

JGTSCA

John Gardner Traditional Small Craft Association



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

Good Little Skiff & Dory Maintenance

from 5:00 pm Fridays, at UCONN Avery Point Boat house Build 36

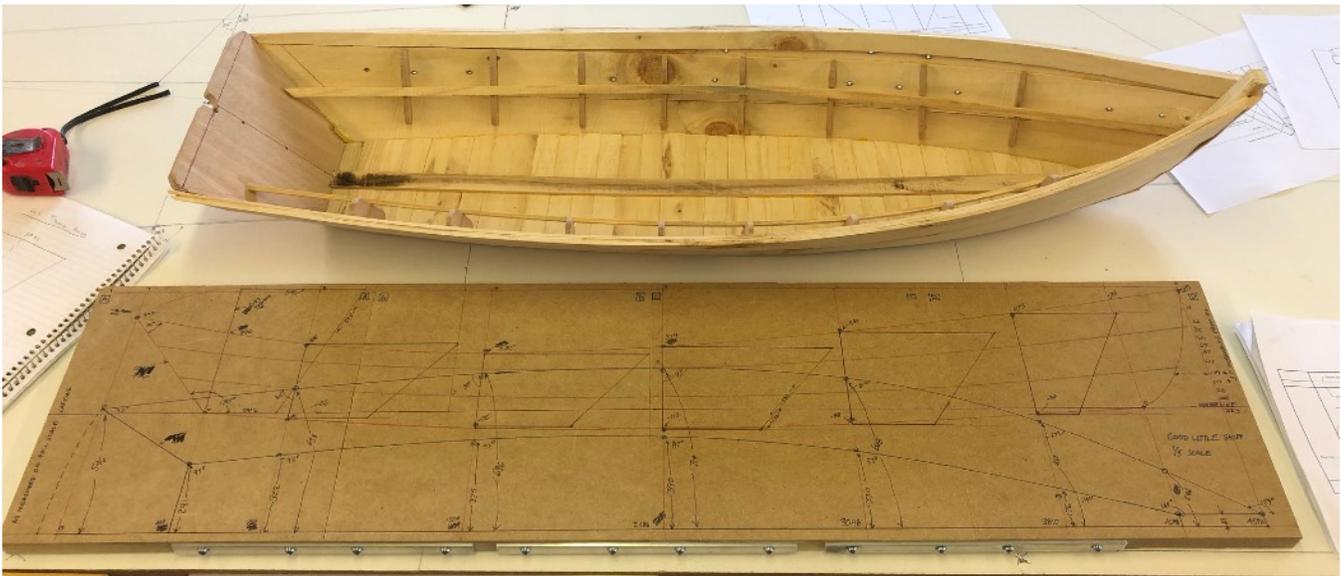
Next Meeting: Sunday, June 2nd at 12:30 pm

Potluck with Meeting to follow at Uconn Avery Point Boathouse Bldg 36

Local: www.JGTSCA.org www.facebook.com/JGTSCA

National: www.TSCA.net

The Good Little Skiff Project Gets Underway



In January we said we would pursue a group build only if we: a) had a Champion, b) a Project Plan and c) decided up front what would become of the craft. After the meeting Brian Cooper stepped forward and said he would like to lead the effort and would put together a Plan. He brought that

to the Membership at the February Meeting who resoundingly agreed. In March he proposed the he would not only lead the build but fund it as well, receiving remuneration only if it failed to sell at the 2020 WoodenBoat show, or if he fell in love with it, he would keep it. Having just completed a skin-on-frame Whitehall, he

hankered after something a bit more traditional and wanted to be able to both row and sail. Culler's Good Little Skiff answered the call, and, besides, we already had a couple sets of plans.

Things got going in early April when I received following from Brian:

Here is a plan that you can send out to members.

I have attached some pictures that I thought you would enjoy. (Anything I send to you feel free to share it with others as you see fit.)



I salvaged some 7/16 plywood from crates at work. The sheets were 8 ft length x about 36 inches. I cut them into 4-1/2 inch strips and screwed 10 pieces together (staggered the butt joints) with 1-5/8 #8 Deckmate Screws. I then used my newest tool, a Makita Electric Hand Planer, to square off the beams to 4 inch width. The finished beams are 2-1/4 x 4 x 15 ft 11 inches (4850 mm) These beams will sit on two sawhorses and support the 8x16 ft MDF lofting table. I hope these beams can also be used to make the ladder frame for the construction of the boat. I will be transporting these beams to APBH on the 19th.

