A test yuloh for Johanna

by Arne Kverneland

For reasons I don’t remember, back in the summer 2008 I decided to make a yuloh for my 29’/3ton Johanna. I cannot say that I needed a yuloh, as the rig worked fine, and so did (and still does) the Yamaha outboard engine. I guess I was just curious. The following sketches and photos say most of what is to be said...

I started with making a rough sketch to help me estimate the lengths needed.
The whole thing was to be assembled from two pieces, one 20 x 150mm plank and one 50 x 50mm stick.

20080511 I set to work in the boatclub’s workshop...
At the handle’s end I fitted a “wrench” which would provide the virtual bend - more about that later...

The wrench, about 33cm long.
1.8.2008. The blade was rounded on one side, the underside (here upside-down)...

2.8.2008 The very first attempt to erect the yuloh..
2.8.2008 I tried this rig, bud didn’t like it.

4.8.2008 I soon found this hook-and-hoop version to work a lot better...
4.8.2008. The lanyard was trial-fastened in several positions on the wrench handle - note the number of holes drilled for it.

4.8.2008. Although it looked crowded back there, there was ample room to swing the yuloh...
Performance.
Handling-wise everything was fine. The hook-and-hoop kind of pivot point, together with the wrench, made controlling the yuloh easy. The attained boat speed was still not impressive (1.0 Knot?). My guess is that the blade should have been bigger, or at least 50 – 100cm longer. The yuloh was simply too easy to swing. When I tried to increase the resistance by increasing the twist, the blade simply stalled.

Conclusion.
Since I didn’t really need that thing, I lost interest in further experimenting. I also had other ‘worries’ - a horde of junkies was soon to arrive and participate in the 2008 djunkesamling (8. - 10. Aug 2008). Still, I think that this experiment was quite promising. The hook-and-hoop pivot was next to fool-proof. This would let me attach the yoloh before entering a harbour and then just let me add a few strokes for the final few boat lengths.

A full length yoloh would be very long and quite awkward to stow on deck. I guess I would rather make it from two pieces with some sort of quick-assemble joint between blade and handle.

Stavanger, 9.3.2015

Arne
9.8.2008. Two queens of almost the same vintage; 
Photo: Peter Manning

PS: During that rally the yuloh was firmly stowed on deck. Now it is resting in my cellar.