

# Glossary

**alternating current (AC)** An electric current that periodically changes direction of flow and constantly changes magnitude.

**ammeter** Instrument used to measure current flow.

**ampere (amp)** Basic unit of current flow (flow rate); an indicator of the passage of electrons through a conductor. One amp is the amount of current that flows when a force of 1 volt is applied to a circuit with a resistance of 1 ohm.

**ampere-hour (amp/hour)** A rating given to a battery indicating potential duration of the current flow under ideal conditions. It is the quantity of electricity that passes through a circuit if 1 amp has flowed for 1 hour (amps  $\times$  hours).

**brake horsepower** Horsepower produced by the engine minus losses due to friction, exhaust, and cooling.

**bus bar (bus)** Power distribution point, usually a metal strip where several circuits are connected.

**circuit** A number of conductors connected together to complete an electrical path.

**circuit protection** Devices in a circuit that protect wiring and/or appliances, such as fuses and circuit breakers.

**current** The movement of electricity through a conductor.

**detonation** Explosive, near-instantaneous release of fuel heat energy due to fuel/air mixture reaching its critical temperature and pressure.

**direct current (DC)** Electric current that always flows in only one direction.

**direct drive** Propeller bolted to, and turned at the same speed as, the crankshaft without reduction gearing.