Good Little Skiff Project

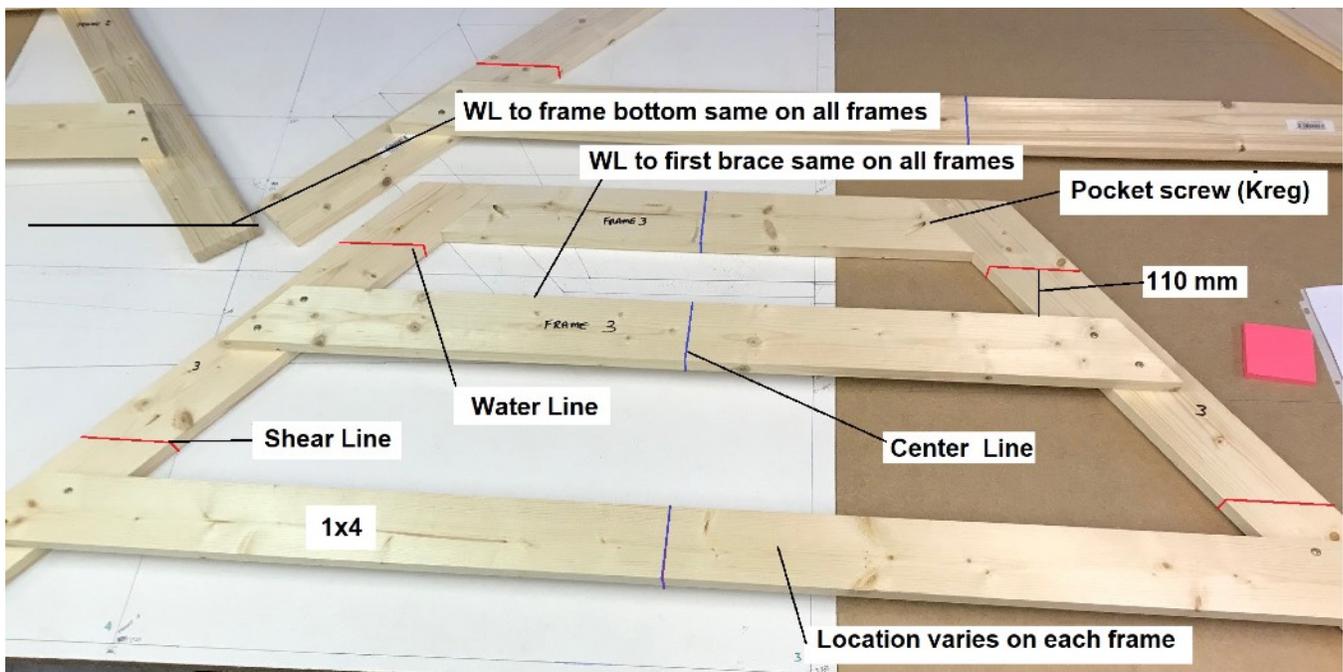
The JGTSCA Chapter is building the Good Little Skiff 15, a Pete Culler design row/sailing boat. The Mystic Seaport Boathouse has the 13 1/2 ft version of this boat, the "Waldo Howland".

The project will start with a full scale lofting. On Friday, Apr 19, we will setup a lofting table at the APBH. The actual lofting will start at 9:00 am on Saturday, April 20.

I hope to have more details on the overall project schedule at the lofting.

If you want to help with the project or observe you are always welcome. Along with updates at the JGTSCA monthly meetings I will be sending out reports on progress and upcoming activities. If you are interested in adding your name to the email list please send me your email.

Brian Cooper
2019 GLS Project Manager
cooperbd@aol.com
860-977-4951 (C)



For our April Meeting, Brian brought a scale model of the Lofting, a one-fifth scale model of the Skiff, a model of the building frame and now has a full size set of building beams. All Spring-Loaded in a Go Position to set up the Lofting Table at our Friday Evening Get-together on April 19th with the actual Lofting to start at 9 am on the 20th.

Brian was right on schedule, as reported by Dan Nelson, our Boatshop Manager, on April 26th: “Last Friday Brian Cooper lead a small group in set-up a lofting table for the Good Little Skiff. This was followed by a Saturday work session and class on lofting the GLS. Thanks to Carl Kaufman for the tips and loan of lofting aids.

