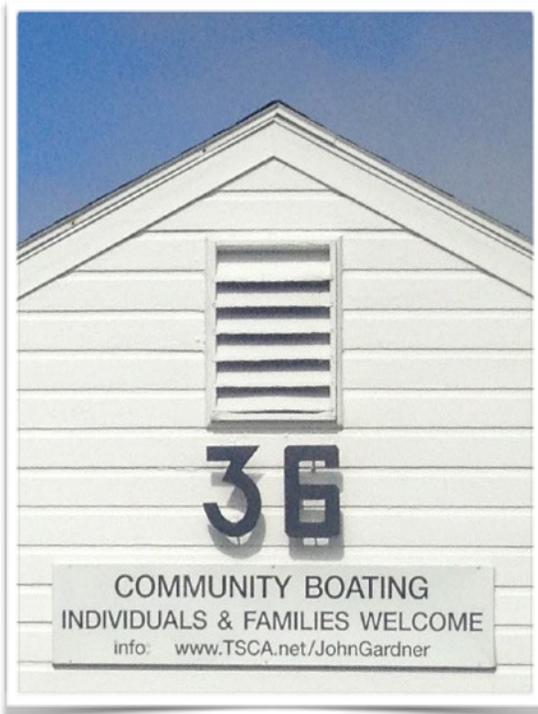


# JGTSCA

John Gardner Chapter  
of  
Traditional Small Craft  
Association



**Friday, September 8, 2017  
Potluck at 5:30PM,  
Meeting  
to follow**



Welcome to John Gardner Traditional Small Craft Association. Visit us at the Community Boat House, Building #36 at the University of Connecticut Avery Point We invite you to attend one of our meetings, go for a row, or get involved with our next boatbuilding project.

[www.TSCA.net](http://www.TSCA.net)  
<http://www.facebook.com/JGTSCA>

## Traditional Boat of the Month: The Galway Hooker – Working Sailing Vessels of the West of Ireland

*Article by John Hacunda*



*Galway Hooker under sail (Credit: Alex Zarodov)*

The Galway Hooker is a traditional sailing vessel found in the west of Ireland. The boats date from the 18th century and were built for fishing and transport along the coast and out to the Aran Islands. During this time roads and railway systems were not well developed in the Galway area and it was natural to design and build vessels to take advantage of the sea as a mode of commerce.

Galway Hookers are recognized by their strong sharp bow, sides that curve gracefully outward, and a gaff-rigged mainsail along with two headsails that are all traditionally maroon or black colored. The boats were constructed of oak frames to provide a strong, sturdy, and maneuverable craft.

Galway was the main boat building center and a great number of these vessels were built during the early 1800s. There are four classes of Galway Hookers with the largest being from 35-44 feet and the smallest boats around 20 feet. At one time, the fishing fleets in Galway and nearby Connemara contained hundreds of these sailing vessels. In addition to fishing, the Galway Hookers

were used for transporting people and for carrying cargoes of turf, livestock, seaweed, lime, and other supplies.

By 1970, only two Galway Hookers remained and it appeared that these boats would soon fade into history. The restoration of *The Morning Star*, a hooker built around 1890 sparked a resurgence in interest these craft. The Galway Hooker Association was founded in 1978 with a goal of reviving these boats. There is now a growing fleet of restored Galway Hookers that are featured at maritime festivals in the west of Ireland.

During a visit to Ireland last summer, I was fortunate enough to get to see a Galway Hooker under construction. I am thankful to Johnny Murphy of the Galway Ocean Sports Club who introduced me to Joe Joyce of the Claddagh Boatmen. Joe was busy with the construction of a large Galway Hooker and was kind enough to take time to describe the project and some of the activities of the Claddagh Boatmen. The Claddagh Boatmen are a volunteer group that are passionate about maintaining Galway's maritime heritage.

Over the last 10 years, the Claddagh Boatmen have been busy restoring and constructing a fleet of Galway Hookers. Their boatbuilding projects are funded by donations and the current build has been ongoing for the last two years. These boats are used to train younger generations in boatbuilding, sailing, and maritime skills. These sailing vessels are now a living reminder of the history of the region. The revival of the Galway Hooker will surely be a focus of attention when Galway proudly celebrates as the European Capital of Culture in 2020.



