CRUISING WORLD

In on the Thrills
TRANSATLANTIC quest

APRIL 2018
BETTER DITCH KIT

I was interested to read the thorough article “What’s In Your Ditch Bag?” (December 2017). I was very fortunate to have circumnavigated in our 39-foot sloop Kandarik with my husband, son and daughter. Seven years of living aboard, crossing several oceans, visiting fabulous foreign countries and keeping up with all the products that make our boat efficient and safe has given me some personal knowledge of what to have in a ditch bag. Although your list of essential items was very complete, there is one addition I’d make due to the introduction of new technology. Some of the most difficult products to keep up to date are the necessary flares to alert others of a possible distress situation. The time-honored flares that we carried around the world expired and needed replacing, and sometimes we were not able to acquire new ones in time.

The Weems & Plath SOS Distress Light meets U.S. Coast Guard requirements for night visual distress signals.

Now, there is a new option: electronic flares. I have replaced pyrotechnic flares with the SOS Distress Light sold by Weems & Plath. I now carry three of these electronic flares aboard Kandarik: one on deck, ready to quickly deploy; one in my tender at all times should I need assistance when in my dinghy; and one in my ditch bag. The beauty is they never expire, don’t go out when they hit the water, last many hours and save me the time and money needed to replace expiring pyrotechnics!

—Pam Wall, via email

MARINE ELECTRONICS 2018 CORRECTIONS

In the print edition of the 2018 Marine Electronics annual, distributed with the March issue of Cruising World, the prices of three products were listed incorrectly. The correct prices are:

Mazu SkyMate M3500: $995; Simrad RS20 VHF Radio: $279
Page 76, JL Audio MediaMaster MM100S-BE: $549.99

The 2018 Marine Electronics annual is available online at cruisingworld.com/2018-marine-electronics-guide