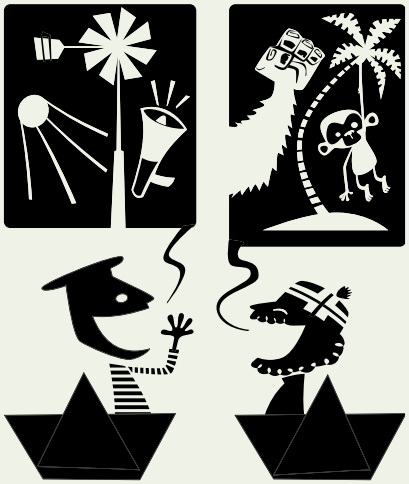
Hear the producer of uncensored speech

Much Norwegian and Russian terminology for items on or around a ship's bridge stem from their origin, or their likeness to animals. So don't be surprised to hear about an ape's fist, a wind-mill or a samovar on these bridges.

WRITER: *Ryan Skinner* || ILLUSTRATION: *João António*



Wind-mill
[ВеТрЯК - Vetryak] : Russian for weather station, this is literally translated as wind-mill or wind-drive, as older weather stations had blades to measure windspeed.

Bed-bug squeezer
[КЛОПОДВ - Klopodav] : Russian term for the mechanical morse key. Literally translated, this word means "bed-bug squeezer", as the original machine was ideal for smashing bed-bugs.

Sputnik
[СПУТНИК - Sputnik]: Russian term for the global positioning system (GPS), which uses satellites (descendents of sputnik) to report a ship's coordinates.

Producer of uncensored speech
[МаТЮГаЛЬНИК - Matyugalnik] : This word means roughly "producer of uncensored speech" in Russian, and refers to the loudspeaker – occasionally manned by a foul-mouthed mate.

Intestines
[КИШКа - Kishka] : Russian for intestines, this word is used for a fire hose for obvious reasons.

Tractor
[Трактор - Traktor] : On Russian bridges, this word is used to refer to the start and reverse console. Mates who came to the merchant fleet from Russia's navy were accustomed to breaking ice like a tractor plows earth.

Monkey island
Norwegian term for the deck over the bridge. Why? Who knows, but the English use the same term.

Donkey man
[Donkeymann] : Originally the stoker, this Norwegian term now refers to the mate responsible for clearing trash

Ape's fist
[Apeneve] : This Norwegian term refers to the knob on the end of a heaving line, which – apparently – resembles a monkey's fist.

Dog's shift
[Hundevakt] : Norwegians give this unflattering name to the unpopular shift on the bridge from midnight until 4 A.M.

Power provider

ABB is a global leader in power and automation technologies. New ways to create and deliver power in other industries may soon impact the marine market. Here's some of those innovations…

ENERGY EFFICIENCY CALCULATOR All new ABB standard and industrial drives from the beginning of 2009 will include a built-in calculator that measures how much energy the drive saves, the value in local currency and the reduction in carbon emissions.

ABB's variable speed drives were designed to conserve energy compared to conventional methods of fan and pump control. These drives have documented reduced energy consumption by 30 to 50 per cent, and as much as 80 per cent. Now the energy efficiency calculator makes those savings visible in terms of kilowatt-hours or megawatt-hours, and dollars, euro, RMB or any other currency, and tons of carbon.

OPC UNIFIED ARCHITECTURE ABB contributed to creating a new standard for interconnectivity in state-of-the-art industrial automation technology called OPC Unified Architecture (OPC UA). This will enable different products from different vendors to communicate on a common interface. The first ABB product supporting OPC UA is already on the market.

The new standard was developed by over 30 major automation vendors over five years, and is published as IEC 62541. It employs web services technology, making it platform-independent and capable of more applications.

Further, OPC UA allows seamless integration with Manufacturing Execution Systems (MES) and Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems.

INNOVATING ROBOTS WELDS A new piece of software from ABB allows robot operators to perfect the welding procedure from their desks. The welding simulator, called VirtualArc, allows an operator to run several test simulations of a weld before programming the robot.

The software uses a sophisticated simulator that incorporates information on the equipment available, such as the welding device and the power supply, and application data, such as the materials to be used, the plate thickness, joint configuration, etc.

This is the first simulator allowing per-weld analysis, and allows optimisation of the robot in a few minutes – a fraction of the time used on a conventional test.

IRRIGATION CONTROL SOLUTION A wireless irrigation solution from ABB has reduced energy consumption by 30 per cent, improved agricultural productivity by 25 per cent and saved enough water to meet the annual needs of 2.3 million people, in an arid region of Spain.

The system uses remote terminal units and the GPRS telecommunications network to provide a highly flexible and low-cost remote-controlled solution. 7,900 RTUs control 10,700 sets of water valves and counters. Powered by solar panels, these communicate wirelessly with a central control centre. |||