

(16) The next enhancement was a little tricky. Cathy and I envisioned a “shelf” under the deck made from an old golf net. First, we made a cardboard template of the underside of the deck. Then we folded the netting three times length-wise and stretched it into something resembling the template. Cathy hand-knotted the net every 1/2-inch around the margin. We hired a commercial seamstress to sew the netting and two 3-inch wide pieces of military strappings (each piece about 15-feet in length) into a “sandwich.” The seamstress trimmed everything appropriately. I twisted eye-screws into the under ends and middle of each cross-beam. An eight-inch zip-tie was inserted in each eye-screw at the ends of each cross-beam and four 17-inch zip-ties loosely fastened to eye-screws in the center of each cross beam.

I cut a 4.5-foot piece of PVC tubing from stock; cemented a cap on one end; drilled holes first through the second cap and side of the tube about two inches from the open end. The cap was fitted to tube and both the cap and tube connected together via a 10-inch of leather thong. Five 17-inch zip-ties were threaded through the eye-screws of the beam under the deck and left loose. The PVC tubing was slid through the loops of the zip-ties and drawn tight around the tube. Lastly, four more 17-inch zip-ties were looped over the tube, threaded through the netting along the center line, and rejoined.

The port-side netting houses the tent for the boat. The starboard-side accommodates water proof clothing, polyethylene blocks for marking potential fishing spots, two roll-up chairs, and maybe unrealized goods. The area below the “shelf” stows heavy items like anchor, tools, an extra chair, auxiliary fuel tank, various kinds and lengths of rope. In case you are wondering about the PVC tube, that is my rod holder and storage compartment for fishing tackle.



Figure 19: View of net-shelf fitted under deck supporting tent, rod container, folding chair, etc..