To explore more:

- Claddagh Boatmen  
[www.claddaghboatmen.com](http://www.claddaghboatmen.com)
- Galway Hooker Association  
[www.huiceiri.ie](http://www.huiceiri.ie)
- Galway Hooker Festival June Bank holiday weekend 2014 (video)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yDhhPw02WAY>
- Galway Hooker Restoration Project 2014 by the Claddagh boatmen (video) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QCjr23zZPqc>
- The Last of the Galway Hooker Men (video)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wUqB60py1H>  
<https://youtu.be/wUqB60py1Hc>



Boats on Australia Beach

## Report on the 2017 John Gardner Small Craft Workshop:

The reoccurring theme at this year's John Gardner Small Craft Workshop, held at the WoodenBoat Show, was one of activity on the docks. Boats were constantly arriving and departing, picking up passengers or changing crews. J. R. Krevans's bright red De Blois Street Dory was easy to spot as it dashed up and down the waterfront. Thad Danielson's Mower Racing Dory breezed in under a cloud of canvas to trade smiling passengers. Ben Fuller's

Delaware Ducker sailed in and out as well as rowed but the big boat at the end of the dock caught everyone's attention, Matthew Phillips' Orkney Islands skiff, with its heavy clinker riveted planks, double ended shape, two masts and three sails. When Matthew arrived and departed, everyone stopped to watch.

On the beach we had a beautiful collection of oar & sail boats. Alden Sweet's 's brand new traditional plank on steam bent frame Main Coast Peapod was a work of art that rowed really well. Other double enders included a Doug Hylan Beach Pea and Jim Friedlander's self designed V-bottomed tender that also sported a fully battened batwing lug rig. With owner's permissions, they were rowed off and on the beach along with a range of boats from CLC dinghies to flat-bottomed skiffs, oar & sail dory skiffs to our rather utilitarian but popular John Gardner Chapter green dories. Special this year was the presence of the "Susan B. Holland", the Chapter's Modified Herreshoff Rowing Boat which was especially popular with couples.

Landside, we were very fortunate to have talented and interesting presenters starting Friday with Dane Rochelle giving the history of "Afterglow", the Seaport's Schooner Brilliant's tender, followed by an opportunity for four to six people to go for a row, an offer which was repeated throughout the weekend. Saturday, David Wyman kicked off with an introduction to his sharpie skiff "Rosie" that he has been designing in the last few issues of "Ash Breeze"; very versatile, with sail, oar or electric power using a trolling motor and lithium ion batteries. Bill Meier followed, describing the process of completely (except for a plank or two) rebuilding a 1920's Mathis Launch - designed by Trumpy - and then re-powering it electrically with a 36 volt golf cart motor. Hard acts to follow, Jim Friedlander then gave us a detailed description of his fully battened batwing lug rig, attached to his self-designed V-bottomed skiff; a balanced lug, it was stable and also fast. On Sunday, Carl Kaufman extolled the virtues of his "Maude & Emeline" Atkin power skiff for oar & outboard with her stable, flat bottom, enough rocker to easily row or push to a plane with a mighty Honda 2.3. Wrapping up, Dan Nelson gathered a crowd around his recently completed Chesapeake Light Craft Sou'wester Dory; he deleted the optional engine well, going pure oar (with a pair of DeLapp oars he made) & sail (twin lug sails) that really make that 18' 3" dory scoot.

Meanwhile, while all this was going on, Brian Cooper was moving with the shade and carving a beautiful clear cedar Greenland kayak paddle, fielding lots of questions about how to customize to your own hands and stature. And further away from the water, Ben Fuller was seen leading chattering groups of traditionalists to and through the Small Craft Hall (aka Rosie Mill) to lay hands



**Ben Fuller explaining  
a Naphtha Launch**



**Scissors,  
Block, Tackle  
and Winch  
Lift Mower  
Dory**

on the museum's Originals, many of which he had personally collected; each, wether workboat, canoe or sporting boat, had its own story.

Mornings commenced with rows either up the River (Saturday - to the source of the mighty Mystic) or downriver (Sunday - to the ever shrinking sandbar off Mason's Island). All participated from the multi-oared "Afterglow" to skiffs, Peapods, double paddle canoes, and flatties to leader Brian Cooper's Greenland kayak. Wind and tide were against us both ways, of course, but we found some interesting byways through both the up-river marsh and down-river Six Penny Island.

