

De-Masting for Haul Out

The key to a quick and safe de-masting for haul out is to have enough people to help to bring the mast down and to snugly secure all deck rigging so that the haul out crew can walk on your deck.

Before De-Masting

- Remove and stow all sails, dodgers, biminis, etc
- Remove all pins, rings, etc securing the standing rigging.
- Loosen off turn-buckles.
- Prepare a suitable sling for de-masting.
- If the mast will be remaining on the boat, install mast crutches fore and aft making sure that they are securely attached to the boat.
- Lay out all the tools you will need in the cockpit.
- Call up two friends to be available for de-masting—DO NOT ATTEMPT YOURSELF!

During De-Masting

- Visually inspect the demasting cranes before use paying attention to the winch drum and cable on the south crane. Report any frayed cables or unusual binding noises while using.
- Talk with your crew to decide who does what and when.
- Secure sling to crane hook and slide the sling up the mast to the pivot point; apply a little extra lift to ensure it is snugged up.
- Lower the mast slowly with someone fore and aft, making sure it does not extend more than six feet from the bow (and stern if possible).
- Remove any mast head instruments, antennae, etc.
- If the mast will remain on the boat, make sure when it is lowered on to the crutches that it does not extend further than six feet ahead of the bow.
- Remove all turn buckles and secure standing rigging to the mast.
- If you have a foresail foil, have a one person detach it, and attach it also to the mast.
- Remove the mast from the boat if it is to be stored on-shore.
- Secure the mast to the boat and the crutches fore and aft.
- Leave the masting dock to allow another Member to use it.

After De-Masting

- Locate your cradle, erect it, making sure that all bolts are secure.
- Lock a ladder to your cradle tall enough to reach your deck when the boat is on the cradle.

At least two boat owners last winter underestimated the strength of the winter winds on tarps draped over masts resulting in masts blown clear off the boat. Fortunately neither mast nor surrounding vessels were significantly damaged. There should be no side to side movement of the mast when properly secured in crutches.