

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 Building 36

Next Meeting: Sunday, September 8th 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 John Gardner Small Craft Workshop at the Wooden Boat Show



Rather than recount all the activities of the weekend, we thought we would share some photos of the highlights. Our lead photo is of the start of the comparison row (it was not a race.....) between Michael and Kristin Culbertson rowing conventionally in our "Susan B. Holland" and Andy Strode rowing a front-facing oar system in the Seaport's John Gardner Modified Herreshoff rowing boat, commonly known as "The Green Machine". It was an interesting exercise, pun intended, as they rowed down to the Bridge and back. Andy had the advantage of seeing where he was going; Michael and Kristin had the advantage of longer waterline length and double the person-power. Michael and Kristin took the scenic tour, visiting the "Sabino" and the Shipyard while Andy went straight as an arrow. They finished very close together, possibly out if respect for Andy, but with smiles all around. No one was out of breath and all had praise for their fine rowing boats.



Right after Dawn Miller, Manager of the Seaport Boathouse, welcomed us and advised us that we all wear life vests when on the water at the Seaport, Duncan Wright led us in a fun beach demonstration of Rescue Under Oar and Sail. As you can see, one of the JGTSCA Dorries has capsized and the folks in the little red canoe have come to the rescue. Duncan walked (swam?) us through two scenarios, one in shallow water, one in deeper water. Lines were thrown, persons rescued and boats righted. I was fortunate to be saved by my grandson and granddaughter and the boat saved in the shallow water scenario. Alas, we lost the boat in the deep water scenario, but all crew were saved. Good fun and new skills learned.



Brian Cooper led Rows up the River on Saturday and down the River on Sunday morning. In the above photo are: Bob Lister in his Flapjack Skiff, Shelly and Bill Stirling in their Beach Pea Pod, Thad Danielson in a stretched Spurling Row Boat, Tom Clark in his off the grid, electrically powered CLC Southwester Dory and peeking from behind, Pete Peters in his Delaware Ducker. Other Saturday participants included: Tom Shepard, Ralph Szur (who sailed back), Liz Blackwell, as well as Dan Nelson and Brian Hammond, Ben Fuller and a wonderful father - daughter team rowing the "Susan B." on Sunday.

Our general theme was Camp Cruising and the boys from the Chesapeake, Pete Peters and Paul Skalka, entertained us all, pulling items from their camp cruising kits like this folding bowl that snaps together. Bits of advice included, "Don't use dry ice; it'll freeze your beer." and "When you leave the launch ramp, turn around and take a photo. Then hit the man-overboard button on your GPS and it will remember the Lat/Long." That and, "Check the dew point before turning in without a boom tent; you could wake up soaking wet."





Continuing the Camp Cruising theme, Dan Nelson shared how to pitch a tent in a Dory, his CLC Southwester (sail only, please) Dory. Here he is rolling out the center support for his bicycle back packer tent that fits neatly between the side bench/air tanks. The question was asked, “Why do this?”, answered by, “Have you seen the size of the mosquitos in Maine?” Dan has cruised his dory from Maine to Wisconsin so knows of what he speaks; he did, however admit to prefer to nose up onto a beach before setting up, and, if on the Great Lakes, staying there until morning.



If we prefer to cruise off the grid, Tom Clark had the solution with his CLC Southwester (power only, please) Dory. Basically the same boat as Dan’s but with a 3hp equivalent Torqeedo outboard in a well. Tom has experienced 25 miles on a single battery charge at which point he switches over to the flexible Torqeedo solar panels on his bimini roof. Unless it is close to dark, that takes him off the grid. He explained that the boat is built of plantation grown Okoume with reclaimed spruce flooring for frames.



Nicole (Nicky) Stimpson, an elite level sculler and former crew coach at Annapolis, was tempted away from the CLC tent to demonstrate their new Oxford II Shell. At 20'10" it weighs only 40 pounds and is designed to handle a chop. As Nicky sculled, keeping the blades just inches above the water, Carl Kaufman narrated the skills she was using. They demonstrated stability with the oars in the water (Carl keeps a piece of velcro in his pocket while sculling to tie the handles together while he takes a break) and lack of stability with the oars out of the water. This combined nicely with Carl's landslide display of his Grahame King recreational single fresh out of his shop in Mystic. For more info, see Carl's recent article in WoodenBoat.



