

Winterizing Your Wing

With the success of our recent Wrenching Days I thought I would write down some of the things I taught at those for the benefit of members who were not able to attend them. So I will do this in a series of articles that will appear each month. There are many ways to do some of the things I will present so I will talk about what I do and try to mention other procedures as well. Hence this DISCLAIMER: follow my procedures at your own risk. If anyone has anything to add please email me. I'm always open to new ideas.



So lets get started.

Store your bike parked on the center stand to keep the wheels off the garage floor. Some people but a piece of wood or cardboard under the front wheel to insulate it from the cold garage floor. I have never done that and have never had any issues.

Put fuel stabilizer in your gas tank. Use your favorite brand. I use Sta-bil. Seafoam also works and may have a cleansing benefit as well. You may also want to put in some fuel injector cleaner. Chevron's Techron product works well.

Change the oil. This is recommended although I have never done this and my engine has lasted over 220,000 miles and 16 seasons. But I have usually change the oil close to the winter anyway so it has never been two bad.

If you are going to store your Wing for two or three months without using it, it is recommended that you put some oil in each cylinder to keep the cylinder walls and other parts from corroding. Put in about a tablespoon in each cylinder, re-install the spark plugs and run the starter for a few seconds (without the spark plug wires attached) to coat the parts. You may see a bit of smoke when you start the bike in spring when the oil burns away. But that's nothing to be concerned about. I only did this one season but I have used the bike on many warm winter days. **DO NOT** run the bike every couple of weeks instead of this.

Attach a battery maintainer to your battery. I recommend either the Optimate 4 (or 3 if you want the two battery model) or the Yuasa. Both of these will keep the battery fully charged and have desulfating characteristics to keep it healthy. Some recommend removing the battery from the bike. I have never done this, so I don't know if this would extend battery life or not.

Cover the muffler openings to prevent small critters from crawling inside.

Clean the bike. I put this last because I am usually storing the bike at the first sign of cold weather when I wouldn't be washing it. So I "dryclean" it over the winter with my favorite cleaner/wax.

Winter is a good time to do annual maintenance. So I will be covering some of those tasks in upcoming articles.

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