

## **Power Righting by Rick White**

The following principles are useful, regardless of the righting system used.

Catamarans have a much-undeserved reputation for being tippy and flippy. In fact, because of multihulls' inherent stability, it is difficult to capsize most catamarans in light to moderate air. Wind alone will not do it; it takes a lot of weight in the wrong place at the wrong time to make one roll over. It is easier to capsize in heavy air. On the other hand, though, it is also easier to right the boat in heavy air. If you use my "power righting" technique, it will be easier and faster still.

### **Righting Lines**

Before going out sailing, be sure you have righting lines installed.

### **"Power Righting"**

You have made a pilot error and your boat is going over. It will usually go over slowly and seemingly in slow motion. But don't just sit there and watch the show. Clamber to what is now the bottom hull and bring the righting line over the top quickly. As soon as possible, hike out on the bottom hull with the righting line to keep the mast lying on the water and disallowing the boat to turn turtle.

Once you have stabilized the boat on its side, move to the bows. By depressing the bows into the water and allowing the sterns to ride free of the surface, the wind will swing the boat around so that the bows will point into the wind.

Often, if you can get in the hiking position as the bows of the boat swing through the eye of the wind, you can get the boat righted in just a few seconds. Hike hard when the bows are directly in the wind; at that time the wind will get under the sails, and that, along with your hiked-out body weight, will right the boat. The beautiful part of power righting is that your cat will land on her feet facing directly into the wind with the sails luffing.

Suppose you were a little slow in getting ready to right the boat and you find that it has swung around so the mast is pointing into the wind. What do you do? With the righting line in hand, skipper and crew should go to the bows and depress them into the water, allowing the sterns to come clear. When they blow around and the bows face into the wind at a 45° angle, start hiking hard.

**Note:** *The above is an abridged portion of a chapter from Catamaran Racing: for the 90's written by Rick White and Mary Wells (Murrays Catalog Item #45-0052).*