Eastport Yacht Club
Lights Parade Tips

ANNAPOLIS

Safety

- **Generator:**
  - Minimum of 2 fire extinguishers
  - Refueling plan
  - Lash it down!
- **Electrical Connections:**
  - Electrical Tape or otherwise secure extension cord junctions that will be out of reach
  - Keep connections away from water, metal rigging or metal support structures. If unavoidable wrap connection in insulated material

Safety

- **On the Water (Plan ahead):**
  - Consider running the course in daylight before parade day
  - If forward visibility will be impaired, station someone on the bow, work out comms with the skipper
  - Assign someone to monitor VHF to maintain communications between skipper & fleet leader
  - Plan for/talk through Man Overboard
    - Communicate to parade ASAP
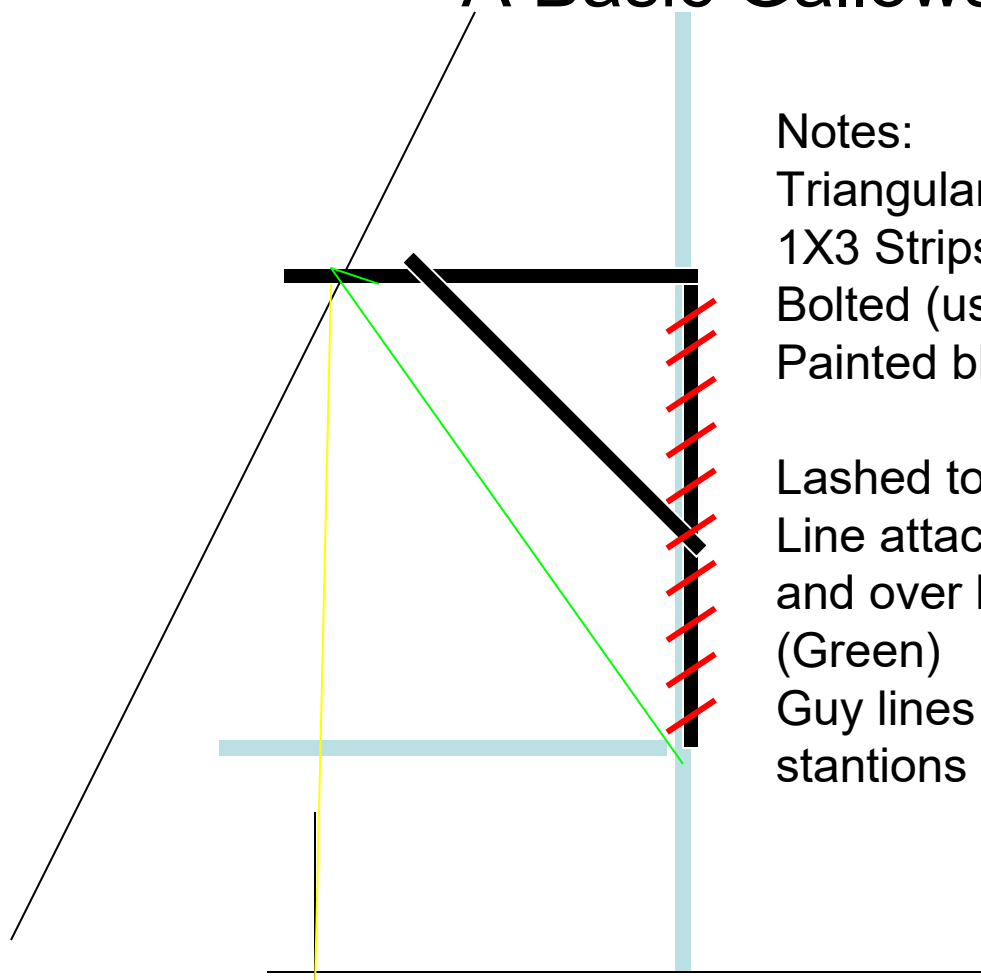 - Consider for on-deck crew:
    - PFD
    - Tethers

Parade Map/Tips

"Turn-Around"
Help (If Needed)

Naval
Academy
Seawall

City
Dock

Annapolis

"Ego Alley"
Check in

"Judging"

11
10

2

4

1

3

9

8

5

"Judging"

7

SARLES
BOATYARD AND MARINA
MARINE RAILWAY • COVERED SLIPS
WOODEN BOAT REPAIRS • ENGINE SHOP
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Eastport

