

PHILADELPHIA *Marine Services*

NEWSLETTER

ENGINE PROTECTION

Not long ago we saw a demonstration of an oil additive called "Power Up". We were favorably impressed by the demonstration and decided to test the stuff in our workboat and vehicles.

About a week after adding Power Up to the engine in *Reliant*, we were running at about 3,200 RPM (which is close to wide open for the six cylinder, turbocharged Vovo diesel) when the drain plug in the engine sump vibrated loose and fell out dumping all the engine oil into the bilge. Because of a wiring problem which we hadn't fixed the oil pressure gauge wasn't working and we never have gotten around to equipping *Reliant* with engine alarms (too busy working on customers' boats to take proper care of our own!), so we have no idea how long the engine was running without oil.

As a result, the first sign of a problem was the engine simply stopping. No funny noises, it just stopped. Our first thought was that we had a fuel problem. It only takes one spec of crude in the fuel to stop a diesel.

Upon opening the engine hatch we saw smoke coming out of the crankcase breather. When we pulled the dipstick, smoke came from the dipstick tube and the stick itself was bone dry.

The engine coolant didn't overheat, although something got hot enough to expand to the point the engine stopped. With the drain plug replaced (with plenty of Lok Tite and the engine filled with oil, The engine fired up and ran with

absolutely no sign of damage.

In our experience, running an engine dry at those speeds would be expected to cause major damage, blowing the crankshaft bearings and probably trashing the turbocharger. We talked with one of Bolbo's technical specialists, who agreed that he would have expected serious damage in that situation.

Power Up may have a hokey name, but it sure seems to do one hell of a job of providing improved lubrication and engine protection. We're convinced that it saved a \$10,000 engine for us. We are using it in all of our equipment and in our personal vehicles. It also works in reduction gears and outdrives. We're even adding it to the grease we use in sailboat winches!

We will add Power Up when we do an oil change for an additional charge of \$2.00 per quart of oil used. Power Up makes sense for winter layup, since it coats all parts of the engine with a tenacious film, which prevents rust and corrosion over the winter.

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