

Storror Marine Newsletter

April 2007

Easter Opening Hours (and free Easter Eggs while stocks last)



As it's the start of the season we are once again open on Good Friday, browsing from 9-30 till 10, with full counter service from 10 till 4. Saturday is all systems go 8-30 till 5 as usual. Sunday we are closed. Easter Monday it's once again browsing from 9-30 till 10 and full counter service 10 till 4. As well as **FREE** Easter Eggs we are giving you the opportunity to purchase on Good Friday, Easter Saturday & Monday a variety of essential safety items at special prices.



RADIO CHECK - can you hear me Major Tom?

Did you know that a VHF radio is the most reliable means of making contact with the Coastguard and alerting other vessels if there is a problem? Mobile phone reception deteriorates as soon as you leave land and disappears altogether just a few miles offshore, and also other boat users around you cannot pick up your panicky call (unless you happen to know their phone number!). Did you know that Lifeboat crew searching for you have a direction finder which can pick up your VHF signal? However it won't pick up a mobile signal! Most fixed VHF models now operate with a DSC (Digital Selective Calling) function, which at the press of a button will transmit a distress message to the coastguard and any boat users around you with a DSC enabled VHF. If the unit is connected up to your GPS the message will include your exact location, and you can also set it to include the nature of your distress.

VHF handholds aren't yet available with DSC capabilities, but are ideal as a backup should your electrics fail, or if you are in a day boat, dinghy or sea kayak with no 12 volt supply. If you sadly have to abandon ship you can also take it with you in a liferaft!

Before you set out:

- You should always do a radio check with the marina, harbour master or coast guard to make sure your VHF set and aerial are functioning properly.
- If using a hand held VHF always check the condition of the batteries, and carry spares.
- If you are the skipper of a sailing yacht, consider carrying an emergency plug in aerial for your fixed VHF - if you are dismayed this may be your only means of communication.
- Make sure your crew and/or guests know how to make an emergency transmission – drop into the Marine Store for your free Sea Safety booklet (see below) with stickers detailing radio procedure – stick beside your VHF, just in case!

EASTER WEEKEND SPECIAL

**Buy any fixed VHF and get 25% off selected aerials!
Handheld VHF's available from £59.95**

SEA SAFETY – no laughing matter!

Five Safety tips you can count on:

1. Wear a lifejacket.
2. Check your engine & fuel.
3. Tell others where you're going.
4. Carry some means of calling for help.
5. Keep an eye on weather and tides.

The RNLI have produced an excellent booklet which is absolutely free; we of course have this booklet available for anyone who calls in. It is packed with good sound advice and comes with a CD ROM and a sheet of self adhesive stickers outlining emergency radio procedure, flare and first aid kit location etc. Finally you may not know it but the RNLI offers a free SEA (Safety Equipment Advisory) check using specially trained advisors.

Contact the RNLI on 0845 122 6999 or email info@rnli.org.uk for further details or to book an inspection.

TROUBLE PASSING WATER - don't call the doctor!

When was the last time you changed your impeller? Do you carry at least one spare (two for a twin engine installation)?

For the start of this season make it your resolution to remove and replace your existing impeller with a new one. Buy a spare and also keep your old (but label it used) in case of an emergency. Whilst changing your impeller(s) take the opportunity to do the same with your alternator and water pump belts. What about fuel filters, hoses and thermostats? Have they been checked or replaced and do you carry spares?

No time to do the above or unsure how to? Contact **Mike Farmer** at the Marine Store - he can carry out a beginning of season service on your inboard or outboard engine.

Easter Weekend Special
Buy one impeller and get another of the same size at 25% off!

Meet our staff! This month - Norma McGreevy

Our No.1 machinist in the sail loft has been with the company for nearly 20 years. My, how time flies when you are enjoying yourself! She is the multi talented machinist helping produce all those good looking canopies, spray hoods, stack packs and sail covers that you see in the marinas and yacht clubs on the North East coast! In the slacker autumn period she also helps sew up specialist items for our industrial clients, such as drogues for pipeline inspection equipment, pallet covers, air bag covers for Lotus cars etc. Off duty Norma's growing family and her 'Rainbow Brownies' commitments keep her out of trouble.



TYNE WINTER SERIES & one step beyond!

After a 'slow start' of two second places, Tony Lewis, helm of the Marine Store sponsored Sigma 8 'Join The Club', started to get his act together with back to back wins in the next three races. Helmsman Lewis' excuse was that he had not sailed for three years! Marine Store

Director Andy Burgess wants to take the credit as tactician on board but no-one else agrees! However sail maker Storrar is convinced his off season tweaks to the Coast Road manufactured sails did the trick! With one weekend to go the series has already been won by Join The Club. Well done!

