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# JOHN GARDNER TSCA NEWS NOTES

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## The Latest from Around Our Chapter

We offer this latest issue of our informal “News Notes” as a way of keeping in touch during these times of COVID Restrictions. Yesterday afternoon, the sun came out, the breeze was light and the waters blue, but we pulled the last boat (the outboard) anyway. By the time we had the trailer parked and all the stuff put away, the sun was gone, the temperature dropped and the skies turned gray. And today, well, I’m huddled in here with my computer at hand and a small heater at my feet, glad the boats are all safely put away for the winter. What a difference a day makes! Now we’re looking forward to some fine Fall Hikes. Hope you enjoyed the list of nearby land trusts in our last “News”. Let us know with a photo and a few words if you found one you that caught your fancy.

### This just in from Member John Unverzagt:



“Good evening Bill: I have been meaning to send a picture to you for the newsletter of my activities over the summer. I have been sailing at the Mystic Seaport Museum multiple times a week all through the summer. I have developed an affinity for the Beetle Cat and learned the differences in sailing qualities for a cat boat versus a Bermuda rigged boat. On calm days, I have found the Seaport’s collection of rowing Dorries to be a an enjoyable way to spend the afternoon. Additionally, I was trying to learn as much as possible about life in a sailing village. Overall it was a thoroughly enjoyable and rewarding summer!

Very respectfully, John Unverzagt”

## And as we move our boating interest indoors:

A fine outlet for our nautical cravings in winter is Mystic Seaport Museum's Digital Library. We visited it last spring when our sequestering first started. Since then the number and diversity of videos available has greatly increased. This from Amanda Keenan:

"We would like you to know that most of our virtual programs have been recorded and are available "on-demand". If you visit: <https://stories.mysticseaport.org/> you can watch any of the lectures, demonstrations, and behind the scenes tours any time you'd like! Yes, this includes the very popular Tool Sharpening 5 part series. <https://stories.mysticseaport.org/category/hands-on-craftsmen/>

## Are You Ready for Halloween's Blue Moon?

This from Joe Rao, who serves as an instructor and guest lecturer at New York's Hayden Planetarium: "We will have a second full moon to enjoy on Halloween, Oct. 31st. Popular culture regards the second full moon occurring in a month as a "Blue Moon." And traditionally — in Algonquin Indian lore — the full moon that comes after the Harvest Moon is known as the Hunters' Moon, when hunters tracked their prey by autumn moonlight, stockpiling food for the coming winter.

But in addition, this particular full moon comes within less than a day of apogee — its farthest point from Earth — 252,522 miles (406,394 km) away. So, this full moon is nearly 14% smaller than in April, the antithesis of a "super" moon, or as the mainstream media calls it, a "micromoon" or "minimoon."

Tidal force varies as the inverse cube of an object's distance. This month the blue moon is 14% further away at than at apogee than perigee so in addition it exerts 48% less tidal force during the spring tides of Oct. 31 than during the spring tides near apogee during the full moon at the beginning of the month.

And this all happens on Halloween. And with the exception of Christmas, what holiday goes hand-in-hand with a full moon more than Halloween?

So, get ready to finish out October with a Micro Halloween Blue Hunter's Moon."

## The Final Installment of "The Sailing Primer":

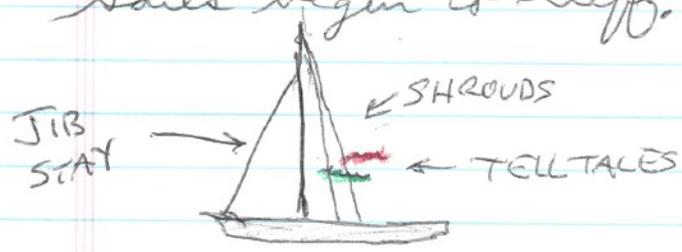
Ellie Czarnowski shares this with us: "Greetings, here is the fourth and last installment of "A Sailing Primer" written for me by my dear departed neighbor, Don Joffray. Part three is in the JGTSCA News Notes Volume 6, Number 2J (October 16th, 2020). Don was a math teacher and coach at Loomis Chaffee School for 49 years among other larger than life accomplishments. It is with fond memories that I share with you this very special work of art and instruction from Don. Hope you enjoyed this graphic manual of sailing instruction."

