

Storrar Marine Newsletter

February 2008

JANUARY, traditionally a quiet month in the chandlery, our annual 'Christmas' sale finished on the second Saturday of the month & we relax (or do we?) Already we have pencilled in the start date for next years sale! And decided that this year's 'green approach' was a success. For that sale we decided to publicise only by e mail, having said that, we did also place a small no of leaflets at the various clubs & marinas in the area! This, carbon friendly, approach resulted in a saving of seven thousand five hundred sheets of paper, 2500 stamps, envelopes & some printing ink! Never mind the slave labour, wife Jenny, Andy's partner Jill & the sail loft/chandlery staff folding, stuffing & sticking stamps with a deadline which seems to come towards you like a.....Whilst on a green theme, thanks to all those customers who continue to bring their old carrier bags in for us to recycle, long may it continue.

JANUARY sees the night school/chart table area of the chandlery & the south wall of the clothing section being torn apart; new slat wall is being installed, enabling us to produce easier to change & hopefully better, brighter displays!

JANUARY is usually our quietest month in the sail loft but these last two weeks have seen the crew battling with an industrial sewing contract that needed shipping to Rio de Janeiro yesterday! Please beware we have at the moment a larger than normal order book for new covers & upholstery work. If you do need repairs, sails washing and valeting please do not leave it until a week before Easter!

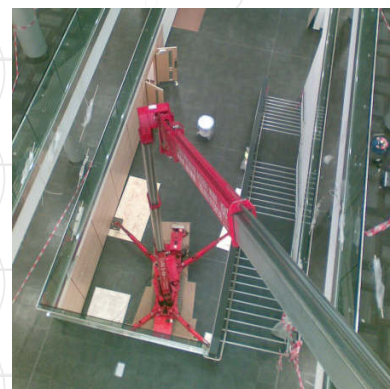
JANUARY has also proved busy for the marine engineering side of the business; we went thru a quiet patch after we first 'took over' from Eric Stevenson, however word is getting around! We currently have a three week waiting list for engine serving. Once again a plea not to leave it till the last moment. Mike has just come back from a Mercury model update course & just before Xmas travelled south attending two one day intensive workshops! As I write he is on the road to the Boat Show at Excel hoping to secure new agencies for 2008. Later this month he has a couple of Mercury 90 hp outboards to install on Ribs.

JANUARY saw Ritchie our 'close season' rigger working just behind the Baltic at the new Gateshead College on the installation of a hanging glass sculpture, after that he turned his hand to the re-rigging of a 50ft Oyster. Followed by the installation of safety wires on the flat roofs of the Freeman & RVI hospital(s)

JANUARY saw poor Jenny trip & fall on a wet Friday night on the way to the pub! Tough cookie that girl, insisted on still going to the pub however later was diagnosed with a broken elbow and a badly bruised chin!

JANUARY saw Rob lose weight rapidly, cos he's been doing the shopping, cooking (well some of it) housework (broke the vacuum cleaner) & the shampooing and blow drying of Jen's hair. Who said men can't multi task, or cope with man flu?

JANUARY saw Rob still in his fifties but what's Feb got in store for the grumpy old git!



Richie's view from the cherry picker at Gateshead College.



TYNE WINTER SERIES RACING

This year the Tyne Winter Series hosted & sponsored by Brian & Lorraine of Saint Peters Marina Byker has seen the series broken up in to a pre & post Christmas series. Pre Christmas honours went to the Sigma 8 Thunderbirds team beating by half of a point the Marine Store sponsored Join the Club. Director Andy was on Join the Club cracking the whip! As I write, with two races completed in the post Christmas series, once again the two leading contenders are up front battling it out, however the Headway's 'legal' team or should it be 'bar' team on Enigma may be the ones to beat! February's race dates/times are 3rd, 12-00 start & the 17th which is an 11-30 start. Watch the start then walk the bank to see all the thrills and spills. Follow that with a sandwich and a pint in The Basque.

DRAGONS DEN

Some of you may have seen the television programme The Dragons Den? Appearing on the programme last year was a young entrepreneur who was hoping to secure funding to enable him to start manufacturing a key ring that was capable of supporting almost 1 kilo should the key ring and attached keys go for a swim. Both Andy & I thought it a brilliant idea, wrote to the guy & heard nothing! However good news yesterday, we were shown the real thing by Gordon of Meridian Zero, so impressed were we that we have placed an order for fifty! They retail at £14-95 and stock should be on our shelves in the very near future. The Q starts at 181 Coast Road! Key features of the WATERBUOY are: • Lifts up to 1 kg • Floats for a minimum of 24 hours • Reacts in seconds • Visible at night for up to 250 mtrs



See page 2 Auntie Foulins' problem corner.



