

Storrar Marine Newsletter

July 2009

Since we started our monthly competitions earlier this year the number of folks 'having a go' & entering has increased by leaps & bounds. Entries have been e-mailed in from avid readers in Australia, New Zealand, the States, Canary Isles, Spain etc etc. This month one of our favourite suppliers Garmin UK asked if they could become involved, yup no problem said Andy, well they have done us proud, thanks to Matthew Palmer & Dick Stanger his Geordie sales manager first prize is a hand held Garmin plotter worth over £400-00 & guess what they have also donated a consolation prize, THANKS BOYS.

B...OUSE PROJECT

It's not often that we see the 'end result' of one of our industrial wire work jobs, so often they are abroad or are at the other end of the country; however last week it was nice to see the finished article on a 'maritime theme' so close to home. Over the last few months, where the Ouseburn tributary joins the Tyne, a civil engineering project has been undertaken: the building of the lock & associated lock gates, thus ensuring that when the river is in ebb or at low water sufficient water remains in the Ouse to enable power boats to enter & leave at all states of the tide, you will notice I do not include yachts. Unfortunately, & I can only assume it's because of the limited available space, the lock gates have been designed to rise vertically when opening so regrettably there is a height restriction. Stainless steel balustrading wires manufactured by www.greatcirclerigging.co.uk (our industrial division) have been used to form a safety barrier round the central pier & on the top gantries of the lifting gear. Grade 316 stainless steel wire was used throughout with local company Petersen's supplying the rigging screws and fork terminals. From what I have so far learned the scheme is due for completion in mid August. To gain access to the Ouseburn Valley moorings there will be an intercom linking you with the Civic Centre, I am told that if you ring thru the lock gates will be operated.

Overlooking the lock on the east side is the Tyne public house serving a selection of real ales from a number of micro breweries, on this fact finding trip, I enjoyed just a small beer from the Wylam brewery. Outside the pub is a seating area where the drinkers can observe the boat handling & no doubt give 'marks out of ten' as boats enter or leave the lock. At the other 'end' of the pub is a covered beer garden where live bands perform during the summer on a Sunday afternoon. On the night of my research, forthcoming attractions were listed on a quaint little poster, see below. Food is served from lunchtime till 7pm & on Sundays in the summer there is a barbecue on the go.

Behind the Tyne within a hundred yards (or for you youngsters 91.44 metres) of this pub is The Free Trade (my favourite watering hole if I have just enjoyed a cultural experience at the Sage). Seven real ales on the go when I did my meticulous research, brews by Wylam, Mordue, Allendale, Durham, Houston & Osset. This pub having possibly one of the best views of any in the UK with a fabulous view up the Tyne either from the beer gardens or from the lounge. The pub was built over one hundred & twenty years ago and the owner has not decorated it for 25 years (told Jenny, my fellow researcher that if he did he would lose his regulars). As for the toilets, look out for some of the most amazing graffiti in the gents, Jen tells me in the ladies netties it's a pleasure to sit down & read the poetry. NO live music but a real jukebox, NO hot food but superb sarnies from Dene's Deli.

Further up the Ouseburn and at the bottom of Stepney Bank (just before Byker Farm) is the Cluny or Head of Steam whose premises used to be part of an old whisky bottling plant. Fluutheer resluurch lead me to deduct that they were serving Caledonia, Timothy Taylors, Wylam, Durham, Mordue & Adams. Live bands are a regular feature & hot food is served.

Up the slope & within forty yards or 36.60mtrs staggering or was it crawling distance is the Ship dating back to the early

1800's it majors in John Smiths & as for the other cask ales my memory fails me (must be an age thing, not the ale I had drunk that day), sit in/sit out, they have outdoor heaters if it gets a bit parky. I am reliably told that at the top of the bank overlooking the Ouseburn valley is the Cumberland Arms however it's a steepish walk thru trees. They apparently serve real ale from local breweries, however if beer is not your poison, they do offer Lindisfarne wine, mead & liqueurs. Sadly my legs gave out that night with all the walking that I had of course done, so we never made it to the top!

Please note that the serious research that I did that night does mean that of course I will claim on expenses for the ale consumed along with the vibrating false teeth which I lost that night down the toilet. My donner kebab & the subsequent dry-cleaning of my suit are also being claimed for, regrettably no receipts are available but what the heck, I've done nothing wrong it's within the rules!



SAFETY IN NUMBERS

Safety in numbers? Not quite, but until recently it has been impossible to purchase an elasticated three hook safety line. Two hook elasticated (choice of racing crews) yes but for a three hook line it was a standard webbing strap favoured for the cruising crowd in so much as you **always** stay hooked on. However the downside has always been that extra webbing tether. Baltic Safety Products have just introduced its new 3- hook elasticated safety line complete with sturdy double action locking hooks giving extra mobility and safety whilst always being attached. An overload indicator is fitted to show when the safety line needs to be replaced. Price to sell at around £59.95 for the month of July we are offering this safety line at £51.95



See page 2 Aunty Foulin's problem corner.



