

## A Better Mousetrap?

CHANCES ARE THAT UNLESS YOU'RE A RACER OR A sail-at-all-costs diehard who cringes at the thought of starting up the diesel when a perfectly suitable five-knot breeze is blowing, you've probably not flown a spinnaker all that often. And who sets the spinnaker on a long downwind run when a poled-out jib (or dual headsails) can provide almost as much power with lots less aggravation? You might be more inclined to fly one if you had a Parasailor on board. It's built by ISTEK in Germany and incorporates a wing/vent section that's designed to reduce rolling and bow plowing and to keep the kite filled in variable conditions without a pole. According to ISTEK, this is possible because the winged opening forms a semi-rigid I-beam that helps the sail hold its shape. The winged opening also acts like a pressure-relief valve in higher gusts. The Parasailor has been used in Europe for years and is reported to be easy to fly in four to 25 knots and from 80 to 180 degrees of apparent wind. **About \$4,500 to \$7,300, (813) 298-0431, [www.parasailorusa.com](http://www.parasailorusa.com)**

