

STORRAR MARINE Newsletter

February 2009

January the 19th just back to work after a couple of days at the London Boat Show, the weather is awful, didn't really get light today, rain, wind & bitterly cold! On top of that Gordon & Alistair have just given another huge chunk of your & my money away to the banks. Is there anything to look forward to? Well in the Storrar household YES, at long last the hall, stairs & landing are starting to see the fruits of Jenny & my thirteen months of night & weekend paint stripping! During our labour of love we have purchased & 'consumed' over fifty five litres of paint stripper, never mind the kilowatts of electricity gobbled up by our hot air paint guns. Oak panelling, banisters & Newel posts that have never seen the light of day for probably fifty years, painted with successive dark brown varnish stain, blue, white & finally cream paint are now finally bare & starting to look the part. Almost no need to go to the pub these days the neutralising solvent does the trick, I can wake up next morning with a solvent hangover & yes it's only another four weeks to go before we start stripping the hall floor, I can hardly wait! Roll on the start of the 2009 season!



In the Storrar household our dog Millie, purchased from the cat & dog shelter almost a year ago continues to amuse us with her interesting 'resting' positions, I took this pic whilst waiting for the kettle to boil, a break from putting pen to paper, now I am back at the computer she is keeping my feet warm curled up over my shoes.

Speaking of new additions, co director Andy proudly told me today (apart from telling me that baby Abi was consuming vast chunks of his disposable income) that he has not had a ciggie since his daughter was born. However I am sure there are cheaper ways of kicking the habit than having babies! Rumour has it that the money he will save (over the next ten years from not buying fags) will help pay for some of the alcohol due to be consumed at his rapidly approaching wedding. Andy started a well earned couple of weeks off today but such is his love of work, or perhaps it's the fact that he wanted to keep an eye on me meant he called by twice!

Talk at the Excel show was of a quiet year for boat sales but a feeling that boaters would be improving & modifying rather than changing. Here at the Marine Store we are acutely aware that more than ever you want value for money, quality products & the opportunity to talk to knowledgeable friendly staff. With a stock holding well of over a quarter of a million in well known brands, staff & directors who regularly attend training courses we are your first stop for marine purchases. We are not into 'take your money & run retailing' we are a touchy feely store; please compare our prices with the mail order boys, more often than not we are cheaper on big ticket items & please note we do not load the price on the items that are not price sensitive!

Want us to do the hard work this spring? Our workshop(s) & sail loft are manned by experienced tradesmen (and women) However please don't leave it till the last minute, already we are quoting April for sail loft projects.....

REMEMBER EPIRB OWNERS: On 1st February 121.5 / 243 MHz frequency will no longer be monitored for distress signals!

A TOUCH OF FROST

A guy brought in an impeller the other day, asked for a replacement. It looked to me to be brand new & I wondered if it had been faulty, before I could say anything he volunteered that he had gone down to his local marina the other day, saw a thin film of ice on the surface but still decided to run the engine for twenty minutes. Fired it up, checked the exhaust immediately after it burst into life, water coming out & then the alarm went!

All the fins on this almost brand new impeller have been sheared off by ice! In the store we keep a good selection of impellers from Jabsco & Johnson, Volvo, Nanni & Mercury. Mercruiser impellers are also stocked in depth.



STRETCH, WRAP & GET RESCUED

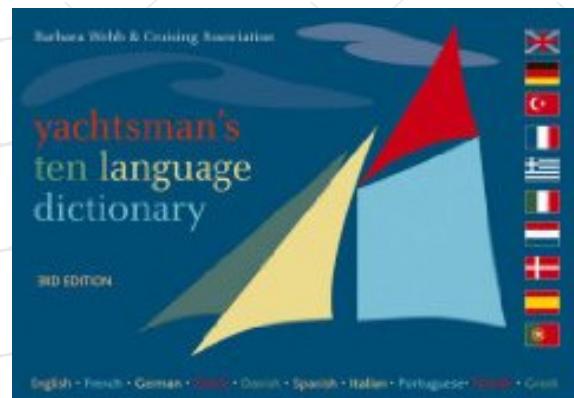
Rescue tape has infinite uses! Here are just a few suggestions: keep it on board for emergency repair because it seals leaky hoses, pipes, tubing & fittings. Neatens up lines & extension cords in stowage. Whip the ends of ropes. Wrap tools & handles for a great no-slip grip. Wrap it round wiring harnesses & custom split - loom. It works even over wet, dirty or oily surfaces & of course can be used underwater. Remember its self fusing; it creates a permanent seal & is waterproof & airtight. It can insulate to 8,000 volts resists 500 F (260 C) & finally it's has a 700psi strength! A roll costs £7.45 and it's available in black, red, yellow, blue, green, white and clear!



