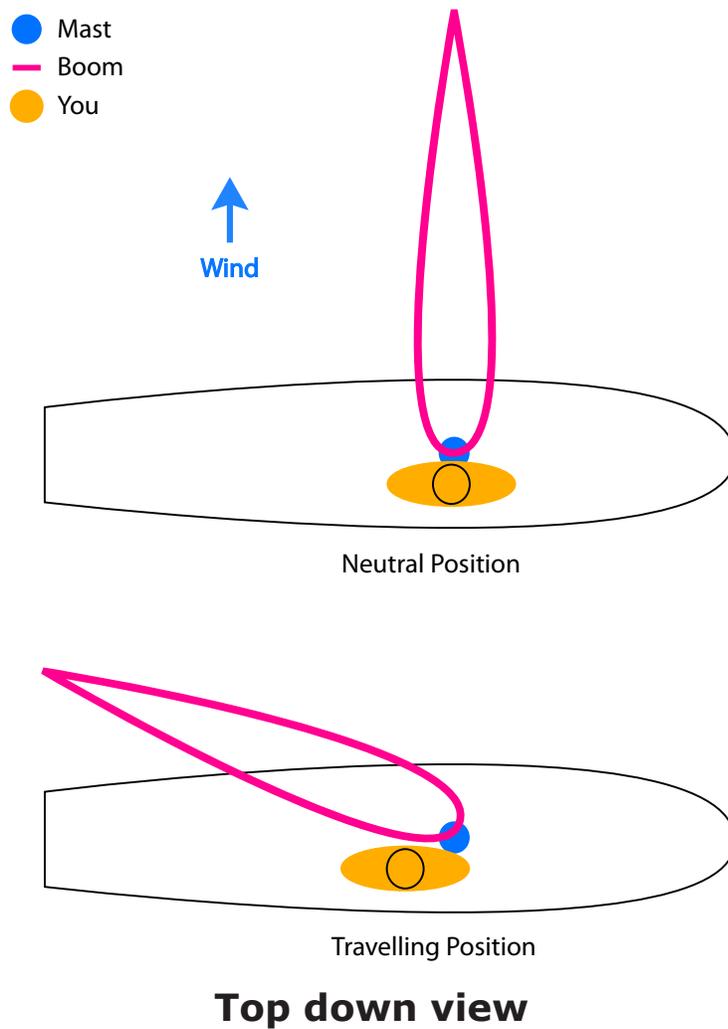
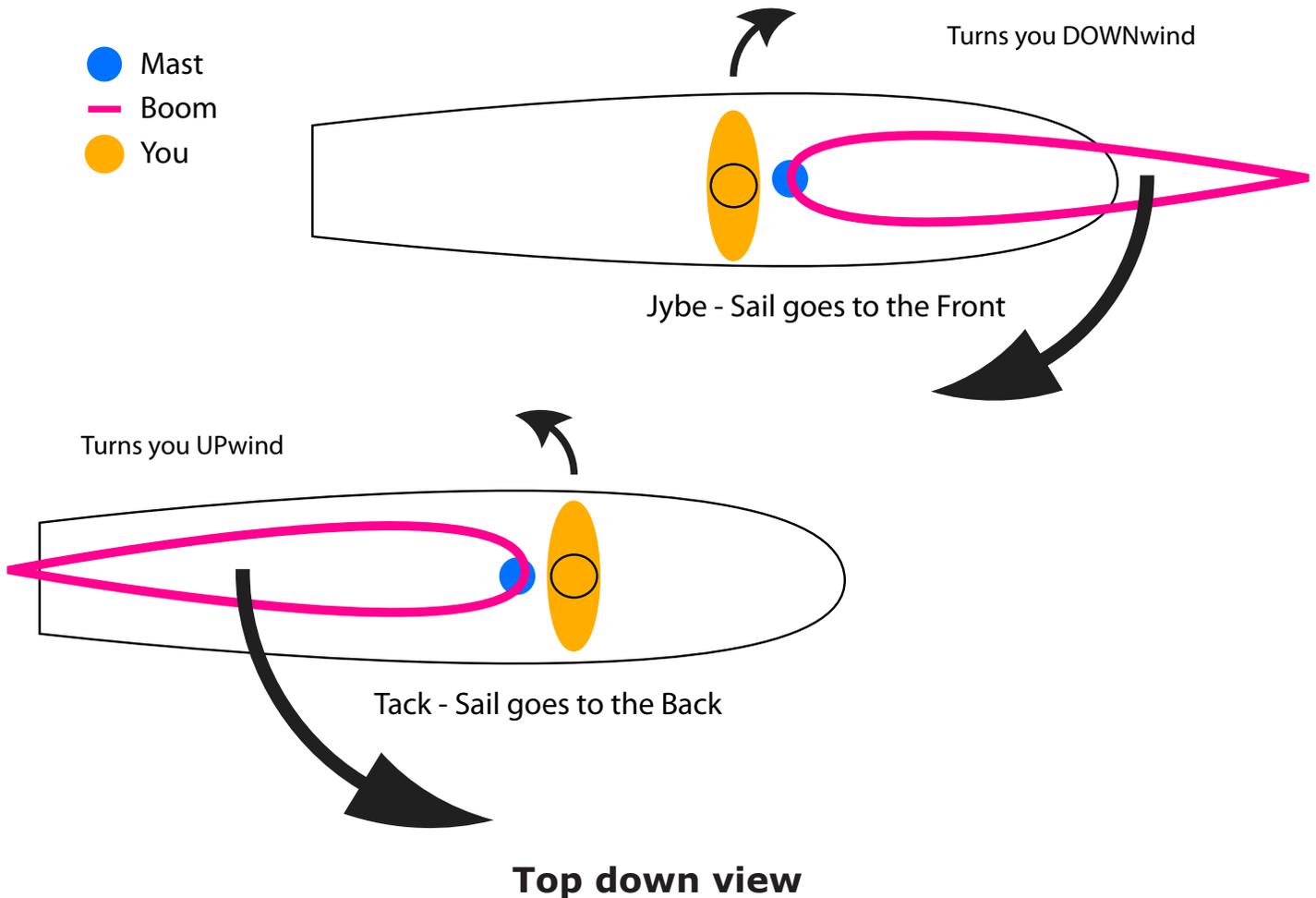


