HI Ed,

I rewired Skip-Jack last year but the mast was down. During the process I managed to pull out the line needed to pull the wires up the mast, so I had to send a wire up from scratch. It was very difficult.

Skip-Jack was built in 1968, Hull #43. It your mast is the same it will have been made by Metalmast.

If your mast is still up, this will be even more difficult. Our old wires were tied to the mast to stop slapping around by attaching sail track dogs at intervals. These had to be ground down to fit into the slot. I found there to be screws in the mast which penetrated into this extrusion shown below. If your mast is up I don't know how to access this slot. Maybe you can create an opening by cutting away part of it to gain access. In my old Pearson 28 I used foam used to insulate copper pipe and put that around the wires, so they would not be damaged from slapping around and tied a wire to a loop at the top to carry the weight of the wire.

I had to remove some of the halyard exit fittings to gain access to the mast near the top and up from the bottom to check where snags were happening.

If you are able to get the screws out, this is very helpful with inspecting the wires as they are pulled up and getting them near enough to the top where a snake can be used.

It is a challenge getting past the spreaders where the through bolts attaching the spreaders penetrate the mast.

I had a thought that you could use your internal halyards as a line to pull up another line to be used in pulling up the wires. I would pull up two lines so you can pull the halyard back down, and then use the second line to try and pull up the wires. It will require a lot of patience to fish the wires to the spreader lights. I stripped a lot of the insulation off the end of the wires then had to find them through the light fixture wire holes. The top was easier because I could send a snake down to the removed exit plate, attached a phish line

to then pull up the wires. I did find some screws penetrated the slot. **I had to remove those screws to use the slot, and then replace them afterward.** I had a lot of wires.

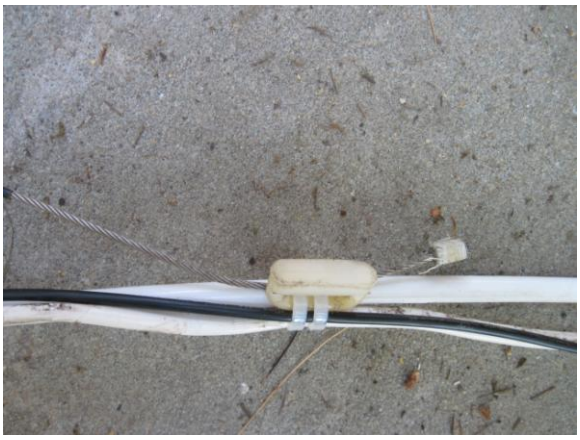
Wires brought up:

To the top:

- Anchor light +
- Anchor light –
- Antenna
- Wind instruments

To the spreaders:

- Steaming Light +
- Deck Light +
- Steaming Light and Deck Light – (Negative wire used for both)



Note: the wire used to fasten to the top of the mast in order to carry the weight of the wire bundle.

The sail dogs were a bit difficult to grind down. Afterward, I thought of getting some beads with holes in them. The beads would have to be small enough to go into the slot but big enough to not fit though the slot. The holes in the beads would be used to pass a piece of SS bailing wire then attach the wire to the wire bundle at about 3 foot intervals.

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