

## Hot Links

### Compliments of Wes Kroeze

Nowadays, many of us get much our information about our favorite sport from the internet. Although we all have our favorite sites, I thought I would share some of mine with you &ndash; a product of far too much time spent web-surfing, I&rsquo;m sure. Some of these are obvious, and some not so much. I hope other Ensign sailors will send their favorites in as well in future issues. None of these links imply any particular endorsement, and are not paid for in any way.

### Important organizations

Ensign Class Association &ndash; [www.ensignclass.com](http://www.ensignclass.com)

US Sailing &ndash; [www.ussailing.org](http://www.ussailing.org) &ndash; the organizational body for sailing in the USA, and our best (only?) political voice; good source for regatta info, rules and regatta management issues, and many others

International Sailing Federation - [www.sailing.org](http://www.sailing.org) &ndash; international body for the sport

### Weather

National Weather Service - [weather.noaa.gov](http://weather.noaa.gov) &ndash; good marine links

National Data Buoy Center - [www.ndbc.noaa.gov](http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov) &ndash; up-to-date information from weather buoys; an easy-to-use site for this is here: [www.pdfamily.com/weather/buoy.php](http://www.pdfamily.com/weather/buoy.php)

Weather Channel - [www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com)

Historical weather data - <http://cdo.ncdc.noaa.gov/qclcd/QCLCD> - data is sold, but users from &ldquo;edu&rdquo; sites seem to get it free; good for regatta preparation; get your local student or prof to download what you need.

Intellicast - [www.intellicast.com](http://www.intellicast.com) &ndash; nice radar links

Accuweather &ndash; [www.accuweather.com](http://www.accuweather.com) &ndash; hourly forecast is interesting, radar links are good, too.

Sailflow &ndash; [www.sailflow.com](http://www.sailflow.com) &ndash; good site with sailors&rsquo; interest in mind.

Windfinder &ndash; [www.windfinder.com](http://www.windfinder.com) &ndash; good site with pleasing graphics.

Webcams &ndash; lots of places have webcams, so you can look at local conditions yourself &ndash; the one I look at is here in Cleveland &ndash; data and photo&rsquo;s in real-time are very interesting:  
[www.greenenergyohio.org/page.cfm?pageID=700](http://www.greenenergyohio.org/page.cfm?pageID=700)

Wunderground &ndash; lots of folks love the marine part of this site: [www.wunderground.com/MAR/](http://www.wunderground.com/MAR/)

Guide to tides and currents - [tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/](http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/)

Worried about lightning? &ndash; check out [www.weatherusa.net/lightningnet/](http://www.weatherusa.net/lightningnet/) for real-time updates

## Forums and newsletters

Scuttlebutt &ndash; [www.sailingscuttlebutt.com](http://www.sailingscuttlebutt.com) &ndash; news from the world of sailing, register and they&rsquo;ll send you almost daily updates by e-mail.

Sailing Anarchy &ndash; [www.sailinganarchy.com](http://www.sailinganarchy.com) &ndash; if you like your sailing news with a touch of irreverence, this is the place for you; forums are very lively, almost 20,000 members, 28,000 topics and 630,000 posts to date

Daily Sail - [www.madforsailing.com](http://www.madforsailing.com) - if you like your sailing news with a British twist

If you like looking at &ldquo;blogs&rdquo;, check out:

[www.propercourse.blogspot.com/2007/01/top-ten-sailing-blogs-of-2006.html](http://www.propercourse.blogspot.com/2007/01/top-ten-sailing-blogs-of-2006.html)

## Rules

Online rules quiz - [www.game.finckh.net/indexe.htm](http://www.game.finckh.net/indexe.htm) - test your knowledge at easy, medium and hard levels!

UK Sailmakers famous Rules Quiz - [www.ukhalsey.com/RulesQuiz/index.asp](http://www.ukhalsey.com/RulesQuiz/index.asp) - how well do you know the rules? The answer will probably surprise you!

Magazines &ndash; the online versions of the familiar paper magazines, only updated more frequently &ndash;

Sailing World - [www.sailingworld.com/](http://www.sailingworld.com/) - tons of news and info here!

Sail - [www.sailmagazine.com/](http://www.sailmagazine.com/)

Sailing - [www.sailingmagazine.net/](http://www.sailingmagazine.net/)

Speed and Smarts - [www.speedandsmarts.com/](http://www.speedandsmarts.com/) - let Dave Dellenbaugh help you get to the front of the fleet!

