

Red Rover's Onan Troubleshooting for Roadtrek Owners

| Nothing happens when start button on Onan Panel (inside Roadtrek) is pushed | | |
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| Possible Cause | Corrective Action | Comments |
| Roadtrek house battery disconnected | Turn on battery switch, then try starting the generator. | Do other 12 volt items work when not connected to shore power? |
| House battery is weak or discharged | Start engine, idle a few minutes, then try starting the generator. | This may also help with poor electrical connections by increasing the voltage available. |
| Problem in remote start panel (inside the Roadtrek). | Try starting Onan from control panel on the Onan. | This requires removing the access panel door on the Onan. |
| Fuse blown on Onan 12 volt circuit | Check the fuse on the side of the Onan control panel and replace if blown. | This is rare. Requires opening access panel door on the Onan. |
| Bad ground connections between Onan and Roadtrek. | Clean rust and paint from ground connections to get shiny metal to metal connections, repaint over top to prevent more rust. | Common problem. The ground between the green Onan box and the Roadtek can be checked or jumpered with battery cables for testing without removing the Onan. However the ground connection from the generator to the green box will require removal of the generator |
| Bad electrical connection at solenoid or starter. | Clean the electrical connections at the solenoid and starter. | Requires removal of the generator from the Roadtrek. |
| Failed solenoid or starter. | See an expert or the service manual. | Rare. Requires removal of the generator from the Roadtrek. Beyond most owners. |
| Onan Cranks But Does Not Start | | |
| Possible Cause | Corrective Action | Comments |
| Gas in tank below the Onan pickup tube | Fill gas tank | The Onan pickup tube prevents you from running your gas tank dry with the generator. Should leave about 1/4 tank of gas |
| Oil level in Onan low | Check the oil level and add oil if needed | Requires removal of access panel door on the Onan. |
| Fuel filter in Onan clogged | Replace the fuel filter | Requires removal of access panel door on the Onan. |
| Fouled or worn spark plug | Replace spark plug | See manual for how to remove spark plug |
| Defective low oil switch | Disconnect the oil switch, if that fixes it, replace the oil switch (not trival, see expert), or live with it. | Requires removal of generator from Roadtrek. Apparently this is a fairly common problem. More common than low oil being a problem and some newer Onans do not have a low oil switch. Beyond capability of most owners |
| Bad or dirty connections at fuel pump | Clean & test electrical connections | Requires removal of generator from Roadtrek |
| Starts and Runs But Dies When Start Button is Released | | |
| Possible Cause | Corrective Action | Comments |
| Oil level in Onan low | Check the oil level and add oil if needed | Requires removal of access panel door on the Onan. |
| Defective low oil switch | Disconnect the oil switch, if that fixes it, replace the oil switch (not trival, see expert), or live with it | Requires removal of generator from Roadtrek. Apparently this is a fairly common problem. More common than low oil being a problem and some newer Onans do not have a low oil switch. Beyond capability of most owners |
| Tarnished slip rings from infrequent use | Check resistance on slip rings, clean if necessary | Requires removal and some disassembly. Beyond capability of most owners. The voltage regulator will compensate for a poor connection through the slip rings until it fails. If your voltage regulator has failed, be sure the slip ring resistance has been checked - or it may fail again. |
| Failed voltage regulator | Replace voltage regulator | Requires removal of generator. The Onan voltage regulator is expensive, not repairable and has no warranty. Check for causes of failure to avoid failure of the new part. This testing beyond the capability of most owners |

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| Starts and Runs But Dies After 2-10 Minutes | | |
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| Possible Cause | Corrective Action | Comments |
| Gas in tank below the Onan pickup tube | Fill gas tank | The Onan pickup tube prevents you from running your gas tank dry with the generator. Should leave about 1/4 tank of gas |
| Oil level in Onan low | Check the oil level and add oil if needed | Requires removal of access panel door on the Onan. |
| Air leak in fuel line or pickup | Find & fix leak | Try disconnecting Onan fuel line, run fuel line into a gas can. If this fixes the problem you have a leak or pinch in the fuel line. Inserting a piece of clear tubing will verify an air leak. Bubbles will accumulate until no gas is flowing. |
| Fuel line pinched (especially if this occurs only when Roadtrk has been driven recently) | Re-route the generator fuel line over the gas tank to avoid pinching when gas tank expands. | See above. If gas tank has been lowered to replace fuel pump or sending unit this could happen |
| Vapor Lock (in very hot weather) | Allow everything to cool | Check also for pinched fuel line. |
| Running great, then quits, will not restart | | |
| Possible Cause | Corrective Action | Comments |
| Gas in tank below the Onan pickup tube | Fill gas tank | The Onan pickup tube prevents you from running your gas tank dry with the generator. Should leave about 1/4 tank of gas |
| Oil level in Onan low | Check the oil level and add oil if needed | Requires removal of access panel door on the Onan. |
| Fuel supply issue | Check for plugged fuel filter, check fuel pump operation | Something is keeping gas from reaching the carburetor. Can disconnect fuel line at various places to see if fuel is getting there |
| Vapor Lock (in very hot weather) | Allow everything to cool | Check also for pinched fuel line. |
| Starts but runs poorly and surges or stumbles | | |
| Possible Cause | Corrective Action | Comments |
| Plug fouled | Check spark plug, clean or replace if fouled | Plug access in front bottom of generator |
| Carburetor jet clogged or partially clogged | If you take to Onan service they will replace the carburetor - cheaper for them. So you have nothing to lose by trying a few things that can be done without removing the generator. First do the Seafoam treatment over several days. If that doesn't do it, get a can of carburetor cleaner, remove the idle jet plug and squirt some cleaner into the jet. If no improvement, take a tiny copper wire (must be softer than brass) and try running it down through the idle jet. A tiny screwdriver is needed to remove the idle jet. Difficult with generator in place. | This is a very very common problem on Onans that have not been run enough. If Onan has a lot of hours (ie 250 hrs), just take for general service, other things need checked. If Onan has low hours, this is almost always a carburetor jet problem. May have to remove the idle speed screw to access the idle jet plug. Run the screw in and count the number of turns so you can return it to the same position. Possible that a clogged idle jet will result in a Onan that runs well under full load, but poorly under partial load. |
| Starts and Runs But No 120 volt Power is Supplied to the Roadtrek | | |
| Possible Cause | Corrective Action | Comments |
| The main circuit breaker on the Roadtrek distribution panel has been tripped | Check and reset the circuit breaker on the Roadtrek distribution panel | See your owner's manual if you don't know where this is located. The next item is more likely, but this is easier to check. |
| The Onan 120 volt, 25 amp circuit breaker has tripped | Reset the 25 amp circuit breaker on the Onan control panel | Requires removal of the Onan access panel |
| Before further diagnostics, plug Roadtrek into Shore Power. Do you have 120 volt power now? If yes, continue, if no - your problem is not in the Onan. | | |
| Bad connection somewhere between Onan and the AC distribution panel. | With multimeter follow the power and check for power into the automatic transfer switch, out of automatic transfer switch and into the AC distribution panel | The automatic transfer switch is probably located near the converter, which is likely where the distribution panel is as well, but may vary with Roadtrek year & chassis |