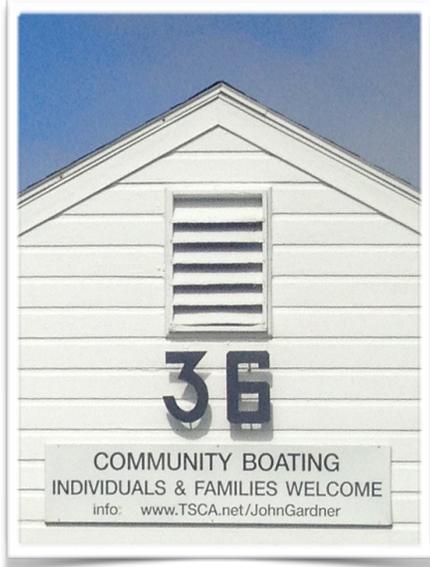


JGTSCA

John Gardner Chapter
of
Traditional Small Craft
Association



Welcome to the John Gardner Chapter of the Traditional Small Craft Association.

Whether you have an interest in traditional boatbuilding, messing about in small boats, or helping to preserve our maritime heritage come join us and share the camaraderie of kindred spirits. We invite you to attend one of our meetings, go for a row, or get involved with our next boatbuilding project.

Visit us at TSCA.net/JohnGardner or on Facebook. Feel free to contact any of our officers personally or stop by the Boathouse; we are often there Friday evenings.

The Community Boathouse is Building 36, next to the shore as you enter the campus of the University of Connecticut at Avery Point.

Boatbuilding at the Boathouse



In addition to maintenance on club dories and individual projects, our primary build is a traditional flat bottomed skiff for row and sail. Designer John Atkin describes his "Nina" design as a "practical and useful boat" that "despite her modest dimensions is very much a little ship". She "is a boat that will sail safely in rough, windy weather - in confidence and with lots of fun". Her dimensions are 11' 4" overall with a breadth of 4' 7" and 4-1/2" draft. She will "carry a cargo of two heavy persons nicely or three average sized youngsters". Marine plywood is used for her bottom since she may reside part-time on a trailer. Her topsides are nice, clear cedar. Framing is fir, the stern knee a grown crook and mahogany seats are planned. Other framing is what we find around the shop.

A few weeks ago with a full crew on a Friday night we popped her off the mold and flipped her right side up. Her strong sheer and strong shoulders are very apparent. Now the frames and knees are going in. The rig is started; the mast has been cut and made round. The boom and gaff are cut to size and ready for jaws.



Next we design and cut the sail. We have an old sailmaker's hand copied book full of rules of thumb as a guide. We plan to rivet the top side planks between the frames. That will be a good Friday night activity. We also have a small group working on Wednesdays with time out for Chinese at lunch.

George Spragg is leading the boatbuilding with Andy Strode and Rob Pittaway assisting. Bill Rutherford the rig with Karen Rutherford to sew the sail. Ray Cormier has donated the sail cloth. John Symons has the rudder centerboard.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this newsletter is to spread the word of our activities, past, present and future. We are a very active group, meeting weekly throughout the year, holding quarterly meetings with speakers and outings on nearby lakes, rivers and bays. We participate in community events, rowing competitions and lead the TSCA Meet at the WoodenBoat show at Mystic Seaport.

OFFICERS

Our new officers take over the helm after New Year's. Ellie Czarnowski takes over as President. She did a great job with community outreach last year, both with UCONN staff and students and Sea Scouts on Pine Island cleanup.

DUES

Dues are due for 2015. If you paid in November or December, Karen will carry those forward for 2015. She asks that you fill out the membership form so communications go to the right place.

SCHEDULE

Our meeting schedule changes slightly for 2015 (see December Meeting Minutes which follow). We will hold **monthly meetings** an hour earlier at **5:30 pm the first Friday of every month, starting January 2nd with Quarterly meetings** at the usual **1:30 pm time on first Sundays of certain months.** The **next Quarterly meeting is scheduled for 1:30 pm March 1st.** All meetings are at the boathouse. Meeting days we enjoy a communal potluck meal as well.