See page 2 Aunty Foulins problem corner.

BOOK REVIEW

A couple of books worth keeping on board if you keep your boat abroad. For those of you who favour Spain & Spanish speaking countries 'Spanish for Cruisers' by Kathy Parsons contains practical Spanish vocabulary & expressions for handling boat emergencies & repairs, finding hardware & parts & communicating with boatyards, mechanics, sail makers & repairmen at £16-95
ITS GOOD VALUE & HAVING IT ON BOARD COULD SAVE YOU A FORTUNE! 'Yachtsman's ten language dictionary' is in the same price bracket but covers French, Dutch, German, Danish, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Turkish & the Greek language; more words but not so many phrases, however a very useful book indeed. Last year I suggested 'The Complete Anchoring Handbook' as an excellent read. Well last night in the Tynemouth Lodge a well known & run Tynemouth watering hole (frequented by the local lifeboat crew & some local boaters, incidentally owned and run by a yottie) I was told by my Tuesday night drinking pal* that it was a cracking good read, praise indeed from 'young' Peter! At the Marine Store we carry a large & varied selection of marine related literature. You are welcome to pop in for a browse, alternatively give us a bell and we will post out our 91 page Book Harbour catalogue. *Sadly I am only allowed out to play after 10pm & it's a strict limit of two pints max!



Aunty Foulin's problem corner

Dear Aunty Foulin,

I have some nasty stains on my sheets & as for the state of my sacrificial strip! After this dismal damp winter it's got green mould stains down the trailing edge. I so wanted to make a good impression on this retired sea dog who wants to come sailing with me this spring & show me his ropes. Can you help?

Dear Louise Laundry,

It just so happens that I have just had all my sails back from the sail loft at Storrar Marine Store, spray hood & sail cover as well as the sheets. Wow, what a difference & worth every penny. Their new sheet cleaning service is the answer to a maiden's prayer; the spray hood & cover washed & re proofed with new clear panels sewn in by Norma's capable hands make them look like new. To get a quote all you have to do is weigh, then ring that charming (on a good day) but rather elderly Mr Storrar who will give you a price.



TEPS (TIME EXPIRED PYROTECHNICS)

Flares, we hope we never use them but we are encouraged to carry & replace when out of date. However to dispose of them is another story! For a long time it's been a 'grey area' Up till the 1st of January Royal Quays marina took their berth holders TEPS & I believe the RNLI then collected them. Some life raft service stations, port & harbour would take them but there was a charge. Setting flares off on bonfire night was another method however it is an offence & I quote "It is an offence to fire distress-signal pyrotechnics on land, in harbour or at sea for either testing purposes, practice or fireworks (whether the pyrotechnics are out of date or not)". "It is also an offence to dump pyrotechnics at sea". If you have out of date flares that you wish to dispose of HM Coastguard will accept TEPS at SOME SITES, note however they will not accept flares from commercial operators. For further details ring Greg on 07860- 166821. Marine Guidance Note (MGN 287 (M+F) refers it can be downloaded on: <http://www.mcga.gov.uk/c4mca/mcga-mnotice.htm?textobjid=1A68A16E88F46E3B>

SUPER SOAKER

Seen at Excel is this nifty device that removes water from a fuel tank without the need to drain the tank. To put it simply they are thirsty mini-socks, encased in a protective housing, that absorb water but NOT oil, fuel or hydraulic fluid. All you have to do is tie off the end of the retrieval cord and lower the Super Soaker in the tank. Built in weights take it to the bottom where the water is located. The Super Soaker absorbs water from under the oil, fuel or fluid. Absorption will normally take a few minutes. To check for water absorption, remove the Super Soaker. If the inner sock is bulging, it has absorbed water. Remove when it is full. A partially absorbed sock may be reused until it is full. Available from the Marine Store priced at £15.95.



N/B Our Winter Saturday closing is 5PM (Hours to suit your Lifestyle)!

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