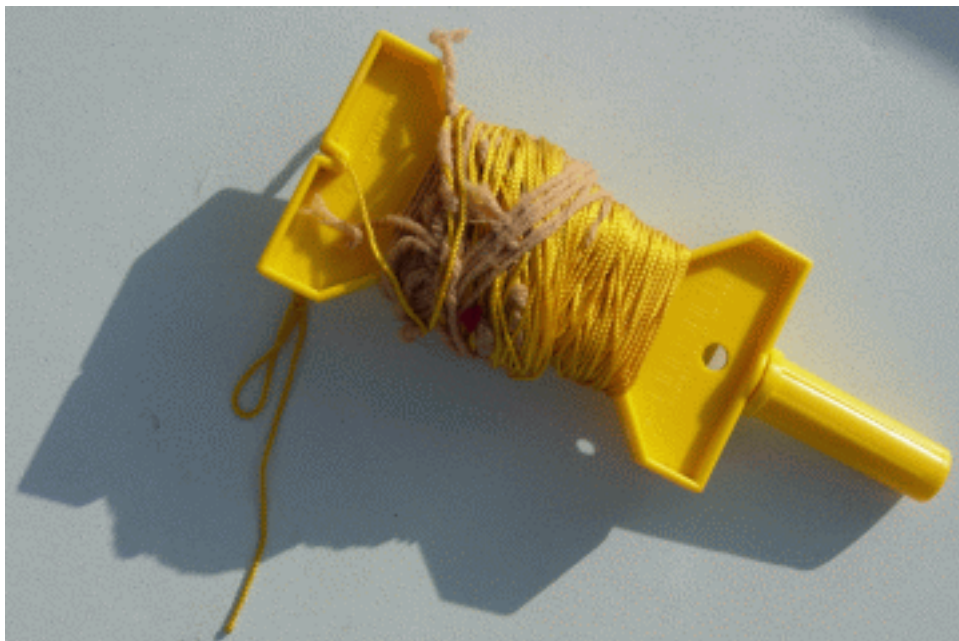


## The ShearOmometer

Wind shear is a reality that most people don't know about or don't take into account while sailing. Although it can be explained, looking at actual wind shear helps most people 'get it' right away. After the epiphany, shear becomes part of the sailing environment to be taken into consideration in sail trim, wind prediction and boat performance. The device shown in this paper is courtesy of Mike Ruhland and Dolphin.

The ShearOmometer



The ShearOmometer is a length of string long and strong enough to be hoisted on the main halyard. Attached at several places along the string are 'woolies' a couple of feet long.

Why go to the trouble of making and deploying one of these things?

1. If you don't believe in shear, it will instantly prove its existence.
2. You can confirm that your masthead is telling you the truth.
3. Once you do believe, you can check how much there is and which way the wind is twisted right now.

Some people use the ShearOmometer in the 'Golden Hour' before the start to get a handle on the current amount of shear. Another way is to do a bunch of tacks to determine shear. Both ways have their advantages. Once you have shear scoped out, you'll be able to use the information to predict wind, boat performance and sail trim.

## The ShearOmometer in action



Links:

The importance of wind direction: <http://www.ockam.com/functrue.html>.

What wind shear is and how it affects your boat:  
<http://www.ockam.com/windshear.html>.

Determining shear from instrument readings:  
<http://www.ockam.com/howto/shear.html>.

Ken Batt's (Australian meteorologist) paper on wind shear:  
<http://www.bom.gov.au/weather/nsw/amfs/Wind%20Shear.shtml>.