

Storrar Marine Newsletter

November 2009

October has come & gone, clocks have been changed & the weather is still reasonably mild, our thoughts turn to Bonfire night & yes it's only 55 shopping days including Sundays to Christmas! However all is not lost if your boat is still in commission; you often get some cracking days on the water, ok daylight is fading fast but the opportunity of another day's rest & recreation makes it all worthwhile. However if you have stopped & the half decent weather we have enjoyed this summer has already got you thinking about 2010 season now is the time to start making those lists. Engine service, yes, sails washed, new genoa halyard perhaps; replacement Cutlass bearing, fit a rope cutter to the shaft; maybe change the vhf aerial & cable which has seen twenty years on the mast & whilst we are on the subject of masts, are the nav light lenses still in good condition or way past their sell by date? Upgrade your fishfinder? **Act now for lower prices!**

Since our expansion, and we are not talking about Andy's waistline (over a year since he gave up smoking) a new showroom, bigger office, doubling in floor area of the sail loft & last month a new dedicated work shop for the Stephenson Marine side of our business we have hardly had a moment spare to think shop layout. However like most businesses we have been hit by the recession, perhaps more than some because we are not considered 'essential' (unlike the butcher & bakers, after all we do have to eat!) Well since late September when it got a bit quieter Phil & Andrew with a little help from Andy & yours truly have been tinkering with the chandlery displays. When we finish, middle of December methinks we hope you will find our store more user friendly, better displays & we now have an even larger selection of good quality marine gear. Ready for the Green Shoots of Recovery?

TYNE BRIDGE WINTER SERIES

By the time you read this newsletter the first race of the Tyne Bridge Winter Series will have been run & maybe the second (depends on the newsletter being successfully 'posted' on the 31st) Last year I thought that Buddy with her new sails would do the winning and yes he did have his moments, for this year he has decided to invest in a new mast, will that make him the overall winner? Could it be our own works boat Join the Club. They made a slow start last year, only got into gear after Xmas (was Andy suffering from the baby blues?) perhaps Peter Lowrie possibly the 'fastest cruiser in the East', will he bring home the bacon or should it be the eggs on Sophie.

Maybe one of the Cork sailors? Grandpa Phil or the shy retiring crowd on Tonka? Only time will tell. Whatever the outcome, racing carries on till next April and it will again be a hotly contested series, without a doubt the best competitive racing on the North East circuit. Dates for your diary are: 1st Nov - 12.30pm, 15th Nov - 12.30pm, 29th Nov - 11.30am, 13th Dec - 11.30am, 27th Dec - 10.00am, 10th Jan - 10.30am, 17th Jan - 2.30pm, 31st Jan - 2.00pm, 14th Feb - 1.30pm, 28th Feb - 1.30pm, 14th Mar - 1.30pm. Its great spectator sport when the breeze is up, afterwards a beer or two in the Bascule & don't forget to tell the crews where they went wrong!



HOT OFF THE PRESS, or should it be hot out of the oven!

Your intrepid scribe was dispatched to Southampton Boat Show the other week, instructions from my boss included..... keep out of trouble, don't talk to strange women, bring back all the scandal & gossip & seek out those new bits of kit that make our chandlery just that little bit special! Well there I was tired, hot, thirsty & grumpy & what did I come across GN Espace Galley Solutions Ltd & there is a **North East connection!** Ralph, one of the bosses at GN Espace was for a number of years the UK sales product manager at Electrolux cookers (manufactured in Spennymoor) sadly now closed but the spirit lives on.

Using the best & latest generation of components from domestic cookers they have built two superb LPG marine cookers. The Levante is designed for those who want to enjoy home cooking whilst on board it truly sets new standards in the galley. Quick to heat, economical with gas and superior in cooking performance, the yacht's cook can now confidently prepare a wide range of meals with the minimum of fuss. Despite its compact appearance, clever design allows the Levante marine cooker to cope with the largest of meals for a hungry crew.

The Alize marine cooker named after the trade wind- designed for the truly dedicated blue water voyager is built to the same high specification as the Levante but features the unique MDG system-there multi-direction gimbal system that keeps the cooker level whilst at sea.



COMPETITION, what competition?

Over the last few months we have been running a monthly competition with some superb high value prizes, the questions are not that hard, because I am usually trying to think of them twenty minutes before the newsletter's deadline! September's prize was a RYA radar course with Derek Garner of www.oceanicyachts.co.uk. The image shows the winner John Boyd getting to grips with the radar set on the training vessel. Looking on is Ron Pringle who purchased a Garmin radar from us earlier this year.

