CATALINA 350 INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

Ladder Modifications



C350 Association Technical Editor Bill Templeton

In the Fall 2013 issue of *Mainsheet* I submitted an article on installation of a telescoping swim ladder and handholds. Of concern was the relative inability to get back on the boat... especially (but not limited to) the difficulty of deploying the swim ladder on the C350 Mk I models with dinghy on davits. I recently received the following article from James Davenport describing his solution to the problem. My only suggestion back to him was still to install handholds....I have included the picture of the transom of *Makani Kai* from the Fall 2013 *Mainsheet* showing the handholds... of particular interest those close to the waterline that could be grabbed by a swimmer. **–Bill Templeton**, pbtemp6816@verizon.net



Our Dachshund Bailey went overboard last summer while underway in the Chesapeake Bay. I jumped in with a throw cushion while my wife Cathy turned the boat around. We could not deploy the stock boarding ladder with our dinghy on davits. With Bailey safely on the boat we fashioned a rope stirrup to assist boarding the transom.

To solve this issue and have the ladder deployable from the water, I cut the lower two rungs off and plugged the ends with standard plastic plugs from any hardware store. This still allowed over 12" of ladder below the waterline, allowing easy deployment below the dinghy and no problem boarding the stern. Additionally, this configuration does not require a latch, so it can be deployed from the water with no problem. With over 4,000 miles, including some very rough seas the ladder has never fell from its resting position.

With the ladder shortened, I removed the two latches, installed D-Rings in the existing latch holes and attached lifelines across the gap. A second lifeline was installed 12" below the first. **–James Davenport**







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