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Breakwater

Design-Infrastructure

- Key considerations: *Weight, Windage, Watts*
- **Weight:**
  - Good support for displays
    - Vertical (keep it from falling)
    - Horizontal (keep it from wagging)
  - Light weight displays
    - Work with lightest materials and designs that can get the job done
  - With proper support, 1X2 or 1X3 "firring strips" are adequate for many applications
  - Use guys to stabilize,if needed: Try a "taut line" hitch
- **Windage:**
- "Open" structures can ease handling, particularly on the "back side" of the course loop
      - "Chickenwire
      - Thin (1/4 inch) plywood
- **Watts:**
  - Plan location of all connections and extension cords
  - Plan connections close to deck level for access
  - Determine overall power requirements
  - Size generator at ~130% of max draw

Construction Ideas

Infrastructure Examples
A Basic Gallows

Notes:
Triangular truss shape for strength
1X3 Strips
Bolted (use Wing-Nuts) at corners
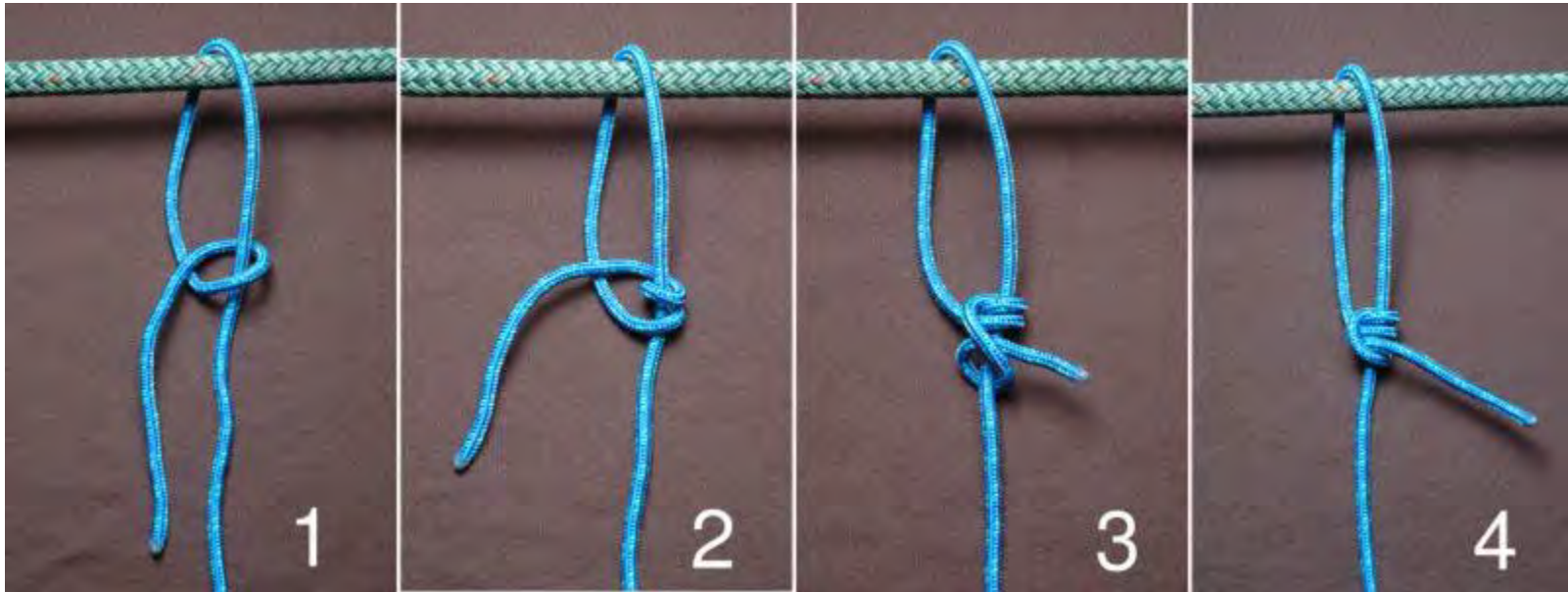Painted black

