

# JGTSCA

John Gardner Traditional  
Small Craft Association

## A Sail Rig for a Lowell-Coast Guard 15 foot Fisherman's Dory

by Padeye



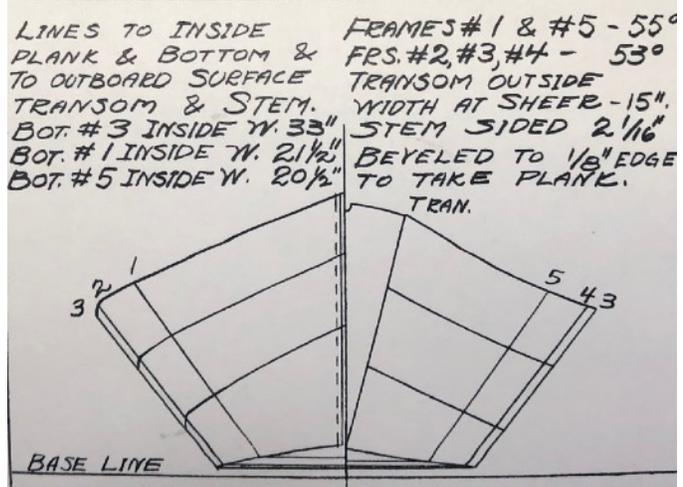
Welcome to  
**John Gardner  
Traditional Small Craft  
Association**

Visit us at the Community Boat House:  
Building #36  
UCONN Avery Point  
1084 Shennecossett Rd  
Groton, CT 06340

Local: [www.JGTSCA.org](http://www.JGTSCA.org)  
[www.facebook.com/JGTSCA](https://www.facebook.com/JGTSCA)  
National: [www.TSCA.net](http://www.TSCA.net)

**Oar Leathering & Dory Maintenance**  
from 5:00 pm Fridays,  
at UCONN Avery Point Boathouse

**Next Meeting: Friday, April 5th at 5:30pm**  
at UCONN Avery Point Boathouse  
Building 36, Potluck followed by Visit to  
Lavigueuer's Backyard Boatworks

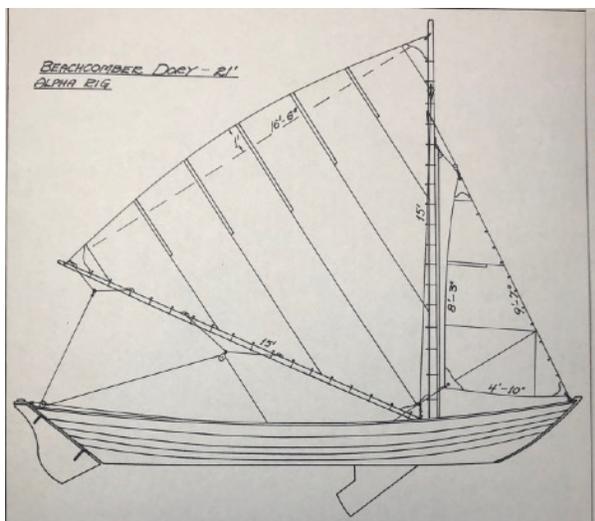


Drawing courtesy of John Gardner's "Dory Book"

We fielded a call to the Boathouse from a gentleman who recently completed building a 15 foot Fisherman's Dory from Chapter 10 of John Gardner's Dory Book 145, to be exact. He had a touching story to tell. He and a close friend built the boat as a final "bucket list" item; the friend passed away the night after he dropped off the recently completed oars. So, needless to say, this fellow is keeping the boat because it is important to him personally. He, however, is mobility challenged regarding one arm so wants to sail, rather than row in circles. Understandable. So he was looking for a sail rig for the boat. All this came out in about an hour long conversation full of chuckles as well as serious conversation.

