

Storrar Marine Newsletter

August 2008

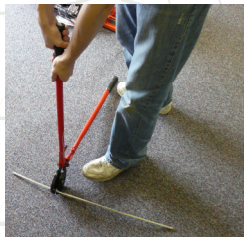
FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Back in the late 50's early 60's when I was young, handsome and had loads of hair, I often used to go shopping for my mum on a Saturday morning. I queued at the butcher, green grocers, Co-op and paper shop. I listened to the general chit-chat. No bland supermarkets existed but good personal service and reliable quality at reasonable prices prevailed. Well, we at Storrar Marine like to pride ourselves in maintaining this tradition. Yes we have a website but no we don't follow the trend of on-line shopping. Call in for words of friendly and knowledgeable advice, keen prices and that personal touch. **PS** we do try hard to keep queues to a minimum!

TRY THE SNIP TEST

Think the unthinkable, your forestay fails due perhaps to forestay/halyard wrap & the mast comes tumbling down, you the skipper are bleeding profusely from a head wound, badly concussed & the broken mast is trying to punch a hole thru the hull. There is a pair of wire cutters to cut the rig away but, you (before the dismasting) were a strong fit six foot three, fourteen stone male! Ask yourself, could your wife/girlfriend/partner/son or daughter who is five foot three & eight stone do the same if you were incapacitated. Why not try OUR snip test? No it won't bring tears to your eyes but it may well be something of an eye opener! Measure the diameter of a cap shroud on your yacht, often 6mm on a thirty footer, 8mm on a thirty four foot yacht, then pop into the Marine Store with your cutters & the 'weakest link'. We will give them a piece of the same diameter wire as the rigging on your yacht. If they cut thru the wire they get a round of applause if they don't they get a 15% discount wire cutter voucher.

At the Marine Store we carry a selection of wire cutters at sensible prices. Remember the lighter the operator the longer the wire cutters handle(s) needs to be.



UP & (DOWN) UNDER

Yes its best wishes, goodbye & a safe passage to North Shields couple Jonny & Kate Harrison who have just set off after an extensive refit on the West Coast (Fleetwood to be precise) bound for Sydney Australia. 'Home' for the next year & a half will be their Colvic Countess 37. Since purchasing her she has undergone an expansive & dare I say it expensive refit including radar & full instrumentation, anchor windlass, fridge, EPIRB, water pumps etc etc, not to mention a very large collection of pilot books. Despite having one of the largest mail order & retail chandlers on their weekend route to Fleetwood they very quickly found that their local Marine Store more often than not was more competitive when it came to comparing prices! After competing in Abersoch dinghy week (using the cruising yacht for accommodation) it's off to Cork then across Biscay to La Coruna. Followed by a stop off at Madeira & down to the Canaries.



The Atlantic crossing is planned for November, and then it's Antigua for Xmas & some rest & recreation in the Caribbean. Batteries recharged, their destination is Venezuela & the San Blas islands before going thru the Panama Canal in early March 2009. They then have nine months crossing the Pacific calling at French Polynesia, Fiji, Vanuata, New Caledonia & many more places before arriving in Sydney just in time for Jonny to start work for the 'down under' branch of his old accountancy firm. Follow Jonny & Kate's trip & get some background info on www.freewebs.com/jksailing Bon voyage to you both, hope to catch up with you in the Canaries!

ANDY'S LATE JULY BREAK (or not)

With Andy & Jill expecting their first in early October it was decreed that once the spring/early summer rush was over Andy would sneak a week off in late July, decorate the nursery, practise his deep breathing exercises perhaps try to learn to multi task and pay a visit or two to Fathercare, Babies Are Us & The Diaper Warehouse. However as is the way of the Marine Store things did not quite go to plan! Two days before he was due to go on holiday we got a call from a Danish guy, 'have just bought a year old Birchwood 400 its immaculate has only 28 engine hours to its credit BUT its devoid of all navigational equipment & I want to set sail to Denmark within the week!' I gather Storrar Marine is the North East's Garmin sales & installation centre. Can you quote for the supply & fit of hi definition radar with a 12inch touch screen display, an 8inch touch screen on the flybridge. A digital sounder & I would also like you to price a hydraulic autopilot & engine interface thru NMEA 2000 so I can display engine info. Andy conscious of our new found status said yes no problem will check availability of stock & see if our electrical wizard could 'drop everything & go for it' Four days later Thorben Jensen headed off from Hartlepool a happy man, as for the nursery decorating etc, well that's another storey! **PS** just as I had dotted the t's & crossed the i's we got an e mail from Thorben? 'We ran into a rain shower, it showed up on the radar long before we reached it, so now I can predict the weather as well!'



