

Storrar Marine Newsletter

June 2008

HOW TO WRITE (OR NOT) THE JUNE NEWSLETTER

Wait till the last possible moment because your editor, Andy & the rest of the staff are running round like headless chickens trying to get 'on top of the demand' Wait till Jenny comes back from our yacht (on hols last week) as she is the one that keeps the dyslexic one on the straight & narrow! Wait, panic & resort to the tried & tested method. I.e. come home at a half sensible hour participate in some wine during evening meal, follow up with a couple of large glasses of port & attempt to put 'pencil to paper' Having said that perhaps the real reason this month that I am later than normal hitting the keyboard is a combination, all of the above AND the fact that I have had 'man flu' or a some sort of virus which has been with me for the past eight weeks making me cough incessantly, leaving me at times short of breath & feeling very shabby.

This spring with Clare on maternity leave we have been fortunate enough to 'find' Thierry & Evelyne to help out during the frantic period, late April thru to end of May. This charming French couple are taking time out to sail round the world via the Scottish Whisky cruise www.worldcruising.com/classicmaltsruise. Cool Daddy their home for the next few years is an 11M Jeanneau yacht currently berthed in St Peters marina. Last week Thierry (who wrote on his CV that he used to 'drive' nuclear subs for a living) has been helping 'rigger Ritchie' on one of our many industrial rigging jobs down at the university of Plymouth. In the meantime Evelyn (with her lovely French accent) who is often your first contact if you phone, has been the morning tea, goods inward, lunch duty, afternoon tea and help out in the sail loft person Talk about multi tasking, I was convinced that only men were capable of doing that? Come mid June they sail north thru the Caledonian Canal 'do' the West coast then taste whisky. Once sober its down to Brittany, Seville, Casablanca, Senegal and as they are both keen tango dancers eventually to Buenos Aires, after that who knows?



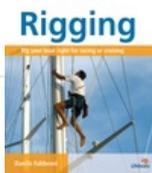
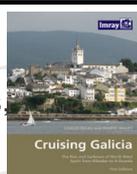
NEW PUBLICATIONS

New books published this month include (for the cruising/charter folk) two Imray publications **Cruising Galicia** by Carlos Rojas & Robert Bailey.

It concentrates on the Rias and harbours of North West Spain from Ribadeo to A Guarda. Priced at £32.50

The Mediterranean Weather Handbook for Sailors by Roberto Ritossa. Written for sailors not Meteorologists, theory is kept to a minimum.

Priced at £12-95. Other good reads out this month include **Rigging** by Danilo Fabbroni (an internationally renowned rigger with Harken who travels the world rigging superyachts), priced at £14.99



WHEN DID YOU CHECK YOURS?

So, at last the weather has turned (or has it) you have had your engine serviced, sails checked over perhaps washed & no doubt the anodes were changed whilst doing the seasonal antifoul. Flares have been checked to see that they are in date & you are ready to venture forth. As you hand out the life jackets on a breezy bank holiday Sunday (after your radio check) do they look ok or are not?

Abrasion on the outer cover, crotch strap missing, emergency light not working? Take a close look at this cartridge which was fitted to a fairly new top of the range life jkt, rusty yes but of course what you cannot see is the tiny hole NOR the lack of gas! Here at Storrar Marine we stock over six sizes of gas bottles & some eight different types of rearming capsules. Unsure of what to do/look for, call in and collect your **free** lifejacket checklist.....



NEWS COMING THROUGH

Earth Race the 100% bio diesel vessel is limping toward Singapore on one engine having damaged a propeller shaft after hitting an underwater object at speed. Skipper however reports that the lee clothes made and donated by The Storrar sailloft, are standing up well to the rigours of the race! For further updates on Earth Race visit: www.earthrace.net

JUNE SPECIAL OFFER

Last month we featured the all singing & dancing Spinlock lifejacket. Incidentally available in three chest sizes. For the month of June (whilst stocks last) we are giving away free a Spinlock safety line & emergency cutter (see image) worth £50.00 with every jacket purchased. We only have limited quantities, so it's a case of first come first served. Incidentally Spinlock have (as a pull out insert) in their 2008 catalogue an excellent article entitled '10 Best Ways to Prevent Man Overboard' and on the reverse '10 useful guidelines when ascending the mast.'



