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FEBRUARY MAKES IT FIFTY... MOVEMBER'S MO'ST WANTED

Who would have thought that this month sees the 50th edition of our 'iconic', or is it infamous, newsletter! Yes it was in January 2007 that I first took pen to paper in what was going to be a one off. It started as a single page and the first article was titled 'Andy the TV star'. Well six years later bowed and bloody (or is it bloody and bowed) I am still at it, much, I hasten to add, to Andy's dismay, he thinks I talk enough drivel during the day never mind putting pen to paper at night.

No sooner was the Movember edition, No 49, put to bed (a sterling effort I must say by new arrival Claire who is responsible for all the 'layout/graphics etc.) than I rushed off home to shave off my Mo and then a few days later it was off to the Canaries for some rest, recreation and a hopefully hot, sunny Christmas on our boat. On Gomera we had great pleasure in meeting up again with Paul & Rachel Chandler. The last time I was on a boat with them, they were taking turns at helming the Tynemouth lifeboat on the cold and grey North Sea the day after they gave a superb talk and slide show on their 'Hostage Experience'; all in aid of raising funds for the RNLI. Once back in the North East it was straight into our Annual Sale and then on New Year's Eve, as I was nominated driver and working next day, it was with non-alcoholic Cobra beer that I saw the New Year in onboard our friends yacht, watching the excellent firework display next to the Sage building on the banks of the Tyne. So much fun did I have that night whilst sober that I then made my New Year's vow to go cold turkey for almost the rest of the month! Deciding however to give my liver a rest in January did raise an issue when I sat down to compose what would be our 50th edition. The way I usually work on the project, is to start after my evening meal with strong coffee, a glass or two of port, another caffeine fix and more of the red liquid. This combination seems to work most times in getting the creative juices going. However, because of the self-imposed alcohol ban and fearing writers block I decided to go down the low alcohol wine route and was delighted to see, when I came in from work today, a bottle of red Merlot de-alcoholized wine with a 'less than ALC 0.5%' printed on the label sitting on the dinner table. Well my better half Jenny tried it first and her comment... 'Very expensive Ribena at over £5-00 a pop'. My thoughts also now that I have had two glasses, never was a truer word spoken in jest! Avid readers if you think the 50th anniversary newsletter is even worse than usual, you know the reason why!

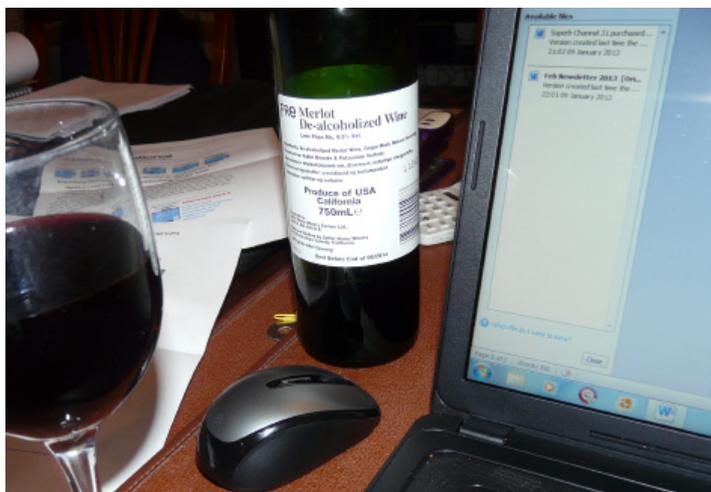
PS: Hopefully by early February the new website www.marinechandlery.com will be up and running. It's hard to believe the old site went live in June 2010 and that order no's are almost up to 19000, amazing how time flies when you're enjoying yourself!



Seemed a good idea at the time, get all the guys at the chandlery to start November clean shaven and go for it, grow a Mo during November and help raise funds for the Movember charity cause. Speaking for myself, boy was I glad to shave the Mo off at the end of the month! However thanks to your generosity, the guys from Z-Spar who helped us along and the majority of the crews participating in the St Peters winter series, almost £1000-00 was donated to the Movember charity which raises vital funds and awareness for men's health issues. Will we do it next year? You bet your bottom dollar / lip we will, especially as I spent over £30-00 on a clear shaving cream and a Mo trimmer! Rumour has it that young Claire will be trying even harder this year to cultivate a Mo, her efforts last year were okayish but we are convinced that she can do better. We believe that Andy B has been experimenting with a makeup crayon, pencilling in different style Mo's for this coming Movember after his barber (who incidentally has the premises next door) said that at the end of the 'growing season' that he looked like an ageing porn star!

