

## Trailing, Cartopping, and Storage



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There's a Warren Miller movie that begins with a shot of a yellow Laser atop a fast-moving station wagon on a winding mountain road. All of a sudden, the bow begins to lift, and the boat flies back on its transom and goes spinning off the car. Miller's omnipresent camera follows the boat closely as it crashes, stern first, onto the edge of the road, then goes careening end over end down a brushy embankment where it eventually comes to rest in a cloud of dust after traveling down almost 350 feet of vertical drop. "The only damage done to the boat," said Miller, "was that when it hit the pavement, it landed on the starboard quarter. That left a ding in it about as big as your thumb, and that was it. With a little gelcoat and filler, it was fixed in about an hour."

Although that incident indicates the Laser's strength, the damage could certainly have been worse had it landed somewhere besides a stern quarter. And, as Miller pointed out, had it been an unstaged situation with oncoming traffic, the yellow Laser could have easily become a lethal weapon. Transporting the Laser, as simple as it may seem, is something to be carefully thought out, not only for your convenience and the protection of the boat, but also for the safety of other drivers.

### TRAILERING

Since the Laser is relatively light, at about 130 pounds, few sailors actually launch their boats from the trailer, as do owners of larger boats. Instead, they lift them off the trailers and carry them down to the water, or use small, commercially made dolleys. This avoids marring the hull's finish by sliding it over trailer rollers or bunkers, plus it saves wear and tear on the trailer wheels and bearings, particularly around salt water.

Since most Laser trailers never get wet, they can be used for more than simply transporting the hull. Some sailors have designed trailers that not only have room for the hull and spars, but also feature boxes to store all the other equipment needed for sailing—everything from rudders, centerboards and sails to life jackets, wetsuits and cleaning supplies. This



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Dick Tillman / Dave Powlison

