



## OWNER'S MANUAL

**ESCAPE CALYPSO  
ESCAPE GLIDE & ELECTRIC GLIDE  
ESCAPE JAZZ  
ALL ESCAPE WATERWHEELER MODELS  
ALL ROGUE RIVER AQUATOY MODELS**



Johnson Outdoors-Watercraft, Sport & Leisure Group  
4855 Broadmoor SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49512-5360  
1-800-552-6287  
[www.jowatercraft.com](http://www.jowatercraft.com)

November, 2003

**Thank you for purchasing this pedal boat from  
Johnson Outdoors-Watercraft, Sport & Leisure Group.**

Your pedal boat is the result of years of design, manufacturing and material improvements. It clearly represents the best value available and is designed to provide you and your family with many years of fun.

This Owner's Manual provides the key information on its use and care. If you have additional questions, or would like to learn about pedal boat accessories, fishing boats, canoes, kayaks, dinghies, electric deck boats and the other fine products we offer, please contact us:

Johnson Outdoors-Watercraft, Sport & Leisure Group  
Customer Service  
4855 Broadmoor S.E.  
Grand Rapids, MI 49512-5360  
1-800-552-6287, [www.jowatercraft.com](http://www.jowatercraft.com)

At Johnson Outdoors-Watercraft, Sport & Leisure Group, we hope you enjoy this pedal boat for many years to come, and use it to make a lifetime of memories.

Happy boating,

Sandra L. Spielmaker  
*President*, Johnson Outdoors-Watercraft, Sport & Leisure Group

## **Warranty**

Johnson Outdoors-Watercraft, Sport & Leisure Group warrants its manufactured products to be free of material defects subject to the following time limitations and use exclusions.

Johnson Outdoors-Watercraft, Sport & Leisure Group warrants the hull and deck of each new pedal boat to be free of material and manufacturing defects for a period of (5) years from the date of retail sale. All other component parts and accessories are warranted for a period of one (1) year or are warranted for the period specified by their original manufacturer, whichever is less.

Under this warranty, Johnson Outdoors-Watercraft, Sport & Leisure Group is limited to the repair or replacement of the components as defined above. *Transportation to and from an authorized repair facility is the responsibility of the purchaser.* Johnson Outdoors-Watercraft, Sport & Leisure Group shall not be held liable for incidental, consequential costs such as registration fees, or other damages resulting from defects in warranted components.

This warranty does not extend to or apply to Escape squirt gun accessories or any product that is used for rental or other commercial use, nor products that are damaged from abuse, neglect, accident, normal wear or repairs made by unauthorized repair facilities or individuals.

There are no warranties either expressed or implied which extend beyond those defined in this statement.

This warranty only applies to the original purchaser and is nontransferable.

To verify date of purchase, please return the product registration card within 30 days. Also please retain your original purchase receipt.

**Johnson Outdoors-Watercraft, Sport & Leisure Group  
November, 2003**

**Problem: Motor only operates on one or two speeds.**

<b><i>Probable Cause</i></b>	<b><i>Corrective Action</i></b>
Defective Control switch. Or Defective Motor	See dealer for service.
Loose connections at control switch.	Disconnect battery. Remove control panel. Disconnect, clean and/or retrim connectors one at a time. Reconnect leads to switch terminals. Reconnect battery.
Defective Motor.	See dealer for service.

**Problem: Motor starts but soon stops.**

<b><i>Probable Cause</i></b>	<b><i>Corrective Action</i></b>
Prop partially obstructed with fishing line, rope, weeds, etc.	Remove boat from water. Carefully inspect and clean prop. Remove prop. Remove any weeds, line, rope that may be wound around prop shaft.
Short in switches or wiring.	Disconnect battery. Remove control panel. Check wire connections on rear of control panel. If loose, retrim connectors. Clean all corrosion from connections.
Circuit breaker tripped.	Reset circuit breaker. If circuit breaker trips again, see cause 1, 2 or 3.
Defective Motor.	See dealer for service.

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**Problem: Motor runs but will not move boat.**

***Probable Cause***

Missing prop, broken shear pin.

***Corrective Action***

Replace prop and/or shear pin.  
Tighten prop nut.

**Problem: Motor Runs Slow**

***Probable Cause***

Low battery charge.

***Corrective Action***

Check battery water level  
Charge battery

Prop partially obstructed by  
fishing line, weeds, etc.