PLUG IN 'N' PLAY

From Blue Sea Systems comes this excellent neat solution for those of you who want to charge electrical devices on board. It looks like a normal cigarette lighter (fits in the same cut-out if you want to switch) however when you lift the cap you can see the dual USB socket so you can charge anything with a USB lead, iPods to tablets, cameras and most phones (mine excepted, so old that its steam driven). Also from Blue Seas are some rather nifty blade fuses that tell you when they have blown! If the fuse blows a tiny LED lights up, simple but good idea that makes fault finding an awful lot easier.



PAUL & RACHEL CHANDLER



It was great to meet up with Paul & Rachel Chandler the other week on the island of Gomera one of the lesser known Canary Islands. To get to it you fly into Tenerife, taxi to the ferry and then just over an hour later you are on unspoilt Gomera. We were out for a Christmas in the sun (most of December as well I almost hear Andy mumbling in the background) and had taken out some 'ship stores' for the couple. The plan was to meet up in San Sebastian marina which is where we are based. I had a chance to have a quick look over Lynn Rival, was most impressed by the brush painted hull and also the new teak decks which Paul & Rachel had undertaken. My other task was to check up on the bimini we had made for them from Rachel's pattern; if she ever wants a job in civvy street she can pattern make for us! Anyway, it was great to see them and we wish them bon voyage! Their next destination is the Cape Verdes and I gather their eventual destination is Brazil. Follow their blog by logging onto... <http://blog.mailasail.com/lynnrival>

NEW & IMPROVED INTERNATIONAL ANTIFOUL RANGE FOR 2013



You may have read that International, that famous paint maker whose manufacturing plant is located just across the river Tyne on the South bank, employed a mystery shopper last year who has judged that, even though our chandlery is not the closest to their plant it is one of the top three chandlerys in the country for stocking a comprehensive range of International's range, employ staff who show excellent product knowledge and have excellent product presentation. Well International has just launched a new antifouling range with improved formulations designed to be compliant with the latest Biocidal Products Directives whilst maximizing performance. The range consists of Micron Extra 2, Interspeed Ultra 2, Cruiser Uno EU, Boatguard EU and an all new antifouling addition for 2013, Cruiser Bright White which is a general purpose bright white antifouling for outstanding cosmetic appearance and is suitable for all substrates including Aluminium giving a seasons protection. We, of course, stock International Paint products in depth including the new addition Cruiser Bright white and back it up with competitive prices and first class product knowledge. Call/click and collect or buy online, the price is the same.

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DEAR AUNTY FOULING,

I write as an avid reader and devoted fan. May I compliment you on your recent spectacular 'Movember' issue, which left me both entertained and so much better informed. After reading your illuminating musings on the derivation of a familiar word related to the transportation of manure, another word immediately sprang to mind and I wondered if I might share its interesting etymology with you and your readers. Back in the late last Century, a hardy bunch of seafarers, known as Fourteeners (note that a Fourteen is a high performance racing sailboat), were suffering the occasional awful catastrophe as they sought to launch their spinnakers. Sometimes these giant windjammers would rise into the sky most terribly tangled –with the inevitable result: KERSPLOSH!

Much earnest research took place and the cause was eventually found! Of course - it was the crews. Those idle good-for-nothings -from -the-pointy- end were failing in their basic housekeeping duties by neglecting to withdraw the soggy messes between races, carefully drying, lovingly folding and neatly re-rigging them ready for the next foray.

To counter this, helmsmen took to stencilling these warning words on their foredecks: 'Big Asymmetrics Left Lazily Often Cause Knotted Sheets'. This precaution worked well for a while but the crews, typically having the attention span of goldfish, or being all too readily subverted by beer and girls, quickly slipped back into their bad old habits.

Pity the poor, trusting helmsman! Rounding the windward mark in the proverbial hooley and calling for the kite launch -his part -trained chimp would huff and puff, up it would go, but - Oh, no! - flapping wildly and trussed up like a Christmas turkey!

In those few remaining milliseconds before Neptune's inevitable watery embrace stifled all debate; the helmsman would just have time to roar the acronym to his stencilled warning -"B.A.L.L.O.C.K.S!" Not as an oath you understand but just to let his Baldrick know where exactly the blame lay for their watery demise.

And do you know what? Yes, it's true! That little word is still in common use today! **A. Fan**



CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS



Well who could be so gullible as to believe that S.H.I.T. stands for 'ship high in transit'; according to a dedicated reader who lives south of the river, that is just a load of C...P! He writes:

"Hi guys,

Love the banter and info, but afraid you've fallen in the clart for an old urban legend with the story about "s.h.i.t". The etymology is most likely old English.