

## Here's How...

### The Parry Snappy

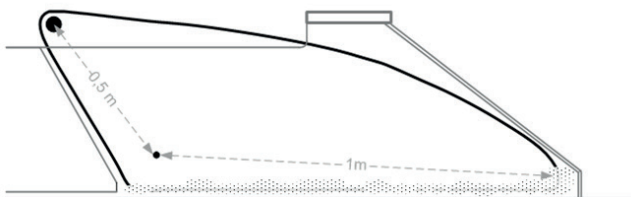
Below is an article which Allan Parry dictated whilst in the hospice to his son John. It is about an invention Allan had been working on for several years from experiences when sailing in Nova Scotia and the Scilly Islands. Poul Ammentorp assisted Allan in fine tuning his invention the 'Wayfarer Sand Nappy' when they were together in the Scilly Isles. The name of the device has evolved through 'Wayfarer Snappy' to 'The Parry Snappy' in memory of Allan.

Poul has made a video using photographs of Allan demonstrating his invention which can be seen at: "The Parry Wayfarer Snappy" and some of Poul's photographs are reproduced here with kind permission.

### The "Wayfarer Sand Nappy"

On the general heading of 'what could possibly go wrong' is the jammed centre board. The scenario is benign. Stepping aboard from a gently sloping beach, the boat is sailed off the shoreline. The problem then becomes apparent as no amount of heaving will bring the centre board down to the vertical position. This happened to Jim Fraser and me off the coast of Nova Scotia. The only solution is to return to the shore by dint of paddling.

The diagram below shows the reason for the problem; a Pebble of a diameter 3 to 10 mm can fit in the gap between the centre board case and the centre board. Any movement digs the pebble into the wood and cements the problem. There is a mechanical disadvantage to moving the centre board because of the leverages involved (see diagram).



Side view of Centreboard with pebbles or sand in the bottom of the centreboard cage

The boat has then to be careened on the beach and emptied of the 2 weeks of supplies required for the cruise. Using a bow saw blade which has had its teeth blunted and a handle fitted to the offending pebble may be extracted. Pouring water down the centre board case helps.

Key to the above problem is that beaches are formed from different sorts of sand. The worst seem to be made from degraded granite. This is found extensively throughout Devon and Cornwall and especially the Isles of Scilly.

Granite is rapidly broken down (at geological rates) into mica, feldspar and china clay and it is the large angular crystals of feldspar which cause the problem.

The introduction of the feldspar crystals into the centre board case is at its worst during the high energy environment of wavelets lapping underneath the grounded hull as the Wayfarer takes the ground during the incoming tide.

This is a particular issue in the Scillies due to mooring to a 100m running line which is perpendicular to the beach and the tide causes constant feldspar ingress.



So what to do? The solution, garnered from the days of ancient sailing ships, is to apply a fothered sail underneath the boat covering the centre board slot.

The ideal solution (for us) was to purchase an 8 x 4 plastic tarpaulin, with brass eyelets and attach elastic bungee and hooks at the four corners. The Wayfarer nappy is then tightly attached underneath the hull and secured to appropriate shrouds, bridle etc.



Thus applied, the tarpaulin creates the perfect preventative barrier to feldspar ingress, and centre board jams become a thing of the past.



Another solution proposed by a sail maker is a gasket type affair, but we haven't time or material to try this out, and also due to the complexity involving sail-fabric-gaskets and brass screw heads wearing due to abrasion with the sand. Time for a beer?

With the nappy in place, we retired to the bar.

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