Raise motor. Remove boat  
from water, carefully inspect  
and clean prop. Remove prop  
and any line, rope, weeds, etc.  
that may be wound around it.

Water in motor due to  
defective seals.

Check for water in motor.  
Replace motor if water is  
inside.

**Problem: Prop strikes hull.**

***Probable Cause***

Motor is in "up" position.

***Corrective Action***

Lower motor to "run" position.

**Problem: Motor runs backwards.**

***Probable Cause***

Battery leads reversed.

***Corrective Action***

Reverse battery

## Escape Electric Glide/WaterWheeler ASL Trouble Shooting

### Problem: Motor Won't Run

***Probably Cause***

Dead battery or missing battery

Battery leads disconnected or badly corroded.

Circuit breaker on control panel tripped.

Circuit breaker continues to trip.

Prop jammed against obstruction.

Defective control switch.

***Corrective Action***

Recharge or replace battery

Remove battery leads, clean corrosion from battery terminals and connectors. Reconnect battery leads and tighten wing nuts.

Check prop. Remove weeds, fishing line, rope that may be wound around prop shaft. Reset breaker.

Remove control panel. Clean all corrosion from terminals. Make sure connections are tight. If motor still doesn't run, call dealer for service.

Check prop for obstruction due to weeds, fishing line, rope, etc. Reset and try again. If no obstruction is found, see dealer for service.

See dealer for service.

## MATERIAL CHECKLIST

Upon delivery of your pedal boat you should receive:

1. Warranty registration card. Please read and complete the registration card and mail it to Johnson Outdoors-Watercraft, Sport & Leisure Group.
2. Owner's Manual and Statement of Warranty (back page)
3. Manufacturer's Statement of Origin. You will need this certificate if you are required to register your boat in your state.
4. Rudder Blade  
- The rudder is used to steer the boat
5. Registration Decal  
To apply registration decals, wipe down the surface with a damp cloth and let dry. Then peel, and apply the decals, taking care to smooth out any bubbles and raised edges.

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**Make a permanent record of the following information for future reference. Know your serial number when contacting Johnson Outdoors-Watercraft, Sport & Leisure Group or your dealer with service questions.**

**Serial Number:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Date of Purchase:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Purchased From:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Escape Glide**



**Escape Jazz™**



Do not stack heavy articles on top of the boat or set it on narrow supports, i.e. saw horses. Additional weight and/or narrow supports may cause the hull or deck to compress and dent over time. If this should happen, most dents will gradually come out by removing the weight that caused the dent and placing the boat on a flat surface in the sun to be warmed. It may take several days of warm weather, but the polyethylene material will gradually return to its original shape.

### **CARE AND MAINTENANCE**

Your pedal boat is designed to provide you with many years of enjoyable service with a minimum of care. Here are some suggestions for proper maintenance.

#### ***Cleaning***

General cleaning can be done with soap, water and a scrub brush. Standard household cleaners, dish soap or car wash soap are adequate. Be sensitive to the environment and don't clean your boat in the lake. Clean it away from the water.

In salt water, barnacles and other marine life will form on the hull surface if the boat is left in the water over long periods of time. Carefully scrape them off periodically with a putty knife. They'll be easier to remove if you keep them wet. Painting the hull with an antifouling bottom preservative can help minimize barnacle build up.

Contact Johnson Outdoors-Watercraft, Sport & Leisure Group directly for repair procedures, parts or accessories call 1-616-698-3000.

leaking will occur between the hull and the deck. Some leakage will occur during heavy or continuous rain. **THIS IS NOT A DEFECT! Remove the bow drain plug located at the bow under the rub-rail and stand the boat on its bow end to drain the water.**

No damage will result from water accumulation, but the boat should be periodically drained (once a month). If excess water is left in the boat, the hull shape could alter. If excess water freezes, hull/deck shape could alter as well. Remember, you don't leave your car windows down during a rain. Don't leave your pedal boat right side up for prolonged periods without a cover. If you do, you will have to drain the interior prior to use.

Running a cable or chain over the paddle wheel and looping it around a stationary object can secure the boat and locking the two cables ends together. **Make sure the electric motor is in the "UP" position to prevent water from seeping down the motor mounting shaft and into the motor.**

### ***Long Term Storage***

Storage of your Escape or AquaToy in the off-season or long periods of time requires a little extra care. If it is to be stored outside, stand the boat on its bow or side and lean it against a building, hull side out to prevent water, snow, leaves etc. from accumulating in the unit.

