Welcome To SeaVoice

SeaVoice is Digital Yacht’s new generic name for our newsletters, videos, and now even an audio podcast available through iTunes. It’s all about what’s new and exciting from Digital Yacht but there’s also a bit of history too….

If you’re of my generation, you’ll remember the SeaVoice RT100—the first affordable marine VHF. They were crystal controlled and had just 12 channels but were revolutionary in their time. Digital Yacht certainly don’t plan to revisit this technology but we like the name SeaVoice and it’s always good to have a reminder of the pioneers in the marine electronic’s industry.

SeaVoice newsletters, videos and other media are designed to keep our partners, resellers, distributors and installers abreast of what’s happening,

Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes

NICK HEYES

NEW! PilotLINK Wireless Class A AIS Interface

There are around 550 harbour pilots in the UK and ten’s thousands worldwide. Every commercial ship over 300 GRT is mandated to carry a Class A transponder and the IMO has developed a standard plug ‘n’ play interface so that pilots can connect PilotLINK directly to any Class A AIS transponder regardless of manufacturer.

Pilots often want to be mobile on the bridge and even gather key navigation and AIS data when outside on the bridge wing – for instance when manoeuvring a ship. Using a mobile device like an iPad with its familiar pinch ‘n’ zoom features together with its high resolution display makes for a much better navigation experience.

PilotLINK is completely self-contained and fitted with an industry standard 1m interconnect cable. It operates directly from an internal 9V PP3 battery which offers around 15 hours operation or alternatively can be connected to any USB compatible external power pack. These are available from a wide variety of third party manufacturers. This USB connection can also be utilised with existing on board AC/DC outlets through a suitable adaptor allowing for just about every type of power source.

PilotLINK creates a unique Wi-Fi hotspot aboard the vessel with an on board range of typically 30m so it will easily footprint the bridge area. AIS target data as well as GPS navigation information is transmitted from the Class A device and the program or app on the mobile device can tap into this data. Digital Deep Sea offer a free app called iAIS and PilotLINK can also operate with industry leading apps such as iNavX and iSailor.

PRICE SRP £200 plus VAT

At a glance:

- Portable wireless interface for Class A AIS systems
- Fitted with industry standard pilot plug connector
- Creates wifi hotspot on board the bridge to allow iPad, tablet or PC to access the boats navigation and AIS data
- Powered from PP3 9V battery or optional external USB power pack/adaptor
- Ideal for use by maritime pilots, military, security forces etc.
- Works with iNavX and iSailor popular apps
Connecting a Garmin 451/551 to iAIS

The Garmin 400 and 500 series plotters are some of the most popular small boat chart plotters on the market and it is not surprising that we get many enquiries about how to connect our products to them. Normally customers just want to add an AIS receiver or transponder to their Garmin unit, but last week we had an interesting enquiry from a customer that wanted to add AIS, but also wanted a wireless solution for his iPad.

This particular customer only wanted to receive AIS targets and so our iAIS was the obvious choice but had he wanted a transponder then we could have done a similar setup with one of our AIT2000 and WLN10HS units. As we were discussing how the two systems would wire together, I realised that with the two NMEA 0183 ports that the Garmin has and the NMEA 0183 input (4800 baud) that our iAIS has, that we could also have GPS data and other NMEA data from the Garmin transmitted wirelessly to the iPad with the AIS data.

The benefits of this arrangement, are that any iPod Touch, iPhone or iPad can receive AIS and GPS data anywhere on the boat, even if they do not have their own internal GPS, such as the Wi-Fi only iPad and iPod Touch. Even 3G iPads and iPhones that have their own internal GPS, will benefit from the always on Garmin GPS which should be more accurate, particularly when you take your iPad/iPhone below deck.

Of course a suitable App will be required to read the AIS and GPS data, but with some recent new app releases, the number of available Navigation Apps that support wireless NMEA are growing. This particular customer intended to use the popular iNavX app, but other apps worth considering are; iSailor from Transas, iRegatta from Let’s Create, the new Imray app or the SailTimer app that I recently wrote about.

I hope that by publishing this article, many other Garmin 400 and 500 series owners might benefit from a new wireless AIS solution. Written by: PAUL SUMPNER CTO
New Design Engineer Joins The Team

Adam Drake has joined our development team from a robotics and electronics background. Adam will be working along side Akos Keleman and Paul Sumpner on a range of exciting new products including GPS, wireless and instrumentation. Adam has specific experience in the latest generation of microcontrollers which will bring a host of new functionality to low powered, embedded systems.

E-Mail Adam at adam.drake@digitalyacht.co.uk

Digital Yacht WLN10 Supports SailTimer

The problem with chart plotters on yachts, is that they tell you where the next waypoint is but unless the wind is in your favour, you may not be able to sail directly to it. This is where the SailTimer app comes in to its own. Using a series of tacking calculations that SailTimer have optimised and tested over many years, the app provides optimal tacking angles and accurate time to destination based on the actual tacks you will need to make, rather than the straight line course that most chart plotters calculate.

Using iNavConnect with Fusion 700 Series Marine Audio Systems.

Recently a customer of ours asked us how to connect their new Fusion 700 Series entertainment system to our iNavConnect wireless router. Our first question was “Why do you want to do that?” but then it became clear that the Fusion 700 Series is quite a sophisticated system. Using a wireless router and their Fusion Link App, you can fully control everything wirelessly from your iPad/iPhone. So we immediately contacted Fusion UK and arranged to borrow a unit for testing. In fact it turned out to be much easier than we expected to hook the devices together and within minutes we had everything setup and the sound of sweet music echoed through the office, remotely controlled by an iPhone.

Our iNavConnect, directly connected to the boat’s 12v or 24v DC supply and housed in an IP54 rated case that can be screwed/bolted down to a suitable bulkhead, is the ideal wireless router for connecting to the Fusion 700 Series and you can even hook up our WLS10 and have one wireless network for controlling your AV system and getting long range wireless internet.

As always, we have published a new Tech Note to guide customers and dealers through the process of getting everything working and a copy of this can be downloaded by clicking here.

“Use our iNavConnect wifi router with Fusion’s latest MA700 marine audio systems and get iPhone control of your stereo system…”

“he WLN10 also works well with the popular iNavX charting program. Choose the WLN10HS for AIS based systems as this is pre-programmed in the factory for 38400 baud NMEA data. Of course, you can re-configure in the field but its nice to plug ‘n’ play straight out of the box”
iNAVHub combines wireless networking and wireless NMEA data transfer in one simple to install box. Similar to our popular iNavConnect product, it creates a wireless network onboard the boat that any wireless device can connect to.

Once connected iPhones, iPads, PCs and MACs can receive NMEA0183 data wirelessly for use on iNavX and other navigation apps, whilst also sharing the long range internet connection created by Digital Yacht’s WL510 product.

iNavHub has an easy web interface for programming although it’s designed to plug ‘n’ play without set up.

It can also connect to any other internet enabled device with an RJ45 network connection such as a 3G router or satcom system.

PART NUMBER ZDIGINH