Lashed to mast (red)
Line attached to horizontal beam
and over backstay for stability
(Green)
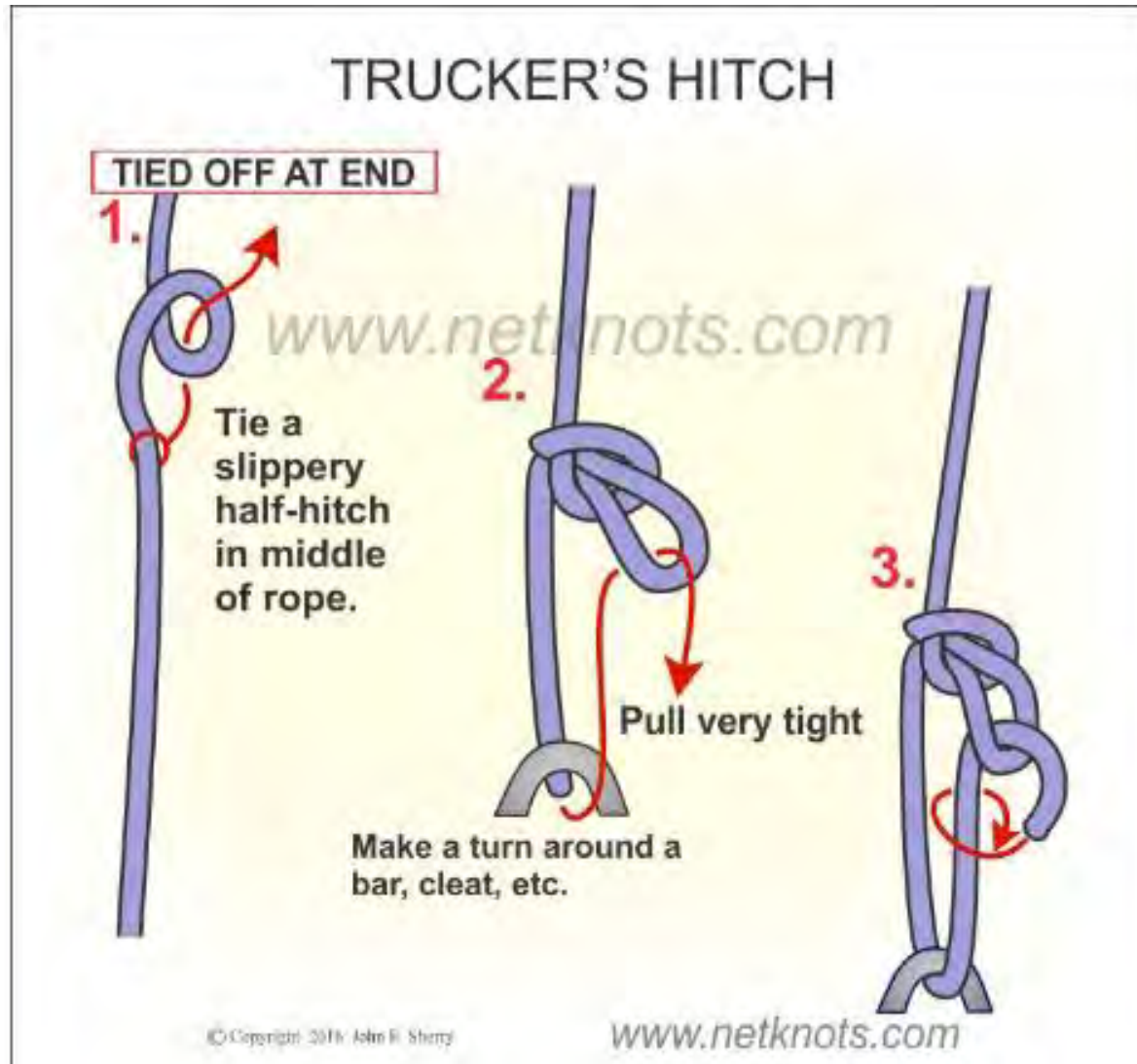Guy lines attached to lifeline
stantions (yellow)

