TECHNICAL ADVISORY

#1 - Old Aluminum Rivets are Highly Suspect

Whenever the wind comes up SPOG events see a few failures of old rivets holding the fittings onto the spars. A combination of many years of working loose and galvanic corrosion between aluminum and stainless steel leads to rivet failure.

All sailors should think about replacing the blind rivets holding the hardware onto the mast and boom. Drill off the old rivet heads with a 5/16 drill, then clean out the holes with a 3/16 drill. Most fittings will require a 3/16 rivet with a ¼ ” or ½” grip. (Did you know that POP is a brand name of blind rivets?) Extra corrosion protection can be done by coating the rivet, and the contact area of stainless fitting on aluminum spar with Lanacote before installation.

An even stronger solution for the boom main sheet bails would to be to through-drill the boom and install 3/16” stainless steel machine bolts and cap nuts.