

Storrar Marine Newsletter

Reflections of a miss-spent childhood & other ramblings!

Believe it or not the reason I ended up in the marine trade (apart from failing all my O levels and getting kicked out of Grammar school!) was that the company that took pity on me as a callow youth, when I was looking for work did not give me Saturday off so I could go sailing! At the age of twenty, I disappeared off down south to work for a well known sailmaker. Musto & Hyde as they were known back in the seventies actually encouraged me to get out on the water on Saturdays, Oh, what bliss. Ironic now nearly forty years later that from early March to the end of August I end up working every Saturday and most Sundays. Thank goodness that Andy (now my co-director) did not read the job description too closely some ten years ago. 'Keen young sailor required to work in chandlery...Hours as required! Poor Andy logged in 90 last week, & this week I hate to think! So my apologies if Andy & I have seemed a bit harassed over the 'three bank holiday period'.

OPENING HOURS TO SUIT YOUR LIFESTYLE

Open from 7.30am Mon-Fri (Sat 8.30) Late night shopping, Tuesday till 8.00pm

Royal Quays Spring Series final results.

At the end of the third weekend of hotly contested racing the final results were **1st** Auf Wiedersehen Pet, **2nd** Aeolus **3rd** Risky Business & in **4th** place & first Sigma 8 our very own 'Join the Club.' Marine store director Andy Burgess was on Join the Club for the series & was heard to say 'Bother!' in a strange language as their carbon fibre spinnaker pole decided to snap when leading race no 5. Andy was more concerned that Rob would stop his pocket money than slipping back eight places in that race.

Good close racing was enjoyed by all on excellent courses set by a sometimes garrulous race officer, thanks to big H and the Royal Quays Marina Team for an excellent regatta.

Lewmar one touch winch handles

Perfect for the keen racer & ideal for the cruising yacht where inexperienced guests are often asked to help with the grinding. This winch handle won a prestige Dame design award at the 2006 Marine European Trade Show. The handle features easy one handed removal. New one touch release, just squeeze and lift. The handle was given a severe testing in the last Volvo Ocean Race & other Transpac 52 events. Available as a 10" handle only, in single, power and double grip designs.



EPIRBs – Does your 'Safety List' include one?

EPIRBs, or to give them their proper name, Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons. The recent publication by the MAIB report in relation to the Sailing Yacht "Ouzo" along with recent and forthcoming magazine articles has highlighted the use of 406Mhz EPIRB's, but which one should you chose? The questions can be endless, Category 1 or Category II? (What's the difference???), which beacons have "water contacts"? Are "water contacts" a benefit? The simple answer as always is to ask the experts. It should often be remembered that different considerations should be used when purchasing an EPIRB. The obvious, price will always be a governing factor, but aesthetics of a beacon should never really be a governing choice. www.jotron.co.uk has further pictures and information. An EPIRB should, god forbid you ever need it, be easy to operate. Easy to handle and "fit for purpose". Jotron, the Norwegian manufacturer with UK distribution in the North East, have just added a new bracket option and altered the standard bracket (to allow the beacon to be operated while still in place) for the Tron 45S. The Tron 45S has a 5 year battery which will operate for a minimum of 24 hours at -20 deg C, this beacon has been designed specifically for the leisure use but benefits from the 40 years Jotron have been supplying EPIRB's to commercial shipping. For further advice on all makes of EPIRB's contact Andy.

Pilot books & Charts - ignore them at your peril.

These days an awful lot of sailors rely on electronics to get us round the race course, across to Holland maybe, up the Coast to the Caledonian Canal, perhaps take the keen fisherman to their favourite fishing spot. At the Marine store we stock a comprehensive range of charts & pilot books. Naturally of course, we cover the North East Coast in great depth, stocking three different pilot books for this area. The East including Holland, Germany etc. The West, all of that fabulous cruising ground in Scotland, Ireland & beyond. So comprehensive is our range that we stock Caribbean pilots including a newly published book on Cruising Cuba. Recently 'opened up' areas in the Mediterranean now have dedicated pilots including, Bulgaria, Romania and Croatia.

