EDITED BY DAVID SCHMIDT

DECK THE TREE

SAIL'S 2007 HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

"Dear Santa, All I want for Christmas is my two front teeth."

If only it was that simple to find the right gift for a sailor. Most old salts have at least one of everything marine, and most sailing kids have filled their lockers by the time they graduate from Optis. This year SAIL has tried to think outside the box and offer some unusual holiday-gift suggestions that will generate cheer, make sailing more enjoyable, and/or literally deck the tree. D.S.

$ = $0 to $100 | $$ = $100 to $200 | $$$ = $200+

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CLOCK ART

» John Borin Fine Handmade Clocks are crafted in the tradition of English dial clocks and are customized with your vessel's lines and sailplan silk-screened on the face. A special aging process applied to the enamel paint on the clock's steel face gives it a rich look. The high-torque quartz movement is made in Germany. Three sizes (12, 18, and 24 inches), from $199. www.johnborin.com

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HARD-TO-REACH NO MORE

» Installing joinery, electronics, or spar fittings often requires being able to access cramped or awkward spaces, and Black & Decker's tiny Rota-Driver makes it easier. The 4.8-volt rechargeable screwdriver's rotating drive head can be set in four different positions, and its LED work light is useful. $29.99, www.blackanddecker.com

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THE ART OF CHARTS

» For the sailor who has everything else, Latitude Kinsale offers unique handmade three-dimensional to-scale charts of any area you choose. Below-water topography is clearly discernable, and frame-lighting options make each chart one of a kind. Light charts, which replicate the actual flashing patterns of lighthouses, are also available. From $680, www.latitudekinsale.com

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READY TO WEAR

» Here's an item made of the right stuff. Camet International 7000 Sailing Pants are lightweight, quick-drying Supplex nylon with a UPF rating of 40+, reinforced at the knee and seat with Cordura. The waist and leg cuffs are adjustable, and ¼-inch foam pad ($11.50) can be inserted in the seat patch to help ease the pain of serving as human ballast. $81, www.camet.com

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NO MORE AGONY OF DE FEET

» When it's cold and wet, cotton is your feet's enemy, but SmartWool Adrenaline Crew socks (available in light, medium, and heavy weights) keep your feet warm even when they're wet. Light Crew socks are great to wear with deck shoes and sea boots; all three weights are quick-drying to boot. From $16.95, www.smartwool.com

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A WARM, FUZZY FEELING

» When the weather turns cold, a soft, warm insulating layer is a must. The Arc'Teryx Covert Collar Zip fleece is ultra-warm, breathable, and fast-drying; it has no-lift gusseted underarms and a men's-specific fit, and it's a perfect layer to wear under foulies or a synthetic watch jacket. $150, www.arcteryx.com

PHOTOS BY MARK CORKE

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BIG EYES

» Binoculars are an integral part of any boat's safety/navigation/fun kit, and Steiner's 7×50 Commander XP C binoculars are some of the finest available. A built-in compass makes it easy to take a bearing on a ship or point of land, and a proprietary treatment repels water and moisture from the lens. Steiner's new XP Optics makes it easier to see objects in dark conditions and provides better contrast during bright moments. $1049, www.steiner-binoculars.com

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PROPER HANDLING

» Rubber winch-handle pockets are great, but given enough exposure to sunlight, salt water, and time, they'll inevitably crack or degrade. Winch Handle Bags are made by Blue Performance from ripstop nylon (sized for one or two handles), which can take all kinds of abuse. The company also makes other boat organizers including great sheet bags that have a hood to protect lines and halyards from the elements. From $35, www.blueperformance.com

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IMAGES FROM THE WATER WORLD

» Small cameras continue to get larger and larger in the feature department. The 6.0-megapixel ReefMaster Mini Underwater Camera from SeaLife is depth-rated to 130 feet and has a 2-inch LCD screen, video mode (with audio), and a rubberized coating that provides shock protection and excellent grip, both in the water and out. It weighs in at 10 ounces, including battery and memory card. $299.95, www.sealife-cameras.com

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A REINVENTED WHEEL

» There really is a new way to boil water. With Jetboil's PCS, an all-in-one fuel-efficient stove and removable one-liter mug, you can brew or cook up freeze-dried foods in a snap, without matches or other sources of flame—and crewmembers can eat when they're hungry. Particularly slick are the unit's French press (optional) and hanging kit (great for rough passages); other sizes of pots and pans are also available. $89.95, www.jetboil.com

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HOLD THAT LINE

» Snatch blocks can save the day when a sail change goes awry. Antal's Lightweight Snatch Blocks feature a ball-bearing sheave, a dedicated becket, and a small attachment point for a bungee cord. They also come in handy for other situations, like rigging barber haulers and peeling kites, and their rubberized protection disks ensure that your deck won't get banged up. $149, www.euromarinetrading.com

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CHARGE ACCOUNT

» Having an iPod aboard is fantastic when you're daysailing or cruising, but keeping the battery charged can be a problem. Solio's solar-charged Universal Hybrid Charger works with iPods plus many cell phones, digital cameras, and other small electronic gadgets. You can charge the device when the sun is out, then transfer the charge when needed. $119.95, www.solio.com

» FIND MORE GIFT IDEAS ONLINE AT WWW.SAILMAGAZINE.COM