Bolger famously refused multiple requests to design a sail rig for his Gloucester Gull Dory but this seemed like a special case. The gentleman listened patiently while I rambled

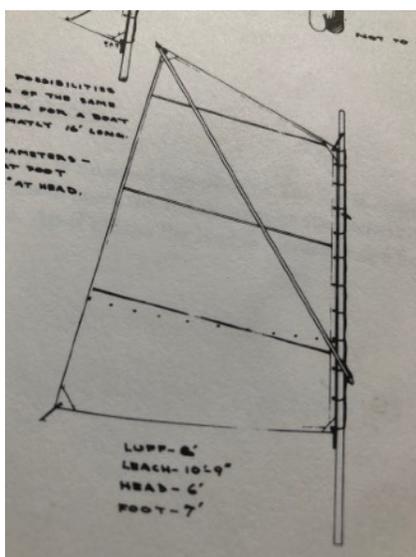




stem. Probably why period photographs all show an active crew of two sailing the boat. That small 20 sq. ft. of sail forward of the mast can be handy, however. I remember Thad Danielson spinning his Mower Dory of the same vintage to land bow out at our finger pier during last year's John Gardner Small Craft Workshop. He backwinded the jib and made it look easy.

Our conversation went downhill from there to include talk about blue tarps from Home Depot, duct tape and closet rod for sprit spars. A balanced lug? Still has that boom down low. A standing lug? The tack is on

the mast but still has some sail area forward of the mast for balance. A fisherman's lug? No, we're not going up to that stem head on every tack. Then I remembered Ben Fuller's 87 Boat Designs from Mystic Seaport. It has, on page 91, three nifty little sail plans: a small gaff, a peak sprit with a boom and, best of all, a peak sprit with a loose foot. All with about 60 sq. ft. of sail area. Much smaller than the Beachcomber's, but might be a good place to start for a single hander in a Banks dory.



One last twist to this story; just as he was leaving for Big Red he messaged me a photo of a sail he had already tried: a Sunfish (lanteen) rig. Perfect! I messaged back, "Why look any further?" Unless, of course, you really want a traditional, non Mediterranean, 19th Century rig for your beautifully built traditional dory. Poking around the library after the call I found a hand printed booklet by a retired sailmaker (stitched together on the sail maker's sewing machine) with a few pertinent rules of thumb for cutting the curves on the edges of the sails. I took photos of the pages and emailed them to the gentleman caller.

So why regale you with this Shaggy Dog story? Because, this is not your basic show and tell article.

This is interactive. Send your thoughts and guidance regarding this fellow's sail quandary to "Padeye" in care of the Editors of this esteemed Newsletter and we will pass them on to the owner of the 15 foot Fisherman Dory as well as publish them in an upcoming issue for everyone's further review and comment. Let's make this a team effort....let's get that Fisherman sailing.

Respectfully submitted,  
"Padeye"

## Upcoming Chapter Events:

**April 5th:** After our meeting, we plan a visit to Frank Lavigueuer's to view the restoration of his family's John Hanna yacht. He has this to say about it:

"I love to share my project with folks. I've just completed the first bottom layer for sheathing. So it looks like a boat. Brief history of WINMAR: In 1927 designer John Hanna was commissioned to write an article on backyard boat building that would be featured in 3 monthly publication of Yachting Magazine. (Jan, Feb and Mar) Kim's grandfather (Lester sr.) a Naval architect (Webb Institute) liked the boat and design of Gulfweed so he clipped the articles and saved them. When his twin sons returned from the war (Lester Jr. and George) he pulled the plans out and they started building on Bayview Ave. It is a great story and a very rewarding project."



**April 13th** 10 am to 12 pm: Mystic Seaport Ship Modelers meet upstairs in the John Gardner Boat Shop. Bring your models and visit with other builders.

**April 22nd** 11:30 am to 1:30 pm: UCONN Avery Point Earth Day Celebration. Ellie Czarnowski leading. Join us at a table on the Green or come welcome visitors to our Boathouse.