This month sees the eagerly awaited guide to cruising Sweden. Paper charts, we stock both Imray & Admiralty small craft & standard format including the popular Imray M Mediterranean & G Greek charts.

P/S we can reprogramme and upgrade electronic c-maps.

Reflections on SAFETY

Summer's almost here (we think) so as our thoughts turn to longer cruises, fishing further offshore, perhaps a passage trip to Holland or Norway.

Radar Reflectors – buy the best you can afford, its money well spent!

Recently published on the Marine Accident Investigation Branch website www.maib.gov.uk, the sad tale of the sinking of the yacht Ouzo following an encounter with the ferry 'Pride of Bilbao' has highlighted the fact that the yacht sadly did not show up on the ferry's radar. Following on from the investigation a number of issues were raised:

- Why the lookout did not see the yacht earlier.
- Why did the yacht not show up on the ferry's radar,
- Why the yacht's crew did not survive the accident
- Why the ferry did not stop and assist the yacht

At the marine store we carry a wide range of radar reflectors. We personally recommend the Echomax as probably the best performing small boat radar reflector. 'Comparing Echomax with other reflectors is like comparing a car headlight with a candle in a jar' quote by the late John Firth inventor of the Echomax radar reflector.

The Echomax reflector can either be mast mounted or suspended from a halyard.

Meet our staff! This month – Clare Green

Young Clare despite being a couple of years short of twenty has probably packed more sea miles under her belt than most folks do in a lifetime. A graduate of the UKSA, United Kingdom Sailing Academy Cowes she has an impressive list of qualifications under her belt including: RYA yacht master & coastal skipper. Has successfully completed other RYA courses including small craft radar, diesel engine maintenance, powerboat level 2 & ICC (international certificate of competence) other qualifications include MCA long range radio & GMDSS, MCA medical first aid & STCW95 not sure what that one means but its probably the reason she makes a great cup of coffee.

Past summer jobs included working for a famous Cowes based chandler & also time spent working for her dad, MD & boss man of Formula Spars based on the IOW. This mast manufacturing company has a superb reputation for building high tech cruising and racing spars in carbon as well manufacturing in aluminium alloy.

One of the first jobs Clare was asked to do when joining us was to coil & pack a large quantity of 26mm stainless steel wire assemblies for one of our industrial customers. Andy and your Ed cannot understand why she ran out of steam after coiling thirty two of these monsters! Inset show her having successfully coiled the first one, you should see the pic that we took after she completed the lot.



Junes Juicy Jolly Jamboree*

Raymarine RL70 Combined Radar and Chartplotter, complete with GPS antenna, 2kw Radome. This factory reconditioned unit has FULL 12 months warranty. Package price only £999.95.

Jotron TRON 45S EPIRB – See 1st page for full details of this innovative unit £329.95

Last 2 **Simrad CP31** 6" Chart Plotters £599.95 **including** UK and Ireland chart worth £245.00

Navman Tracker 5600 6.4" colour chart plotter. Last year's best selling plotter. Last one @ £499.95

June special for all **powerboaters**;

CSR/Crewsaver Automatic lifejackets including crutch straps £39.95.

Manual gas lifejackets (same spec) £34.95

Echomax radar reflectors buy one & get a set of free mounting brkts.

Lewmar one touch winch handles at discount prices.

Imray publications including their charts 15%

Reeds Almanacs 15% off all titles in stock

Other publishers pilot books & charts less 10%

*send us your best 'monthly' phrase for your chance to win a prize and also gain a mention in the next issue due out early July. e-mail your **July** suggestions only to robbie@storrarmarine.co.uk (Closing date 24 June) Ed's decision final.

Sailmaking - marine & industrial Rigging - marine & industrial
Chandlery
Engineering - inboard & outboard, sales and servicing

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