

## Stick out Your tongue

*by Janski*

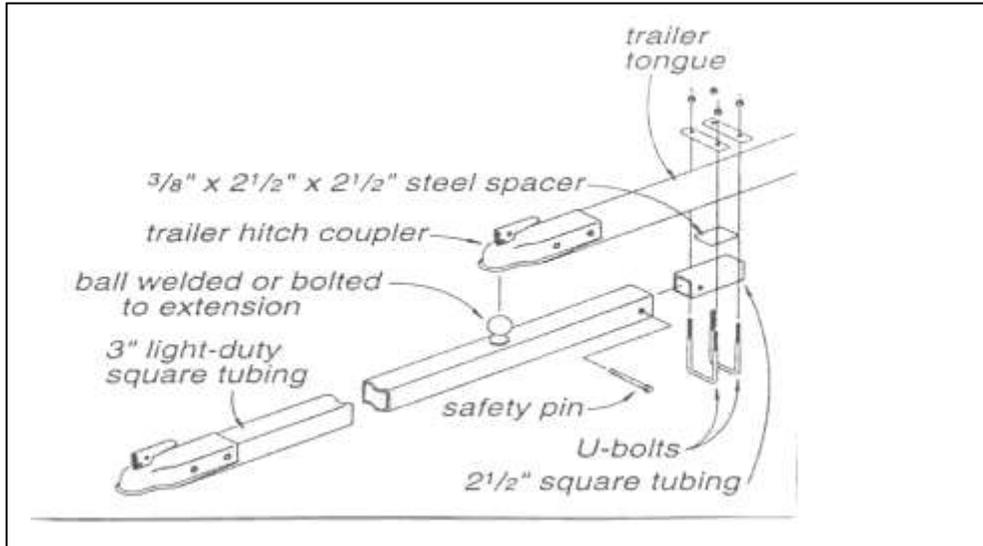
Many of us at one time or another have launched a boat from a trailer at a launch ramp. Unless you 're dealing with a Mirror or an Optimist many trailer able sail craft present launching problems most usually solved through the use of a trailer tongue extension.



*The Matthew's Boadicea being launched with a tongue extension*

My own personal experience with trailer tongue extensions occurs when I help my friend Bruce to splash in the spring and recover in the fall his Nordic 16; a very seaworthy small keel boat. Bruce's trailer tongue extension is home built and to be blunt is "cheap and dirty". It works but its deployment is time consuming and hard on knuckles and fingers.

This contraption is a 12 foot length of 2 1/2 inch square tubing to which a standard trailer hitch is attached to one end. It is attached to the trailer tongue by overlapping the underside of the existing trailer tongue for about 3 feet and attaching to the trailer tongue with a couple of 3/8 inch diameter bolts c/w fender washers. This increases the tongue length by a good 8 feet. The initial use with new nuts and bolts was a reasonable experience. However now with rusty nuts and bolts; with bolt threads mangled one must fight the nuts every inch of the way on or off.



Now comes the reason for this monograph. My 14 year old grandson Phredd has accumulated enough cash and wishes to acquire a 17 -18 foot sailboat c/w trailer. He has conned is momma to agree to get a trailer hitch for her trusty 4x4. The intension this summer is to trailer sail his proposed acquisition.

Assuming that his new vessel will have a trailer with no tongue extension I have been researching the subject and have found a great solution. This comes from a book titled "Things that Work". This book is edited by Herb and Nancy Payson and published by Sail Magazine. It is a compilation of ideas submitted by pleasure sailors to make life a float easier and more fun.

This book is available at the "Nautical Mind" book store in Toronto or it can be ordered online from the Sail Magazine website. It is definitely worth the price.

*Janski*