Yakityak's Basic Windsurfing Guide For Noobs

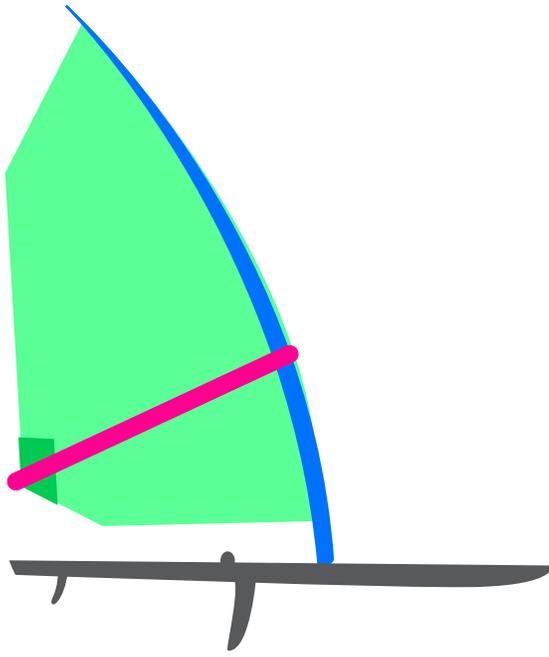
This is just stuff I've learned in my 3 times out on the water. I figured I'd write it up before I actually got good enough to remember the basics. It's not in any particular order – just things I'd like to remember next time I go out. At the end is some stuff I wish *other* people knew next time I go out.

