

- [Home](#)
- [About](#)
- [Navagear TV](#)
- [Subscribe to Navagear](#)



← [Deception Pass Tours](#) [Portland Pudgy: the Swiss Army Knife of Dinghies?](#) →

Free Electricity for the Next 25 Years: the Solar Stik

August 2nd, 2007 · by Aaron Tinling, Publisher



Here's a product I've been meaning to write about for awhile: the Solar Stik, a robust solar panel mounting system for cruising boats and other applications. The advantages of solar are compelling: less reliance on fossil fuels; less wear and tear on engines being run to generate electricity; quiet and non-polluting energy; and the simplicity of no moving parts. However, panels that produce useful amounts of power need to be pretty big, and deck space is often limited on cruising boats. In Mexico, I've seen panels mounted in all kinds of inventive, sometimes precarious ways. The better ones are on arches, hard-top biminis, or davits, where they are generally up and out of the way. Others are cantilevered off of lifelines or held in a spider

web of rigging. And some are custom folding brackets that allow panels to be turned toward the sun for maximum power output. The Solar Stik folks have taken the specially designed bracket approach to a new, and welcome height.

[Off Grid Electric System](#)

Complete Off Grid Electric Systems Own
Your Own Power Company

[Solar Energy Great Prices](#)

Photovoltaic Solar Electric Systems Factory
Direct Kits & Pro Installs!

Ads by Google

Ads by Google

[Honda Solar Cell](#)

Learn about Honda's

The Solar Stik is basically a beefy aluminum spar that mounts vertically, typically like a radar mast on your boat's stern. It holds two 50 watt BP solar panels on brackets that can be adjusted to face the sun, and also allows them to be folded down to reduce possibilities for damage when appropriate. A matching regulator is included, and wiring running inside the big aluminum tube emerges in a nice weatherproof plug near deck level. The panels can be reasonably expected to generate about 80 amps a day.

The mast can also be used as a mounting point for antennas or a wind generator, and easily accommodates familiar models from Aerogen and Rutland.



All in all, the [Solar Stik](#) looks like a nicely worked out system, and an especially effective way to add a reasonable amount of solar power, especially on smaller vessels. [Worth a look!](#)



Tags: [Electrical](#) · [Power](#)

2 responses so far ↓

- [hebe](#) // [Aug 21, 2007 at 2:50 pm](#)

PS just reviewed it on land and found that 70-80ah's might be possible under optimal conditions. Their best measured hours were 7 amp/hours...you'd need 10-11 BEST hours just to hit 70. Not gonna happen.

You are quoting marketing hype if you think people will reasonably get 80ah's out of these under normal conditions.

50-60 is more realistic in good weather.

- [Aaron Tinling, Publisher](#) // [Aug 22, 2007 at 9:13 am](#)

Thanks for sharing your experience! Have you written up your observations on the web? I think our readers would be interested in your real world results. 50 amp hours/day sounds about right for non-optimized conditions with 100 watts worth of panels. The rule of thumb I remember is you'll get about half the wattage in amp hours/per day from non-aimed panels. If you regularly re-aim your panels throughout the day, you can do a bit better.

Leave a Comment

Name

Mail

Website

Submit

• Search Navagear

type search here...

Ads by Google

[Solar Energy Investing](#)

The Breakout Solar Energy Stock You Must Own Now. New Free Report

www.DailyReckoning.com/Solar_Rt

Ads by Google

[Honda Solar Cell](#)

Learn about Honda's next-generation solar cells and see what we see.

www.honda.com

[Solar Energy Panels](#)

Bargain Prices. Smart Deals.

Shopzilla.com

[Build Solar Panels](#)

Get Free Solar Electricity Panels. Solar Power For Your Home Today!

www.KnowledgePublications.com

[Boat Battery Charger](#)

Boating Electrical Gear & Batteries Low Prices on Marie Electronics.

ConsumersMarine.com

[Best Solar Professionals](#)

Find the Best Local Prescreened Solar Pros for Your Important Needs

www.CoolerPlanet.com

[Breakout Solar Companies](#)

A Few Select Companies Will Corner the New Solar Market. Free Report.

www.GreenChipStocks.com/Solar_

[Solar Energy Contractors](#)

Local, Pre-Screened Contractors Are Waiting For You To Request A Quote!

www.CalFinder.com

[Solar Energy Contractors](#)

Local, Pre-Screened Contractors Are Waiting For You To Request A Quote!

www.CalFinder.com

[Solar Electricity](#)

Bargain Prices. Smart Deals. Save on Solar Electricity!

Shopzilla.com

• Good Sites

- [Ask Jack Rabbit](#) Answers to your marine electrical and electronics questions, by Peter James of Jack Rabbit Marine.
- [Bitter End](#) Captain Richard Rodriguez logs vessel assist incidents and anecdotes
- [Boat Bits](#) A sailing blog: random thoughts and rants on boat design, boat building, and other boat bits...
- [Craft A Craft](#) Boat design, home building, and cruising in a nutshell
- [gCaptain](#) The site for maritime professionals
- [Panbo](#) The marine electronics blog
- [Sailblogs](#) A great place for sailors to blog about their adventures
- [Sailing Anarchy](#) Irreverent and entertaining sail racing news
- [Tugster: a waterblog](#) a blog about New York harbor, the sixth borough
- [Zensekai II](#) Zen and the Art of Mindful Sailing
- [Zephyr](#) Sailing culture for voyagers, zealots, poets and populists

• Archives

- [March 2008](#)
- [February 2008](#)

- [January 2008](#)
- [December 2007](#)
- [November 2007](#)
- [October 2007](#)
- [September 2007](#)
- [August 2007](#)
- [July 2007](#)
- [June 2007](#)
- [May 2007](#)
- [April 2007](#)
- [March 2007](#)
- [February 2007](#)
- [January 2007](#)
- [July 2005](#)
- [May 2005](#)
- [April 2005](#)
- [March 2005](#)
- [February 2005](#)
- [January 2005](#)
- [December 2004](#)

• Recent Posts

- [AIS/GPS Conflict...Scary!](#)
- [New Raymarine Ray49 VHF](#)
- [Raymarine Seminar Schedule](#)
- [AIS On-The-Cheap Follow-Up](#)
- [Raymarine LifeTag: Not For Me](#)
- [Updated Rescue 21 Deployment Plan](#)
- [Weld-Mount Wire-Tie Anchors](#)
- [Man Overboard! \(Alarms, That Is\)](#)
- [Abbott & Costello & Monty Python](#)
- [Porn For Electronics Geeks](#)

• Categories

- [Books](#)
- [Business and Industry](#)
- [Cabin comfort](#)
- [Coatings and Sealants](#)
- [Communication](#)
- [Deck Gear](#)
- [Destinations](#)
- [Ecology](#)
- [Electrical](#)
- [Electronics](#)
- [Events](#)
- [Fishing](#)
- [Galley](#)
- [General Interest](#)
- [Kids](#)
- [Misc.](#)
- [Navigation](#)
- [New Posts](#)
- [Photography](#)

- [Plumbing](#)
- [Power](#)
- [Propulsion](#)
- [Rigging](#)
- [Safety](#)
- [Sails](#)
- [Services](#)
- [Tenders](#)
- [Tools](#)
- [Trips](#)
- [Videos](#)
- [Websites](#)

© 2006 Navagear.com.