

## SINGLEHANDED SAILING

### Simplifying Sail-handling

Many are surprised that my efforts to simplify *Wildflower* haven't included a swap to roller-furling headsails. I've been using hanks for 50 years, ever since doing foredeck on our family Lapworth 36 as a kid, and prefer their reliability, the promise of an uncompromised sail shape, and the fact you can drop the jib halyard with no one on the foredeck and without having the sail go in the water.

Here are some of the more valuable improvements made on *Wildflower*:

1. Sail-O-Mat windvane keeps the boat on course in good winds.
2. Forespar rigid boom vang steadies boom for reefing.
3. Extra-high 28-inch lifelines rise well above the knees.
4. Tiller pilot takes over in light airs. Hatch below lets me tweak course from my bunk.
5. Staysail sets on removable inner forestay. Twin poles for running.
6. Storm trysail raises on a dedicated mast track.

