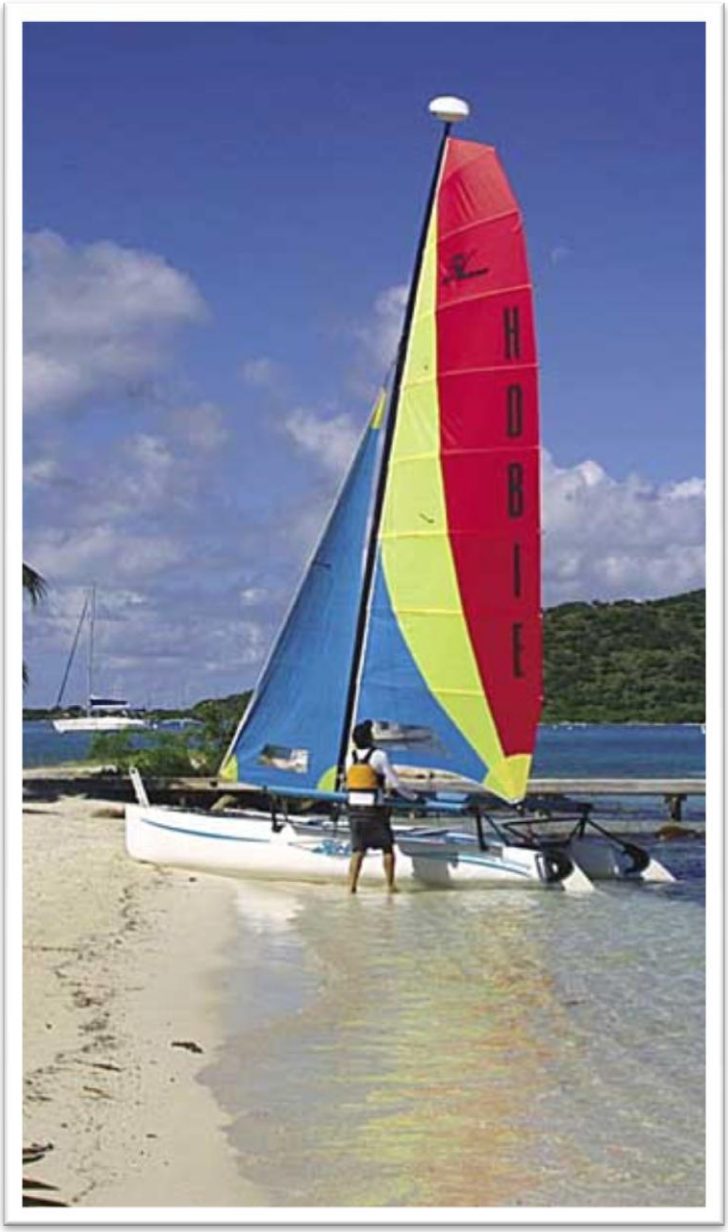
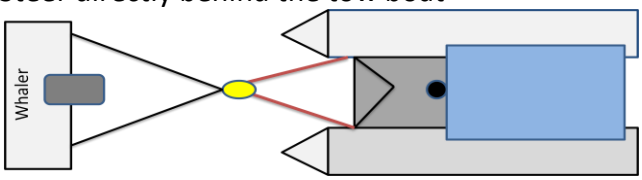
Hobie Cat Exam Study Guide



University of West Florida Sailing Program

- Launching
    - After Checking out the boat from the Sail Attendant on duty, check the boat for any damage and let the sail attendant know of any damage found.
    - Remove the blue tarp covering the trampoline and place it folded in the shed
    - Make sure that you have all the necessary gear before heading to the boat ramp
        - Towing Bridle
        - First Aid Kit
        - VHF
        - Sail Bag
        - Battens
        - Trapeze Harness
    - Put battens in the main sail and remove furling cover from the jib
    - Return the furling cover and sail bag to the shed.
    - Make sure that all boat plugs are in place and tie down are removed before launching
    - The Hobie cat must be launched by the Sail Attendant with an authorized motor vehicle
    - Make sure that the trailer is returned to dry storage
    - Move the boat to the transient dock before completing rigging
- Sailing
    - The Hobie Cat is a multi-hull catamaran and has two rudders
    - She features a main and a small jib
    - Basic sailing features
        - To steer
            - To change directions push the tiller opposite of the direction you want to go
        - To get out of "irons"
            - The boat can change directions with both the tiller and with the sails
                - Sails: By letting out the main sheet and pushing the main sail in the direction you want to go the wind will catch the sails and move the boat out of irons
                - Rudder: use the tiller to steer the boat out of irons and into the direction you want to go, this technique may not work if the boat does not have enough momentum, if this is the case, use in combination with the sail technique listed above
        - To recover a capsized boat
            - The Hobie getaway features a mast float so the boat should not fully turtle
            - To recover the boat once it has capsized, release both the main and the jib sheets then pull on the two righting lines that run

across the bottom of the boat, be aware the boat may pull away from you once the wind has caught the sails

- To prepare the boat for towing
  - Attach the red towrope to the eyes straps at the base of the Y for the roller furling.
  - Drop and secure sails
  - Clip towing line to the Whalers towing bridle (see picture below)
  - Steer directly behind the tow boat
  - 

- Reducing heel
  - Let main sail out to help depower the boat by dumping some wind off the sails
  - Point closer to the wind, to decrease the curvature of the sail and depowering the boat
  - Move more crew weight to the windward side of the boat or put a crew member on the trapeze
- Trapeze
  - ALWAYS use a trapeze harness when using the trapeze system
  - Make sure the trapeze harness is properly secured before leaning into it
  - Do not use the trapeze harness on very choppy days because series injury can occur to those on the trapeze if the boat pitch poles
  - Never swing from the trapeze or use any other means of attachment other than the trapeze harness

- Pulling the boat
  - Preparation
    - When preparing to dock slow the boat down by briefly pointing the boat into the wind to slow it down
    - Always have dock lines ready before reaching the dock
    - Drop both sails and secure them
    - Tie the boat up to the transient dock then let the Sail Attendant know that the boat is ready to be pulled
  - The Hobie cat must be pulled by the Sail Attendant with an authorized motor vehicle
    - Remove both plugs and rinse the boat off with fresh water
    - If the sails got salt water on them during the day rinse them with fresh water then hang them up in the shed to dry
    - After the boat is back in dry storage cover the trampoline with the blue tarp
  - Have the sail attendant check the boat for damage and that the boat is properly stowed