
JOHN GARDNER TSCA NEWS NOTES

The Latest from Around Our Chapter

We offer this this latest issue of our informal “News Notes” as a way of keeping in touch during these times of COVID Restrictions. We in JGTSCA have held off on monthly meetings but this month we held our second in-the-water activity, Phil Behney’s Thames River Row. The report below includes stunning visuals of Russ Smith’s four oared gig from Gales Ferry, a fellow TSCA Chapter.

As of October 8th we in Connecticut are in Phase 3 which allows indoor social gatherings of 25 and outdoor gatherings of 150 but we have maintained our chapter business communications online and limited our activities to outdoor on-the-water, including honoring each other with the wearing of masks and social distancing. That being said, while the fall weather is relatively mild, is there interest in an afternoon bring-your-own BBQ outside on the deck at the Avery Point Boathouse? If so, drop us a line and let us know. Meanwhile, enjoy your last season rows and sails as fair fall days provide. Keep us posted on your activities and we will share with the group.

October 11th Thames River Row:

Phil Behney led an early morning row, departing the Ken Streeter state launch ramp (under I-95 on the Groton side), crossed, then went down-river and up Brigg’s Brook to New London’s Winthrop’s Cove towards the site of the Old Town Mill. The route took them through open water, across an active shipping channel, under a low railroad bridge and through a narrow culvert beneath a highway underpass. Phil made Chapter dories available and rowed one himself. Brian Cooper rowed his light fabric-on-frame Whitehall. A highlight was participation by two oared gigs from Russ Smith’s Ledyard Youth rowing group. To learn more about Russ’ group, here is a link to an article about Russ Smith and his rowing program from “The Day”: <https://www.theday.com/local-news/20200926/ledyard-rowing-teaching-teamwork-and-leadership-for-all-ages>





And here is a video of highlights of the row by Brian Cooper: <https://youtu.be/EHcYRe7iiRw>

What better way to celebrate Indigenous People/Columbus Day/Halloween than with an exploratory row! A big thank you to Phil for researching the tides and currents, guiding the route and arranging such a pleasant break in the weather.

This from Ellie Czarnowski:

Greetings, here is the third installment of “A Sailing Primer” written for me by my dear departed neighbor, Don Joffray. Part 2 is in the JGTSCA News Notes Volume 6, Number 6F (July 2020). Don was a math teacher and coach at Loomis Chaffee School for 49 years among other larger than life accomplishments. It is with fond memories that I share this very special work of art and instruction from Don with you. Stay tuned for more instruction and enjoy.

Thank you, Ellie, for sharing. Pages #6 and 7 follow, full size, on the following pages, handwritten with hand drawn illustrations. More to come in upcoming issues. Thank you, Ellie, for sharing this distillation of a lifetime of sailing experience. (Watch for those wind shifts. Ed.)

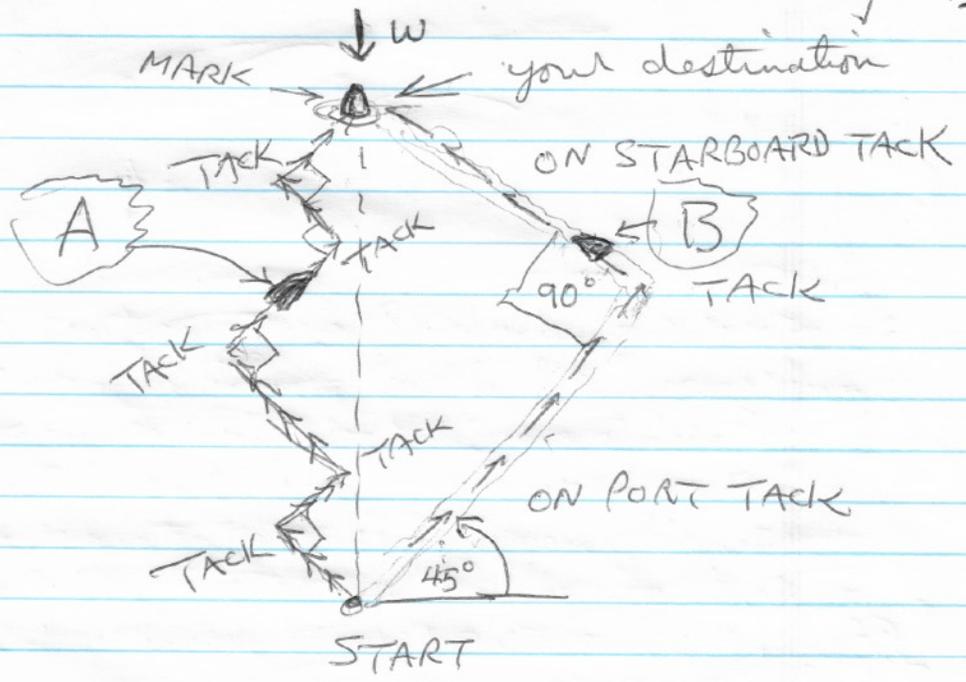


6.

