

Storrar Marine Newsletter

October 2009

I sincerely hope by the time you read this Jenny & I will be sailing, or about to set sail, and move our Channel 31 up to its 'winter' berth at Graciosa (small Island off the northern tip of Lanzarote). Last year when we first sailed there we were both suffering from flu & were only well enough to enjoy the last three days out of the two weeks we were abroad. We must have been bad cos not a drop of alcohol passed our lips for at least the first week! I did ask Andy on my return if I could have compensation i.e. extra time off for considerably taking sick leave during our holiday period but to no avail. However I did hear on the radio the other day that the 'great' European Court of Justice has ruled that if one is sick whilst on holiday you can claim for those 'lost days'. There is hope yet that one day Andy will relent!

Andy's now back from his honeymoon sounds as though they had a great time, Abi's black eye is now fading much to Andy's relief & yes we all know now that men cannot multi task. In his absence his desk just seemed to vanish under a mountain of paper, no doubt he will get his own back on me!

Changing subject it's been a tough season this year, staffing levels have been down, for once not entirely of our own making, so my apologies to those of you who may have felt let down by us allowing delivery dates or our level of service to slip. We do try to walk on water but sometimes fail (see Andy's practice run* some weeks ago) However on Andy & my behalf a big thank you for your patience & understanding & to our chandlery guys who gave it 110%. Cheers, we owe you a couple! To the sail loft crowd, including Anne (enjoying her retirement but still working), thanks for all the hard work you have put in. We like to think we get it right most times but our apologies if we did not.

*Our thanks to Portsmouth Poll and Boating Business for the use of this pic.



DATE FOR YOUR DIARY?

Last year that well known local fishing journalist & broadcaster Sam Harris organised the first North East Sea Angling and Boat show. Such was the success of the event that it is being held once again at the Nissan Sports & Social Club, Old Washington Road, Washington SR5 3NS. The dates for your diary are Saturday 24th & Sunday 25th of October. The Show is open from 10am on both days closing 5pm on the Saturday 4pm on the Sunday. Log onto www.ne-seaangling-boatshow.co.uk for further details. Entry is £3-00, under 12's go free (but must be accompanied by an adult) and parking is free. Throughout the weekend there will be talks & demonstrations from some of the



biggest names in sea angling including; 'Total Sea Fishing', 'High Octane Angling', Shimano', 'TKR Fishing' and many more. The Marine Store will be displaying the unsinkable Predator 165 in the grounds of the social club & in the hall, on our stand, no 36, there will be special offers on safety equipment, lifejackets etc. Included is the superb Entel HT644 hand held portable radio (choice of fire brigades throughout the country) Our Garmin demo unit will once again be in attendance loaded to the brim with fish finders, plotters & other goodies.

As well as displaying our dedicated fishing 'platform' the Predator 165 (www.predatorboats.biz) we will also be showing the versatile Zego (www.zego-boats.com) perfect for playing about on the water, diving, skiing & of course fishing. Its equally at home on sea, estuary & lake. The perfect all-rounder!



WHATS WARM & FURRY & LIVES IN SAILS?

No it's not our October competition question, nor a nice beaver! Just a timely reminder to be very careful where you store your sails, covers etc, as the days grow shorter & the weather turns colder. Yes we all like to leave sails in our dinghy or in the case of our yacht perhaps leave them in an outbuilding /shed or garage but as the image shows small furry animals just love to make their nests from manmade fibres & this sadly is the kind of damage they can do! It's worth putting down a mouse trap you just never know!



SEEN AT SOUTHAMPTON

Do you hate spilling fuel? Fed up with funnels? What you need is a SUPERSPOUT (as seen on Dragons Den). Down at the Southampton Boatshow last week, looking for those little 'bits' that make the difference between a chandlery and a veritable Aladdins Cave, I came across this gem. I saw it being demonstrated, liked it & bought one on the spot which I am taking straight to our boat in the Canaries. To use is simplicity itself. Remove breather from nipple, remove fuel can lid, insert SuperSpout nozzle, elevate fuel can until fuel flows, when the tank is full flow will stop. It fits common 5,10 & 20 litre fuel cans.



