



Foothills Antique Tractor and Engine Club

Featured Equipment

Mercury Outboards



This is just part of Jesse's impressive collection of outboard motors. This photo includes (from left) a 1936 Johnson Model 200 3.3hp (owned by Jim Butcher), and 1953 Mercury KE4 Mark 7 7hp, 1955 Mark 6 6hp (Silent 6), 1953 Mark 15 10hp, and 1955 Mark 5 5hp.

Owned by
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by Jesse Anderson, Jr

When I was 13 years old I started in construction, mixing mud and carrying blocks. The man over our job thought I could get the mud to the masons quicker if my wheelbarrow was motorized so he brought me an old Maytag motor. I tore into it and was unable to get it running properly. This started my love of 2-cycle engines. In 1960 I went to work for Louisville Boat Dock. We had a fleet of rental boats with outboard engines ranging from 3hp to 60hp. It was my job to keep these engines running and rented and I really enjoyed it.

In 1963 I went to work for a Marine Dealer in Knoxville. They sent me to Atlanta, Georgia to the Kiekhaefer Mercury School where my love for Mercury Engines was fueled, and the rest is history. In 1966 Anderson's Outboard Service was born and I have been working on engines ever since.

Let me share some of my favorite engines with you – 1941 KB4 is a 5.8hp Rocket, 1947 KE7 Lightning 10hp, and the 1947 KG7 Super Hurricane 10hp. The 1947 KE7 Lightning won the 1947 Albany to New York marathon. These engines were so fast they could outrun other manufacturer's engines with twice the horsepower. Over 200 boats entered this 136 mile race. Only one 10hp Mercury Lightning entered the race and it smoked its competition. Next came the 1947 KF9 25hp Thunderbolt 4-cylinder inline. Then came the 1951 KG 9 Thunderbolt (one of Roy Rogers favorites also), it was so fast it left the competition in its wake.

The Mark engines were next, the 1951 KF5 Super 5, Mark 5, Mark 6 (silent 6) Mark 7, Mark 10, Mark 15, Mark 20, Mark 20H (the H stands for Hot Rod - these were racing engines) Mark 25, Mark 30, Mark 30H, Mark 40 40hp was the first engine to achieve 1 horsepower per cubic inch (39.6cubic inch displacement), Mark 55, Mark 55H, and the Mark 58 was 45hp (43.9cubic inch).

In 1957 Kiekhaefer introduced the Mark 75, 60hp, the world's first 6 cylinder, with a displacement of 59.9 cubic inch. Mr Kiekhaefer ran 2 boats with Mark 75 for 68 days, 24 hours a day non stop, refueling on the go, equaling 50,000 miles at Lake X, Florida. No engines before or since have accomplished this feat! This was certified by the U.S Auto Club. The next year a world speed record was set with a standard production Mark 75, 115.547 MPH. This was a two way average on a 1 mile straightaway, and brought the record back to the United States that had been away since 1936. The Mark 78 and Mark 78A were introduced in 1959, and the Merc 700 and Merc 800 were next in 1960.

The worlds first 100hp outboard engine was produced in 1962 - the Merc 1000. What a mighty machine it was! What a thrill to feel the power! I have most of these historic engines and bring some of them to the tractor shows. Some are still in the process of being restored.

Thanks for allowing me to share my passion for old engines. I don't mean to forget my first love, but the John Deere tractors seem to occupy my mind a lot these days. Just a short list of the John Deeres I am talking about: 1949 MT single tricycle, 1951 M, 1936 D steel wheels, 1939 style D, 1957 620LP single tricycle. I also have one odd color tractor, 1939 B Allis Chalmers all fuel.

(*Note:* Jesse is always looking for 'greentop' Mercury outboards. Give him a call at 423-984-4637 if you have or know of one.)