

PS Urges End to Zippered Life Jacket Stowage Bags

In our recent move to a new larger PS workshop, we took a quick inventory of products still in long-term testing. As expected, a few items were dispatched to the Gear Graveyard, the final resting place for products that have fatal flaws or have reached the end of their life.

ZIPPERED LIFE JACKET STOW BAG

This design should have never seen the light of day. We found two standard, zippered life-jacket storage bags in the back of our store room, each with six life jackets. Both were permanently zipped tight, seized with corrosion and requiring tools to open. Regular use and a wax coating would prevent such corrosion, but a simple Velcro closure is a better remedy. In our view, bags used to store emergency equipment should have maintenance-free closures that won't seize in the marine environment. Velcro and drawstrings work just fine.

SOLLIGHT RAIL LIGHT

We weren't too surprised when our four-year-old rail light from Sollight (www.sollight.com) finally bit the dust. This

solar-powered light went into continuous service in late fall 2005. It died in April 2009. It appears that internal corrosion caused by salt air and water intrusion may have led to its demise. The lens is faded, the clamp wobbly, and the solar lens cloudy. It cost \$28 (now it's \$32) and delivered about five to eight hours of light per week for almost four years. Better engineering would add a few years to its life, but the price would go up as well. We couldn't expect much more for the price.



*Sollight
rail light*

IGLOO COOLER

Our next victim of sea and sun was the Igloo Max Cold 60 wheeled cooler that did mediocre in our December 2005 test. As expected, the mild-steel wheel axle is severely corroded and the plastic latch and hinges have broken. Even Igloo's "marine" coolers have plastic latches, compared to Coleman's stainless-steel hardware. For about \$15, we were able to get new hinges and latches from Igloo online (www.igloo-store.com).