

Trailer Sailor Pre-Departure Checklist

To-Do Items: Night Before Departure

Charge batteries:

- ☐ Handheld GPS
- ☐ Handheld VHF
- ☐ Boat battery
- ☐ Cell phone

To-Do Items: Day of Departure

- ☐ Attach gunwale tie-down
- ☐ Mount outboard motor
- ☐ Check trailer wheel lug nuts
- ☐ Check trailer tire air pressure
- ☐ Check Bearing Buddy grease level
- ☐ Check trailer light operations
- ☐ Stow companionway boards
- ☐ Install boat battery
- ☐ Check outboard motor fuel level
- ☐ Stow drinking water/food

Equipment/Supplies Checklist

Mast raising rig:

- ☐ Gin pole
- ☐ Bridle
- ☐ Transom roller/support
- ☐ Vang

Sailing bag:

- ☐ Handheld GPS
- ☐ Handheld VHF
- ☐ Chart book
- ☐ Binoculars
- ☐ Tool kit
- ☐ Spare clevis/cotter pins
- ☐ Trailer winch handle
- ☐ Wheel chocks
- ☐ Work gloves

Trailer Sailor Launch Checklist

In Parking Lot

- ☐ Disconnect trailer lights.
- ☐ Remove and stow gunwale tie-down.
- ☐ Climb aboard. Untie mast from stern pulpit
Untie shrouds and stays.
- ☐ Mount mast support/roller onto transom and
lift mast onto roller.
- ☐ Carry mast bridle, gin pole and boom vang
onto foredeck.
- ☐ Untie mast from bow pulpit, roll mast aft
and bolt onto mast step.
- ☐ Clip mast bridle onto lifeline stanchions and
eye strap on mast.
- ☐ Insert gin pole pin into hole in mast base,
connect jib halyard to gin pole, take slack
out and ***CLEAT SECURELY TO MAST!***
- ☐ Attach gin pole side support lines to bridle
pivot rings. Tension support lines.
- ☐ Clip the vang fiddle block end to jib tack
hole in chain plate and other end to gin pole.
- ☐ Raise mast with vang sheet, checking to
ensure that shrouds and stays do not foul or
bind as the mast goes up.
- ☐ Secure forestay clevis pin and tension the
forestay.
- ☐ Stow mast bridle and roller/support on
board, gin pole in vehicle.
- ☐ Check battery switch position.
- ☐ Get mooring lines and boat hook ready.
- ☐ If single-handed, tension shrouds, attach
boom, mainsheet, sails, jib lead blocks and
jib sheets prior to launch. Secure sails with
tie cords and attach halyards.

On Launch Ramp

- ☐ Attach long mooring lines to ramp pier.
- ☐ Back trailer into water.
- ☐ Set parking brake, put transmission into
park and chock tow vehicle rear wheels.
- ☐ Remove bow hold down strap/safety
chain from bow eye.
- ☐ Verify all clear aft and launch boat.
- ☐ Walk boat to end of pier.
- ☐ Remove wheel chocks and drive vehicle/
trailer back to parking lot.
- ☐ Lower rudder if ramp water depth
permits.
- ☐ Display ensign during daylight hours.
- ☐ Start motor and get underway.
- ☐ Turn on VHF, GPS and other electronics.
- ☐ If sailing with crew, attach boom, main-
sheet, sails, jib lead blocks and sheets,
main and jib halyards underway. Tension
shrouds. If single-handed, do these items
in the parking lot, prior to launch.
- ☐ Ensure that all gear is stowed securely
before raising sails.

Trailer Sailor Recovery Checklist

Prior to Reaching Recovery Ramp

- ☐ Lower and secure sails.
- ☐ If sailing with crew, remove and stow sails, jib lead blocks, vang, mainsheet and boom. Cleat main and jib halyards to mast cleats. De-tension shrouds and forestay. Attach mast-raising bridle to Stanchions and mast eye strap. Attach mast roller/support to transom. ** If single-handed, leave these items until you are back in the parking lot.
- ☐ Attach mooring lines fore and aft.
- ☐ Turn off and stow GPS and VHF. Ready wallet, keys, food, etc. for off-loading.

At Recovery Ramp

- ☐ Raise rudder. Stow boat hook.
- ☐ Remove battery from boat.
- ☐ Walk boat to recovery position.
- ☐ Back trailer into water. Set parking brake, put transmission in park and chock wheels.
- ☐ ***Put on gloves!***
- ☐ Pull boat onto trailer as far as possible with forward mooring line and attach winch hook to bow eye.
- ☐ Winch boat onto trailer and secure bow hold-down strap/safety chain.
- ☐ Remove wheel chocks and pull boat out.

In Parking Lot

- ☐ Connect trailer lights. Put gin pole and gloves onto foredeck.
- ☐ Attach transom tie-down.
- ☐ Climb aboard.
- ☐ If single-handed, complete items in second check point under “Prior to Reaching Recovery Ramp” now.
- ☐ Carry mainsheet to foredeck. Insert gin pole pin into mast and attach vang to pole and chain plate.
- ☐ Attach gin pole side support lines to bridle pivot rings and tension lines. Attach jib halyard to pole. Take slack out of halyard.
- ☐ ***** CLEAT JIB HALYARD SECURELY TO MAST!! THIS IS CRITICAL!!*****
- ☐ Remove forestay clevis pin, then lower mast, ensuring that it settles onto roller. ***Wear gloves to avoid rope burn!***
- ☐ Remove Vang and detach gin pole side support lines from bridle pivot rings.
- ☐ Remove gin pole from mast. Detach jib halyard and clip to mast ring. Tension halyard and cleat to mast.
- ☐ Detach bridle from mast and toe rail.
- ☐ Lift mast off step and roll forward. Secure mast and forestay to bow pulpit. Stow gin pole, bridle and vang on boat.
- ☐ Lift mast from roller, tie mast to stern pulpit. Remove and stow roller/support.
- ☐ Secure shrouds/stays with bungees or ties.
- ☐ Replace companionway boards and offload food, keys, wallet, etc.