Sailmakers

Sailmakers web sites are great sources of information &ndash; regatta updates, tuning guides, &ldquo;tips and tricks&rdquo;;, interviews with top sailors; many sailmakers will also send newsletters by e-mail. Here are a few of my favorites:

North Sails One-Design - [www.northsailsod.com/](http://www.northsailsod.com/) & [www.northorder.com/articles/](http://www.northorder.com/articles/)

Haarstick Sailmakers &ndash; [www.haarsticksailmakers.com](http://www.haarsticksailmakers.com)

Haarstick Ensign Page - [http://www.haarsticksailmakers.com/sail\\_class\\_single.asp?id=ensign](http://www.haarsticksailmakers.com/sail_class_single.asp?id=ensign)

Quantum Sails - [www.destinationonedesign.com/index.aspx](http://www.destinationonedesign.com/index.aspx) - excellent newsletter!

Hardware and fittings

Ensign Spars &ndash; [www.ensignspars.com](http://www.ensignspars.com) &ndash; everything you&rsquo;ll ever need for your Ensign, give Zeke a visit! He&rsquo;ll be glad to supply you with a beautiful new or restored boat, too!

Harken &ndash; [www.harken.com](http://www.harken.com) &ndash; lots of ideas here

Schaefer - [www.schaeferhardware.com/](http://www.schaeferhardware.com/)

Holt-Allen - [www.holtperformance.com/](http://www.holtperformance.com/) - specializing in rigging for smaller boats

Ronstan - [www.ronstan.com/marine/default.asp](http://www.ronstan.com/marine/default.asp)

Forespar - [www.forespar.com/](http://www.forespar.com/)

Rigrite - [www.rigrite.com/](http://www.rigrite.com/)

Hall Spars &ndash; [www.hallspars.com](http://www.hallspars.com)

West Marine &ndash; [www.westmarine.com](http://www.westmarine.com)

Mauri Pro Sailing - [www.mauriprosailing.com/](http://www.mauriprosailing.com/)

Annapolis Performance Sailing - [www.apsltd.com/](http://www.apsltd.com/)

Layline &ndash; [www.layline.com](http://www.layline.com)

Defender &ndash; [www.defender.com](http://www.defender.com)

Spinlock - [www.spinlock.co.uk/](http://www.spinlock.co.uk/)

Wichard - [www.wichard-usa.com/index2005.html](http://www.wichard-usa.com/index2005.html)

Race Tracking &ndash; wouldn't it be great to track your races, and compare your speed and tactics with the champs? (I think the ECA should try this at a major regatta). Here are a few products that might be of interest:

[www.fistracking.com/index.html](http://www.fistracking.com/index.html)

[www.traxu.com/?s=home](http://www.traxu.com/?s=home)

[www.kattack.com/](http://www.kattack.com/) - a free demo is available; download it and figure out why the winners win!

### Sailing video online

[sail.tv/player](http://sail.tv/player) or [www.thesailingchannel.tv/sailtv/index.html](http://www.thesailingchannel.tv/sailtv/index.html) - watch a little "sailing TV" online &ndash; it's cool!

[www.t2p.tv/](http://www.t2p.tv/) - Tucker Thompson narrates first-class regatta coverage &ndash; fun!

### Link directories

[www.sailinglinks.com/](http://www.sailinglinks.com/)

[www.top100boat.com/](http://www.top100boat.com/) - a list of the top 100 boating sites by popularity

[www.sail-search.com/directory.html](http://www.sail-search.com/directory.html) - search for "everything sailing" here!

### Articles on sailing theory

[www.sailboat-technology.com/links/online\\_articles.php](http://www.sailboat-technology.com/links/online_articles.php)

Here's a fun page that allows you to compare classes of boats: [www.image-ination.com/sailcalc.html](http://www.image-ination.com/sailcalc.html)

A cool sailing game with an available free demo:

[www.virtualskipper-game.com/en/news/index.php](http://www.virtualskipper-game.com/en/news/index.php)

Great sailing computer games are available here: <http://www.poseysail.com/>

Scoring software - [www.stpetescorer.com/](http://www.stpetescorer.com/)

Having trouble teaching folks how to tie knots? Try - [www.animatedknots.com](http://www.animatedknots.com)

Fun with Aerodynamics - [http://www.wb-sails.fi/news/Ad\\_aerodynamics/](http://www.wb-sails.fi/news/Ad_aerodynamics/)