Keeping your dinghy engine alive

Probably the number one reason for dinghy engine failure on a cruising boat is lack of use. The engine gets mounted on the mother ship, sits for three weeks, and the next thing you know it won't start. Be intimately familiar with the engine's storage procedure. Water condensation in the tank and carburetor can wreak havoc. The aluminum body parts will begin to corrode once they lose their finish, so routine touch up painting is important. Anytime the engine is disassembled, use Tef-Gel or a similar insulating coating where ever there is a stainless and aluminum interface. Routinely flushing a raw-water cooled engine with fresh water will do much to prolong its life.

