

# STRIPPER NEWS

## TWENTY ONE YEARS OF STRIPPERS AT SOUTHAMPTON

**Ambassador Marine's Stripper, the world's leading rope cutter, is this year celebrating its 21st Southampton Boat Show.**

Southampton was the original making of Stripper. As marine engineer and inventor Robin Shaw recalls;

"Back in the mid 1980s, everyone thought Stripper was a really neat idea. We had plaudits ranging from major design prizes to the TVS Enterprise South Award, by taking it to the 1986 Southampton Boat Show Robin Shaw and Stripper have never looked back."

A couple of months later, Stripper made its TV debut, appearing on the influential BBC programme Tomorrow's World, where its innovative qualities and standard of engineering were praised.

Ambassador Marine was formed in 1987 to produce, refine and market the Stripper. Two decades later the product, now the accepted standard bearer for rope cutters, is specified by discerning owners and is recommended optional fit on a wide range of craft including those from other SBS regulars such as Oyster Marine and Northshore Yachts.

Comments Robin Shaw, "Southampton has always been the premier boat show as far as we are concerned. It is a great venue for showing off the product, meeting existing customers, gaining new ones and explaining the safety benefits of our proven rope cutter in the world's ever more debris-strewn waters."

**Ambassador Marine and Stripper can be found at G017 in the Ocean Hall.**



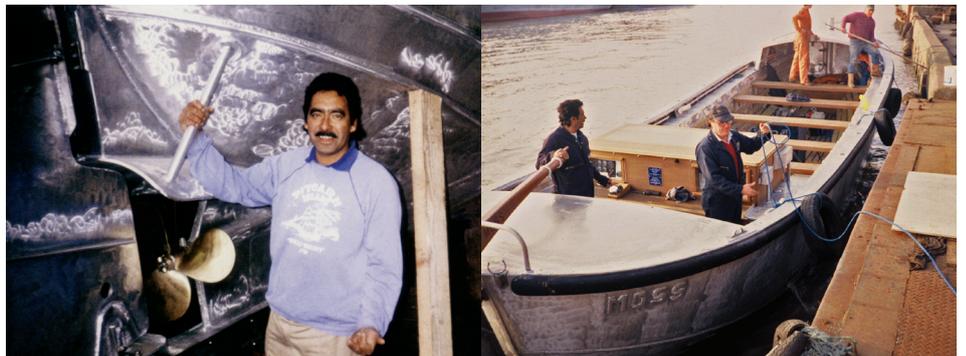
*MV Ice, equipped with an AM30 Stripper, was launched at Zhuhai China on July 17th 2007.*

### LARGEST AND COLDEST and REMOTEST

**Ambassador Marine's largest Stripper yet is also likely to be its coldest.**

Launched this July in Zhuhai China, Ice is an 40,000 Kg vessel built for an Australian adventurer for service in the icy waters of both Arctic and Antarctic waters. The 51ft LWL vessel has an inventory that could grace a Bond

movie and includes ice protected propeller and stern gear as well as hull. Her owners were confident in selecting Stripper that the AM30 unit would withstand the rigours of service in remote regions. The first planned voyage is on April 9th 2009 to re-enact the anniversary of the Mutiny on the Bounty.



If any crew escape to Pitcairn Island they will be met by the Longboat Moss pictured here and equipped with our AM15 Stripper.



# STRENGTH AND ALLURE IN MARKETING



Marketing can help increase awareness and convince potential customers that Stripper is the most effective rope cutter. Ambassador Marine uses a range of marketing tools, as befits a successful 21st century enterprise, but has identified three as the most powerful in its armoury.

**Item one** is the demonstration of Stripper at work that has been the central feature of the stand at every one of the boat shows the company has participated in. Show visitors confronted with a shaft-mounted propeller, a rope about to tangle with same and the Stripper rope cutter, cannot resist giving the prop a turn and seeing how easily the cutter slices through the rope. Then they do it again, and again. Comments technical sales representative Stuart Dickinson wryly,

“We end up with enough rope cuttings at the end of a show to fill a large bin, which we then have to dispose of.” He adds, “But it’s well worthwhile. People love to see a working demonstration. They go away with an accurate mental picture of how Stripper goes about its business.”