Meeting Minutes:

John Gardner Chapter TSCA
New London Custom House Museum
Banquet and Regular Business Meeting
December 07, 2014
Draft Minutes

JGTSCA President John Symons was in the Chair. He called the Meeting to order at 1:30.

1. Introduction of Members, Welcome Guests and New Members
20 members, guests, and members of the speaker's party were present. John Symons called for thanks to both the Custom House Museum and to Rob Pittaway for making this meeting possible.

2. Minutes from November 02, 2014 meeting
The Minutes for the 11/02/2014 Meeting were unanimously accepted as published on the JGTSCA Website.

3. Treasurer's Report
Treasurer Karen Rutherford reported that the JGTSCA bank balance was \$4611.09 as of this meeting.
Recompensed expenses for the construction of the NINA are \$1680.23 to date. A further \$771.00 is owed to Jim Clark for his purchase of wood. A full Treasurer's Report will be posted on the Web Site.
The Treasurer's Report was unanimously accepted as presented.
Members present called for thanks to Karen and Peter for their services to the organization.

4. Old Business
a. "Nina" construction
Andy Strode reported that planking was complete and that the stern knee was fitted and would soon be fastened in place with rivets.
Bill Rutherford reminded members that he will be on hand at the Avery Point shop every Wednesday from 9am until 3pm and would welcome those who can stop by to work.
b. Fleet Report
Phil Behney reported that he was working on the club trailer and that the club dories still need work. He complimented John Symons on his excellent work completing needed work on the SUSAN B. HOLLAND.
A round of applause was awarded Bill Armitage and Bill Rutherford for their work maintaining cleanliness and order in the shop.

c. Change in the Monthly Regular Business Meeting schedule.
In continuance of the November Business Meeting discussion about changing the day and time of the Regular Business Meeting, Ellie Czarnowski proposed that the monthly Business Meeting be held on first Sundays of the month at 1:30 pm in December, March, June and September as has been the custom to date. In January, February, April, May, October and November, however, the day and time of the Business meeting would be changed to first Fridays of the month at 5:30 pm in combination with a pot-luck supper. All business meetings would be held at the JGTSCA Avery Point Community Boat House unless otherwise announced.

Members present unanimously voted to approve Ellie's proposal.

5. New Business
a. Elections:
Vice President Ellie Czarnowski succeeds to office of President as per the By-law
Bill Rutherford was unanimously elected Vice President.
Now past President John Symons volunteered for , and was unanimously elected to the position of Treasurer.

OFFICERS 2015

PRESIDENT: Ellie Czarnowski
ellie.czarnowski@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT: Bill Rutherford
smallcrafter@gmail.com

SECRETARY: Peter Vermilya
pvermilya@gmail.com

TREASURER: John Symons
pjsymons@live.com

b. New JGTSCA Newsletter.

Bill Rutherford proposed that he and Karen Rutherford publish a monthly newsletter in digital format to the current JGTSCA e-mail list. Hard copies would be available at the Club House.

Content would include, among other topics, the monthly Business Meeting Minutes, expanded progress reports on Club shop activities, scheduled off-site activities, short technical and historical articles, and reports on what members were doing in their own shops. The Rutherford's produced a similar newsletter for the Delaware River chapter which was very successful. Bill cited the advantage of pushing information out to the member e-mail list rather than making it necessary for them to actively seek it out on the JGTSCA website. It was the sense of the meeting that Bill's proposal be accepted.

c. Mamacoke Island Row

Phil Behney reported that he will postpone the Mamacoke Island Row until early in the Spring of 2015.

d. Solstice Row

Phil Behney will lead a Solstice Row on Sunday, 12/21/2014. Participants who wish to participate should meet at the east Mystic location of the Mystic Shipyard at 8:15 AM for departure at 8:30 AM. The row will likely proceed up-river to Mystic Seaport Museum, then back down the river to Mystic proper where participants will adjourn to the Mystic Drawbridge restaurant for coffee and doughnuts before returning to home base at the Mystic location of the Mystic Shipyard.

e. All present gave retiring President John Symons a hearty round of applause for his service to the organization.