Following this years hotly contested winter series the racers then migrate to the Royal Quays Marina for the Spring Series, with races as follows (lock outs for 1200 starts at 1015 and 1035)

- Two back to back races on both Sunday 22nd April, (1200hrs) and Sunday 29th April (1200hrs)
 - Then the big weekend finale of the Spring Series – Two back to back races on Saturday 5th May (1200hrs), followed by two races on Sunday 6th May (1100hrs – NB lock out at either 0915 or 0935)
- Competitors – check your safety equipment!**

FLARES – but not the ones round your ankles!

Flares are an essential part of your safety equipment and you should make sure everyone on board knows their location and how to operate them should the occasion arise. If venturing offshore a full flare kit should be carried including rockets, orange smoke and red pinpoint. If planning a passage that includes sea time during the hours of darkness it is recommended you also carry collision warning white flares.

For the new season, check the date stamp on your flares -

DO NOT keep out of date flares on board as they deteriorate and become less reliable (i.e. may not work, and if they do the candela (brightness) may diminish) Old flares cause a fire and health hazard! Did you know it is illegal to set off flares when not in distress, even on Guy Fakes Night? Out of date flares can be handed into the MCA Office at South Shields, Royal Quays Marina etc.

Remember – **Red** flares at **night** or in **poor visibility**,

Orange flares for **daytime**.

White for **collision avoidance**

EASTER WEEKEND SPECIALS

20% off flares and flare packs



CAST OR FORGED - to sleep soundly or not!

Hit the lock gate doing seven knots and your FORGED anchor will probably end up looking like this 'bent' beauty on the right. Perhaps pull up your CAST anchor as one of our customers did and you may find it comes away very very easily! Always make sure your main anchor is forged.

Cast anchors are only for small boat use!

- Remember - in calm conditions with winds <10 knots lay out line **3 times the depth** of water.
- Between **10 & 25 knots** use line length of **5 times the depth**.
- In **25 knots+** pay out everything you've got but use a line length of **at least 7 times the depth**.

EASTER SPECIAL 'Staying Put - The Art of Anchoring' by Brian Fagan. An excellent read at a discounted price of **£7-95**.

CHECKED YOUR LIFEJACKET - has it grown mushrooms?

Bought, stored away in a dark and damp locker, forgotten about till you need them? When was the last time you checked your lifejacket out? Before you go afloat this year we recommend that you carry out the following checklist:

- Inflate your lifejacket orally using the inflation tube and leave inflated overnight (a small amount of pressure may be lost due to temperature difference).
- It is also worthwhile at this stage to check for any signs of chafe or frayed/loose stitching.
- After removing the bobbin (automatic trigger) and bottle, give the inflated lifejacket a wash down in the shower and leave to dry.
- Did you know that the CO2 bottles on lifejackets have a nasty habit of slowly unscrewing themselves? Check the gas bottle for signs of rust and if present replace.
- Purchase and fit a new bobbin to your auto lifejacket. If the lifejacket is fitted with a hydrostatic head, check it's in date.
- Screw back in the CO2 bottle and refold the lifejacket as per the manufacturer's instructions.
- Finally, if in any doubt about the reliability of your lifejacket, pull the toggle and see what happens!

Remember - always adjust the jacket to take account of the clothes you are wearing and ALWAYS make sure the crutch strap is used. Carry a spare bottle (and if automatic, a spare bobbin) for each lifejacket on board.

If you have any further questions about the maintenance of your lifejackets drop into the Marine Store or email us on robbie@storrarmarine.co.uk and we will be happy to help. Thanks to Big Pete, our dynamic Crewsaver rep, for the tips!

EASTER WEEKEND SPECIAL

Purchase a **Gibb style 2 hook safety line** with built in load indicator and a **lifejacket light** for **£29-95**, saving over £20-00!

Liferafts, never to be repeated offer!

6 Man canister **£639.00!**
4 Man canister **£549.00!**

Jonbuoy recovery module **£499.00**
ACR 406 Epirb **£299.00**
Horseshoe sets **£34.95**
(inc bracket and light)
Wooden bungs (large size) **£5.45**

Easter Treats! As well as the free easter eggs:



Musto Goretex Coastal Jackets – 20% off!

Musto Goretex Offshore Trousers, yellow, 1 only Medium Broad, RRP £219.95 now only **£149.95**

Musto Breathable Inshore Jacket, available in red, men's sizes M and XL, ladies 14 and 16 and in navy, one only XL, RRP £99.95, now only **£69.95!**

Musto base layer – Zip neck in S and XL, Crew neck in S and XXL, Turtle neck in S and ladies size 12, Trousers in S, **all 35% off!**