



Professional Products

e-news update

Welcome to the first edition of *Zodiac Professional Products e-News Update*, an electronic supplement to the Zodiac Professional Products newsletter you receive by mail.

We created this e-News Update to keep you informed of new developments, in light of the increased pace of our business in recent months. You will also find helpful information on the proper operation and maintenance of our boats.

We welcome your comments and suggestions. Scroll down to the end of the e-News Update for contact information.

Rick Scriven
Vice President, Professional Products Division
Zodiac of North America

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Surge of New Deliveries for Force Protection, Harbor Security, HAS MAT Missions

H-870s, H-1000s for harbor security

Six Zodiac H-870 RIBs have been delivered to the U.S. Navy at Cheatham Annex in Virginia for deployment to various harbors on the U.S. East Coast. They will be used in a variety of capacities for harbor security and other missions. All six boats are cabin models. They are powered by twin Honda 130 h.p. engines.

The Hurricane 870 is an extended version of the combat-tested H-733, made in aluminum. The harbor security boats have a cabin header, air-conditioning, and suspension seats for maximum crew comfort. They also have machine gun mounts, in the event that force is required during harbor security missions.

Five Zodiac H-1000 RIBs are also being delivered to the U.S. Navy at Cheatham Annex for deployment to harbors on the U.S. East Coast. These 33', I/O cabin boats are powered by twin Cummins 315 h.p. engines matched to Hamilton HJ 247 waterjets.

Zodiac cabin boats are available in sizes up to 47', and can be equipped with features such as heating and air conditioning, sleeping bunks, galleys and other amenities.

For more information, contact Jackie Dolch at 410-643-4544 or jdolch@zna.zodiac.com.

H-630 for U.S. Navy HAS MAT team

The U.S. Naval NALF Station at San Clemente Island off the coast of California now has a Zodiac H-630 RIB for HAZ MAT response missions. It will be one of the primary craft used for pulling booms in responding to hazardous material spills. The H-630, powered by a 115 h.p. Mercury outboard, was chosen instead of a traditional hard-sided boat. Zodiac Western Territory manager Cory Clarkston explained that the station was using a Boston Whaler for such missions. However, this time they decided to go with the H-630 RIB because of its superior seakeeping capabilities, especially in the heavy seas that often come with bad weather around San Clemente Island.

For more information, contact Cory Clarkston at 619-596-7421 or cclarkston@zna.zodiac.com.

H-920 for Mariana Islands Police Department

After taking delivery of a Zodiac H-733 earlier this year, the Police Department of the Northern Mariana Islands (near Guam) has added a Zodiac H-920 RIB to its fleet. The 30' boat will be used for harbor security, law enforcement and for dive team investigations as well as search and rescue missions. Power for the H-920 comes from twin I/O Volvo 200 h.p. engines.

One notable feature on this boat is the Zodiac self-righting system, which returns the boat to an upright position even if it is completely overturned in extreme sea conditions.

For more information, contact Cory Clarkston at 619-596-7421 or cclarkston@zna.zodiac.com.

H-733s to support Navy ships

By December, deliveries will be complete for five Zodiac H-733 RIBs selected as support boats for various U.S. Navy ships. Power for each boat comes from Cummins 180 h.p. diesel I/O engines matched to MerCruiser outdrives.

For more information, contact Jackie Dolch at 410-643-4544 or jdolch@zna.zodiac.com.

New H-920 Helps Secret Service Keep Up with Former President Bush

It's not easy keeping up with Former President George Bush, especially when he's out on the water in Maine, headed to one of his favorite fishing spots. That was the dilemma facing the U.S. Secret Service in performing their mission to protect the father of our nation's current president. The solution: a Zodiac H-920 RIB powered by twin Mercury 250 h.p. outboard engines, which give the boat a maximum speed in excess of 50 m.p.h.

The Secret Service took advantage of Zodiac's increasingly popular trade-in program, turning in a Zodiac H-733 for the bigger, faster H-920. They chose a stand-up console design, and requested a unique Zodiac feature: a 40" dive door fitted into the inflatable collar. The door deflates for opening, and is then reinflated when closed.

For more information, contact Amanda Pinder at 410-643-4544 or apinder@zna.zodiac.com.

News You Can Use

How to reduce crew fatigue with proper seat settings on H-920 Cabin Boats (information provided by Zodiac Coast Guard Support Manager Scott Clendenin)

Zodiac H-920 cabin boats come equipped with suspension seating systems. Recent improvements on these systems include new heavy-duty seat bases. However, it is important to select the proper settings to maximize their effectiveness, especially in rough conditions.

There are three settings on the suspension seating system: one for forward/aft positioning, another for height, and another for ride (firm or soft). For operation in rough water, the important settings are height and ride. Set the height position as low as possible, and select the firm ride setting. This combination will reduce the travel of the base (up-and-down motion) on the seat as much as possible during high operations in rough conditions. If you still experience too much up-and-down motion (bottoming the seat out), use prudent seamanship skills and reduce your speed.

