



Safety At Sea

Boston, MA

Heavy Weather & Storm Sails

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Lessons Learned

- Every time we sail we learn something
- Mistakes (ours or others) are part of that learning process
 - Re-hashing problems after races
 - Departing on severe weather pattern
- Train hard – with sincerity
- “The harder I work, the luckier I get.” Practice.
- Q&A and discuss problems as well as solutions

Heavy Weather Sailing & Storm Sails

- Objectives in talk
 - Familiarize people with early preparations
 - Review some of the critical aspects of storm sails and their use
 - Review heavy weather techniques & considerations
 - On deck
 - Down below
 - Care for crew

Heavy Weather



Preparation

- Preparation starts now:
 - Review sails, reef points, hoist storm sails and check, rig & rigging
 - Storm jib: small, orange, labeled, hollow leech, off the deck but not too high at hoist, label sheeting points on deck
 - Storm trysail: review track, what tools necessary, sheet angles, dodger, leech line at luff, attach tack to mast, flat with hollow leech
 - In light/moderate conditions put up storm sails and heave to.

Storm Trysail, Mahina Expeditions

(www.mahina.com)



Storm Jib & Trysail Track



Before, During, and After Heavy Weather

- Responsible sailing is about awareness
 - Know your boat
 - Know the weather
 - Maintain list of emergency contacts
 - Have a bail out strategy
 - Know which way is out of the storm

Changing Down, 3 Reefes in Main



Heavy Weather Preparation

– On Deck:

- Jack lines should be run on both sides of the deck & in cockpits. Ropes roll. Straps are flat.
- Storm sails: folded & tied properly, ready to attach tack and stowed conveniently
- Lines: chafe free, spares tied to binnacle, possibly double sheet the jib, heavily loaded lines should not be on rope clutches, safety wraps on lines in self-tailing winches, warps on standby in cockpit or aft.
- Raft/grab bag: up to date, ready to deploy, secure but handy
- Other equipment: Secure, remove from deck if necessary.

Spare Lines Aft & Handy



Headsail on Standby, Halyard Attached



Heavy Weather Preparation

– Down below:

- Handholds: sufficient to get around or run handhold lines
- Gear stowed: everything in its place
- Food preparation: fix early, simple plentiful meals for heavy wx, cook wears foul weather gear in heavy seaway to avoid burns
- Warm & dry areas for living & stowing foul weather gear
- Batteries: charge fully prior to onset of heavy weather
- Fuel: day tanks full, insure access to fuel tanks in heavy weather and on either tack
- Water: insure ample water supply to last several days
- Insure engine works on either tack, fully heeled over and sinks do NOT back-siphon
- Hatches are leak free and secured

Hatches Named “Niagara” & “Victoria”



Heavy Weather Preparation

- Crew: Fit, rested, fed, dry and warm
 - Maintain that healthy state
 - “The more I practice, the luckier I get!”
 - “Look up before you hook up!”
 - Take preemptive precautions for sea sickness and identify sea sickness problems early to correct
 - Everyone knows where their lights, rigging knives, tools and personal gear is located early

Heavy Weather Execution

- Crew safety is paramount. Clip on to stay on.
- Change down your sails early
 - Winds often pick up at night so act accordingly before nightfall
 - Convective clouds often have gusts, especially on their leading edges
 - Light boats / multihulls are more susceptible to gusts than heavy displacement monohulls.
- When walking on deck, always walk on the high side of the boat to get to the task
- When dropping or setting sails, always stand to weather of the sail – NEVER between the sail and the low side of the boat
- Protect hull, rig and sails – in that order – with crew safety always paramount
- When hooking up a new headsail, attach the tack immediately to keep it on the deck in a seaway
- When dropping headsails, have plenty of sail ties handy, securing the luff first and then other parts of the sail. Always control the luff.

Clip On to Stay On



Stay On the High Side When Possible



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BR73KN
www.alamy.com

Protect Hull, Rig, and Sails In that Order



A Suitable Place for Repairs



Repair to Diamond Shroud



Tension to Jury Rigged Diamond



Heavy Weather Execution

- A few words about hypothermia
 - It can happen in the Ocean or Great Lakes any time of year
 - It debilitates and can kill
 - Stay warm and dry
 - You keep your clothes warm. The fuel for that is the food you eat.

Icing & Hypothermia

One Does NOT Require the Other



Heavy Weather Execution

- Put things away like you'll use them again – and the conditions won't be nice!
 - Storm sails should be folded and stowed, ready for immediate re-use.
 - You'll like them. Those sails are small enough and easy enough to fold, tie and stow properly. And they'll help to keep your boat in one piece, moving where you want to go.

Abandon Ship Introduction

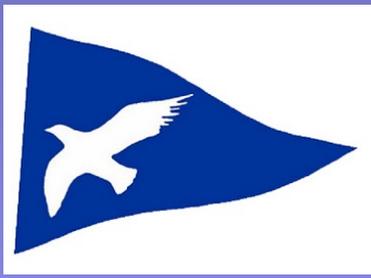
- Abandonment has serious consequences.
 - Risk to rescuers
 - Loss of property
 - Hazard to navigation & the property of others
- Be well prepared but abandon your vessel **ONLY** in very serious situations
- View the video provided by the Bonnell Cove Foundation

Sailing Safety Videos

- Videos courtesy of Bonnell Cove Foundation and Storm Trysail Club
- To purchase copies of the many STC videos, please visit us at: stormtrysailfoundation.org
- Mike Keyworth, drogue steering: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ABSCT7y9vnl&feature=youtu.be>
- U.S. Sailing: <https://www.ussailing.org/education/adult/safety-at-sea-courses/>

Life Raft Use & Deployment

- Inspect your raft regularly
- When it's inspected, you might consider being present to actually see what you're relying upon
- For long passages, you can add things such as medication, warm clothes or other items in addition to the standard enclosed items
- Make sure the raft is securely tied to the vessel prior to inflation
- Make sure everyone including grab bag and communications devices are in the raft prior to separating from your boat.



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