GLS work will continue tonight, plus finishing the turk's heads on dory oars, possibly moving a dory into the shop, and varnish prep work on a Melonseed mast.”

And to bring you totally up to date, this just came in early this morning, May 5th, from Brian:

Good morning,
We had a productive day, albeit a long one, and John and I managed to finish the 5 molds with the exception of one cross brace. (Ran out of wood)

Next event will be next Friday (Saturday) when we will add the "risers" to the molds and position/align them on the strong back.'

A few other details to work out in regards to things we might want to do before we position the molds - like maybe cut some partial notches for the chines. I don't think we need to bevel the sides or bottom as the amount of planning needed to be done can easily be done when we fit the bottom and planks.

As usual, any advice is appreciated, Brian

This very ambitious project which is moving right along. Come by and join the fun! A big thank you to all who helped with the initial lofting (Brian has a time-lapse video of you zooming around) and to those who loaned tools (Carl Kaufman - drafting “Ducks”) and



advice (David McCulloch). The lofting was also available for viewing during Monday's Earth Day Celebrations. We're off to a great start.

Metric vs. English:

Perhaps you have seen discussions raging in recent issues of Fine Woodworking and Small Craft Advisor. As noted in our lead story, Brian Cooper is using metric measurements to loft and build our "Good Little Skiff", as opposed to the feet-inch-eighths notation traditionally used. He must have mentioned that in his presentation meeting in February, but that is too far back for me to remember and besides, he did



volunteer, so who can complain. In his defense, he is nuclear trained, as is his assistant, John Unverzagt, so metric must be second nature by now.

So let us join the discussion: why do we measure things in terms of English King Henry I's thumb, say nothing of his foot? And the length of his belt, or girdle, as they called it, measured from the tip of his nose to the thumb of his outstretched hand. One Yard. And, let me guess, from outstretched hand to hand was a Fathom...but we won't go there, yet.

Kicking things off in Fine Woodworking, the following was offered in defense of English Units: "The very simple reason we use the English scale (12 inches to a foot, the inch divided into 16th) is its divisibility. If you have to divide 12.5 cm into equal parts more than twice, the decimal fraction runs three places to the right. Who can find 3.125 on ruler? But, divide 12-1/2 inch in half and you get 6-1/4, then 3-1/8, and so on down to 32nds if need be. Much easier, as any finish carpenter would tell you.

The metric scale was developed as part of the intellectual philosophy of the French Revolution, which sought to eliminate God, the King and anything that smelled like the old order. Off with their heads! It has a purpose in the sciences, but doesn't work nearly as well in the craft world."

The Metric reply is: "Forget meters and centimeters and deal directly with millimeters. For example, 50-1/2" is equivalent to 1282.7 mm; forget the .7 since we can't measure that close anyway (I paraphrase) and simply divide the remaining whole number. No fractions to calculate. Thinking in terms of millimeters, the metric system makes sense." (That just in from Pretoria, South Africa).

A reply from a 73 year old (my kind of guy) from North Bay, Canada addresses the visual: He likes Imperial tapes which show 1/2" with a line shorter than 1", 1/4" with a

line shorter than 1/2", etc., making it much easier to read the scale at a glance.

What say you Boatbuilders out there? Anyone tried building Bolger's Light Dory Type V, his 4.74 meter Surf Dory? The one he himself said was a double ended version of his Gloucester Gull? Might be an interesting exercise: see Chapter 4 of his first book, "Small Boats". Or join Brian Friday evenings and Saturday mornings on "Good Little Skiff" and use Metric in real time.

So if we are to embrace Metric (at least for this one Boat Build), let's come up with some rules of thumb (sorry) to give us some perspective. The old standard they taught us in school involved a mess of mind-boggling numbers that proved impossible to remember:

The Old Standard from English to Metric:

- Inches to Centimeters multiply by 2.54
- Feet to Centimeters X 30.48
- Yards to Meters X 0.9144
- Pounds to Kilograms X 0.454
- Ounces to grams X 28.34
- Fluid Ounces to Milliliters X 28.41

The Old Standard from Metric to English:

- 1 Millimeter = 0.0394 Inch = +/- 1/25th inch
- 4mm = .16"; 6mm = .24"; 9mm = .36"
- 10 Millimeters (1 Centimeter) = 0.394 inches = +/- 3/8 inch
- 100 Millimeters = +/- 3.94 inches (approx. 4 inches)
- 1 Meter = 3.28 feet (approx. 40 inches)
- 1.5 Meters = approx 60"/5'
- 3 Meters = approx 120"/10'
- 1 Kilometer = 0.62 statute miles
- 1 Kilometer = .54 nautical miles

I think you can see from the second set of numbers that there is a possibility of understanding what we are looking at if we round things off a bit. Let's take it to the next step:

From the Inch point of view:

- 1 inch = 25.4 mm
- 4 inches = 100 mm +/-
- 10 inches = 250mm +/-
- 1 foot = 304.8 = 300 mm +/-
- 1 yard = 914.4 = 900 mm +/-

And finally to something simple that even I can understand:

- 25 mm is about 1"
- 100 mm is about 4 "
- 250 mm is about 10"
- 300 mm is about 12" = 1 foot
- 900 mm is about 36" = 3 ft.
- 1000 mm (1 m) is about 40"
- 1500 mm (1.5 m) is about 60" = 5 feet
- 3000 mm (3 m) is about 120" = 10 feet

These last courtesy of Dudley Dix (Small Craft Advisor #112 pg. 42 J/A 2018) who recommends thinking in terms of mm rather than cm and uses a ProCarpenter Metric/ Standard tape measure which shows inches and mm on the same side, available from Woodcraft or Rockler. (Take a quick look at Brian Cooper's tape and you will see the same thing.....).

On a personal note, I ran up against this when working with a crew of organ builders, all European trained, when they shouted up to the balcony, "How long do you want that piece of trim?" and the answer came down, "1732". That was the length, not the year. That sent me on this quest.

For me, the most useful bit of information I found was that a dollar bill is 6.14 inches

long, or approximately 150 mm, in case I forget my measuring tape.

Respectfully Submitted,
Buntline

Upcoming Chapter Events

- **Full Moon Row** 6:30 pm Friday, May 17th; meet at Barn Island Launch Area to row to Sandy Point to view Horseshoe Crabs.
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- **Viking Days** June 1st & 2nd: Faering to Row and Sail at Australia Beach. Volunteers to assist visitors will be welcome.
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- **John Gardner Small Craft Workshop** June 28th, 29th and 30th at Australia Beach. This is our premier event; come, bring your boats, tryout others' and participate in morning rows, daily presentations and tours of the usually off limits Small Craft Hall.

Reminder: to continue receiving Chapter News and Information, Pay Your Dues. \$15

to: John Gardner Chapter of the Traditional Small Craft Association,
UCONN Avery Point,
1084 Shennecossett Road, Groton,
CT 06340

JGTSCA Monthly Activities 2019-2020

January

- **Jan. 5th:** Chantey Blast and Pub Sing
- **Jan 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, Feb. 1st:** Topic: Activity Ideas
- **APBH Project:** Bill Armitage's Melonseed
- **Other:-** start leathering of new club dory oars

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 UCONN's Research Vessel "Connecticut"
- **Full Moon Row:** 4 pm March 22nd at Mystic Shipyard East; Bill Armitage Leads.
- APBH Project: Bill Armitage's Melonseed

April

- **Meeting Friday, April 5th:** Topic: Visit to Frank Lavigueur's Ketch Rebuild
- **APBH Project:** Loft Good Little Skiff and Bill Armitage's Melonseed
- **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;
- Visit to Herreshoff Museum Opening Day: Sunday April 28th - Dane Rochelle
- **Other:** - Turk's Heads on new Club Dory oar leathers - Fridays

May

- **Meeting Friday, May 3rd:** Topic: Good Little Skiff Lofting
- **APBH Project:** Good Little Skiff Build and JGTSCA Dory Maintenance
- **May Full Moon Row:** to Sandy Point to observe Horsehoe Crabs

June

- **Meeting Friday, June 7th:** Topic:
- **APBH Project:** Good Little Skiff Build and Dory Maintenance
- **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 Build
- **Small Reach Regatta:** July 24th - 28th

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JGTSCA Monthly Activities 2019-2020**August**

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

September

- **Meeting:** Sunday, September 8th: Topic: APBH Project: Good Little Skiff Build
- **Pine Island Cleanup with UCONN Eco-Huskies.** Date TBD. Ellie Czarnowski Lead.
- Oar & Sail Outing: Sep. 14th 10am to 2pm at Bluff Point S.P. Bill R. Lead