**Do not stand the boat on its stern as this could damage the rudderpost and rudder.** Secure the boat so it cannot fall. Install the storage cover if you have one. If you have room to store it inside, the boat can be set flat on the floor or stood on its bow and leaned against the wall.

**Water Wheeler MKV/Water Wheeler 5**



**Escape Calypso**





aprons, etc. can chafe the hull if you drag or slide the boat over these surfaces.

B. ***Rudder***

Make sure the rudder is installed properly and secured with the clevis pin and cotter ring. **If the ring is missing the pin may fall out, resulting in the loss of your rudder and ability to steer.**

C. ***Drainage***

**You may need to drain the area between the deck and the hull of any accumulated condensation or water seepage.** Remove the bow drain plug located at the bow under the rub-rail and stand the boat up on its bow to thoroughly drain the interior cavity. Reinstall the drain plug. **CAUTION: Make sure you remove the battery on the electric model before you try to drain the boat.**

## STORAGE

### ***Short Term Storage***

Pull the boat from the water to prevent a build up of algae and marine growth on the hull surface. Cover the boat with the storage cover (available from your dealer or Johnson Outdoors-Watercraft, Sport & Leisure Group, via the order form in the back of this manual), or turn it on its side to prevent water from accumulating in the boat. With the Escape Glide Electric, remove the battery and store it in an area protected from freezing. Make sure the battery is fully charged and remains so during prolonged storage.

**NOTE: If accumulated water in the boat's foot-wells reaches the level of the crank bushings, substantial**

## SAFETY PROCEDURES

### *Loading Safety*

Review the passenger and weight capacity limitation. Be sure the loading is within these limits. Distribute weight evenly for proper balance and performance.

### *Weather Conditions*

Check the weather and water conditions before using your pedal boat. High winds, waves, strong currents or tides may seriously affect your ability to steer the unit or travel the necessary distance to shore. Fatigue from rapid and continuous pedaling to overcome these forces may prevent you from returning to your point of embarkation. Be sure to take these factors into consideration before launching the boat.

### *Personal Flotation Gear*

**Make sure all passengers wear a certified Personal Flotation Device (life jacket).**

### *Launching Safety*

When launching the boat from shore, face the front of the boat toward the water. The rudder is designed to kick out and away from the boat if it strikes an object when moving forward. **DO NOT push the boat backwards into the water as the rudder may jam and bed the rudder shaft.**

To prevent excessive hull abrasion over time and protect the rudder, use two people to carry the boat to the water.

**Do not drag the boat across gravel, asphalt or concrete.**

#### A. *Shore Conditions*

Be especially conscious of shore conditions.

Sharp rocks, sharp edges on break-walls, concrete



## Rogue River Aquatoy 5

## Rogue Rive Aquatoy ASL



becomes fouled with weeds or fishing line, or strikes an object, the amp draw from the battery will “trip” (pop out) and interrupt the flow of electricity to the motor and circuitry. If the circuit breaker “trips” and is telling you there is an electrical overload, turn the motor to “off.” Pedal the boat to shore and raise the motor. Examine the prop carefully and remove anything that would impede the prop. Often fishing line gets wrapped around the shaft and it’s not always visible. Once the prop is clear, lower the motor and push in the circuit breaker to reset it. If it trips again, don’t use the motor. Refer to the trouble-shooting guide in this manual or call your Johnson Outdoors-Watercraft, Sport & Leisure Group dealer.

### *Electric Motor Prop*

When operating the boat at the #5 speed setting with only one person, some prop noise may be experienced. This noise is created by minor ventilation of the prop and will not have a significant detrimental affect on performance nor will it harm the motor.

Boat speed can be further enhanced by pedaling the boat in conjunction with the motor.

**CAUTION: Do not use the electric motor when contact with swimmers or bystanders could occur. Severe injury could result from contact with the spinning prop. Children operating the boat should be closely supervised by an adult.**

Remember you are handling a 110 VAC power source. If the charger is kicked into the water or exposed to rain, or if the power cord falls into the water, a short or severe electrical shock could result if the 110VAC circuit is not protected by a GFCI. Follow the charging procedures in the manual supplied with the charger.