6. Events

a. December

Solstice Row, 12/21/2014 at 8:15AM Mystic Shipyard East.

7. Motion to Adjourn:

The Meeting was adjourned at 2:15 pm.

The next Regular Business Meeting will take place Friday January 2nd , 2015, 5:30pm, at the club house on the Avery Point campus of UCONN. The meeting will be in combination with a pot-luck supper. Yum.

After the meeting, Captain Dick Lathrop, president and CEO of Sea Legs (www.sea-legs.org) gave a presentation to a very receptive audience on his 1999 voyage around New England and Maritime Canada aboard his 1975 32' Ericson sloop. Go to www.virtualvoyages.net for further information on this trip.

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Vermilya, JGTSCA Secretary

Friday it is all hands on with lots to do.

AROUND THE SHOPS

Home shops: Peter Vermilya has his Delaware Ducker all lofted, the stem mold constructed and is cutting hardwood strips to glue up the stems. Will be a beautiful boat, both rowing and sailing.

Bill Armitage is putting the finishing touches on a beautiful 16' double ender he built this summer at the Boathouse. It is a John Gardner design (no relation) from Canada (www.guideboat.ca). It is light and fast, as he proved rowing one in the Blackburn Challenge.

Mystic Seaport Boat Livery: under the able leadership of Jim McGuire has two Beetle Cats ("Lisa" and "Elvira") are undergoing restoration in the Gray (John Gardner) Boatshop. "Lisa" is getting a new canvas deck while "Elvira", with the help from parts from Beetle, Inc., is coming back from pretty far gone. In the Boathouse Shop, "Captain Hook", a yacht Whitehall, and "Waldo Howland", a Culler Good Little Skiff, are getting their seasonal paint jobs. Meanwhile, in the water, L. Francis and Nat Herreshoff's designs "Araminta" and "Aida" are buttoned up for the winter as is the Crosby Cat "Breck Marshall". Bob Baker's recently reconditioned "Peggotty" is nearby up on the hard after her first season sailing for a long time. Many Avery Point Boathouse people volunteer at the Seaport multiple days a week on these as well as other Seaport small craft.

View from the Side Deck:

It has been many weeks since the grill was out here firing up hot dogs and sausages on a Friday night. The summer afternoon SW breezes have given way to Northerlies bringing a chill cut to the air. As "white horses" march across the mouth of the Thames from the freshly painted New London Lighthouse, two university JY 15's suddenly fly across the scene; I guess some are still sailing on this December day.

Back inside the Boathouse, thoughts turn to the list of items yet to accomplish this winter to get our boats ready for the coming season. Winter is also a good time for cozying up to the fire with a good book or video. My favorite website for videos is OffCenterHarbor.com. Steve Stone and team,

which includes Maynard Bray and Ben Mendlowitz. They have over three hundred videos now; it costs to join, but feel it worth it is worth it. I just watched Maynard Bray's "It all begins with an Oar". Check out the preview on YouTube. Also, Shaw and Tenny's intro video on their website.

This is also the season for shows. The "Woodworking Show" is in Springfield, MA Jan 9th thru 11th. Good place to drool over tools and perhaps pick up a skill or two. Looking farther forward, the "Maine Boatbuilder's Show" runs from March 20th thru 22nd. A great place to meet small builders and discuss their craft. Might be worth a bus or train ride if weather threatens...

Meanwhile, sharpen your skills or study up on a topic you would like to present to our group. Doesn't have to be highly technical or erudite. Our membership is our best resource for speakers. And speaking is a relative term: most resolve into good natured talking around the table. We would like to have some home-grown talks for the Friday night monthly meetings, saving outside speakers for the Sunday afternoon meetings, but we are flexible.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter method of communicating. Send me input at smallcrafter@gmail.com or grab me and chat through a topic or advise about a notice and I'll work it up for you.

Fair Winds,
Bill Rutherford