Thank you, Ellie, for sharing your friend's personal notes, drawings and clear knowledge. (Ed.)  
(See next three full size pages)



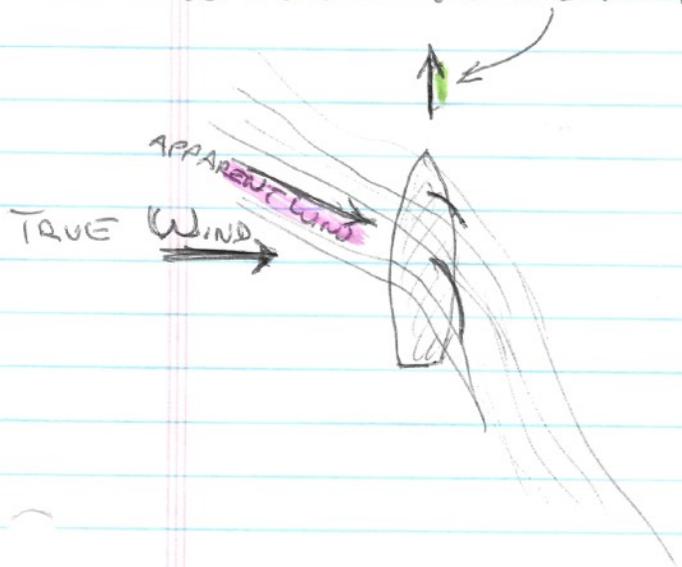
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Sometimes wind shifts are subtle. Telltales (yarns) on the shrouds (side stays) reveal lifts which might otherwise go undetected. Headers are rather obvious & your sails begin to luff.

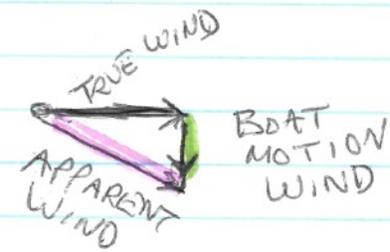


APPARENT WIND vs. True Wind

The sails are trimmed to the apparent wind (the vector sum of the true wind and the boat's motion).



VECTOR DIAGRAM



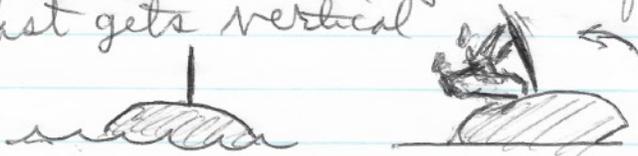
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SURVIVAL If you get caught out when winds become heavy;

- (i) If you're trying to get upwind, trim the jib tight and ease out on the main enough so you aren't overpowered. In extreme conditions you may have the jib backwinding the forward half of the main. If still overpowered, take down the jib and sail on the main alone.
- (ii) If your destination is downwind, get your weight aft, raise the board part way, hike, and enjoy a wild ride on a planing hull!

### Righting a capsized boat

If boat has turned turtle (the worst scenario), you'll need the centerboard fully extended, and the sheets free. If the hull is lying across the wind, climb onto the exposed bottom from the windward side. You may need to use both skipper and crew to right the boat, piggy back style. As boat starts to lift mast from water, slow down your efforts and stabilize boat from water as mast gets vertical.



10.

If boat can be righted by one person, it probably won't scoop up as much water as it comes up. What water remains in cockpit should drain out the stern as you sail away with plug pulled.

Afterthoughts: I hope this abbreviated primer touches the important points. Since sailing is a lifetime learning experience, one can get hooked on the thrills of mastering the challenges of a sport in which there are so many variables (winds, tides, currents, eddies, waves -- a full understanding may be as hopeless as an understanding of quantum theory).

Racing sailboats gets very complicated. Beginners to this competition will surely find frustration and humility. In my twilight years, I merely enjoy the potential for escape, the thrill of being at one with nature in an adventure which is both physically and mentally challenging, with a lot of space for just lazing along.

I should not omit that sensation of feeling the wind and waves through the fingertips on tiller and sheets. Ahhh!

## Chapter Activities?

We are open to new ideas for activities including more oar and sail outings throughout the seasons with possibly a museum tour in winter. Perhaps a visit to the Seaport as indoor exhibits re-open. It might even be as simple as a visit to Walter Ansel in the Thompson Exhibit space to discuss his current small craft re-build or a visit to the Shipyard to meet the shipwright in charge of rebuilding the New Haven Sharpie to share his progress and challenges. Let us know if any of these strike your fancy.

