

Storrar Marine Newsletter

December 2009

Go to any marina and the chances are you will probably see the boat of your dreams, you may dream of a future circumnavigation, the perfect boat to use for fishing, perhaps a yacht to cruise to Holland or the Baltic. A fast ski boat or a large powerboat (where a trip to Whitby takes a couple of hours, not ten!)

Jenny & I take our annual holidays in the winter cos it's quieter at work, so late October saw us sailing our Hunter Channel 31 (incidentally named Dream On) from Lanzarote to Graciosa, our low cost winter berth. After a hard eight hour windward slog, two reefs in the main & the breeze never dropping lower than twenty three knots, both caked in salt we arrived only to find that the berth we had reserved in February was still occupied. There was only one space left, not an ideal location but at least it was a berth, it was awkward to get stern first to the pontoon but somehow we managed (with a little help from the Dutch couple port side on & the French couple stbd. Just twelve metres from our bow was 'Shirley' a strange rust streaked abandoned sailing boat, Jen & I now call it the ghost ship cos on a moonlit night & when the wind is blowing thru the rigging it certainly can get your imagination going. I wonder if some years ago it was a skipper's Dream Boat and what tales that boat could tell about its past history.



If you are already dreaming of Christmas (or perhaps just starting to panic) & your husband, wife, partner, mistress or lover is stuck for inspiration. why not download our Christmas lists at, www.storramarine.co.uk Here you will find ideas for that boatie gift from under £5-00 to over £500. Try casually leaving the list on the lounge or kitchen table with a couple of ticks in the appropriate place & you never know, one of your dreams may come true!

Don't forget in the run up to Christmas on Saturday the 5th, 12th & 19th we will be serving our phantasmagorical (hope I got the spelling right) mulled wine & truly scrumptious mince pies. On Tuesday the 8th, 15th & 22nd we are open till 8pm for the convenience of our nautical Christmas shoppers.

DECEMBER COMPETITION

For this month's competition Crewsaver have very generously donated one of their new Crewfit 190N jkts complete with all the bells and whistles worth £194.95. All you have to do is answer the 3 questions below:

Question 1; *Cosalt PLC the parent company of Crewsaver started life out as the..... & in which year?*

Question 2; *Which British charity uses Crewsaver lifejackets to ensure the safety of its volunteers?*

Question 3; *Why are traditional problems eliminated in the new Crewsaver lifejacket?*

Send your answers to comp@storramarine.co.uk and the first correct answer drawn out of Andy's lucky hat on Saturday 19th December wins this superb lifejacket!

NO PARTICULAR PLACE TO GO



Those of you of a certain age & that certainly includes me will no doubt remember Chuck Berry's 'No Particular Place To Go', well maybe the title of that iconic tune could apply to fenders,

We all need big uns to protect our topside but what do we do with them when at sea? Try finding some where to store them. Well look no further, the Stowaway range of inflatable fenders is probably the answer to your prayer & guess what they will make a first class practical Christmas present. They come in five different sizes & each pack contains 4 fenders. Prices start from £111.95 including compact hand pump and a deluxe storage/carrying bag.



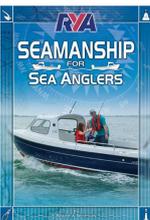
A WHIFF OF GAS

The other day one of our regular customers from South of the river brought the regulator from his gas bottle in to get a replacement. As it happens (at the moment) it's one of the few things we don't stock, soon to be rectified! Out of curiosity I



asked why he was changing it cos it looked in excellent condition when he placed it on the counter. It was only when he turned it over I noticed a hole caused by corrosion. A case perhaps of two dissimilar metals or salt & moisture? How did he find the hole? A strong smell of gas when he turned the regulator tap on, fortunately no damage done but it could have all ended in disaster! Add to your winter check list/jobs to do, take the regulator off & check thoroughly! Incidentally we do stock an excellent book Entitled 'The Boatowner's Guide To Corrosion' place on your Christmas list perhaps?

'SEAMANSHIP FOR SEA ANGLERS' & 'CRUISING FOR COWARDS'



The right book can make an excellent Xmas present and the first in the RYA's brand new angling series, 'Seamanship for Sea Anglers' has been well received. It is designed to appeal to all anglers. Covering all aspects of sea anglers from an anglers point of view, chapters include choosing & preparing the right boat, equipment, safety, navigation, communications and maintenance. 'Cruising for Cowards' from bugs & beasties to garbage disposal, from serious questions to those you don't like to ask, this book will provide the answers. Full of tips for every sailor, this humorous book could be a good read or the answer to a prayer in desperate straits!