What surprises me is the small percentage of readers who enter each month, we have a database of over 2500 on our mail shot & the take up is only around 25% so if you decide to enter this

month's competition its pretty good odds if you ask me! **This month's prize is a handheld VHF worth £150.00!**



DIDNT THEY DO WELL!

In our August 2008 issue of the newsletter I wrote about Jonny & Kate Harrison, a young North Shields couple who had sold up & set sail for Sydney, Australia. Later that year I mentioned them again, about how they bumped into Constantine & Jane in Gran Canaria, Jane spent some time working in our sail loft learning the trade a few years ago. Well, we got an e mail from the intrepid couple the other day;



“Attached is a picture which should suffice - taken on the way into Tahiti a few months ago. We will try and take one of us sailing under the harbour bridge in a few weeks and send that onto you when we get it. Kate has her application in for her teacher qualification to be transferred to an Australian one (as soon as this comes through she will start looking for work - kept woman ... don't give her ideas!!). Hope all is well with you”.

You can read more about their adventures at www.freewebs.com/jksailing (makes fascinating reading). Speaking of North East adventurers, last year when we were berthed in Calero Marina Lanzarote (both of us suffering badly from flu) we bumped into Mike Perrin & his partner Pat on board 'EL LOBO' another couple on their travels. Seems that they are now in or on their way to Chaguaramas, Trinidad, try <http://www.el-lobo.co.uk> Perhaps that's why Jenny & I have called our Hunter Channel 31 'Dream On'? As we keep saying 'one day'!

BETTER PUBLIC BUILDINGS AWARD

Earlier this year we manufactured and supplied a number of large cables and bottle screw tensioners that were going to be used to support a footbridge in Kielder Forest. Recently we learned that the project had been shortlisted for, and reached the finals of, the Better Public Building Awards. Now in its ninth year, the Prime Minister's Better Public Building Awards recognises new buildings, places and spaces that improve the delivery of public services, give a sense of identity and community, are a source of local pride, and help build a sustainable future. Other 'local' finalists included the Infinity Bridge in Stockton-on-Tees and Zebra@Lion House in Alnwick, a flagship ultra-low emissions office, designed to achieve exemplary standards of sustainability and environmental performance.



NOVEMBER COMPETITION

For this month's competition Entel have very generously donated an Entel HT644 vhf hand held radio with a street value of over £150-00 For a number of years we have sold the Entel 640 as a quality hand held waterproof VHF radio, recently it had been superseded by the new series two HT644. It's been redesigned 'from the bottom up' to incorporate the following improvements;

- Upgraded accessory connector, designing out the jack-plug wear and tear problem.
- A PTT button directly supported by the die-cast chassis, so much stronger.
- Strengthened antenna connector.
- Now Mil-Std 810C/D/E&F construction.
- Uniquely IP68 submersible (5 metres for 1 hour – very corrosion resistant).

Entel radios are used on commercial fleets worldwide, while other radios in the HT submersible series have also been used by the UK Fire & Rescue services, nationwide, since 2006. They standardised on the HT series Entel radios after conducting their own independent tests – and they have just renewed their commitment to the Entel HT's for the next 3 years. So these radios are good! Good value also at £149.95 (cheaper than the mail order buoys once you add carriage). To win the Entel radio all you have to do is answer two simple questions, what is the name of Jonny & Kate's yacht & what type of rig is on El Lobo? In the event of a draw it's the first correct answer drawn out of Andy's lucky hat. Closing date for the competition is 5pm Saturday the 28th of November.



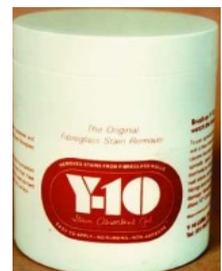
During Nov & Dec, buy any Garmin 4000 or 5000 series display and radome and get a voucher entitling you to a **FREE** RYA radar course with Oceanic Sea School worth £120! See Andy for a competitive quote

Dear Aunty F,

Earlier this year I bought a second hand Quicksilver Sports Fisher & I must confess that after eight months of ownership it is my true love. Yes I still enjoy passing the time of day with hunky young Phil when I see him at the Bascule marina pub (though I do wish he would give the singing a miss). However I do hear thru the grapevine that he has now found luv. Anyway enough of this old maids chatter, recently I have noticed that the waterline & the area just above on my Quicksilver has become discoloured & has taken on a brownish tinge. As I am due to have her craned out next week I desperately need a magic potion that will restore her colour with the minimum of effort!

Dear Yvonne Net,

Most skippers want satisfaction with very little effort however let's not get carried away, down at the Marine Store there is a potion that will restore your topside with the minimum of effort. Brush on, leave ten minutes watch the stains vanish then wash off. Y10 is the name & it costs only £11.95 for a tub.



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