

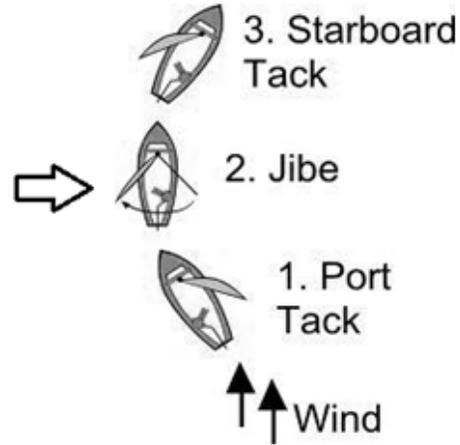
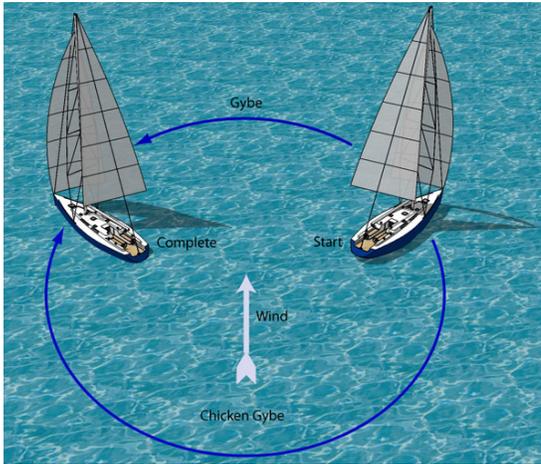
The Chicken Jibe

BY: PHILIP FREEDMAN



Remember in the movie *Back to the Future* when Michael J. Fox hated being called “Chicken”? Eventually he smartened up – didn’t take the dare and changed his future for the good. Well... sometimes in sailing it’s equally smart to not take the dare.

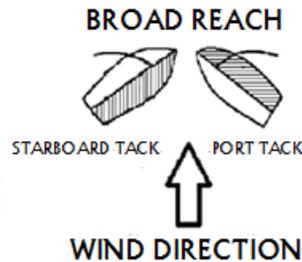
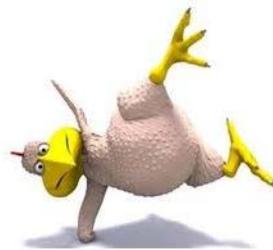
The safe maneuver is called the “chicken jibe.”



The chicken jibe replaces a normal jibe (shown above) when you’re in high wind.

It’s mostly done when the skipper is uncomfortable about the conditions for the jibe and most likely if the winds are high. High winds in a jibing maneuver can cause damage to the vessel rigging by the boom SLAMMING across too fast. In a normal jibe maneuver the boom slam effect can be reduced by pulling in the main sheet and letting it out as the boom comes over to the other side.

However, in high winds – 15 knots plus, if the boom is not let out fast enough, the wind on the main sail will round the boat up in to the wind and heel the boat way over and even capsize.



So the best choice is the chicken jibe. The end result is the same. **You’re merely tacking the boat from a Broad Reach on one side over to a Broad Reach on the other side.**

It’s simple, easy, effective, and safe. The only thing to watch out for is that the jib sheets will whip back and around quite violently. So have the lazy sheet ready to go.

Don’t just know this, but practice it!