See page 2 Aunty Foulin's problem corner.

MOTHER & CUB DOING WELL (NOT SURE ABOUT MARK)

Congratulations to Clare our charming, always smiling (but apparently not during labour) chandlery clothing guru & Mark, he of Polar Bear fame, on the birth of their delightful cub Lily. Born Tuesday the 27th of May 2008 at 12.23am & weighing in at a splendid seven pounds thirteen ounces. Mark who has led a fairly sheltered life 'up North' apparently learnt some good old fashioned Isle of Wight curses during Clare's labour, we wish them all well. Eager expectant dad Andy Burgess has already offered to baby-sit when ever the lucky couple need a break!



More good news (if you can take it) is that whilst on 'rest and recreation' in London during the early May bank hols Andy popped the question to Jill. The wedding is scheduled for August 2009 and already Yachts & Yoting and Motorbttng Monthly are both trying to outbid each other for the right to cover the bash, eat your heart out Helo/KO!

LET THERE BE LIGHT



Old



New

Just recently we were asked to re rig a classic little sailboat, built I believe in the late sixties. Looks wise she is a stunner despite getting on in age (bit like me I muse). However once the mast was off the boat it was discovered that the mast head tricolour & steaming light lens were in such bad condition that the theoretical 'range' of the lights was down by more than 50%, safety being seriously compromised? Cos with a bit of simple mathematics under ideal weather conditions & the lens in good condition the range is over 2 Nautical miles. A ship travelling at 20 knots; North Sea ferry perhaps has 6 mins before contact. However if the lens is in poor condition the contact time drops dramatically! As can be seen below the same watt bulb over the old & new lens give a tremendous contrast. This is of course assuming the boat had not been picked up on the ferry's radar & that's another story!

THE HELIX CHALLENGE

Is a voyage from Blyth to the Azores, incorporating the 'Jester Azores Challenge' a single handed ocean yacht race from Plymouth to the Azores, mid Atlantic for yachts between 20 and 30 feet leaving Plymouth 31st of May. The aim of the challenge is for RNYC member Malcolm Collins to fulfil a lifetime ambition and most importantly help raise money to enable Saint Oswald's Children's Service to carry on providing a fantastic facility for children and their families. Malcolm's yacht Helix is a 28ft Twister that has been strengthened, re-rigged and fitted with new navigational, self steering gear and smart new dodgers manufactured and donated by our sail loft to the Helix Challenge.

For information on the challenge go to www.jesterinfo.org and click on Jester Azores Challenge 2008. To show your support visit the Justgiving web site www.justgiving.com/helix_challenge.

You can donate via a credit card and leave a message of encouragement with your donation. Best wishes from us all.



HOW TO MAKE A SILK PURSE OUT OFF A SOWS EAR

Take one 'past its sell by date' spray hood, give it to Norma (Storrar Marine's cover expert) & some fifteen hours later send the new one off by carrier up to Scotland!



Aunty Foulin's problem corner

Dear Aunty Foulin,

Last weekend my cousin stayed on our boat over night & the next morning at breakfast time he made it known that I should have lowered my ensign at night fall. Can you please advise me where I went wrong?

Dear Patti Pennant,

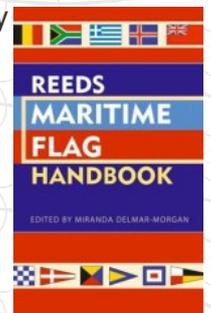
Lowering (or striking) ensigns & other flags are traditionally at sunset around the world. However in higher latitudes, almost light all night perhaps?

An arbitrary time can be chosen at say 2100 hrs.

If all members of a boats crew go ashore before sunset the ensign should be lowered before they leave so that it will not be left flying after sunset which is not good form. Reeds Maritime flag book at £7-95 would be worth purchasing so as to keep that smug look of his mush!

Do you have a boating related problem?

E-mail me, Aunty Foulin and I'll do my best to solve it: auntyfoulin@storrarmarine.co.uk



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