- Sail size = wind power. Bigger sail, faster you go.
- Board size = drag. Bigger board, slower you go. (Also easier to balance.)
- If things get too crazy, swing back into Neutral Position.
- If things get even crazier, drop the sail into the water. It's better than falling in.
- When falling in, 1st take care that your head and the mast/boom don't connect. If you have time for a 2nd thought, try to keep your feet from being caught between the mast and the sailboard.
- Your back should always be to the wind.
- That thing about sitting in neutral position to get the board to orient properly? Really works.
- You can't travel very well in neutral position – you're not steering. You need to swing the boom toward the back, so that the angle between the board's center axis and the boom is a pie slice.
- Pick a point on the horizon/shore and aim for it.
- Try not to sail looking backwards. You run into people and things that way.
- It is easy to go downwind. Going upwind takes a little more thought and energy. Learn the hard stuff first so you don't get stuck.
- You can go upwind by turning the board upwind. The upwind turn is called a tack. (Sail goes to the back.)

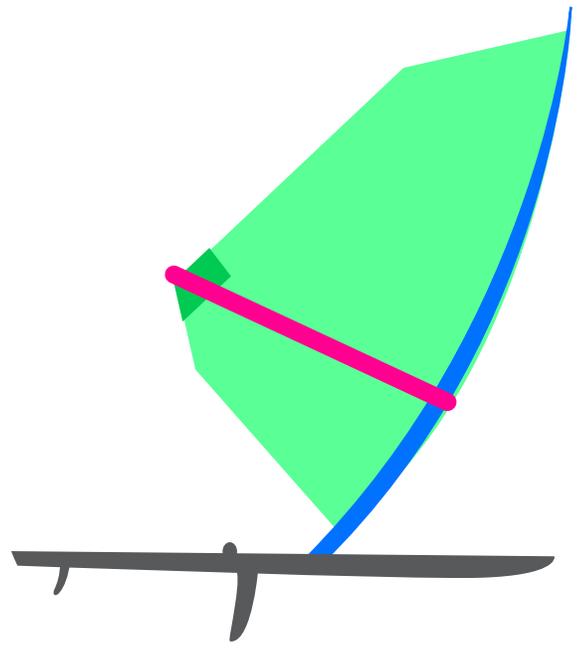




- You can also sail upwind, although not straight into the wind. Pull your clew down to sail upwind.
- If you constantly pull your clew down to sail upwind, you will eventually stall out. Sometimes you need to dip into that downwind just to keep going.
- When you are dipping in and out of downwind/upwind, you are moving the sail/mast/boom through a plane... tipping the masthead (top of the mast) forward and the clew up, or tipping the masthead backwards and the clew down, but maintaining the pie wedge angle between the boom and the midline of the board.
- To get to a point that is truly upwind you are going to have to zigzag, tacking all the way, in order to get to it.
- Your dagger can pop up out of position on those student boards when you're not standing on it. If you find yourself suddenly unable to steer, one thing to check is the dagger position.
- Your feet really ought to be in the "en garde" position. That is, the foot closest to the bow (front) should be parallel to the midline of the board. The other foot should be perpendicular.
- When you're starting out, you're using a smaller sail. If you are in a beginner location, the wind shouldn't be terribly stiff. Under these conditions, the mast is going to lean away from you. It won't support you if you try to hang off of it. So don't try to look like the guy who has a sail that's 2X's larger.



Clew DOWN takes you UP wind



Clew UP takes you DOWN wind

The Keep Your Ego in Your Pocket Where it Belongs section:

- Being macho won't keep you warm in the water. Wear a wetsuit – appropriate size and weight.
- Never go out without a life jacket. Experts have drowned. What makes you think you're special?
- You can either spend a whole lot of time in the water learning nothing and looking stupid, or you can learn on a beginner rig (big board, small sail). Hey dude with the fancy sail sitting in the water all afternoon... I'm nice enough not to laugh at you, but I can't speak for everyone.
- Learn to travel upwind before you go jybing off and have to be rescued, stealing the instructor's time from the rest of us.