See page 2 Aunty Foulin's problem corner.

FROM RUSSIA (AND HUGO) WITH LOVE.

In the North East we are sometimes portrayed as having an Andy Capp mentality however it was refreshing to hear of Hugo's purchase of Dawn Huntress, a birthday present to his wife Anna however it did take him ten months to tell her what her present was, apparently she hadn't realised she actually wanted a boat! Those of you of a similar age to me (just a little bit over forty) will remember the scene in perhaps the last 'proper' James Bond film 'From Russia with Love', with our hero steering a Fairey Huntress powerboat through the Scottish Islands whilst being chased by his enemies. Dawn Huntress was purchased as an abandoned project having been left lying on the hard in Portishead for four years. She has now been partially restored using lots of West Epoxy & is painted in Felling based International Paint products she retains her original Perkins 6354T engine; according to Hugo it runs like a noisy Swiss watch!

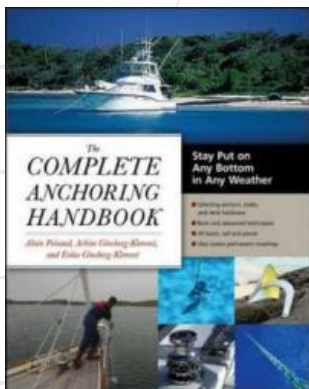
Next winter's project(s) are to take the deck off as she does leak a little in the rain & fit the correct windscreen profile (apparently the original moulds for cold moulding in wood are still in existence) To make the skippers life easier Dawn Huntress has been fitted with a chart plotter, depth sounder & log supplied like most of the restoration material from the Marine Store.

A week after putting the 'bare bones' of this article together, Jenny & I were walking on a sunny Tuesday night on the North bank of the Tyne en route to the Sage & there she was motoring down the river with a lovely burble to the exhaust note, it was a thrill to see her. If you are ever tempted by a restoration project give us a call, we stock a huge range of products, we can offer sound technical advice & if we are stuck (which is not that often) can put you in touch with the marine industries most experienced technical experts who can further advise.



BOOK REVIEW

Having woken up in the middle of a dark & stormy night, to hear the sound of our yacht's engine running, lots of noise coming from the deck above & finding out when I climbed up the companion way that we were only ten metres from the quay wall after our anchor dragged! I was delighted to see published an excellent book on anchoring, written by Alain Poniard who invented the award winning spade anchor and Achim & Erika Ginsberg-Klemmt who have spent the last fifteen years cruising the world. This book is bang up to date with explanations on why the new generation of roll-stable anchors are proving superior to traditional favourites.



Sling your hook in the car park of the Marine Store and 'sound out' the Complete Anchoring Handbook at only £11.99.

Changing tack, how many of we boaters carry a sounding or lead line, not just to measure the depth but invaluable to tell you the bottom composition.

Put some tallow, wax or grease on the bottom of the weight to pick up traces of mud, sand or shingle from the seabed, at only £16.95 the Plastimo lead line is an inexpensive piece of kit that will pay for itself time & time again.

OCEANAIR

New to the Marine Store is the OCEANAIR range of blinds. Designed to fit a range of existing hatches and portholes. They are a stylish, cost effective way to enhance the cabin of your boat whilst also providing privacy, reduced exposure to light and help eliminate insects from entering living spaces onboard. Ask in store for further details.



Aunty Foulin's problem corner

Dear Aunty Foulin, As you know I have always been a little bit impetuous, buying over a year ago, a lovely wooden seventies built sailing yacht. She is a joy to the eye but what I have found is that this year I have spent the first four months of the season painting & varnishing her & the locals are all saying 'same again next year, next year, next y...!' I do enjoy this labour of love but any thoughts on saving me some precious time?

Dear Vera Varnish, Suggest you take a tip from Neal Hill who has a classic Harrison Butler sailing yacht, after many many years of being a slave to the sand paper & varnish brush he took the plunge & got the Marine Store to make up a winter cover for Naiad. Reckons he should have done it twenty years ago, cover comes off in March & its days as against months before she is spick & span once more. However don't leave it too long cos our Sailloft already has covers to build this autumn!

Do you have a boating related problem?

E-mail me, Aunty Foulin and I'll do my best to solve it:

auntyfoulin@storrarmarine.co.uk

Contact us at 181 – 183 Coast Road, Cochrane Park, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE7 7RR
Telephone : 0191 2661037

e-mail : robbie@storrarmarine.co.uk Visit : www.storrarmarine.co.uk