**Item two** is the delightful mermaid that first swam into Ambassador Marine’s orbit in 1997 This well endowed siren has proved incredibly popular in the company’s advertising and especially as a giveaway poster! She came to our attention when a Thames boatyard whose proprietor was retiring cleared out his shed. Adopting the alluring nymph as an advertising logo proved an astute move as she has a tantalising gift for drawing attention.

**Item three** is the reputation Stripper has built for itself as the best engineered and most effective rope cutter on the market. Award citations, equipment test reports and magazine articles certainly help, as do thick files at Ambassador Marine’s Winchester headquarters full of letters and accounts from satisfied owners. Most powerful of all, though, is the constant drip of word-of-mouth testimony from thousands of vessel owners who know their safety at sea has been enhanced by the cutter with the Rolls-Royce reputation.

## The Secret’s in the TEETH



Those teeth, strikingly obvious in this photo, show why Stripper has a bite like a shark

Stripper owes its outstanding effectiveness to the patented design of its fixed and revolving blades. These are what give the device real TEETH, enabling it to grip, spread and shear a high variety of debris, usually within two or three revolutions. The cutting edges extend right to the blade tips,

and the computer-optimised profiles of the needle-sharp teeth mean that, as the blades close together, ropes and debris are subjected to far more cutting surface than if the blades were straight.

Stripper cuts in forward and reverse gear, is of jam-free design and has been shown to have negligible effect on vessel speed. Precision cast from tough 316 marine grade stainless steel, the same material as most prop shafts (avoiding electrolytic action), the teeth will not corrode, explaining why they retain their bite for many years. Units are almost maintenance-free, requiring only occasional replacement of the Delrin bearing rings. In fact, the main concern for boat owners is remembering to protect the protector from prying fingers during lay-up periods ashore!

## ALL SIZES, ALL TYPES

Stripper has been fitted to motor vessels of all sizes from tiny electric launches to ships, and sailboats from a 21ft Corribee (the type that launched Ellen MacArthur into a record-breaking career with a sail around Britain) to superyachts. Official organisations that have selected Stripper for hard working craft include the Ministry of Defence, the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, Trinity House, Fisheries Protection vessels. Pilot Boats plus a number of police forces and coastguard units.

Standard models cover shaft sizes ¾ inch (AM5) to 4 inch (AM30), while even larger sizes are built to special order. Conventional drives and saildrives are catered for and the range includes two, three and four blade options to suit similarly-bladed props. The latter can include Maxprop, Autoprop and other variable-configuration designs as well as conventional types.

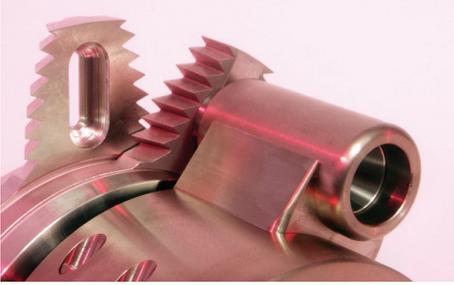
No order is too small or too large for Ambassador Marine. Orders for single units are welcomed: Equally, the company makes scheduled deliveries to major boatbuilders worldwide with an order book stretching well into 2009.

## JUST ACROSS THE CHANNEL



All New French lifeboats and all existing ones due for refit are being fitted with the new Stripper Cavitation Controller.

# DESIGN EVOLUTION - SEE THE SLOTS



The Design never stops evolving and almost molecule by molecule the Stripper has changed to encompass improvements in manufacturing technology and materials. Observant visitors to Stand G017 at Southampton Boat Show 2007 might spot a more obvious difference in the design of the well-established Stripper. So well blended are the slots now machined into each of the cutter's revolving blades that they could be missed at first glance. Yet these have an important hydrodynamic effect, helping to smooth the flow of water past the stern gear and delaying the onset of potentially damaging cavitation.