If your height adjustment does not move up and down on your current base, contact me and I will work with Bently on sending out the new improved height adjustment hardware for your seat bases. Instructions are included with the hardware, so station personnel can change out the hardware in the field.

For more information, contact Scott Clendenin at 1-800-884-7238 or sclendsurf@hotmail.com.

Tips on Proper Fueling Procedures To Avoid Tank Damage or Spills on Zodiac Hurricane RIBS (information provided by Zodiac Coast Guard Support Manager Scott Clendenin)

1. Do not overfill the fuel tank. Zodiac Hurricane boats are lightweight, highly maneuverable boats and are very active while in operation. Due to this action fuel can spill out into the vent tubes and work out around the sending units, giving you a gasoline spill from the bilges.
2. Monthly maintenance can prevent the fuel from spilling from the fuel vending unit and fuel pick-up tubes. Check to make sure the screws have not vibrated loose that hold down the fuel sending unit and gasket to the plastic fuel tanks.
3. Do not overtighten and break off the screw heads. The fuel pick-up tubes and elbows are made from aluminum, and overtightening will crack the threads on the elbow, causing fuel to leak onto the top of the plastic tank, then into the bilge.
4. Prior to morning light off, run the bilge blower for a few minutes to remove the gasoline flumes. The same rule applies for running the bilge blower after fueling.
5. Make sure the fuel vent tube does not have a bend or loop in the line. During fuel operations, if the fuel bubbles out of the fuel fill pipe, check your vent hose. Bends or loops will cut off the oxygen supply going into the tank, causing the fuel to bubble out of the fuel fill pipe.

To avoid this, loosen the deck stuffing tube where the fuel vent hose comes out of the deck, located at the bow (or, with boats with bow boxes, behind the bow box). Remove the chrome fuel vent hardware, take the hose out of the holder glued to the bow tube. Pull very slightly on the fuel vent hose, until you feel it move ever so slightly. Tighten the deck stuffing tube and trim the rubber vent hose so it will fit back into the tube holder. Connect the chrome end piece hardware to the fuel vent hose.

Be careful not to pull too hard on the fuel vent hose. That may cause the vent hose to come disconnected from the fuel tank, which will cause fuel to spill into the bilge while underway.

For more information, contact Scott Clendenin at 1-800-884-7238 or sclendsurf@hotmail.com.

Thrustboard Repair Techniques (information provided by Zodiac Technical Manager Albert Czaratoryski)

Military personnel can do their own thrustboard repairs on inflatables such as the Zodiac F-470 CRRC.

By following the Zodiac-approved gluing techniques as taught in Zodiac's repair classes, such repairs can be done several times during the "life span" of the boat and each time, the boat can be returned to heavy duty military operations, right alongside any new boat.

In summary, the repair chronology is as follows: remove, re-align, and retrace before regluing, with the bow thrustboard exactly in its intended place.

For more information, contact Albert Czaratoryski at 410-643-4141 or aczaratoryski@zna.zodiac.com.

Add Life to Your Zodiacs with maintenance training

Zodiac of North America offers training classes at its Stevensville, Maryland headquarters. For example, two-week training classes on F470 repairs and maintenance are available to those interested in training for certification or updating their certification. The next class is scheduled for March 4 – 15. On site training is also available. For more details, contact Mandy Tomardy at 410-643-4544, extension 3012 or mtomardy@zna.zodiac.com.

New Location for Alligator Marine

Zodiac Professional Products preferred dealer Alligator Marine has moved to a new location:

Alligator Marine
3435 Mangrove Ave.
Norfolk, VA 23502
T: 757-455-5123
F: 757-455-5124

RIBSTER™ on a Roll: Field Evaluations Update

The U.S. Marine Corps field evaluations of the new Zodiac Ribster 500-LSC (5.3 Meter Light Strike Craft) are nearly complete, and the comments are very positive. The Ribster is the first military foldable, collapsible and storable RIB. It is essentially a Zodiac F-470 CRRC with a three-piece, removable aluminum hull that transforms the performance into that of a RIB.

Gunnery Sergeant David E. Grandin, Amphibious Raids & Reconnaissance Programs Small Craft Project Officer in the U.S. Marine Corps, gave the following report:

“Our infantry and recon guys liked them a lot. The ride is much better than the F-470 because of the rigid hull. We did a side-by-side comparison with the F-470, including rough sea conditions, at three different bases: Camp LeJeune in North Carolina, Camp Pennelton in California and Quantico in Virginia. It is a bit heavier because of the rigid hull panels, but this was considered acceptable in light of the improved ride and performance. We came up with a couple of suggestions that we’re working with Zodiac on, but they are items that will be easily fixed.”

Zodiac of North America Professional Products Vice President Rick Scriven expects that production of the final, improved design could begin before summer of 2002.

For more information, contact Jackie Dolch at 410-643-4544 or jdolch@zna.zodiac.com.

Contact Us

If you would like to update your e-mail address for this newsletter, add a name to our distribution list, or be removed from our distribution list, please contact Marge Clymer at mclymer@zna.zodiac.com.

If you have questions or comments about Zodiac Professional Products e-News update, please contact John Quinn at jq@haberandquinn.com.

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