JULY'S COMPETITION

This month's easy to enter competition has a Garmin Oregon 300 hand held Gps navigator as first prize. It's the only touch screen on the market at present & with chart is worth £450-00. The runner up or consolation prize is a superb GPS 72 worth £100-00.

The Oregon 300 is the very latest generation within Garmin's range of hand held GPS navigators. Oregon 300 leads the way with a tough, 3-inch diagonal, sunlight-readable, colour touch screen display.

It also features a high sensitivity GPS receiver, barometric altimeter and electronic compass. The Oregon 300 is unique as a hand held, because it can support mapping for all applications. Whether you are walking, sailing, driving or riding your bike – the Oregon can deliver and display high-end easy to use navigation for all. Simply plug-in the right mapping and use the powerful navigator, that is the Oregon 300.

The GPS72 is the perfect GPS for all Mariners – It can be used as a principle navigator for the small boat user – Use it as a back up to a fixed navigator – One of the main features is that it floats in water – Ideal for the "Grab Bag" situation. It has been proven to be very reliable and trusted as a hand held in an emergency situation. It's a no nonsense GPS.

Answer these three questions correctly & e-mail your entry to competition@storrarmarine.co.uk the first & second correct set of answers pulled from Andy's lucky hat on Saturday the 18th of July wins the 300 & 72 respectively.

1. Does the Oregon 300 have a keypad?
2. The Oregon 300 can be used for Sailing and Walking. What other applications could it be used for?
3. The GPS72 is ideal for a 'Grab Bag' situation. Why?

To learn more about the full Garmin range or either of these two models log onto www.garmin.com.

YOUR CHOICE OF UNDER GARMENTS IS SOoooo IMPORTANT,

I have been told that if you are involved in an accident one of the first things you may think about after the incident is 'am I wearing smart clean underwear' Likewise if you are going to be out on the briny or perhaps just messing about on the river or reservoir your choice of under garments is probably even more important! If you want to remain comfortable be it cruising, racing, power boating or fishing avoid wearing cotton next to the skin & steer clear of traditional jeans & t shirts. Wear top of the range all singing & dancing Gortex or other hi tech breathable outer wear & if the layers below are 'natural fabrics' you will not get the benefit of a breathable outer garment.

Fact is whether we like it or not we all perspire (and recently the majority of MPs have been doing more than their fair share! The whiff from the House of Commons has been truly terrible) to a lesser or greater extent.

Cotton garments be it a vest, t-shirt, shirt, jeans or boxer shorts are bad news as any moisture gets transferred from the skin to the garment & stays there. However if you wear a wicking first layer be it t-shirt & leggings or shorts your body heat drives the moisture thru the layer and away from the skin. Add a mid layer in a man-made fleece & your comfort factor will rise dramatically.

As in depth stockists of all major marine clothing companies, inc Henri Lloyd, Musto & Gill we carry a superb range of base layer & mid layer garments.

During The month of July if you purchase a Musto Gortex windstopper mid layer top or salopettes you will get a base layer crew top or leggings absolutely free!!!!!!!!!!!!



BLUE PERFORMANCE

The Marine Store is the only stockist in the North East of the innovative Blue Performance range of boating equipment and accessories. Blue Performance stands for comfort, storage & protection, the products are functional, durable, extensively tested & always designed in harmony with each other (NO I did not write that bit) just copied it! Their range includes cockpit bags, sheet bags, winch handle holders, sunshades, windcatchers, dinghy bags, winch covers, sea rail covers the list is almost endless. By early July we will have on display a good selection of the Blue Performance range, however to view the complete range log onto www.blueperformance.com

As a sail maker of dare I say it almost forty years I can assure you that this range is superbly constructed, well designed and most importantly because they manufacture in bulk the retail price is a lot cheaper than we could make it for!



Aunty Foulin's problem corner

Dear Aunty Foulin,

Oh how I wished I could have called the AA or RAC the other day when out fishing. I had been drifting near the mine buoy of Whitley & managed to catch myself a couple of cod when I decided to motor back up tide. Imagine my horror when I turned the key, just a clunk & yes a flat battery. Had to call the lifeboat & to my embarrassment one of the hunky young men on the boat was Dougie my butcher. I will never again be able to look him in the eye when I ask for my usual pound of sausage! What do you suggest I do?

Dear Fiona Flat, Sounds to me that you want to get the condition of your battery checked out & if its suspect see that ever so sweet Phil at the Marine Store. They carry a good range of deep cycle batteries. They also retail an excellent range of marine battery chargers & what's more for the month of July have a special offer on the Sterling 12v 6 amp battery charger. RRP price £78.45 July price £29-95!



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