Many thanks to the Seaport support team, Shannon McKenzie and Sarah Clement, local JGTSCA Chapter President, Dan Nelson, Phil Behney his Dory team and all the participants who volunteered their time to staff the booth, give presentations or just show up and have a good time.

Those who stayed on the Conrad said the snoring was not that bad this year, boats got loaded in and out with true team effort and the Saturday night BBQ was a fun opportunity to meet friends both new and old. Definitely put it on your calendar for next year.



**How to Judge the Weight of an Oar**



**Ready for Morning Row**



**Down River at Mason's Island**



**Bill Meier's Electric Launch**

## Boating Quotes:

*Courtesy of "The Articulate Sailor", Edited by James Tazelaar)*

".....as I stood in the dim and ancient store which was still redolent of Stockholm tar, oilskins and dusty canvas, something snapped within me.

Among the attitudes I acquired from my father was a romantic and Conradian predilection for the sea and ships. Like him I often had found surcease from the miseries I brought upon myself by spending hours immersed in books about the cruises of small boats to far-distant corners of the oceanic world. Ten years before.....I had anchored myself to a patch of eroded sand hills in central Ontario, about as far from the seas as a man could get. There I labored to make grass, trees, vegetables, and mine own self take root. My labors had been in vain. Drought killed the grass. Sawflies and rabbits girdled the trees. Wireworms ate the vegetables. Far from rooting me into the Good Earth, a decade of servitude to the mingy soil only served to fuel a spirit of rebellion the intensity of which I had not begun to suspect until I stood in the old ship chandler's store physically surrounded by a world I had previously known only in the imagination.

I bought. I bought and I bought and I bought. I bought enough nautical gear out of another age to fill an outbuilding on my parched little farm."

*Farley Mowat*

"To young men contemplating a voyage I would say go."

*Joshua Slocum*

## President's Notes:

Hi Everyone:

The 2017 Wooden Boat Show and Small Craft Workshop for 2017 has come and gone and everyone should agree that it was a great event.

I want to thank all that participated and helped make it so successful. Those that brought boats, conducted demonstrations, workshops and presentations, represented the club, helped at the beach, rowed boats, spruced up and delivered the club dories, all everything else that I failed to mention.

A very special hats off and three cheers to the perpetual organizers - Bill and Karen Rutherford. Once again they went above and beyond the call of duty to get the presenters, and to host another great BBQ, in addition to all the behind the scenes details needed to make it all come together. It wouldn't happen without them.

Thanks to all,  
Sincerely, Dan Nelson



**Draken Harald Hårfagre: Deck Detail**

JGTSCA Meeting Minutes  
Membership Meeting – UConn Avery Point Campus Boathouse  
Friday May 5th, 2017 1830.

**Introduction of Members, Welcome Guests and New Members**

President Dan Nelson opened the meeting at 6:30.

The custom of having individuals present introduce themselves was followed. Present were: Bill Rutherford, Dane Rochelle, Dave Tang, Phil Behney James Clark, Peter Vermilya and Steven Barton

**Minutes from February Meeting**

The minutes were unanimously accepted as presented on line at:

<http://www.tsca.net/johngardner/about.htm>.

**Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Ellie Czarnowski – in absentia; Steve Barton presented her report. Income for the period ending 04/04/2017 Income \$125.00 for members' dues for John Symons, Shirley, Dane & Dave, Fred Fischer, Brian Fischer, Bill and Karen Rutherford and Bill Ellcome. Monthly Expenses include: \$29.00 to Connecticut DMV, \$52.00 plus \$24.15 paid to Dan Nelson for shop supplies and paint. The closing balance as of 05/4/17/17 is 6046.99. Ellie's Report was unanimously accepted as presented.

**Old Business**

1. Shop queue Alan Barton is making progress with his Surf Board, Steve Barton is getting ready to start assembling his two man Kayak with a sail.
2. Bill Rutherford has created a chart currents at the Race and Fisher's Island sound.
3. Prof Jones' Name plate is finished and ready to install, thank you Karen Rutherford.
4. President Dan Nelson's meeting with Professor Nat Trumbull and Professor Jones went well.
5. Draken Harald Hårfarge sendoff and rowing regatta has been postponed. The Viking Ship will spend another season in Mystic Ct.