**April 23rd** 7:30 pm: UCONN Avery Point Auditorium Coastal Perspectives Series. Kara Lavender Law, Ph.D., Sea Education Assoc. speaks on "Ocean plastics pollution from sources to solutions".

**April 28th:** A visit to the Herreshoff Museum in Bristol, RI. It is their opening day so admission is free. Dane Rochelle recommends their website for detailed information [www.Herreshoff.org/events](http://www.Herreshoff.org/events) and the DeWolfe Tavern for lunch or brunch. Dane will not be leading this year but plans to attend if family commitments allow so we may see him while there. "It is quite a place."

**Friday Evenings** at the Boathouse: leathering oars with turks head stops. Parking is free after 5 pm; most folks are there by 6:30 pm. Remember: Hot Dog Fridays are back. Bring your favorites to roast.

**This Month's Bit of Sailing Wisdom:** "To determining if bilge water in a leaky boat afloat in salt water is coming from above or below: Taste it. 1) If it is very salty, it is coming through the bottom. 2) if fresh, it is coming down from the deck. 3) if it is brackish, it is coming from both directions." Peter Spectre in "A Mariner's Miscellany"

## JGTSCA Calendar - 2019:

### JANUARY:

- **January 5th:** Chantey Blast and Pub Sing
- **January 12th:** Tour Mystic Seaport's Watercraft Hall w/ Mystic Seaport Ship Modelers
- **Avery Point Boat House (APBH) Projects:** Complete John G's Dory

### FEBRUARY

- **Meeting Friday, February 1st:** Topic: Activity Ideas
- **APBH Project:** Bill Armitage's Melonseed

### MARCH

- **Oar Leathering Friday, starting at 5:00 pm March 1st,** Avery Point Boathouse (APBH).
- **Potluck & Meeting 12:30 pm Sunday, March 3rd:** at APBH followed by Visit to Research Vessel "Connecticut"
- **Full Moon Row: meet at 4 pm March 22nd** at Mystic Shipyard East; rowing by 4:30; Bill Armitage Leads.
- **APBH Project:** Bill Armitage's Melonseed

### APRIL

- **Meeting Friday, 5:30pm, April 6th:** Topic: Visit Frank Lavigueur's Ketch Rebuild
- **APBH Project:** JGTSCA Dory Maintenance
- **UCONN Avery Point Earth Day Celebration 11:30 am to 1:30 pm** on the Campus Green; in Student Center in case of rain. Ellie Czarnowski Lead; let her know if willing to assist.
- **Visit to Herreshoff Museum Opening Day: Sunday April 28th** - Dane Rochelle

### MAY

- **Meeting Friday, May 3rd:** Topic: Good Little Skiff Lofting
- **APBH Project:** JGTSCA Dory Maintenance

### JUNE

- **Meeting Friday, June 7th:** Topic:
- **APBH Project:** start Good Little Skiff?
- **Viking Days: June 1st-2nd**
- **John Gardner Small Craft Workshop: June 28th - 30th**

### JULY

- **Meeting: Friday, July 5th:** Activity: Club Picnic?
- **APBH Project:** Good Little Skiff
- **Small Reach Regatta: July 24th - 28th**

### AUGUST

- **Meeting: Friday, August 2nd:** Activity:
- **APBH Project:** Good Little Skiff
- Other -

## SEPTEMBER

- **Meeting: Sunday, September 8th:** Topic:
- **APBH Project:** Good Little Skiff

## OCTOBER

- **Meeting: Friday, October 4th:** Topic:
- **APBH Project:**
- **Mid-Atlantic Small Craft Festival: October 4th - 6th**

## NOVEMBER

- **Meeting: Friday, November 1st:** Topic:
- **APBH Project:**
- **Mystic River Lighted Boat Parade:** November 30th?