TWIST 'N' LOCK MANUAL TOILET

Jabsco's (the no 1 toilet manufacturer in the world) manual toilet has just got better! Thanks to the introduction of the NEW Twist N Lock feature. Unightly waste water creeping past the valves into the bowl will now be a thing of the past. Good news for boat owners who already have a Jabsco Toilet is that it can be upgraded for only £58.95. We have of course got upgrade kits in stock.

BUYING MAIL ORDER CAN RUIN YOUR WEALTH!

How many of us shop by mail order expecting the price we pay to be significantly lower than that of the 'corner chandlery'? Take the Standard Horizon GX-1500E fixed VHF/DSC for example. On Wednesday the 29th of January 2008 we checked the price we have been selling the radio for the last two months (£99-95) against the internet price three of the 'bigger' players in the market were selling it at: Mailspeed Marine £154.99 plus carriage of £6.99, Marine Super Store £129.95 carriage free & MES £99.95 plus carriage of £5.91. Makes one start to wonder? But should the cheapest price be the deciding factor? Yes we all demand quality at a competitive price but most off us want a little bit extra, knowledgeable friendly staff offering great after sales service. In the unlikely event of a glitch or perhaps you need help in getting the GPS to talk to the plotter we are 'just round the corner.' It is NOT unusual to hear in the chandlery Andy, me or one of the other staff suggesting a more cost effective solution.

As you recover from the annual Christmas spend & start to think of the season ahead, if you are in the market for that new piece of electronic wizardry, new life raft or perhaps winches & windlass please give us the opportunity to quote, you have nothing to lose & usually a lot to gain including putting a smile on the grumpy gits face!

MEET OUR STAFF (and breaking news)

Joining the sail loft team just before Christmas, Neil Gibson soon got to grips with the various sewing machines used in our loft, proving to be a quick learner under the eagle eye of our expert cover maker Norma. She, who rules the loft with a rod of iron, has already helped the poor lad lose 3.5 kilos since starting work in the Marine Store boot camp! Neil in his twenties has been sailing all his life & made his first North Sea crossing on his parents yacht at the tender age of eight months.



He is an experienced big boat sailor, has spent time cruising Scotland & the Netherlands.

These days' high performance dinghies are his passion, Fireball & Cherub dinghies being his preferred poison. His home club is Sunderland however he does like the competition circuit, the other weekend in London for the Bloody Mary event, over 260 competitors and sixth overall!

PS Congratulations to Claire, chandlery clothing manageress & partner Mark (he of Polar Bear fame) expecting their first cub in May. Looking forward no doubt to the patter of tiny paws!

IT WAS A DARK & STORMY NIGHT!

Recently fitted by the Marine Store to one of the larger yachts that 'winters' in Royal Quays was, in our opinion, the best rope cutter on the market today. The Stripper manufactured by Ambassador Marine won a Design Council Award & subsequently featured on Tomorrow's world. In 2001 it was tested by Sailing Today and was given 'HARDWARE GEAR OF THE YEAR' In tests carried out by that magazine against four other makes it proved that 'The Stripper' had the best cutting ability but also the lowest through life costs, thanks to minimal maintenance requirements.

However back to the title, not sure if it was DARK & STORMY but poor visibility, disused pot with polypropylene floating rope, imminent grounding off the North shore of rocky Arran... You get the picture?



Fortunately the anchor dug in an area not known for its good holding. Skipper & crew ok (after a change of underwear) but embarrassed at having to be towed back to Lamalash Bay Isle of Arun by the local lifeboat. They then had the trouble of finding a diver and the expense of getting him down to cut the rope free from the prop. Fortunately there was no damage to the stern gear. Here at the Marine Store we can help select the correct Stripper for your yacht or powerboat & fit it if required. Speak to Andy or myself if you want more details.

GALES BATTER NORTH EAST COAST!

What with a wind speed of over 65 knots recorded by the Port of Tyne on Friday the 25th, a container ship running amok in Blyth harbour, reports of fenders popping & mooring ropes snapping!

February's **special offers** include

- Imported 3 strand polyester mooring rope 14mm @ £1.50/m, 16mm @ £2/m & 18mm @ £2.50/m.
- Imported navy polyester braid line mooring rope 14mm @ £2/m, 16mm @ £2.50/m.

NB splicing service is available with a fast turnaround!

- Plastimo Fenders
10x40 RRP: £6.95 **February's Battered Price £5.95**
- 13x50 RRP: £8.95 **February's Battered Price £7.15**
- 15x60 RRP: £11.95 **February's Battered Price £9.55**
- 21x62 RRP: £17.95 **February's Battered Price £14.35**
- 10% off all other makes!

Aunty Foulin's problem corner

Dear Aunty F,

Please help me, last year I would come down to my boat & found that the seagulls had taken to shi...ng, sorry sitting on my lovely new cockpit cover which as you know was made by your loft.

Dear Doris Dump,

Here at the Marine Store we stock the 'hummm line' it claims to be a simple, safe & effective means of scaring off birds At £4-95 it is a very cost effective deterrent.

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