### ***Motor Operation and Control***

**Do not run the motor out of the water for more than a few seconds. Water acts as a lubricant for the motor shaft seal.** Once the boat is in the water (make sure the water is deep enough) lower the motor by pressing the spring under the handle in the middle until it folds in half and allows the motor to drop into position. **Do not operate the motor in the “UP” position.** This could damage the prop, motor or hull. Set the direction switch to **FORWARD** or **REVERSE** and set the speed control to the desired speed. The motor will start immediately. Steer the boat by turning the steering handle right or left. Do not immediately shift from #3, 4 or 5 forward speed to #1, 2 or 3 reverse speed. The sudden counter rotation of the motor could damage some of its internal components and significantly shorten motor life.

**Prior to beaching the boat, be sure to raise the motor and lock it in the “UP” position by extending the spring until it is straight.**

Battery life between charges is dependent upon hours of operation and also at what speed the boat is operated. Operation at less than top speed obviously will extend the usable period between each battery charge.

The electric motor circuitry is protected by a 30 amp circuit breaker located on the control panel. If the prop

## **Rogue River Aquatoy**



## **BASIC MATERIALS**

### ***A. Hull and Deck***

#### WaterWheeler, Calypso, Glide, and Aquatoy

The hull and deck are thermoformed from sheets of High Density Polyethylene plastic. Polyethylene is many times more impact resistant than fiberglass. It will remain colorfast and durable through many years of exposure to the elements and throughout wide ranges of temperature fluctuation.

Polyethylene is very abrasion resistant, but not abrasion proof. Some care in handling and operating your boat is necessary to ensure its long life. Clean the hull and deck with common household detergents, hot water and a scrub brush.

#### Jazz

The hull is a one-piece rotomolded Polyethylene unit. As stated above, Polyethylene is many times more impact resistant than fiberglass. The one piece design provides a simpler, stronger product.

### ***B. Flotation***

The weight capacity of your boat, in both passengers and added cargo, is determined by the boat's size and flotation. Each boat has a capacity tag clearly displayed on the craft. Flotation is provided by closed cell foam blocks located between the deck and hull, with exception to Jazz. Because polyethylene is lighter than water, the hull material also contributes to the boat's buoyancy.

The crankshaft is cold rolled steel that has been painted to resist corrosion. Stainless steel cranks are available for salt water. The newly designed crank bushings are oil impregnated bronze for long life. The paddle wheel spokes are molded from Super Tough nylon™. The steering

lift the handle up until the spring is straight. The spring is stiff enough to hold the motor in this position. Move the boat to the water as recommended previously.

**CAUTION: When motor is in the "UP" position, the motor skeg may extend up to ¼" below the pontoons. Do not drag or push boat. This may cause irreparable damage to the motor if jammed.**

### ***Battery Charging***

Make sure the battery is fully charged. Charging should be done in an area out of the weather. A 110 VAC/12 VDC automatic battery charger with at least 6 amps 12 VDC output capacity is recommended. An automatic model will prevent overcharging and damaging of the battery. Follow the guidelines below for charging the Escape Glide Electric

1. Remove the battery from the boat and connect it to the battery charger in a sheltered area out of the weather.
2. If the charger has a dual voltage setting be sure it is set at 12 VDC. (Make sure the 110 VDC power connection is protected by a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI).
3. Connect the battery charger to a 110 VAC outlet. Be sure to carefully follow all instructions in the charger operations manual.

Charging is best accomplished by leaving the charger connected overnight. Charging time will vary from a couple of hours to a couple of days depending up on the capacity of the charger and the state of discharge of the battery. **CAUTION: Do not attempt to charge the battery in the boat while the boat is in the water.**

boat. Make sure that you and all passengers are wearing P.F.D.'s (life jackets).

### ***Steering***

Once seated, begin pedaling in the direction you intend to travel and steer the craft by the steering handle. Positioning the steering handle in the center will position the rudder straight fore and aft and will steer the craft generally in a straight line direction. For models with rotary steering handles, turning the handle to the left turns the boat to the left. Turning the handle to the right turns the boat to the right. Models with push / pull steering require the handle to be pushed forward to turn right and pulled back to turn left.