That other kind of Sculling was in evidence as well, as Ben Fuller coached Steve McDermott in the fisherman's method of getting out to their lobster boats. While relaxing in the bottom of the Seaport's Culler designed work punt, "Skye", Ben explained the flat-blade approach. Steve will take that new skill home to his recent build, a 15 ft. Lowell Coast Guard Dory. Pop-up sessions like this went on all day long.

Ben also helped fine-tune Pete Peter's Delaware Ducker Sprit Rig, suggesting some additional brailing lines and reef points.



It was not all lecture and learn; days were scheduled to include free time to row and sail. Here a young family, the Blackwells, are getting ready to take a peapod out for a row as Dane Rochelle zooms by in his flattie skiff recently built by the Classic Boat Society on the east end of Long Island.

We hope this little photo album of the weekend gives you a sense of the activities and the fun people of all ages and backgrounds were having centered around small, traditional craft. Of course lots more was going on all around: the Sabino's steam whistle was hooting and classic wooden boats ghosted by (one beautiful S Boat comes to mind). But it was the people that made the weekend, seeing old friends and making new ones. And of course the boats; did you see Mike Magee's beautiful new Jersey Beach Skiff? Oh, I wish we had space for more photos.... Come see us next year and we'll catch up.

Photographs by Bill & Karen Rutherford, Brian Cooper and Sharon Brown.

Special thanks to Brian Cooper who, to the amazement of all who passed, carved an Eskimo kayak paddle right before their very eyes, to Carl Hammer and John Gearing for their beautiful knot work that drew people in, to Dan Nelson and others who staffed the TSCA Booth all day every day, to Sarah Clement who cheerfully checked us in at 7 am in the morning and coordinated folks staying on the Conrad (although, I am told spent the night on Schooner Brilliant), to Dawn Miller, Manager of the Seaport Boathouse, for adroitly balancing the requests of visitors with available livery boats, to WoodenBoat who made the Boathouse boats free for the weekend, to the Seaport's Shannon McKenzie who organized the whole shebang, to the demonstrators and presenters who gave so freely of their time, but especially to the attendees of the WoodenBoat Show with their many questions (why is that boat pointy at both ends?) and fellow boat nuts that make all this possible.

Bill & Karen Rutherford on behalf of the John Gardner Chapter of the Traditional Small Craft Association.

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: Planning the John Gardner Small Craft Workshop
- **APBH Project:** Good Little Skiff Build and Dory Maintenance
- **Viking Days:** June 1st-2nd
- **John Gardner Small Craft Workshop:** June 28th - 30th

July

- **No Meeting in July**
- **APBH Project:** Good Little Skiff Build
- **Small Reach Regatta:** July 24th - 28th

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JGTSCA Monthly Activities 2019-2020

August

- **No Meeting in August**
- **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. and Dan N. 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:

- In Fall - Check Website Calendar for Boatbuilding and Design Classes in: Half Model Construction, Traditional Boatbuilding and Varnishing Techniques

Community Sailing:

- July & August Full Day Youth Programs including building a Bevin's Skiff
- July Half Day Youth Programs incl. Beginning & Intermediate Sailing
- July & August Adult and Family Sailing incl. Open Sailing & Evening Sailing

Events:

- July 27 - July 28: Antique & Classic Boat Rendezvous
- August 17 - August 18: Antique Marine Engine Exposition
- September 7th: Launch of the Mayflower II

In addition to the above, Dawn Miller (dawn.miller@mysticseaport.org) leader of the Boathouse, hosts Tuesday Night Beetle Cat Races which are now open to all traditional (wood) boats, First start 6 pm, Tuesdays. Contact Dawn and let her know you are coming.

View from the Side Deck:

This is setting up to be a busy Summer! The WoodenBoat Show kicked it off (see above). Next up for some will be the Small Reach Regatta in Brooklin, Maine. Brian Cooper (cooperbd@aol.com) continues to lead the build of Pete Culler's Good Little Skiff. Stop by on Fridays or Saturdays and lend a hand in its construction. Phil Behney and Bill Armitage continue to lead local rows. And we all will be out boating!

Our next monthly meeting is planned for September 8th, Potluck at 12:30 pm with meeting to follow. Soon after, we assist the Eco-Huskies clean up Pine Island. An Oar and Sail outing to Bluff Point is planned; meet at 10 am September 14th at the Ball Field Boat Ramp just before the Amtrak overpass.

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

Bill & Karen Rutherford, Editors and Publishers