**New Business**

1. Up and coming Warren River get together. Bring the 38 foot GIG boat down for week of the wooden boat show for the Atlantic challenge. Organizer Peter Vermilya.
2. Small boat workshop with the crew of the brilliant. Dane Rochelle is the lead on this more info to come.
3. Coming in May Viking ship sendoff and rowing regatta.
4. Shannon McKenzie has posted rowing workshop info and registration form on line.
5. There was interest in Small Boat Navigation theme for the next Sunday meeting.
6. During February's meeting Bill Armitage put forth the motion to change the by laws and extend the office of President to more than one year. He will work up some words.

**Any Other Business**

1. While we work out the details of what new project the club will support, sanding and refinishing the Club Dories as well as re-varnishing oars will go on.
2. Rob Pittaway long time member of JGTSCA and member of the Jib Room Club that meets at the Custom House in New London. The JIB Club sponsors a monthly lecture for future lecture series contact Rob Pittaway.
3. A Big thanks to John Hacunda for donating a small fridge to replace the old fridge that could not hold up to the rigors of defrosting.

Motion to Adjourn at 1930

Next Meeting: Sunday June 4th, 2017. 1830 Building 36 (BoatShop) UCONN – Avery Point.

Respectfully submitted  
Steve Barton, Secretary

## John Gardner TSCA 2017 Calendar

**AUGUST:**

- ◆No Meeting Planned
- ◆Barton Surfboard Build in Shop
- ◆Salt Water Row - Barn Island to Sandy Point or Seldon Creek on the Connecticut River?

**SEPTEMBER:**

- ◆**Friday, September 8th:** Potluck at 5:30pm with Meeting to follow
- ◆Jim Friedlander's Build in Shop?
- ◆**Saturday, September 16th:** Salt Water Sail - Bluff Point

**OCTOBER:**

- ◆**Friday, October 6th:** Potluck at 5:30pm with Meeting to follow
- ◆Jim Friedlander's Build in Shop?
- ◆Fall Colors Paddle - Wood River in Rhode Island? Dan Nelson to lead

**NOVEMBER:**

- ◆**Friday, November 3rd:** Potluck at 5:30pm with Meeting to follow
- ◆Jim Friedlander's Build in Shop?
- ◆Tour local shop - Member's or Professional

**DECEMBER:**

- ◆ **Sunday, December 3rd:** Pot Luck Holiday Party at 12:30pm, New London's Custom House
- ◆**Meeting and Presentation to follow**
- ◆Next boat in queue into shop

Note: see also our Calendar on <http://www.tsca.net/johngardner/schedule.htm> which includes additional events of general interest including Boat Shows, competitive Rows and gatherings like Sail Boston and local Boat Shows.

## View from the Side Deck:

The View is a bit obscured today...it's foggy this morning; must be summer - a light southwesterly: warm air over still cool water. Time to get organized: oars, life preservers, lunch. The breeze will freshen by noon, the fog will lift and we'll have clear sun for a nice row out to the island. Or perhaps we'll wait until 2:00 pm when we get enough breeze to make sailing worthwhile.....

It is summer: WoodenBoat and Small Craft Workshop have come and gone. Time to enjoy all those boats on which we spent so much time and energy last Winter and Spring. Get out of the Shop and onto the Water. Lots of activity by our members and others. Russ Smith and Bob Berry of the the Thames River Chapter are heading out on the Blackburn Challenge, July 22nd, for the umpteenth time; at least for Russell. Dan Nelson stopped by to borrow our large anchor for use as a temporary mooring at Maine TSCA's Small Reach Regatta which runs from July 19th through July 23rd. That is a fun time: communal camping, catered breakfast, pick out an island to sail to for lunch, make it back in time for an evening BBQ followed by music around the campfire - repeated daily. Make a mental note for March to sign up for next year. Meanwhile, see our Google Group for more real-time, spur of the moment outings.

Our two most recent meeting activities were interesting and fun: Captain Dan led us first in a knots and splices workshop - bring your favorite and share, which we all did, and then a Small Boat Navigation workshop, which included how to access free charts, current tables to tell which way the current flows in Fishers Island Sound as well as how to make a chip log to check vessel speed. The key was bringing your favorite skill or nav aid to share. Our group is amazingly creative! Next meeting at the Avery Point Boathouse is September 8th following a Potluck at 5:30 pm. See you there; we'll plan our Fall outings and Winter shop times.

Until then, may you have Fair Winds and Following Seas as you venture upon the Waters,

*Bill & Karen  
Rutherford*



Photo by Sharon Brown