

RCJS offers rare care, expertise in all things WaveRunners

By Jack McLaughlin
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Although it's home to nearly 65,000 people, the city of Janesville holds only one personal watercraft repair specialist, Rock County Jet Ski (RCJS). Owned and operated by John Zigler since 1995, the company offers full service and repairs on all brands of WaveRunners, including Honda, Sea-doo, Polaris and others. Boasting years of expert handiwork in the field, the business also offers boat propeller replacement and repair.

"We offer everything," said Zigler. "That includes maintenance, tune-ups, winterizing, plus work on engines and drive-lines." And while Zigler is a seri-

ous and efficient watercraft mechanic, the love he has for his craft shines through.

"I've been messing around with watercraft since the 1980s," he recalled. "You could say it's my passion."

And this passion is readily apparent not just in the workings of RCJS, but in the business' community involvement as well. Zigler works throughout the year to help sponsor a Jet Ski racing series in Newville – held this summer Sept. 16-17 – open to all skill levels. He is also an active member of the Rock Koshkonong Business Association, a group that pushes to better area commerce and activities.

And while Zigler does offer top-end service to

the hardcore Jet Ski enthusiast, the majority of RCJS's business, and what they have become expertly proficient in repairing and maintaining, are the more commonly used sit-down wave runners.

The two varieties of personal watercraft include the sit-down (referred to as a wave runner), an easy to ride machine that most of us are familiar with, and the stand-up (colloquially called the Jet Ski, although both of these terms are brand designations and aren't technically accurate), which uses a set of raised handlebars for steering. Jet Skis take a good amount of athletic ability and acquired balance, and aren't generally used by



John Zigler with a WaveRunner at his Janesville storefront. (Photo submitted by Jack McLaughlin)

beginners.

As stated previously, though, the majority of RCJS's work is performed on the more widely owned WaveRunner. "Sit-downs, those are our bread and butter,"

Zigler said. "They're probably around 95 percent of our business." Work on these machines includes everything from regular maintenance, to full-scale customization.

As a general rule, when a business sells and installs its very own line of Jet Ski and WaveRunner parts, they're good at what they do. This is just the case for RCJS, which offers custom and specialty parts and accessories through their website, Watcon.com. "We have tools, steering systems, controls, drive-line components – you name it," Zigler said.

And with the sheer depth of knowledge and skill Zigler possesses in the field, it can be easy to overlook the undeniable warmth and approachability emanating from his Janesville storefront. While it takes a natural amount

of patience to identify and fix a complicated watercraft, it takes another kind all together to explain, with clarity and enthusiasm, the difference between a WaveRunner and a Jet Ski to an inquiring reporter.

In my brief time visiting RCJS, Zigler balanced incoming phone calls with store visitors and a barrage of undoubtedly basic inquiries from my end. In a world of online shopping, instant gratification and anonymous interaction, we can often forget just how important thorough, face-to-face, customer-centric care is; after spending 30 minutes with Zigler, I was given a strong reminder. This was, of course, all while working his magic, customizing a 780 cc 44mm stroker Yamaha engine – that's not too shabby either.

Green County Courthouse clock is timeless

Press release from Green County Tourism

Tick tock.

The clock in the soaring tower of the historic Green County Courthouse has been steadily marking the passing time in Monroe for more than 125 years.

Despite a lack of publicity through radio, television, or social media, it is reported that more than 5,000 people attended the building's dedication ceremony held in August of 1891. The gasoline-powered engine was yet

to be invented, so most attendees arrived by train or horse and buggy, or local residents by bicycle.

Located on the downtown "Square" in an area previously set off as a wheat field, the property was originally fenced to keep livestock from wandering the grounds. Horses – often pulling carts loaded with milk cans – were tied around the perimeter as farmers attended to business or shopping. With the majestic courthouse at the center of it all, downtown Monroe grew as a center

of commerce in Green County.

Today's visitors, arriving by car, bus, or motorcycle, are often surprised to find that the building is open to the public. When court services were relocated to a new justice center adjacent to the county jail, the vacated spaces allowed for other government services to move in.

Other than landscaping, the property has changed very little since it was built. As distinctive as the exterior is (with marble pillars marking the

porticos), the interior of the building also features some unexpected architectural details. Intricately designed hardware, artisanal woodwork and gold leaf accents can be found. Prehistoric snail shells are fossilized in the black marble tiles on the main floor. Perhaps most notable, however, is the 120-foot clock tower – capped in 1985 with a turret that replaced the original which had been ruined by high winds thirty years prior.

Continued on page 63

RCJS

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Rock County Jet Ski is a full, personal water craft service salvage shop in Wisconsin. We offer full service on Kawasaki, Yamaha, Sea Doo, Honda, and Polaris PWC machines.

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We sell both NEW and Used PWC parts.

Both aftermarket and original equipment available.

We can order OE parts from

Yamaha, Kawasaki, Sea Doo, and some from Polaris.

SEA DOO

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POLARIS

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