating critical areas. If not, the goal of our "Spring Wake-up Program" is

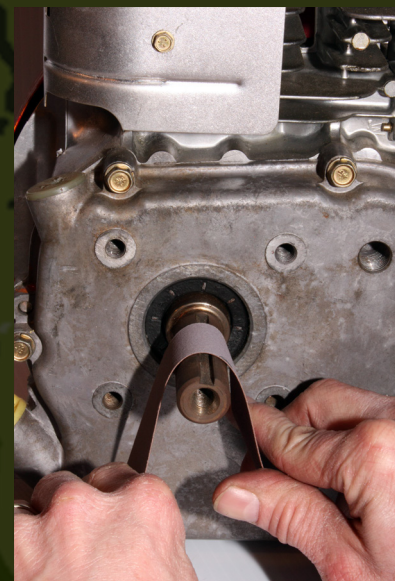


to get you back on track without any damage. Getting everything properly lubricated is important to the long term performance of your engine.

First item of business is to add oil to the crankcase. Hopefully we don't have any oil remaining in the engine, if so drain it. Refill the engine with the prescribed amount of fresh oil. Here's an important step that requires the engine to be off the chassis; turn the engine upside down, and allow the oil to coat all the internal surfaces. Over time, all surfaces lose the oil film to protect the engine from damage, and turning the engine upside down is the best way to circulate the oil throughout the inside of

the crankcase.

Next, we want to remove the spark plug and lubricate the cylinder. This is especially true anytime an engine has been sitting for any length of time. If you are a regular reader of the "Grassroots Tech Barn", you also know that lubricating the cylinder is one of my weekly rituals. Spray a liberal amount of WD-40 or similar lubricant down the spark plug hole. Don't get too carried away, however, don't be afraid to lubricate the valves as well. Once the oil is in the cylinder, rotate the engine by hand to circulate the lubricant all over the cylinder and the rings. While you are at it, it's a good time for a new fresh spark plug.



Once we have everything properly lubricated, we want to make sure the fuel side of the engine is ready. On the flathead, that means replacing the diaphragm gasket. Once that is replaced, make sure the fuel tank is clean, then add new fresh fuel. If you have fuel left from the previous season, make sure it's crystal clear. Anything less than that and it needs to be disposed of. If the mistake of leaving fuel in the tank was made, you will probably have to remove it from the engine to clean it out. Hot water and bleach does a good job of removing the chalky residue left behind by the methanol. Clean and rinse several times and follow up with a couple rinses with methanol to displace any left behind moisture. This will prevent rust from forming and remove any left behind water.

If you are preparing your Animal engine for the new season, remove the float bowl and lubricate the inlet needle. If

it's been a while, go ahead and replace the needle. Make sure everything inside the bowl is nice and clean. Once satisfied, go ahead and replace the bowl. It's a good time to remove the floor



tank and wash it out as well. Clean it in the same manner as described for the flathead engine above. Again, make sure to rinse thoroughly with methanol. It is also a good time to replace all the fuel lines on the engine as well as the line from the tank to the pump. While you are at it, go ahead and replace the inline filter. I have always liked to start the season with everything properly maintained and prepared.



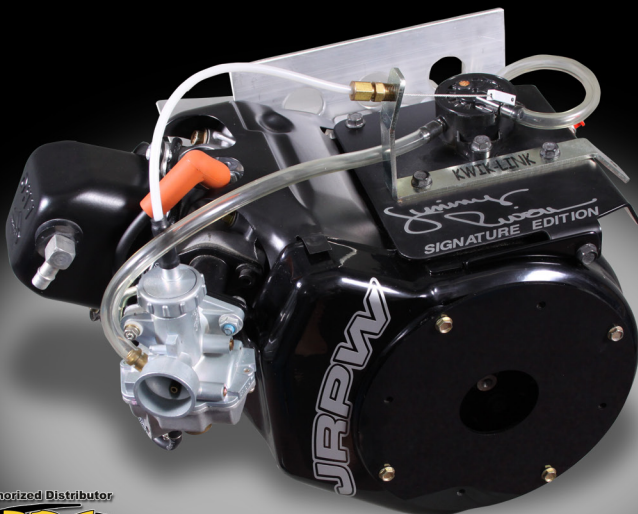
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