Centerboard:

- (i) Should be fully down when going upwind (also called beating).
- (ii) Can be raised part way when reaching.
- (iii) Can be raised all the way up when running downwind.

Getting upwind Part 1 [assuming a constant wind direction (not likely! XX)]



Boat A starts on starboard tack and tacks 5 times to get to MARK. Boat B starts on port tack and tacks once to get to mark. Both boats travel same distance. [This diagram assumes sailing at 45° to wind.]

7

Wind shifts: a shift which allows you to sail closer to the previous wind direction is called a lift:



a shift which forces you to bear away from your original course is called a header



In an oscillating wind which shifts back and forth in direction, to get upwind best, ride up in the lifts and tack in the headers. In this manner you will always be on the tack which gets you upwind faster.

It's Fall! Let's go for a Hike:

As personal boats head to dry land to hibernate and we seek other opportunities to be outdoors, here is a List of Land Trusts in the region that offer public hiking trails. They include often overlooked alternatives to crowded beaches and parks. Check their websites or Facebook pages for directions and trail maps:

Avalonia Land Conservancy <https://avalonia.org/preserves/>

Connecticut Forest and Park Association <https://www.ctwoodlands.org/blue-blazed-hiking-trails/blue-blazed-hiking-trails-interactive-map>

East Lyme & Niantic Land Conservation Trust, <https://www.eastlymelandtrust.com/land-preservation.html>

Friends of Oswegatchie Nature Preserve in East Lyme <http://www.oswhills.org/trail-map.html>

Groton Open Space Association <https://www.gosaonline.org/properties/>

Lyme Land Conservation Trust <https://www.lymelandtrust.org/properties/>

The Nature Conservancy <http://tnc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=9a86b3c24c724a16b54b0ca6e9f3c635>

Old Lyme Land Trust <https://www.oldlymelandtrust.org/copy-of-hiking-trails>

Old Lyme Open Space Commission <https://www.oldlyme-ct.gov/open-space-commission/pages/open-space-old-lyme>

North Stonington Citizens Land Alliance <https://nslandalliance.org/preserves/>

Salem Land Trust, Stonington Land Trust <https://salemlandtrust.org/hike-salem/>

Waterford Land Trust (originally West Farms Land Trust) <https://waterfordlandtrust.org/land-sitemaps/>

Many are near Ellie Czarnowski in East Lyme. Perhaps she could offer guidance. I have hiked Avalonia properties near Stonington. Some, like Avalonia's Knox Farm and Ram Island are accessible by water. Watch for Steve Fagin's articles in "The Day" for details and photographs on outings to many of these properties. Enjoy the fresh air; send us photos of your adventures and we will share them with the group.

A Gift from Sid Whelan to our Community Boathouse:

Sid Whelan has graciously donated his personally autographed boatbuilding books by John Gardner as well as a copy of "Pete" Culler's "Boats, Oars and Rowing". They will be in a special box in our library at the Avery Point Community Boathouse for members to use. Thank you, Sid!



From the Avery Point Community Boat House:

Phil Behney lets us know we need “Someone to volunteer to check the trailer lights, and maybe grease bearings, and other routine maintenance.” Also on the list is to complete the last of the JGTSCA Dory maintenance so we can move the new Swampscott Dory into Shop. Reach out to Phil and volunteer.

This issue's Quotable Quote is regarding finishes for your recently completed boat:

“If I were you, in painting the boat, I would coat the interior of the cabin white, and the rest of the boat I would varnish and polish to a fare-ye-well the first season, and then smother with paint the second season, and after that she'd be broke in and you'd be getting that kind of satisfaction that comes from a boat well broken to the harness, or from a pipe with a sweet cake in it.” from Weston (Westy) Farmer. Look up his designs from the early days of sail and power boating between the wars at <https://www.duckworks.com/wes-farmer-s/217.htm> His commentaries are great fun to read.

And we leave you with a lovely photograph from Sharon Brown:

Sharon's description: “Flying down the sound in a beautiful ESE breeze, many people must have been taken by ROSEWAY's presence underway yesterday. Even in silhouette at such a distance it was exciting and the crew on deck visible. I've never sailed on ROSEWAY but it brought back memories of other days on other schooners.”