## **OPERATING YOUR ELECTRIC PEDAL BOAT**

### ***Mounting a Motor***

An electric trolling motor can power some models when the optional accessory motor mounting bracket (see accessory order form) is installed (Exception: Mounting bracket is standard the Jazz model). **CAUTION: The bracket is designed for electric trolling motors with less than 36 lbs. Thrust. It is not designed for gas-powered outboards.** The bracket comes with its own mounting hardware and is installed on the starboard side of the transom. Although the motor speed will have to be manually controlled by reaching back to the control handle, the boat can be steered by the steering handle rudder with the electric motor locked in a straightforward position.

### ***Electric Motor Operation***

Follow all safety precautions listed in the pre-launch and launching procedures. When launching, be sure the motor is in the "up" position. To put it in the up position,

linkage is extremely durable and internal to the boat to protect it from damage.

### **Transporting Your Pedal Boat**

Your pedal boat has a covered cooler / storage compartment in the rear. **Always face the stern (rear) of the boat towards the direction of travel** to prevent the wind from tearing the compartment lid off. If this happens you can contact your dealer or Johnson Outdoors-Watercraft, Sport & Leisure Group for replacement.

**Do not transport the Escape Electric Glide or WaterWheeler Electric ASL with battery installed.** Bouncing and jarring of the battery during transport could crack the battery compartment. **Do not transport the adjustable seat models with the adjustable seat backs in place. They may bounce out.**

## **OPERATING YOUR PEDAL BOAT**

### ***Checklist for Operation***

#### ***A. All Models***

Before launching your Escape or Rogue River AquaToy pedal boat, review the following checks and procedures.

1. Install the rudder. Be sure to attach the cotter ring through the end of the clevis pin to hold the pin in place. The "flag" portion of the rudder points away from the boat.

2. Check to ensure the bow drain plug is properly installed. It is located on the centerline at the bow just under the rub rail.
3. Check to ensure the crankshaft and paddle wheel assembly turn freely and the axle is free of weeds, fishing line, etc.
4. Move the steering handle to ensure the rudder moves freely. Some resistance is designed into the mechanism so that the rudder does not require constant control while underway. The rudder swing should be 90 degrees (45 degrees to each side of center). **Take note of the steering limits and do not force the handle beyond these limits.**
5. Check any accessories that have been installed: i.e. cushions snapped into place, canopy supports attached to hinges, electric motor mount properly attached to the boat and motor securely mounted to the bracket.

***B. Escape Glide Electric/WaterWheeler ASL Electric***  
Before launching an electric pedal boat, connect the battery and electric motor as follows:

1. If the dealer has not already installed the motor, locate the box containing the motor and other accessories and carefully follow the installation instructions. Be sure to attach the color-coded wires to the proper terminals. **Do not install the motor with the boat in the water.**
2. Install the battery. The battery should be either an F24 or F27 RV/Marine Deep Cycle 12 VDC battery. Position the battery so the terminals are closest to the seat back. Be sure to attach the battery leads to the proper poles. Red is positive (+) and black is negative (-). Secure the battery with the battery strap. **DO NOT transport the boat on**

**a trailer or pick up truck with the battery installed.** The walls of the battery compartment may not withstand heavy bumping of the battery while transporting.

3. Install the prop on the motor using the shear pin and prop nut. Make sure the prop nut is snug.
4. The control panel has a forward/reverse and speed control switch. It provides five forward speeds and three reverse. Lower the motor to the operating position by pressing the spring in the middle to break the spring tension. **Do not operate the motor in the “UP” position.** Stay clear of the prop. The motor should rotate counter clockwise. Set the direction control switch to REVERSE and repeat the procedure. The motor should turn clockwise. All five speeds in forward and three in reverse should operate properly. If they don't review the wiring diagram carefully and make sure all wires are connected to the proper terminals. If the unit still fails to operate properly, call your Johnson Outdoors-Watercraft, Sport & Leisure Group dealer for assistance.

You should be able to operate your electric pedal boat 2-5 hours on a fully charged deep cycle marine battery. Running the motor at less than top speed significantly extends the time before the battery needs recharging. If the battery should run down to the extent that progress is unsatisfactory, you have the option of pedaling the boat to supplement the thrust of the motor.

***Boarding***

Use caution when climbing aboard the boat. Step into the foot-well or front seat using your arms for additional support and balance so the boat remains stable. Do not step on the rub rail or gunwale (side of the boat) to board the