

## Re: Driving and Sailing ... where to go from here(?)

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- *From:* David <invalid@xxxxxxxxxxxx>
  - *Date:* Sat, 17 Feb 2007 14:48:57 -0700
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Jack,

Thank you very much for your extensive reply. A few notes interspersed below:

On Fri, 16 Feb 2007 12:03:41 -0500, Jack Erbes <jackerbes@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

David wrote:

<snip>

..So I bought an USB to Serial converter. And

another. And another. After three tries, and many, many hours, I finally just gave up and returned the new laptop, because that was the main application that I wanted it for.

<snip>

Your results are uncharacteristic. I own three different serial to USB adapters and all of them worked on the first try.

Given my experiences, that amazes me! And I am happy for you! <g>

The setup process for those adapters is invariably that I have to run a setup.exe program from a CD-ROM that came with the adapter to install a driver before I plug the device in.

Same...

And I generally have to lead the New Hardware Found wizard to a folder containing an \*.inf file and some driver files the first time the adapter is plugged in.

Same...

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Once the drivers are installed and the serial to USB adapter is plugged in, if you are watching the Device Manager, you will see new (virtual) COM port appear in the Ports (COM & LPT) category.

Same...

If, when you go to the Device Manager, you see any devices with yellow question marks on them, those are usually from earlier failed attempts to plug and play a new piece of hardware.

But I did not find any of these question marks in there...

If any of the yellow question marks are from earlier failed attempts to plug and play your serial to USB inverter that will stay there forever unless you remove it. And nothing will happen (no New Hardware wizard) will run when you plug the adapter in.

If you want to try again to instal