

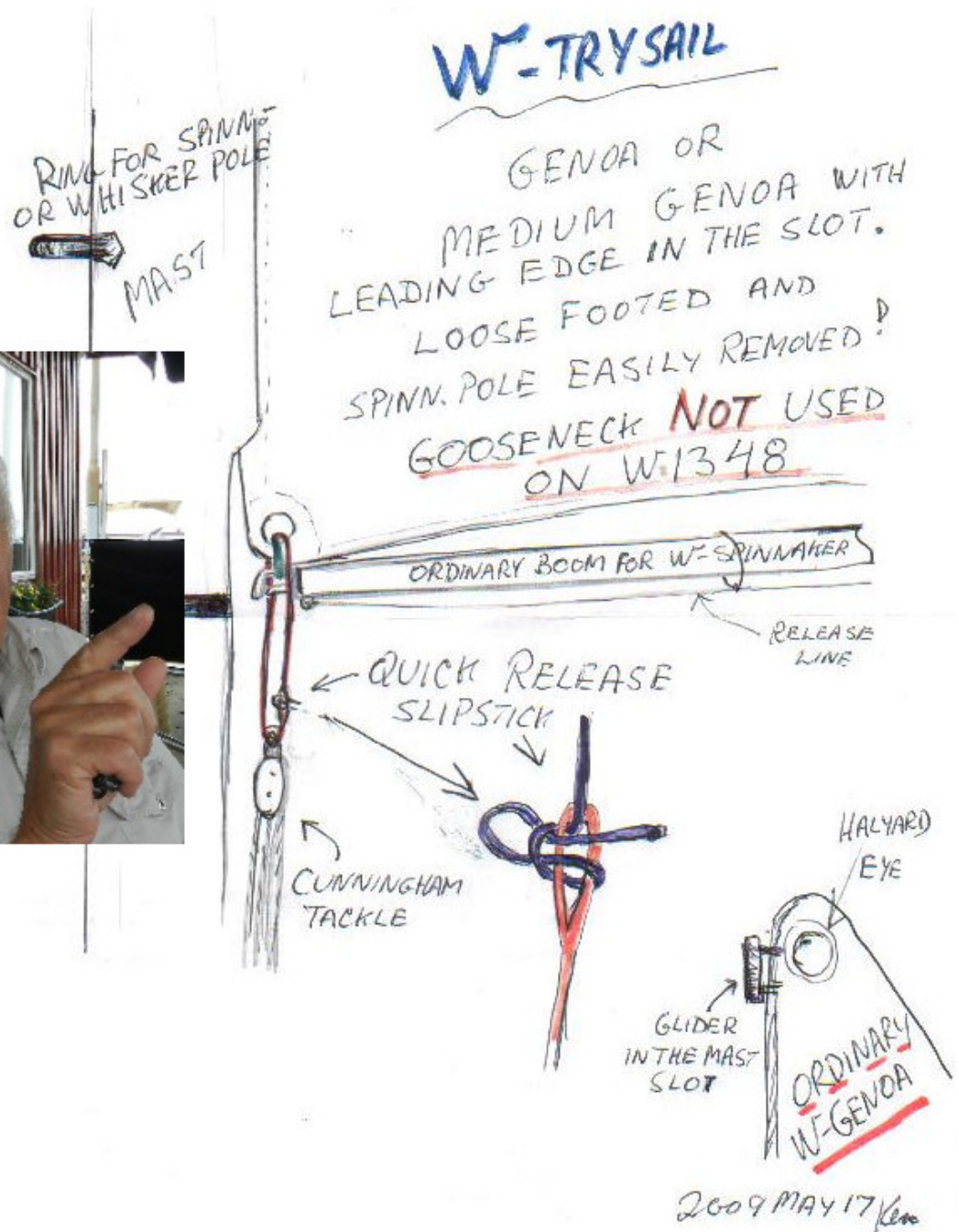
Sometimes all you need is ... a Trysail

When the wind reaches or passes Force 7 and there is a need to go upwind, full sail becomes a bit stressful for most of us. Even main alone can be a bit much in those conditions, especially that sailplan's attendant increased weather helm.

Using only the genoa/jib reduces sail area nicely and is great for runs or even reaches but should only be used for short stretches upwind. This is because the sail power source is then too far for-

ward and you wage a constant struggle against considerable lee helm.

The solution of course is to move the jib's Centre of Effort aft, and the great Danish Wayfarer, Ken Jensen (W1348) has done just that with his **Wayfarer trysail**. He has moved the genoa where the main used to be, a fine solution that is functional and inexpensive. I will now let Ken show you this marvel.





