

# What's in Your Snipe Toolbox?

*Whether you're sailing in your local fleet or traveling continents or oceans to attend the next big Snipe regatta, having a well-stocked toolbox can save you a lot of time, let alone the hassle of trying to borrow tools or find the part you need. With that in mind, The Snipe Bulletin asked Doug Hart to compile a list of toolbox essentials for your summer travels. The Editor was impressed with his toolbox at a Southern Circuit several years ago, and looking at his boat, he knows what to bring! Hope this helps you prepare for your summer travels!*

One of the hardest things that I have struggled with in the past has been packing tools for Snipe regattas. It is easy to forget the things that can ruin your regatta. Below is a list of essential tools for you to consider when you check your toolbox this summer. First, and most importantly, I recommend a good all around toolbox that consists of the following tools:

- \* Battery powered drill with spare batteries and assorted bits
- \* Screwdriver assortment or screwdriver with changeable blades (Leatherman tool)
- \* Standard and metric socket sets
- \* Standard and metric wrenches
- \* Standard & metric tape measure
- \* Loos gauge
- \* Assorted files
- \* Hacksaw and spare blades
- \* Vise grips
- \* hammer
- \* Pliers
- \* Adjustable wrench
- \* Swaging tool and assorted swages
- \* Pop rivet tool and assorted pop rivets
- \* Scissors
- \* Small flashlight
- \* Electricians bolt cutters
- \* Wire cutters
- \* The all essential beer bottle opener and cork screw

Think of all the things you or someone else has broken during past windy regattas and that should help you to prepare a list of spare items. Tailor this list to the age of your boat and when you last replaced some of these items. If it's new, don't worry, if it's old – worry and make sure to have a spare if you don't feel replacement is warranted.

- \* Shrouds
- \* Spreaders
- \* Mainsheet
- \* Jibsheet
- \* Pole launcher shock cord
- \* Whisker pole
- \* Main and jib halyards
- \* Hiking straps
- \* Miscellaneous line



My second toolbox is actually a clear plastic parts box that consists of assorted Snipe specific parts (normally not readily available at marine hardware stores) and assorted sizes of replacement cam cleats, blocks and other miscellaneous parts such as:

- \* Sewing kit with sail thread, needles and sewing palm
- \* Duct tape
- \* Electrical tape (several colors)
- \* Sail repair tape
- \* Yarn
- \* Replacement mast jib sheaves
- \* Silicone sealant
- \* McLube
- \* Loctite threadlock
- \* 3M marine adhesive (5200)
- \* Permanent markers
- \* Wet/dry sandpaper

I also hate to make unnecessary last minute runs for common items available at marine hardware stores. So I like to carry another toolbox that consists of the following miscellaneous items:

- \* Assorted shackles
- \* Assorted clevis pins
- \* Ring dings
- \* Fast pins
- \* Stainless steel bolts, flathead and roundhead, in various sizes
- \* Assorted stainless steel screws
- \* Assorted nuts with nylon locks
- \* Assorted stainless steel washers

If you're trailering your Snipe to a regatta, don't forget a spare tire and lug wrench. You'll be happy when you find yourself on the side of the road (which has happened to all Snipe travelers at one time or another!)

Hope this list helps jog your memory on some of the items that maybe useful to you and your friends. I've often heard Gonzo Diaz say that one of the best ways to promote Snipe sailing is helping other sailors fix their boats with a smile and a good toolbox.