As well as the most comprehensive range of nautical books in the North East, our almanac offers take a lot of beating. Purchase either the Reeds Nautical Almanac at £34-99 or the Reeds Loose Leaf Almanac at £38-99 & get a hard back log book worth £14.95 absolutely free. Offer lasts till stocks run out. We also stock Reeds Eastern & Western Almanacs as well as the PBO Small Craft Almanac.



See page 2 Aunty Foulin's problem corner.

WINTERISE YOUR 'CANVAS' WORK

In these harsh economic times we all have to make savings & yes it can be painful, however here is a tip to save you loads of money & all it takes is three hours max. Say you have decided to stop sailing in early December; well put one afternoon aside & remove the spray hood, mainsail cover/stack pack & the furling genoa. If you have the time & inclination wash, dry & give them a check over. Or if you want our loft to do it bring them in for that wash, reproof & check over (sooner rather than later) The net result is they will probably last twice as long, your marina staff will love you, it's one less boat to worry about if it's windy cos suddenly your yachts windage has shrunk dramatically, less chance of a burst fender or if you are ashore a lot less strain on the cradle & rig. If you have a powerboat & little or no bright work on her still consider removing the flybridge tonneau cover, any seats & cover the instruments & engine controls with a stout sheet of pvc. Likewise removing the stern canopy, clear panels go brittle on cold days, add some wind & suddenly a costly repair bill. Remember to remove & store any cushions in a clean dry place.

N/B Once again by removing your 'canvas work' it's less windage, less strain on your mooring ropes & the bonus is your canopies will last twice as long.

COVERING YOUR ASSETS

Have you ever considered a winter cover? Possibly if she is a traditional wooden yacht or powerboat with painted topsides, lots of varnish work, perhaps teak deck, maybe a cockpit with varnished companionway boards & instruments that you need to protect. With over fifty years of combined sail making experience our sail loft can manufacture the correct cover to protect your asset. If she is a modern usually lighter displacement glass fibre sailboat there is no point in going for a full over boom cover. They are more expensive, they have more windage thus more strain on cleats & mooring lines on windy winter days. Yes, go for a boom over cover if there is a lot of wood or varnish & you need protection and ventilation to prevent rot, If you want to protect the gelcoat in the winter nothing beats a good clean & an application of top quality wax polish. The image shows a modern medium displacement thirty five footer prepared for the winter, spray hood off, the teak work on the cockpit coming/seats, wash boards, winches & instruments protected by a snug fitting waterproof highly breathable cockpit cover. No windage issue so less strain on mooring ropes & cleats, less chance of the cradle or chocks failing & the good news: it's a third of the cost.



CREWSAVER UPS THE STAKES

Crewsaver, who supply lifejackets to, amongst others, the RNLI, have just introduced their new range of lifejackets to the leisure market, they provide unprecedented protection, whilst allowing total freedom of movement and comfort. The Crewfit 190N range offers a level of protection that is unmatched across today's market. It features a brand new patented inflation chamber with dual asymmetric lobes which overlap to provide faster turning performance in the event of the user being face down and incapacitated in the water. In addition this also protects the user from water being channeled toward

the face by the inflation chamber and lifts the head further from the water (up to 170mm compared to the minimum of 100mm) whilst maintaining its optimum angle. Traditional problems encountered with heavy waterproof clothing and trapped air between clothing layers are now eliminated thanks to the increased buoyancy of 190 Newtons. At £194.95, the lifejacket comes complete with spray visor, light & crutch straps. Will make a Superb Christmas present!



Dear Aunty Foulin,

The other week that handsome hunk Phil asked me if I would like to go away for a dirty weekend, without a moment's hesitation I said yes, did I need an excuse to grab his tool bag & jump into his noisy little banger! No not I, little did I think that his idea of a dirty weekend was helping him prepare the bottom of his boat (which he keeps in the Lake District) for some new antifouling! Anyway, after I said yes & before he told me of his cunning plan, I realised that my nautical luggage left something to be desired. If he does the dirty & asks me away again what should I put my smalls in?

Dear Cassie Case,

Suggest you hightail it down to the Marine Store where they stock a superb range of 'boat friendly' luggage by such great names as Musto, Gill, Dubarry & Henri Lloyd, whilst you're there browse thru their Christmas present ideas table for a great range of stocking fillers, you may even find something there that tickles Phil's fancy!



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