BEWARE JACK FROST

Earlier this year our engineer was asked to service a Mercruiser engine by the owner of a newly acquired powerboat. As a prerequisite to draining the engine oil 'spanner' started the engine up with the intention of running it for twenty minutes (always drain engine oil when it's hot) & heard an expensive noise. Immediately stopped the engine & removed the rocker box cover only to be greeted by emulsified oil. Later, on the owners instruction, he removed the cylinder head & as image shows: one completely cream crackered engine! Caused probably by the fresh water coolant freezing & cracking the exhaust manifold. Remember as the weather turns colder it is important to see that your coolant has sufficient antifreeze in & if you have a marina berth with shore power perhaps put a small heater under the engine. Cost of a replacement engine & the labour to fit approx £8000. We do stock economical to run tubular heaters from 1ft 40 watts upwards. Antifreeze is 2lt at £10.95. The most popular is our 2 ft Tubular heaters from only £28.95.



NICE LIFEJACKET & SAFETY LINE, SHAME ABOUT THE JACKSTAYS

Since Spinlock brought out their advanced, easy to adjust & extremely comfortable to wear lifejacket, I have been singing its praise. Those folks who took the plunge have been highly delighted with their acquisition, so when a regular dinghy customer advised me he was helping to deliver a large yacht back across the North Sea this August & wanted to buy his own lifejacket and line I had no hesitation in recommending the Spinlock & the Baltic three hook elasticated safety line.

Some three weeks later he walked into the chandlery & told me his tale of woe, 'it was getting dark, the wind was rising, skipper wanted to reduce sail so wearing my Spinlock I clipped on to a jackstay, went forward & once on the foredeck discovered I was not attached (cursed the new safety line cos I thought the hook had opened) only to discover later that the yachts jackstay (life line) had failed. He brought a piece of the jackstay with him, I gave it a sharp tug & it tore! I knew the boat was probably approx ten years old, so the jackstays are perhaps a



similar age. Unfortunately the incorrect material had been used in the first instance. Apart from being manufactured in too light a weight, polypropylene is the wrong material, Incidentally we had a certified testing station test to destruction one of our old made up jackstay lines made from the correct material that had been on a yacht for ten years, it failed at 1.2 tonne!

OCTOBER COMPETITION WIN AN RYA POWERBOAT COURSE

In the September issue of our blue top I mentioned that both Andy & Andrew had been 'back to school', Phil was about to commence. Andy was 'doing radar', & young Andrew attending & passing his level 1 & 2 powerboat course with Deep Vee. So impressed was Andrew's dad that for the first time ever his son was allowed to helm his pride and joy a Bayliner 2755 fitted with a 7.4litre/330hp V8 Mercruiser! Sadly the speed limit on Lake Windermere did not allow him to put 'the pedal to the metal'

Tim of www.deevee.com has very kindly offered an RYA powerboat course worth over £220-00 as our October competition prize. As well as his level 1 and 2 courses he can put you thru the RYA intermediate or RYA advanced course & he also runs an excellent RYA VHF Radio Course on a regular basis.

To enter the competition all you have to do is e mail us at octcomp@storrarmarine.co.uk

The question is...what is the maximum speed one can operate a powerboat on Lake Windermere? Is it 6, 10, 15, 25 or 35mph?

First correct answer drawn out of Andy's lucky hat at close of play (5-30pm) on Friday 23th gets the goodies.



Dear Aunty F,

I hope you have recovered from your holiday, shame that (on closer inspection) your picture of the Loch Ness monster turned out to be hunky Phil skinny dipping in the Loch. What a monster, or not, that turned out to be! However I wonder if you can help? I have, on my newly acquired powerboat, two fire extinguishers of the powder type both date stamped 12/2003 will they still work in an emergency?

Dear Flora Flambeau

Like their big brothers & sisters marine powder extinguishers should be test discharged after five years & then refilled. However in practice it is not cost effective due to the service engineer's costs. Go for new! It's only £18.45 for a 1 kilo extinguisher. **PS** We also stock Auto Extinguishers for Engine Bay use, from only £40.45



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