



Town Class Seminar One

Tips for Newbies

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Our Speakers

Anne Waymouth

Purchased Wabi Sabi October
2091 from Charlie Morrow,
Marblehead

Bill Key

Purchased 2093 in 2015 from
Sharon MA. Too old to know
better.





Agenda

- 1st Section: Trawl Line Tips
- 2nd Section: Sailing Tips
- 3rd Section: In Harbor Starts



Trawl Line Tips





Trawl Line Tip #1: Centerboard Up

- When you are moored on the Trawl line, make sure your centerboard is up and secured in the up position.
- If it sticks in the mud at low tide:
 - Your boat will not swing properly on its mooring.
 - It will likely ram your Trawl line neighbor
 - In high winds, your Townie could capsize or worse
 - Your centerboard box may be seriously damaged



Trawl Line Tip #2: Approaching the Trawl

- As you are coming into the Trawl line, the best position for your centerboard is $\frac{3}{4}$ down.
- With the centerboard at $\frac{3}{4}$ down, you can move over the trawl line and the trawl line will slide under your centerboard as you go over it.
- You do need some centerboard to have steerage for the upwind approach to your pennant, so don't pull it all the way up.





Trawl line Tip #3: Paddle Ready

- Have your paddle(s) ready as you are coming into the Trawl line. Without forward momentum, you will have no steerage and will need the paddle right now.
- Townies can be moved (slowly) with a paddle/s. There is no shame in paddling a bit of the distance to your pennant.
- There is shame in ramming your neighbor's Townie.



Trawl Line Tip #4: Cockpit Cover

- For your boat cover to fully cover your cockpit, the boom needs to be in the down position. It is no fun to start your next sail with wet feet.
- The covers were designed to look and work best when the boom is approximately parallel to the water.
- The boom will be parallel to the water if you use the standard Townie boom crutch (approx. 11” above the transom) and position the forward end of the boom in the lowest position (approx. 10” above the deck).





Trawl Line Tip #5: Paddling a Townie

If you do need to paddle your Townie for any distance, consider:

- Pulling out your rudder
When paddling and not having anyone holding the tiller, the rudder will turn sideways against the boat.
- Putting the centerboard down about 1/4.
The centerboard keeps the boat from swinging when paddling.



Trawl Line Tip #6: Towing a Townie

When being towed (if you are lucky enough):

- Tie your tow line around your mast, then take a single turn (don't cleat it) around the deck cleat to share the load with the mast.
- Use your bow chock to fairlead the tow line over the bow as it helps keep the boat in line with the towboat.
- Steer behind the towing boat or the boat in front using your rudder. Put your centerboard down 1/4 to keep the boat from sliding sideways.



Tow Line through the bow chock helps control the bow when being towed.



Trawl Line Tip #7: Flashlights

The MTCA rules require a flashlight be on board.

- Locate your flashlight before it gets dark and have it handy.
- You will need the flashlight to put your your boat away after a twilight sail.
- As a safety issue when it is dusk or dark, use your flashlight to warn approaching boats of your presence by shining the light on your sail.



Questions on 1st Section



Sailing Tips





Sailing Tip #1: The Long Boom

The booms on Townies are longer in relation to the beam of the boat than any other boat you have sailed on.

- In the dead down wind position, the boom will extend one and a half times the beam of your Townie.
- When sailing around other Townies your boom can snag them, or when sailing past a moored boat, the boom can get caught on the bow pulpit or an anchor resting on the bow of a moored boat. Not fun
- Be sure that you look both ways when running... at the boom end and at your winged out jib. Don't get transfixed on the boom end only.



2085



Sailing Tip #2: Stuck in Irons

Townies can get stuck in irons easily. . .

- Try to have a decent amount of headway on before you begin your tack.
- Allow your jib to backwind a bit to help the bow cross the plane of the wind before you sheet in the jib on the new tack.
- If you sheet in the jib for the new tack before your bow has crossed the plane of the wind, it will catch the wind on the wrong side of the sail, and it will stop your turn and you will not complete your tack.



Sailing Tip #3 : Jibing

Townies can get out of control easily when jibing in a breeze:

- Be sure to sheet in the main progressively as the stern swings through the wind, then slack it out quickly after the boom swings through. Make sure the mainsheet is not tangled before starting a jibe so that you can slack it off.
- Don't worry about the jib, focus on getting the main under control then worry about the jib.
- Townies can get out of control when trying to head off the wind after a jibe. You can pull the rudder off its hinges, but the boat will not head off until you slack the mainsheet (due to weather helm).
- Related to jibing, when you are sailing through the harbor and dodging boats, remember that a Townie won't head off the wind until you slack the mainsheet, no matter how hard you put the rudder over.



