

RIGGING & EQUIPMENT

By Leo Beer

Shore Power Cord Disaster Avoidance

I have been an industrial technician and a technical & safety trainer at my day job for going on 35 years now. It would seem that I would have a little better sense of what is not right and is possibly dangerous and could injure or kill me and my loved ones by now. Well, I found something that I would like to share with all of you so this doesn't creep up on you to the point that you sluff it off as no big deal until it's too late.

A boater's worst enemy is an on-board fire. Especially an electrical fire when you're not at the boat to do anything about it. I have read many articles in books and magazines of loss of boat and/or life because of these disasters. Most times it could have been easily avoided. I just changed out the standard twist lock 3-prong plug for a new style SmartPlug. Our boats are in a constant state of movement while moored at the marina. If the plug isn't completely secured in the receptacle it can cause a poor connection and a high resistance condition will occur. Heat! Melting! Short Circuit! FIRE !!!

If your current plug doesn't fit securely or if you see just the slightest bit of discoloration around where the prongs go into the receptacle slots, you are very close to losing your beloved boat or maybe worse. I really love the construction and secure fitting of the plug and boat side receptacle. I purchased the retrofit kit that utilizes the existing cord. My cord is relatively new and still in great condition. Just cut off the boat end of the cord and install the new end. It seems to be much more water resistant than the old standard plug end, especially with the rubber gasket on the boat side receptacle. The boat side receptacle was a breeze to replace. Came with easy to follow instruction. The 4 screws were designed to match up perfectly to the old standard receptacle. No drilling new holes. 3 wires out of the old plug, a good cleaning or removal of any corroded wire ends and an easy reassembly using the provided rubber gasket to seal it to the bulkhead of the boat. No sealant needed. The entire project took me about 30 minutes. (2 adult refreshments). The retrofit kit, cord plug end and boat receptacle (cord not

included) can be purchased from Amazon for about \$150.

Safe sailing. Leo

RACING

The 2020 Summer Olympics, officially known as the Games of the XXXII Olympiad, will be held in and around Tokyo, Japan. Sailing is one of the events.

While the initial dates have been postponed to 2021, the event will still be named as the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.

- | Fri. July 23: Opening Ceremony
- | Sun. July 25 to Fri. July 31: Sailing Events
- | Sun. Aug. 08: Closing Ceremony

The sailing events will be held south of Tokyo in the city of Enoshima, the same sailing venue utilized during the 1964 Summer Games. Fifteen athletes will represent the United States of America in ten Olympic classes. The classes are:

Single-handed:

- | RS:X (Windsurf) - Men / Women
- | Laser (Dinghy) - Men
- | Laser Radial (Dinghy) - Women
- | Finn (Dinghy - heavyweight) - Men

Double-handed:

- | 49er (Skiff) - Men
- | 49erFX (Skiff) - Women
- | 470 (Dinghy) - Men / Women
- | Nacra 17 (Multihull) - Mixed

BUY/SELL/TRADE

FOR SALE: Carol from the Racine Yacht Club asked us to post this. "We cut up a Catalina 27 this summer and have available to sell: Mast, Boom, Rudder, Main Sail, Bow Pulpit, Stern Pulpit and almost all the hardware.

If you are interested in anything please contact Carol Stanley @ carolstanley23@gmail.com.

Fleet members may list items they want to buy, sell, or trade in this column. Listings are free and run for three issues of this newsletter. Send submissions to the *Fleet Sheet* editor at Deare30@sbcglobal.net.