

What's new Eureka!



Failed throwline investigated

The Marine Accident Investigation Branch carry out investigations, typically collisions between commercial vessels, fires on fishing boats, RIBs which have capsized at speed or the like. An unusual one this year was the investigation of a throwline which broke during a rowing club capsize drill. The 15m Riber throwline was shown to be made up from sections of line which had been welded together end to end, which had pulled apart under strain. Enquiries revealed that lines by other manufacturers had also failed in the past. One line had three joints which failed at 19 - 23kgf, compared with 256kgf for intact line. The club found a fault on another line in the same batch and three more faulty lines have been found following an announcement by the seller. The bags are assembled abroad from components made by various manufacturers and imported prebranded. They are not classified as lifesaving or safety equipment and do not have to comply with any recognized safety or quality standards. Check your throwlines by feeling along then for discontinuities to ensure they do not have any welded joints and return them for replacement if they have. If, after checking your lines, you find any faults you are asked to assist the investigation by contacting throwbags@maib.gov.uk.

Sunscreen water resistance

UK tests allow sunscreens to be described as water resistant if their resistance does not drop by more than half after two 20 minute immersions in tap water. Tests from *Which?* on two products in sea and chlorinated water and in rapids showed a leading sunscreen dropped by 59% after 40 minutes of immersion. The Cosmetic Toiletry & Perfumery Association claim the research to be alarmist and say the public should have confidence in water resistant sunscreens. Cancer Research UK say users should apply cream regularly, cool off in the shade and wear T shirts and hats.

A man I encountered in a pub recently had as his claim to fame the five a day fruit campaign. Perhaps he would have approved of Nim's pineapple fruit crisps, made by air drying thin slices so that nothing is taken away or added. They contain bromelain, claimed to help overcome muscle injury and reduce muscle fatigue. They are available through Tesco and are in a range which also has pear, apple and beetroot and parsnip.



David Ferguson



Yellow Images

The latest flavour in the Primal Pantry range of bars is Acai Berry & Superseed. The berries are claimed to be a superfood and it is said they could enhance physical performance and time to exhaustion during intense exercise. The berries are combined in bars with dates, sunflower seeds, papaya, linseed, pumpkin seeds and figs.

Paddles from skateboards

Andrew Szeta of Ottawa recycles donated skateboards to make canoe paddles, perhaps five damaged ones to a paddle to get the wood patterns right. They sell at \$300, of which \$30 goes to his charity, For Pivots Sake, which gives usable skateboards to children in the Ottawa area and Iqaluit in Nunavut. He is also making a Prospector 16 for Novacraft although this will require rather more skateboards.

New safety ID scheme

The MCA and RYA have joined forces to reveal RYA SafeTrx as HM Coastguard's new official voluntary safety identification scheme. The world leading RYA SafeTrx app is designed to improve safety at sea and potentially cut vital minutes off the time taken to pinpoint a casualty's location. It monitors your boat journeys and alerts designated emergency contacts should you fail to arrive on time. Using iPhone and Android smartphone technology, this free tracking and alerting system is easily accessible and ideal for everyone who enjoys being on the water including kayak users. The free RYA SafeTrx mobile app and website now supersedes the HM Coastguard CG66 scheme. It combines a more technologically cutting edge version of the CG66 database function with additional lifesaving technologies so that you can make a 999 call to the Coastguard at the touch of a button. The app can be used free of charge in UK territorial waters. The app is used by many other search and rescue organizations across the globe. The RYA SafeTrx app is available to any UK resident who wants to be safer afloat and already has over 13,000 users. It provides all recreational boat users with an accessible and simple to use way of automatically informing HM Coastguard of their voyage plans, vessel and crew information, incident data, dynamic location and even a direct 999 connection in the event of distress.

'When we receive an emergency call we need a huge amount of information fast. This app helps us access all your details so that you can get a swifter response with the right resources,' says the MCA's Director of Maritime Operations & HM Coastguard, Richard Parkes. 'RYA SafeTrx uses real time advanced technology. CG66 was just a database but the new app allows users to do so much more, including summoning the Coastguard, which could save lives.' The precise geolocation feature, for example, allows the Coastguard to know where the caller is, an important consideration when the person in distress is unsure of whereabouts, disoriented, injured or unfamiliar with the area.

'We have already contacted CG66 users to tell them about the switchover to RYA SafeTrx.' People are redirected from gov.uk's CG66 page to the RYA SafeTrx website. 'Information on CG66 will still be accessible to the Coastguard but we will no longer be accepting new information. I'd like to take this opportunity to remind all boaters that you must continue to use emergency alerting equipment appropriate to your sport. RYA SafeTrx complements this equipment but is not designed to be used instead of it.' The software consulting company behind the development of SafeTrx, 8 West Consulting, is striving to make this the default technology for keeping the ordinary seafarer safer at sea. With that goal in mind, it is vital that the product continues to adapt to new challenges and opportunities.'

RYA SafeTrx is free to download from Apple app store or Google Play. Once downloaded, boaters can run unlimited free trips using the app. In addition to the Sail

Henri Lloyd back

Nautical clothing manufacturers Henri Lloyd are to reappear in the spring, having gone into administration last summer and been taken over by the Swedish Aligro Group. The headquarters have been moved to Gothenburg with the UK team reduced from 60 to four.

Morocco trip

Water by Nature continue to run whitewater trips around the globe. Mostly they are rafting but 2019 includes a kayak trip on the Ahansal in Morocco.

Lynn Lewis dies

Former *Sunday Mirror* journalist and TV presenter Lynn Lewis has died at 81. In 1984 he set up Nauticalia, initially on a Thames rubbish barge and later onshore at Shepperton. The company has specialized in retailing marine related nicknacks and gadgets, reviewed on these pages from time to time.

Economy loader

There are some ingenious, complicated and expensive devices for loading boats onto roof racks. I find folding a towel and placing on the car roof behind the rack, lifting up one end of a heavy sea kayak onto it and then lifting the other end and sliding the kayak into place works well, protects the car roof and ensures the towel is ready at hand for its intended purpose.

Keeping your end up

Available on the market is a low profile inflatable belt intended to supply additional buoyancy for those over age 16 and over 36kg. It has a D ring attachment to clip on accessories. It also has a CO2 cylinder to provide 8kg of buoyancy and is able to take a further 12kg by mouth. However, do you want buoyancy which brings your waist to the surface?