Launched at last year's Show, the new Stripper-Plus featuring anti-cavitation slots has demonstrated instant appeal

to owners, in particular those of performance power craft. The modification works by allowing water to flow through each Stripper blade and directing the flow towards the critical area upstream of the main propeller blades where low-pressure voids tend to form. It is the subsequent collapse of these voids, sometimes forcibly, that accounts for cavitation. The ensuing hydrodynamic 'bumping' can be uncomfortable on board while the vibration can cause structural fatigue and even damage the stern gear. Stripper-Plus literally blows the voids away.

Blade apertures are machined to profiles optimised with the aid of computer modelling and tank testing. In developing the refinement, Robin Shaw

surprised himself by discovering that the slots reduced cavitation to levels below even those that would have been expected had no Stripper been fitted at all. This makes Stripper-Plus truly dual purpose; a cavitation controller as well as rope cutter.

**Our photograph shows Oyster 82**, the first craft to be fitted with the latest version of Stripper, the AM20 model. The inset shows the blades with the patented anti-cavitation slots clearly visible. These smooth the ride for the occupants of this luxury yacht by 'blowing away' any cavitation from its four-bladed Maxprop. A number of high-end yachts and superyachts have now opted for the Stripper-Plus version of Ambassador's acclaimed cutter.



# STRIPPER STOOD CIRCUMNAVIGATORS IN GOOD STEAD



Chris and Patsy Watney know that their Stripper worked for them during their 55,000 mile circumnavigation in Jalingo III.

**“The Stripper on *Jalingo III*, our Nicholson 42, stood us in good stead many a time during our circumnavigation,” says Chris Watney who, with his wife Patsy, recently completed a five-year 55,000 mile voyage.**

The couple could hear the cutter ‘chomping’ off South America, where fisherman extend their gear miles out to sea - half in hopes of ensnaring a yacht and charging for its release! It probably worked in Indonesia too, judging by a ‘buddy’ yacht (they were following advice in sailing together) which became disabled by a huge net. Chris and the other yacht’s owner worked

within inches of gnashing sharks’ teeth as they struggled in scuba gear to cut away the net containing two dead sharks and one very much still alive. As they emerged from the water they spotted another shark cruising 4ft below, waiting ...

Despite that, Indonesia and parts of South America were still highlights of the voyage, said Chris, as were the South Pacific islands of popular imagination. A stay in the Galapagos proved a magical experience thanks to noted wildlife of the islands and a permit to stay for several days.

*Jalingo III* took a traditional trade wind route via Panama and Suez, calling at far-off places such as the West Indies, Tonga, Moorea, Opua in the Bay of Islands, New Zealand, and ports in Australia and Africa. The Watneys sailed thousands of miles under their favourite downwind rig, twin headsails.

The couple have not swallowed the anchor after their long voyage. Since returning to the UK, they have sailed to take part in a rally at Bayona Spain.

**“I must record my complete satisfaction with the Stripper fitted on my Westery Konsort...”**

Last year I had to get under the boat at least once a day to clear the prop of Japanese seaweed, this year I did not have to do it once despite the fact that there was even more weed about. I watched it whilst at anchor, the weed floating past built up around the prop but as soon as the engine was put into gear the Stripper was totally effective. It also severed a submerged rope in mid channel and a plastic bag full of other plastic bags.”

**Group Captain H.L.Lewis**

**“We have been very satisfied with the Stripper’s performance”**

A Yachtmaster Instructor Course found this out recently when they were practising sailing up to a buoy. They anchored a buoy with the kedge anchor and warp and one of our candidates sailed over the line and duly lost our kedge anchor! This was an impressive demonstration of the Stripper as the engine was turned off at the time and the prop was just windmilling.

**Scouts Discovery Sailing Project**

## Some Stripper Awards



Granada Television  
“Flying Start Award” 1986



Design Council Award 1986



TVS Enterprise South Award 1987



Silk Cut Nautical Awards 1989



Worshipful Company of Turners Award  
Silver Medal 1994



Sailing Today Best Buy 2001



Dame Awards 2006



I would not go anywhere without my trusty Stripper, says Robin Shaw.

[www.RopeStripper.com](http://www.RopeStripper.com)

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