

GPS SHOOT-OUT: WE RATE 6 HAND-HELD NAV UNITS

SAIL

MAY 1993

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More Star news

Doris Jirka, executive director of the Star class, is retiring from her post after 12 years of dedicated and efficient service. At the 1992 Star Worlds in San Francisco, the class presented her with a gold Star boat pin and the sailors showed their appreciation with a standing ovation.

ENVIRONMENT

Recycled BOC racer

A 60-foot-long, 20-foot-wide glimpse into some of the environmentally friendly aspects of 21st-century sailing will soon roll out of a shed at Howdy Bailey's Custom Yachts on Little River in Norfolk, Virginia. The screen on which these previews will be projected is the highly polished clear-epoxied aluminum hull of *Imagine*, Michael Carr's entry in the 1994-95 BOC Challenge singlehanded around-the-world race. Dedicated environmentalists, Carr and his wife, Stephanie Chilton Carr, who serves as syndicate manager, have reached for any and all materials and equipment that promise the least negative impact on the sea through which their boat will race during her 8-month, 27,000-mile passage.

Imagine's biggest step in the environ-

mentally sound direction is that 70 percent of the aluminum in her construction, including the hull, deck, frames, stiffening, longitudinals, and the keel/maststep structure, is recycled aluminum. The twin rudders will be built of the same aluminum.

All of the metal was processed by Golden Aluminum, the largest aluminum reprocessor in the world. Joseph Lamb, Golden's president, explained that given more lead time, the company could have supplied all of the aluminum needed for the boat from empty beverage cans and other recycled aluminum scrap. Certain alloys, bar stocks, pipe, and sheets needed in the construction of *Imagine* were not available in Golden's warehouse, and waiting to fit these items into Golden's production schedule would have delayed delivery of the boat.

Golden is Carr's principal sponsor. "Golden Aluminum's sponsorship is part of our corporate commitment to recognize individual efforts to meet environmental challenges face to face," Lamb said. "We are an environmentally sensitive company—pioneering recycling and applying new technology for the production of quality aluminum products. Outside the doors of the Bailey yard's big shed is a dumpster filled with scraps, shavings, and snippets of aluminum, leftovers from *Imagine's* fabrication. Eventually it, too, will be recycled and shipped back to Golden or to another recycler for still another life as an alu-

minum product, perhaps even another beer or soda can."

The marine toilet aboard *Imagine* is also environmentally correct. Sun-Mar Corporation in Burlington, Ontario, Canada, has built an experimental composting head that will treat and neutralize solid human waste and convert it into usable fertilizer or into an environmentally neutral substance that can be discharged overboard. Henric Sundberg, Sun-Mar's owner, said his company is in the business of manufacturing such toilet systems for use on land where there are no sewage systems, in lieu of septic tanks and leaching fields. The model on *Imagine* is basically the same as that used on land, with some parts made of brass and/or stainless steel instead of more easily corroding materials.

International Paint Company has chimed in with a major contribution to a cleaner ocean, Carr said, with its new Tri-Lux Bottom Paint. "It has no copper, tin, lead, mercury, or other toxic metals among its ingredients," Carr said, "and we feel very good about that."

"We'll use solar cells for some of our power generation in recharging four large Gel-Cell batteries," he said. "We are also considering various water-turbine schemes for generating power, but we'll probably have to depend on our two air-cooled Yanmar generators, which are diesel powered, for some power."

—Knowles Pittman

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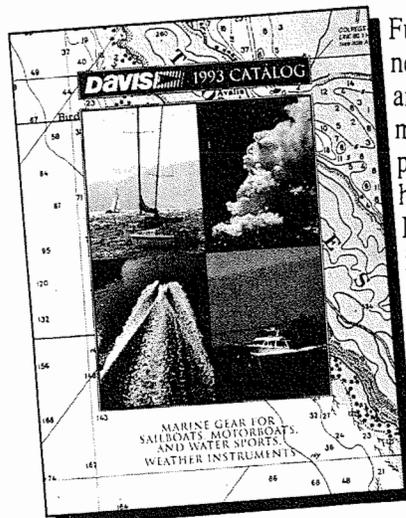
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