## Local Lake Cruising:

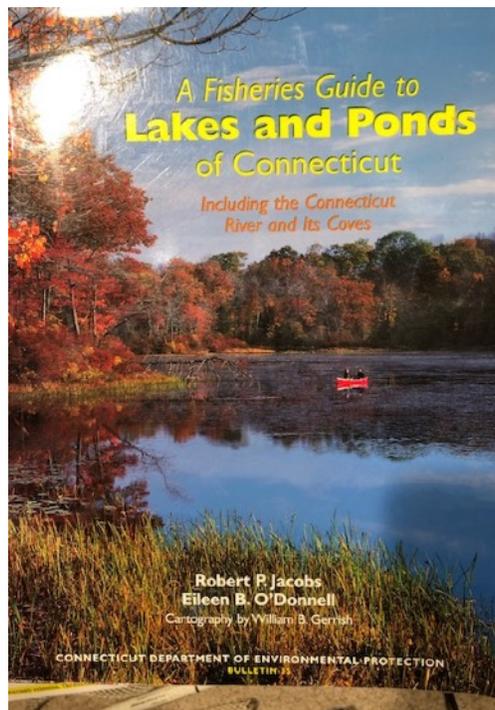
How about some small craft cruising on nearby lakes? Brian Cooper takes us on a Fall sail on a Connecticut Lake: “Here is a link to a short video taken when sailing on Rainbow Reservoir. Brian”

[https://fb.watch/1iCF\\_14IHS/](https://fb.watch/1iCF_14IHS/)

And here is the link to the launch info.

<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Boating/Boat-Launches/Rainbow-Reservoir-Boat-Launch>

More from Brian: “Here is a book put out by DEP that is a great reference for CT lakes, ponds and rivers. Not sure if is still in print but most of the same info can be found online at the DEEP website.” Here is a link if you would like to purchase a hard copy: <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Fishing/General-Information/Lake-and-Pond-Book>



*A Fisheries Guide to Lakes and Ponds of Connecticut* (paperback, \$24.95) can be purchased at the **DEEP Online Store**, or by phone **860-424-3555** or **860-424-3692**. Visa and MasterCard accepted. View the Table of Contents and a sample lake at: [https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/fishing/general\\_information/bookpdf.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/fishing/general_information/bookpdf.pdf)

## An Excellent Double Paddle Canoe Available:

John Stratton's friend Donna has a Bart Hawthaway's 25 pound, decked "Rob Roy" fiberglass canoe for sale with cockpit cover, paddle and Sunbrella cover. \$875. Let me know and I will put you in touch with Donna. (Ed.)

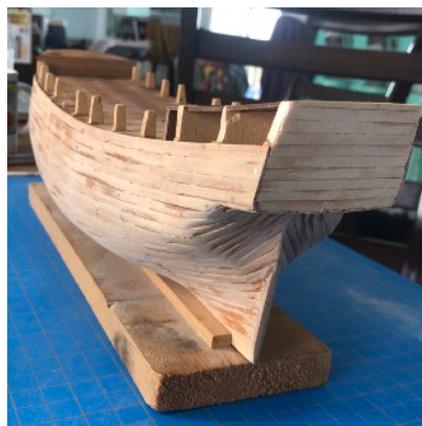
Some background:

**History:** "While a member of the Connecticut River Oar and Paddle Club I met with Bart Hawthaway and he produced this boat for me in Weston MA in 1989. Two acquaintances had Hawthaway Rob Roys and they were older than I at the time, so I figured I could handle this boat. She is a fine boat, weighs only 25 pounds and is easy to handle. I have enjoyed her these many years. Moving to a smaller place and no storage."



## News from the Mystic Seaport Ship Modelers:

The Mystic Seaport Ship Modelers have had a busy summer season giving many interactive presentations on the waterfront. Their activities continue on an individual basis into the winter months. Leader Bob Andrie is busy placing bulwarks on a classic tugboat and member Greg Grathy is planking the HMS "Beagle":



If interested in communicating with this group, let me know and I will place you in contact with Bob. (Ed.)

## Sid Whelan's ADK Guideboat is Complete:

He writes: "My 91st birthday present for me and my family is a new 16ft. Adirondack guideboat, built by Rob Davidson of Lake Clear, and delivered to us in Danby, Vt. last Sunday. I asked Rob for a boat with plenty of space for kids and summer activities on the lakes and in the woods of the Northeast, so she has a 40" beam. Rob also added an inch of freeboard to the Caleb Chase design he chose. Chase was based in Newcomb, N.Y., and he is credited with probably being the first of the 19th Cent. builders to transition from the wineglass square stern to double ends."

"Rob's wife, Allison Warner is also a very gifted boat builder, who for years has built Guideboats as the "Boat Builder in Residence" at the Adirondack Museum. In the photos, Allison is adjusting the center seat and Rob wears a plaid shirt. Patsy in the red jacket, and my daughter Tensie at the stern. We lack waterfront property, so we'll head for water by trailing the Guideboat. The weather turned tricky last Sunday, and remained so on Monday, so we weren't able to try her out as we had hoped to, as we had to get back to Old Lyme. Can't wait to ride in her next spring "The Lord willing and the crick don't rise." You covered this project in your September Newsletter, so this is an updated report. Sid"



Congratulations, Sid: She is a beauty. Something to dream about until Spring. We're all glad for you. We look forward to seeing her in the water. Enjoy. (Ed.)