October

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

November

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

December

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

Upcoming at Mystic Seaport:

(information at MysticSeaport.org)

Workshops and Classes:

- Saturday, May 11th: Introduction to Coastal Navigation
- Saturday, May 11th: Original Slow Food Movement
- Saturday & Sunday, May 18-19th: Modern Celestial Navigation
- Sunday, June 2nd: Boating with Directions by Magnetic Compass
- Saturday, June 22nd: Boating with Tides and Tidal Currents

Community Sailing:

- Sundays, April 14-May 26th: Adult Beginning Sailing
- Tuesdays, April 16-May 21, 5:00-7:30pm: Women's Sailing
- Wednesdays, April 17-May 22, 9:30am-12:00pm: Women's Sailing
- June, July & August Full Day Youth Programs including building a Bevin's Skiff
- June & July Half Day Youth Programs incl. Beginning & Intermediate Sailing
- July & August Adult and Family Sailing incl. Open Sailing & Evening Sailing

In addition to the above, members Ben Ellcome, leader of the Sailing Center, and Dawn Miller, leader of the Boathouse, are open to joint planning with our Chapter for after hours sailing events. Further, Ben has offered to host a Capsize Drill (he provides the Dummy).....

Around the Shops:



Bringing in a JGTSCA Dory for maintenance at Avery Point Community Boathouse: Bill Armitage, Phil Behney, Nikita Unverzagt, John Unverzagt and Jim Clark.



Frank Laviguer demonstrates one of his home-made tools during our Chapter's tour of his Backyard Boat Shop after our April meeting. His family boat is back in plank and frame.

Jim McGuire, Leader of Boathouse Volunteers, launches skiff "Mary", the first boat of the season, with a shove towards the floating dock.



The Mystic Seaport Ship Modelers (MSSM) meet Saturday, May 11th 10 am -12 pm in their meeting room on the second floor of the John Gardner Boat Shop.



A week or two before the WoodenBoat Show MSSM will hold their Ship Model Show and R/C Run at Australia Beach. They will also host their MSSM Ship Model Exhibit at the WoodenBoat Show; this year

outside on the Sabino Dock. Their regular meetings are the second Saturday of the month.

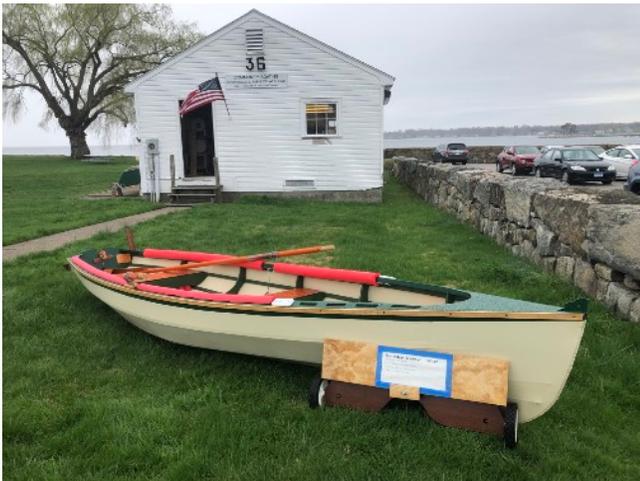
The Connecticut Sea Kayakers (ConnYak) schedule of events may be found at <http://www.conyak.org/Yakevents.htm>

View from the Side Deck:

There is a lot going on as we approach the Season. Our Chapter participated in UCONN Avery Point's celebration of Earth Day with a table inside the Student Union alongside the UCONN Eco-Huskies, with whom we team to pick up trash on nearby islands. At Building 36 we advertised our Open House with flag flying and Brian Cooper's fabric-on-frame Whitehall outside on the lawn to draw people in. Inside, Brian, Dan Nelson and Bill Armitage continued laying out the lofting for our next build, Pete Culler's Good Little Skiff. Stop by on Fridays or Saturdays and lend a hand in its construction.

Until then, may your winds be fair and the seas following.

Bill & Karen Rutherford, Editors and Publishers



Bits of Sailing Wisdom:

“Yes, foolish mortals, Noah’s flood is not yet subsided; two thirds of the fair world it yet covers. - Herman Melville “Moby Dick”

“The sea is the same as it has always been since men ever went on it in boats.” - Ernest Hemingway

“A sure cure for seasickness is to sit under a tree.” - Spike Milligan

