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Mast “Pumping”

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Significant pumping or flexing of the mast on CS 36s while the boat is anchored or moored has been discussed before as it is of great concern to many of us. This is caused by wind gusts or vessel movement caused by waves or wakes and, at its worst, can shake the whole boat.

Some suggested a babystay, which means a lot of expense and work. It can also be in the way when you tack.

I have tried several ways to eliminate this problem and my latest attempt to stop the pumping appears to have done the trick.

- Step one: Attach the main halyard to the aft end of the boom. If necessary, use a halyard shackle.
- Step Two: Fasten and tighten the boomvang. This is very important.
- Step Three: Tighten up the mainsheet. This is to prevent too much stress on the boomvang and bending of the boom.
- Step Four: Tighten up the main halyard with the winch until the pumping stops.

This procedure will put enough bend in the mast to stop the pumping completely. Try it, it is worth the effort.