THE Gilson SNOWBLOWER SHOP

Service Bulletin

Date: 11/19/2011

Service Bulletin # GSBS-06

To: Most Owners of Units Self Propelled Models

Subject: Wheel Seizure Prevention

Machine Style: All Self Propelled Units Where Wheels are Secured with Clevis or Click-Pins

This bulletin applies to all self-propelled models except for a few rare models that featured self-clutching wheels.

Decades of regular use will cause wheel pins to rock back in forth in the wheel and axle holes. Since the axle is the smaller diameter it sees the greater impact. Over time the pins will peen metal from the hole wall upward forming an interference with the inside diameter of the wheel hub. This interlocking combined with corrosion and dried lubricants can create a formidable bond.

Recovery from this seizure varies with which wheel(s) are sized and specific models. Methods may include hack-saws, saws-alls, high heat torches, penetrating oils, hydraulic presses (10-40 ton) and other creative methods. Under no circumstances should you beat or pull on the rim destruction is highly likely. In many cases sacrificing the axle shaft is the option of choice. A new shaft can usually be fabricated from standard shafting and components salvaged from the old one. Grinding & welding is required. Some replacements are offered on our parts page.

To prevent this problem, perform the following every other year and preferably clean and inspect annually.

1. Remove the wheels
2. Clean the axles with solvent, WD-40 or anything that will remove old oil and gunk
3. Inspect the holes that pins the wheels when in use. Look for a shiny high spot at the edge of the hole where interference is beginning to develop.
4. Inspect the holes for some remaining relief. There was a factory countersink but it may be filled with deformation. Using a half-round or rat tail file add relief as shown in the following photo.

1. Coat the axle with SAE 30 oil and spin the wheel onto the axle for an even coating.
2. Replace pins.