

# SOLAR ANCHOR LIGHT SYSTEM

“83 Rhodes 22 Enosis, Chris Geankoplis

Being the cheap sailor that I am I thought long and hard about a masthead light. Because of the demands I put on my two, group 27 batteries, I have to be careful about power consumption. I considered one of those exotic but very good masthead lights for around \$200 but I had already blown my boat budget on a new 165% Genny. I have used a solar garden light that I stick in my bail on the front of the mast but wasn't happy with the lack of good all around visibility. I ran down to Harbor Freight Tools (a big import tool store) and bought another solar powered garden light.

I took off the top plate of the mast and fabricated a base out of HDPE which in the past has held up fairly nicely in the environment that I sail in. I secured one of the lights making a couple of modifications to ensure it was not going to come apart or detach from my new base. Now I had a 360 light that had no drain on my batteries. I don't race so a bit more windage is not significant.



HDPE base attached to top plate of the mast.



Whole arrangement on top of the mast



Clamp and Solar light on bow pulpit

I remember reading about some insurance claims where a power boater hit an anchored sailboat with a masthead anchor light that was on. The excuse of the power boat operator was the light was too high up. I then decided to make a simple clamp and socked arrangement so that I could place one of the solar lights on my bow or stern also. It was an easy fabrication for the clamp and it is simple to attach and remove. Not sure both lights are visible at 2 miles, more like a mile but they should do the job. Total cost for the two anchor lights including SS screws and the two solar lights was under \$20. I'll let you guys know how they hold up this season.