Knots

The Tautline Hitch-Very useful for guy lines. Creates an adjustable loop
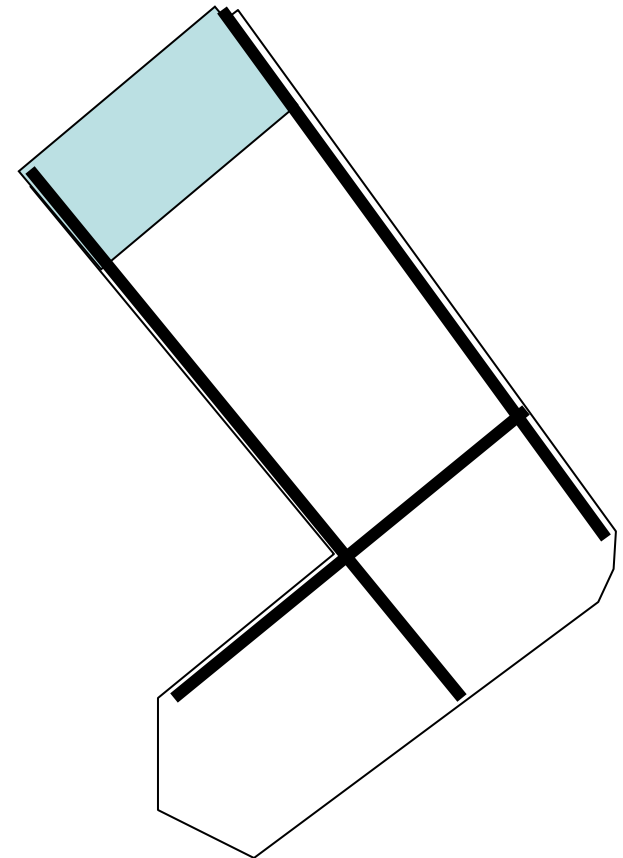
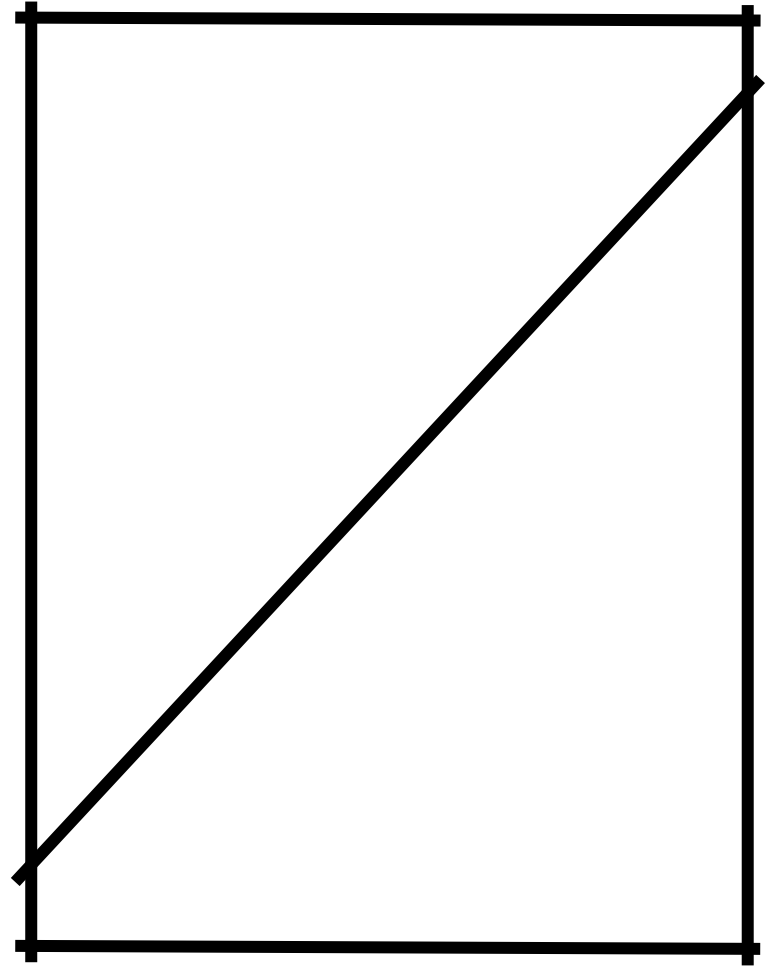# Trucker's Hitch

Thoughts on Chickenwire

- **Metal is heavier than it looks. And it bites back! Plastic hardware mesh (1/2 inch) is a great option**
- **Nicely bendable & Holds its shape**
- **Very tiewrappable. Good for ropelightig**
- **Need to support from the top, can let the bottom hang free (within limits)**

Plywood top (Blue)
1X3 frame (Black)

