

Preparing To Sail the Beetle Cat Boat

Before you get onto the Launch for the ride out to the Green Dragon, **do you & your passengers have their Life Jackets securely on?** *If not, get one* from the bin and put it on. **Do you have a VHF radio & know the protocols for radio communications?** If you don't ask the launch driver to borrow a yacht club's radio. If necessary review the VHR protocol handout, and take it with you. The EYC Staff monitor channel 14. You can call for assistance by hailing **Jubilee Jubilee; this is the Green Dragon calling for assistance.** The Coast Guard monitors channel 16. You can call for assistance by hailing **Any Boat, Any Boat, this is the Green Dragon calling for assistance.**

As you step onto the deck of the Beetle from the launch reach and hold onto the mast while the launch pulls away & until the boat settles down. If there are more than one person transferring the first person should hold onto the gaff & boom (covered by the sail cover) and move aft into the cockpit thus making room for the following person to step onto the Beetle's deck and securely hold onto the mast.

Once all persons are safely in the cockpit the skipper should take command of the boat, *(The skipper is not necessarily the helmsperson, but the person with the most sailing experience.)* and direct the procedures to ready the boat to be sailed.

Before you do anything, look around and orient yourself & the boat in the mooring field, take note that the mooring number is **112**. Now you know where to park the boat when you are all done sailing.

If I have a passenger who is unfamiliar with the rigging & sailing of a Beetle, I ask that person to sit in the aft end of the cockpit and be ready to duck their head as the boom becomes free & lively as I hoist the sail. This person may hold the boom up with one hand and remove the boom crutch with the other hand.

The following steps are outlined in the order that I find most convenient.

1. Pull the center board cord to lift the board a bit & remove the retaining pin. (This pin is attached to a short cord and should be allowed to just dangle.) Let go of the Centerboard Cord to allow the board to drop. (This will help a little to keep the boat from rocking.)
2. Lift the two sole boards to expose the bilge. (there is one on each side of the centerboard box)
 - a) If there is water, use the pump & sponge to dry the bilge. Once dry, replace boards.
3. Attach the Rudder. (be sure that both pintels are inserted into the **gudgeons**.)
4. Remove the Sail Cover, Fold & Stow below. Untie the sail ties & Stow
5. Notice that there are two yardarms attached to the mast with the sail gathered between them. The top spar is the GAFF, the bottom spar is the BOOM. (the boom is sitting in the boom crutch in the aft end of the cockpit.) The gaff is attached to the mast with jaws. The boom is attached to the mast with a fitting called the gooseneck. The sail is attached to both the Gaff & the boom as well as to the mast.

6. Notice the Main Sheet. Check that the figure 8 knot at the bitter end is secure with a bit of a tail. Uncoil & uncleat the sheet so it can run freely.
7. Move forward in the cockpit; notice there are two cleats on the deck between the coaming and the mast where the halyards are attached.
8. Standing steadily untie each halyard and hold both taut. Begin to pull both halyards simultaneously slowly at first. (As the gaff is raised the sail will also go up and raise the boom a little & lift the boom off the crutch. Remove the boom crutch & stow it.) **Now Be careful !** As the sail is raised the wind will bring the rig to life and it will swing as the wind pushes on it.
9. Continue to pull the halyards simultaneously until the gaff is at the top of its hoist. (You will notice that when the gaff is hoisted to its top height it will set at an incline with its peak higher than its throat at the mast.)
10. Holding both halyards taut, tie the gaff halyard onto its cleat; then continue hoisting the throat to its proper height. While holding it strongly, tie the throat halyard onto its cleat. (coil each halyard and tuck under the halyards lying between the cleats and the mast.)
11. Locate the tiller, and slide it through the hole in the transom and through the two metal tiller straps.
12. Now sit and inspect your sail, do you like the way it is set? If not, adjust it by either tightening or loosening the halyards. (The sail should be smooth without deep wrinkles.)
13. Move forward onto the deck to release the boat's mooring pennant. Return to the cockpit.
14. Look around to see where you are headed, trim your sail and **YOU ARE SAILING.**

Have fun, Sail Safely

When you are done sailing return the Green Dragon to its mooring. (#112)

1. Secure the mooring pennant to the deck cleat be sure the pennant is fed through the chuck.
2. Remove the tiller and stow it.
3. Find the Sail ties and keep them handy.
4. Find the boom crutch and put it into its slot in the aft end of the coaming.
5. Move forward and untie the two halyards and slowly lower the Gaff. (As the gaff is lowered, the sail and boom will also come down.) Hold the halyards to prevent the two spars from crashing down or hitting anyone's head. (While holding the halyards taut with one hand, grab the boom and place it into the crutch.) Now you can continue to lower the Gaff. (leave the gaff about 6-8 inches parallel to the boom.)
6. Tie both halyards onto their cleats, coil each & tuck under themselves forward of the cleats.
7. Now flake & roll the Sail so that the battens are parallel to the yardarms & the sail is tucked in between both spars. (Tie the sail to hold it in place with the sail ties.)
8. Place the sail cover on securely
9. Pull the main sheet in to snug, coil it neatly, and tie it to the boom.
10. Pull the Centerboard up, Find the retaining pin and slide it into the hole at the top of the center board box.
11. Remove the Rudder
12. Hail Jubilee for a ride in
13. Log in your return (write any notes about the boat, or you may email Bill Grenga at Billgrenga10091948@verizon.net)
14. If you borrowed an EYC VHF radio and/or a life jacket please return them.

We hope you enjoyed sailing the Green Dragon.