Sailing Tip #4: Avoid Mainsheet Snags

Because the boom is long, the main sheet is also long.

- The main sheet can snag on many possible obstructions as you tack or jibe. It can get stuck under your tiller. It can get stuck on the corner of your transom. It can get stuck on your traveler. ...
- You will be amazed at all the different places the main sheet can snag and of course, it always gets snagged at the worse time



Sailing Tip #5: Avoid Jib Sheet Snag

Your jib sheet will snag on your bow cleat so to prevent it from snagging:

- Put a cover over their bow cleat before getting underway.
- Wind a short piece of rope around the cleat to fill it and prevent snags.
- Run a small line from the bow fitting to the cleat, round the cleat then back to the cockpit



2093's bow cleat cover
fabricated from Ace Hardware's
Flat brass strip and Velcro. See
Bill for advice.



Sailing Tip #6: Rudder Track

- Townies have a bad weather helm, so this weather helm puts a lot of stress on the rudder attachment/track on the transom.
- Check the screws in the rudder track when you are outfitting in the Spring to make sure they are not loose.
- An alternate to screws is to drill through and bolt the track down.



A High breeze means High Loads on Tiller, Rudder Head and Rudder Track.



Sailing Tip #7: Secure Rudder & Tiller

Make sure your rudder and tiller are secure before getting underway:

- Be sure you have a pin which will keep the tiller in the rudder and use it.
- As you are sailing, check on the pin that holds the tiller to the rudder as it can work loose.
- If the pin is not fully in place, the tiller can pull out and a pain, to reinstall your tiller while you are sailing.



Questions on 2nd Section





Tips For Townie Inside Line Starts (Harbor Starts)





Harbor Start Tip #1: The Starting Line

What is the best advice for knowing where the starting line is located when you lose visual sight of the orange Pin Buoy in the center of the harbor ?

- The best way is to sail a line from the CYC toward the Pin (Harbor end of starting line), then pick a boat in line with the Pin and use that boat as an indicator of where the Pin is.
- Remember, if you can't see the Pin due to a boat in the way, neither can the race committee. LOL





Harbor Start Tip #2: Situational Awareness

What is good advice for how to handle tacking into the wind with moored boats all around? How do you decide when and where to start your tack?

- Tacking with moored boats in the general area of the starting line would be like tacking at an obstruction.
- Skipper and Crew need to have total situational awareness (keep an eye out for what is going on around you)



Harbor Start Tip #3: The Start

What can a Skipper expect for announcements over the VHF at the start of the race?

- Do not be dependent upon VHF announcements at the start or during the race.
- Do have your VHF turned on to the correct channel as information you do get is a big plus.
- Depend upon the standard signal flag and course markers from the CYC Porch Starting Booth and the Sailing Instructions.



Probably the only time That 2093 (Bill Key) has been in front of 2086 (Chris Howes) going in the same direction



Harbor Start Tip #4: * * * * Happens

Best Advice on how to avoid *****Happening:

- Keep your eyes on the other boats during the starting maneuvering.
- Look up over the moored boats and watch for other Townie masts.
- Avoid getting into “tight” situations at the start.
- Know the Rules by Heart to that if in a ‘tight’ situation, you will know who is in the right.



Everyone, please avoid situations where damage could occur, regardless of the racing rules. Most of the boats are close to or older than 50 years and fragile....the crews are usually older than the boats.

This broken mast happened when the boom from a starboard tack boat hit the forestay of a port tack boat. Nice clean break though....



Harbor Start Tip #5: Obstructions

Inside Line Starts are not pretty with many moored boats as obstructions.

- As noted earlier, the Skipper and Crew should maintain “situational awareness” and should avoid any “tight” situations.
- A moored boat should be treated as an “obstruction” as detailed in the Racing Rules Paragraphs 19 and 20.
- Read and know the Racing Rules by heart since a “tight” situation is not the time to be wondering about how the rules apply.



Final Words

- Don't be intimidated by these lists.
- Things will happen whether they are on this list or not.
- Past newbies have gotten to know their boats without this advice.
- *Enjoy getting to know your boat.*



Questions on the 3rd Section