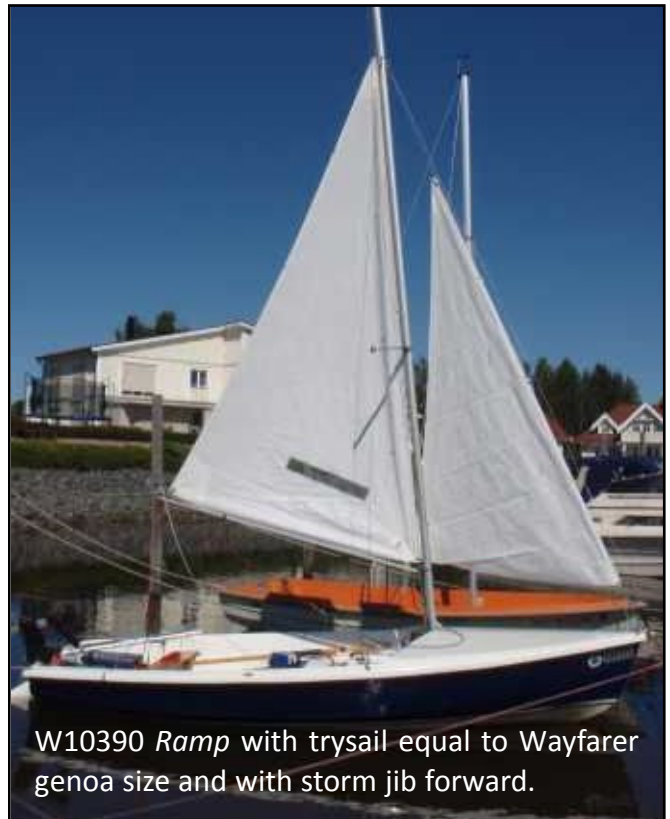
Ken talks Trysail

My W-trysail from 1968 did not use a boom, which is okay when sailing close-hauled. My older W-trysails were in fact used for many years without a boom. But then Gudtorn Heldal (W7172) showed me his idea of adding a boom to the loose-footed trysail by using the spinnaker pole between a small loop in the tack eye and a small loop in the sheet eye so that any ordinary W-genoa with the short foot length or a medium W-genoa can very quickly be fitted to the pole. I found his idea especially efficient on broad reaches and runs as it keeps the sail out better.

The foot of my oldest genoa is actually about 125 mm (5 inches) too long for the spinnaker boom. My newest one, made like a medium genoa by Mike McNamara, is about 100 mm (4") shorter and is made with a luff bolt rope to fit inside the sail groove of the mast like a mainsail. My W-trysail lives on the spare spinnaker pole which is stowed under the side-decks for easy access. The gooseneck on W1348 is not used with the W-trysail-boom. *(see previous page for diagram)*

The W-trysail for W1348 has double sheets, like an ordinary foresail, no kicker, but a preventer line is sometimes used to hold the boom down on a run in a 'bumpy' seaway. I forgot to free it for one gybe causing a well deserved capsize. On that trip we were on a dead run - there were many sea miles and good-sized breakers in 25-28 knots of wind on the open fjord coming straight from the Skagerack Sea. So the W-trysail was bouncing up and down.

With a more stabilized sail due to the preventer (the line goes via the spi-sheet hook(s) near the chain plates to a cleat), I got wonderful, stable, speedy surfing and planing ... until the gybe!



W10390 *Ramp* with trysail equal to Wayfarer genoa size and with storm jib forward.

A leading sail edge that will slide into the sail groove is definitely an advantage. Below is *Ramp* with the spinnaker boom on the gooseneck, and the main cunningham used as the downhaul on the trysail. The lowest slide of the trysail is visible in the mast groove.





(above left) In 2008, Hans Gottschling (l) and Uncle Al (r) brought a trysail to try out on the Chesapeake Bay cruise. Their trysail is a genoa fitted with mast slides along its luff. Hans custom made the boom to fit. The trysail worked beautifully. (above right) On the Chesapeake's Smith Island, Al takes Smith Island Marina manager, Pauli Zmolek, for a trysail spin as her "Captain" looks on.

And in 2011, at Hermit Island on the Atlantic Ocean in Maine, Tony Krauss, Uncle Al and Alan Asselstine (l to r below) were the only sailboat to venture out in Thursday's nasty-looking conditions. Just the weather for our trysail. Once out of the harbor, the beer cruise/trial run was more of a workout. Educational, too. We found that a scrap of jib unwound from the forestay helped the trysail nicely (bottom left) until the really nasty stuff (bottom right) chased us back into harbour.