## DECEMBER

- **Annual Meeting and Holiday Party: Sunday, December 1st:** at Custom House?
- **APBH Project:**

**Upcoming Mystic Seaport Workshops and Events:**

**April 13th - Coastal Weather:** A brief summary of tidal theory (without the differential equations) will use Long Island Sound, the Race, and Fishers Island Sound as examples. Prediction of local winds and wind shifts, although important in all weather analysis, is particularly evident over water when the sea surface temperature, the local air temperature and the land surface temperature are very different. These differences can cause convective instability and (together with dew point) are useful for fog prediction. The associated cloud patterns also indicate the location and direction of the local gusts, lulls and wind shifts which accompany this instability.

**April 14-May 26th - Adult Sailing and special Women's Sailing:** This class is for those adults who have never sailed and have always wanted to learn in a friendly and fun environment on the waterfront of beautiful Mystic Seaport Museum. You'll be introduced to the theory of sailing (why and how a boat sails), basic sailing and gear terminology, rigging and de-rigging a sailboat, equipment stowage and care, personal safety, knots, safety on the dock and on the water, points of sail, small boat handling, basic rules of the road, capsizing and running aground procedures.

**May 11th - Coastal Navigation:** This three-day workshop will provide a hands-on approach to determining your position using charts and features in the water and ashore, including an introduction to latitude and longitude; interpretation of nautical chart symbols, height, and depth information; plotting courses and bearings; computing speed, time, and distance; and basic planning for a passage.

**June 22nd - Tides & Currents:** This workshop will provide an understanding of the celestial causes and geographic influences of tides; general tidal timing and local variations; determining the state of the tide and tidal current; and boating with tidal currents.

### Around the Shops:

At our **Avery Point Community Boathouse**, Bill Armitage has successfully refinished the deck on his latest boat "find", a beautiful strip-planked Melonseed skiff. Come spring it will grace his dock on Long Pond and add to the scenery on long summer evenings.



On left: Bill Armitage's beautiful varnished deck

After our Potluck and March meeting on Sunday the 5th we took advantage of the newly installed daylight savings time and toured Project Oceanography's Research Vessel "Connecticut". We are fortunate to have a former Captain Dan Nelson among us; he gave us an in-depth tour from Engine Room to Bridge. Very informative. Thank you, Dan, and thanks to "Project O" for having us.

In group photo above right, on board R/V Connecticut from left to right: Captain Dan Nelson, Jim Clark, John Hacunda, John Giulietti, Brian Cooper and Bill Rutherford

**At the Mystic Seaport Boathouse Livery and John Gardner Boat Shop** Volunteers and staff are readying boats for summer duty. To date twenty-one craft have fresh “putty and paint” and are ready to launch. Only a few remain. Here are some recent



activities:  
Karen naming Captain Hook



Steve Telsey lacing Breck Marshall's gaff jaws  
Mike Messick and Bruce Carlson and varnishing Green Machine's rails

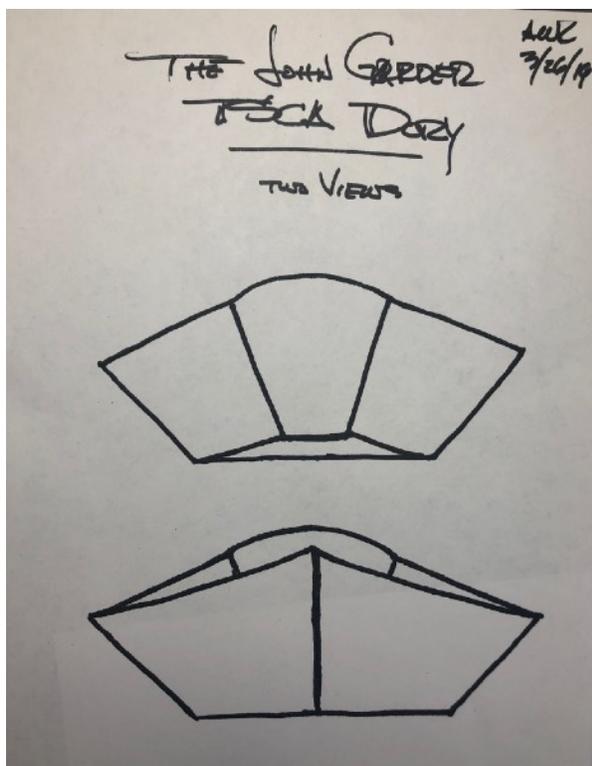
## Correspondence:

This just in from Ben Ellcome, Supervisor of the Seaport's Sailing Programs:

Hello: An individual with whom I have worked in the past is looking for a qualified individual to run a youth building project in nearby Westerly. Last time I did it, it was 9 to 4 for 7 weeks in the summer, teaching wood working skills to youth who are new to boatbuilding. Great program run through RI marine trades association. If you or someone you know would be interested, I would be happy to connect them to my contact.

[Ben.Ellcome@mysticseaport.org](mailto:Ben.Ellcome@mysticseaport.org)

## A possible new Logo:



An exhaustive search through our files turned up two extant logos: a set of dory sections on an old tee shirt in my closet and the dory profile on our website. Both are fine but in response to a diminishing number of requests I prepared the following diagrams from our Avery Point Dory plans which could be used as the basis for a new logo. Perhaps JGTSCA across the transom? The words John Gardner on one side of the bow and Traditional Small Craft Association on the other? Or throw the whole dory thing out and start over with an emphasis on the "Small Boat" portion of our name, which is what the guys on the West coast are doing - see the latest TSCA ad in "Small Craft Advisor". Might attract some new, younger members...what do you think? Bring your thoughts to the Boathouse and let's kick them around. Perhaps something new will evolve.

**View from the Side Deck:**

Saturday it was Spring. Went and got some oars and sanded and varnished them, standing in the warm sun and light breeze. That was Saturday; this is Monday. Today the sun is just as bright but the brisk SW breeze off the Sound has a bite in it. April has a way of reminding us that Spring is not yet a full time thing, regardless of what blooming, snowdrops and crocus say, the daffodils won't fully bloom until they receive a dusting of snow. Regardless, it brought me back inside so you might receive this month's issue before our monthly meeting. Hence the informal format. (Karen was tied up on a book project...)

Here are a few items which may be of interest:

- March's Full Moon was hidden by rain and clouds and blown around by high winds. Bill Armitage and Brian Cooper wisely called it a day (or night) and concluded March's Full Moon Row at the Harp & Hound. Both are demanding a rematch with Mother Nature; stay tuned for April's Full Moon April 19th....
- Come hear the details of Brian Cooper's plan for building our Good Little Skiff at April 5th's meeting. First step: Lofting. An excellent chance to get some hands-on experience. Brian has been researching, planning and making a scale model. Come get on board. Modern computer technology meets painted plywood.



- Earth Day: Come support the University, Earth Day and JGTSCA on April 22nd. Show the flag for human and wind powered boats. "Sweaty People, not Smelly Engines". Stop by our table on the Green or show folks around the Boathouse.

- A heads-up: the new, young leaders of the Seaport's Boathouse and Sailing Center are planning rowing and sailing opportunities this summer, both after hours and on weekends that will welcome small craft like ours as well as hands-on people like us. Keep watching this space for details.
- Be thinking of an activity or program you would like to see or lead; we'll be collecting ideas at Friday's meeting. This is your Chapter; make it all that it can be.
- Be thinking about the upcoming John Gardner Small Craft Workshop: is there a particular thought, skill or adventure you would like to share? Come and present, assist or participate, as the spirit moves.

That's it for this month, folks. Send grist for this mill when you can. All contributions gratefully accepted.

Fair Winds,  
Bill & Karen Rutherford