

Rigging tips...Summer edition...10 ways to improve your sailing fun.

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Working on the boat in the summer?!? ICK. Summer is for sailing. Here are some tips that only take minutes and will help you get the most out of those precious moments on the water.

1. ***Go sailing.***
2. ***Go sailing some more...***
3. ***...and more...***

That's the podium for having fun sailing. Then there's these tidbits:

4. **Tape any and all rings/cotter pins.** This will keep lines, clothing or skin from snagging. (and, oh ya, prevent them from working out.)



5. **But first...**consider putting those on the forestay in from port to starboard, especially if you Race. Why? Because the spinnaker is typically set from the port side. Placing the head of the pin on port gives the spinnaker a smoother path when hoisting/dousing. (This is also why jib snaps wrap from port to starboard.)
6. ***Go sailing.***
7. **MAKE TRIM MARKS**...especially on the jib sheets. This is a great help when novices are crewing. Crew will appreciate the reference points. It will give them a sense of clarity. Marks make for easy coaching as well as repeatability of fast settings. Reference marks can be on sheets or on deck & spars...yes, I mark my bridle for repeatable settings vs wind speed. Heck, fact is that all pro and Olympic teams do this. It's best practice for everyone.
Notice the marks on the jib sheet as well as the colored stripes on the deck (white tape). Go ahead and have some fun. My main jib car position is (GO) GREEN, next most used is (GO) WHITE. (Go Sparty!)



8. **PUT BATTENS IN THIN END FIRST.** They are designed to bend into an airfoil shape when loaded. This orientation also makes for a smoother transition from sail to batten as well as helping support a smooth exit from the leech...*FAST*. Put the most flexible batten in the top. Bonus: Proper use of tapered battens also extends sail life. All good.
9. **Did I mention *GO SAILING*.**
10. **Tune your rig.** Cruisers too. The Interlake rig is the simplest mast to get right. A properly raked and tensioned rig will make sailing more enjoyable by lightening the helm, improve pointing while providing generally more control and a better feel. Wonderful! Here are numbers that will get most any Interlake with any brand sails really close. RAKE: 25' 3" to 25' 4" and side stay tension of 230 lbs. Rake is measured from full hoist to center of transom (add 3" if you have the old masthead crane above the mast).

Err....I meant, "at LEAST 10..."

11. **Make a place to hold water bottles (beer),** snacks, etc. My DIY method is to take a couple of Tupperware containers. Melt drainage holes (heat rod with blowtorch). Then silicone glue them on top of the tanks (make sure to ruff up all gluing surfaces with 120 or grittier sandpaper and thoroughly clean...acetone works well.) I put one for the skipper on starboard next to the post, and one on port for crew at the forward edge of the tank. Easy access. Light. So nice.



12. **BRING SNACKS and BEVERAGES!**

13. **Racers: Remove the “stern shelf”** found on the floor at the transom. It’s a quick and free way to loose weight in a place you really don’t want it. Note: Cruisers usually love this shelf.
14. **Go Sailing...trying a different perspective.** You will probably learn something, including loving sailing even more. Racers...go cruising, just because. I’ll bet you become faster. Cruisers, try joining in a race. Better boat handling equals better seamanship. It’s all good.

Sailing is such a wonderful experience, especially in an Interlake, and most especially with family and friends. Enjoy sailing you Interlake as much as possible. ☺