Hardware Mesh Frame

Design-Aesthetics

Aesthetics
- Lights, Lights, Lights!
  - "dark" decorations don't show up without lots of illumination (e.g. garland looks like black caterpillars)
  - "Reflective" things don't
  - Try a "squint test" to look for holes
- You are judged from the Starboard
- Think "Big"
  - Your target audience will be at least 40 ft away, many will be further
  - Go as high as you can (safely!)
    - Light Strings along stays are a good way to raise the height
- Automation
  - Mechanical motion
  - Switched lights (simple systems available now)
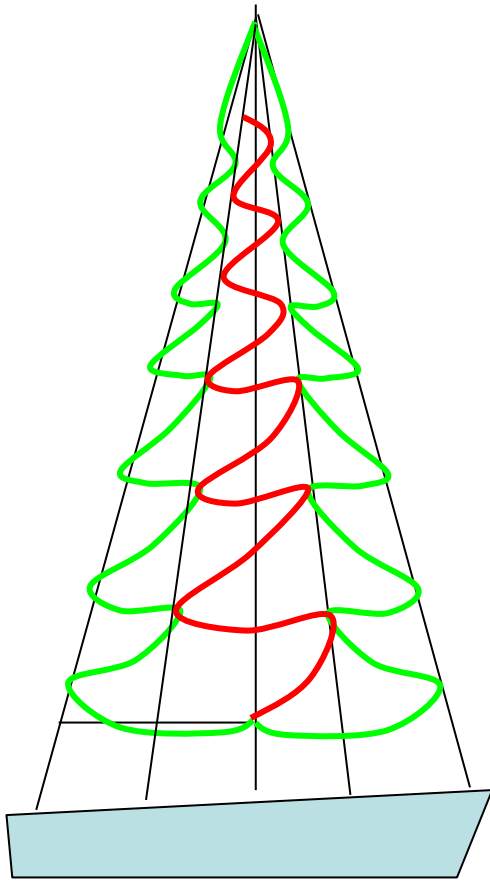 - Synchronizers and computer programs

Nifty Lights

Streamers made from
plastic tubing and lights

See the ladder?

Molto-Bene's Free-Form Christmas Tree
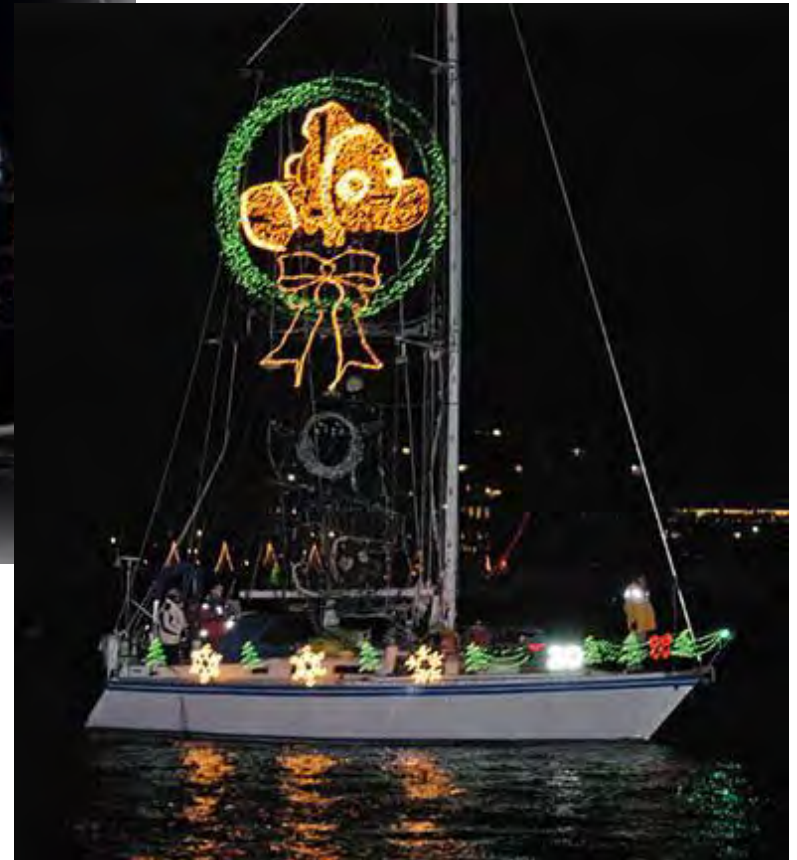
Choo choos

Hanukah too!

Sound is Good!

Some variations on Mr. & Mrs. Kringle?

Filling Space with Light

Pop Culture References…

Nifty use of props

Little Boats are Big Hits

Lighthouse Evolution

Animation 1

Animation 2

Choo Choo (Unmasked)

Santa's Sleigh

Case Studies

- Kathy Downs
- Pete Chambliss

Have Fun!