

JGTSCA

John Gardner Traditional Small Craft Association



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

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

Spring Maintenance on Rowing Craft
from 5:00 pm Fridays, (As Authorities Allow)
at UCONN Avery Point Boat house Building 36

Next Meeting: 10 am Friday, June 7th at Powers Lake
We plan a short meeting followed by a
Spring Oar and Sail Outing. All are welcome.

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

A Sailing Primer - First Installment - from Ellie Czarnowski



The sailing primer you are about to read was written for me by my neighbor Don Joffray. After moving into the neighborhood and acquiring a JY 15, Don took us under his wing. We kept the boat at Mile Creek Beach Club and spent the summer weekends practicing on Long Island Sound.

Don (1929-2020) was in the Navy during the Korean War and then became a mathematics teacher and coach at Loomis Chaffee School for 49 years. Don was an avid birder who built and installed nesting boxes and osprey platforms that are still in use today. He was an artist preferring woodcarving and wildlife illustration. He was a sailing instructor at the West Hill Aquatic Camp. An ardent sailor, Don raced in a trans-Atlantic race on the yacht, Kialoa, with his father-in-law. A true waterman, Don spent many happy years surfing, windsurfing, sailing and kayaking the waters of Long Island Sound, Hanalei Bay and Penobscot Bay.

It is with fond memories that I share this very special work of art and instruction from Don with you.

Stay tuned for more instruction and enjoy.

Ellie Czarnowski



for Eddy & Jon,

1

A Sailing Primer

by Don Jobray
30 July, 01.

Nomenclature (so your sailing adventures may be described in a salty manner)

Halyard: a line used to raise or lower a sail.

Sheet: a line used to trim a sail.
ex.: jib sheets, mainsheet.

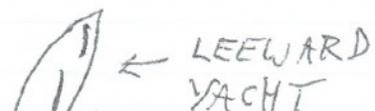
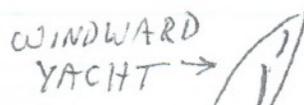
Port: left. a yacht is on a port tack when the wind is coming from the port side:



Starboard: right. In crossing situations yachts on port tack should give way to yachts on starboard tack.

Windward: in the direction that the wind is coming from. ex: (an excerpt from a privateer's log of 1812: "at 10AM sighted two sails to windward, called all hands to quarters and set all light sails")

Leeward: pronounced LOO-ARD. The direction away from the wind. ex. of 2 yachts sailing on the same tack:



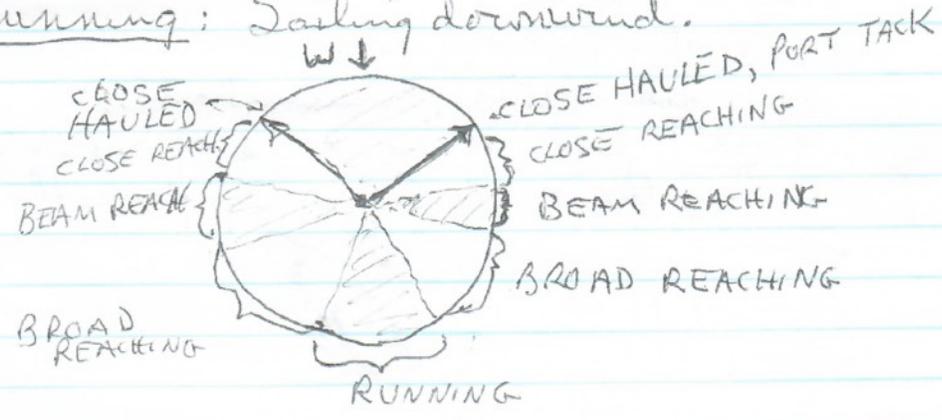
2.

Points of Sailing

Close hauled: description of a yacht, with sails sheeted in, working its way to windward.

Reaching: Sailing across the wind with sheets eased.

Running: Sailing downwind.



Remarks: if your boat is not planing, but merely sailing as a "displacement" yacht, close reaching may be your fastest point of sailing. With fresh winds your F15 should plane on a beam or broad reach, with centerboard part way up. Running in high winds is tricky. To avoid rolling from side to side don't let your mainsail (MAINS'L) out past 45°.

Visit to Steve Jones' "Crows Nest"

March 8th, 2020 Bill Rutherford w/ Sharon Brown, Carl Kaufman visited Steve Jones

We viewed the original "Che" that Steve, Zell Steever and George Maynard rowed up the river to the first Rowing Workshop. George's son has a copy by Andy Giblin they plan to use this year to recreate the row. They are looking for a derby. Richard Brown, illustrator of the book "Breakwaters" in which the chapter about rowing to the first Workshop first appeared, drew from photographs; he is looking for the originals. The text describes three individuals in the boat; Richard included only two. Artistic License, he says. Steve says, "They threw me out of the boat."



We viewed other boats and memorabilia in Steve's storage area, his "Crows Nest" at Steamboat Wharf, hidden away behind the Engine Room restaurant. Boats included a beautiful blue "Long Lake" boat, a fine-lined, plumb stemmed rowing boat which appeared to be first cousin to an Adirondack Guide boat, an actual Adirondack Guideboat with natural spruce crook ribs painted all over a dull, neutral gray and a long, heavy, metal Whitehall style boat which once had an engine. All hanging upside down from the ceiling. Plus a beautifully restored 20'+ Thames River skiff for two oarsmen and a cox. Carl really liked that one. We strategized on how to get it out of the building but decided it would be best viewed in situ surrounded by all the colorful nautical artifacts.

There were other boats: a lightweight pram with canvas transoms, a couple of new, or at least freshly painted, flat-bottomed skiffs, a Carousel horse and shelves of spare lines, signal flags and large signs advertising Schooner Wharf and the Boat Stuff Nautical Consignment store.

The real treat, however, was listening to Carl and Steve talk about reclaiming Mystic River and Block Island harbors in the 70's and 80's from waste and pollution and controlling growth all while growing a nascent shellfish aquaculture industry. Perhaps they will repeat the conversation for all of us someday. It is a wonderful testimony to how far we have come from the Mystic River turning red and blue as they dyed American flags at the head of the river.



Thinking forward to celebrating 50 years since John Gardner's first Rowing Workshop, we considered some ideas for June's Small Craft Workshop. Steve offered his down-river boatyard as a destination for the Sunday Morning row which will be an excellent place to share some coffee and donuts as well an atmospheric locale to share stories about the original gathering as well as ones since. Perhaps a discussion led by Carl and Steve on future use of rivers and bays for aquaculture and how to make that happen. Perhaps a reprint of Steve's account of rowing to the first Rowing Workshop including some further contemporaneous observations and photographs from the day.

All in all, it was a delightful Sunday afternoon spent in Steve's collection of memorabilia, inspecting old boats, interesting artifacts and making plans to share memories and enthusiasms with others at our upcoming John Gardner Small Craft Workshop.

Plus it was an opportunity to hear some new Steve Jones' quips:

- "It was a three day blow, as they used to say, that moved the sandy point by the lighthouse 50 yards down the shore, which was better than the high school football team did that year."
- "Rereading something I've written is like getting back into a wet bathing suit. You get warmed up, but it takes a while."
- "There are no "Jesus Boards" in my marina." - Steve Jones

Traditional Small Craft Association – John Gardner Chapter
Meeting Minutes
March 1, 2020
Noank Fire Department
Noank, CT

Meeting started at 12:30 hours.

- Roll Call - 15 members and guests attended
 - Officers attending,
 - i. Bill Rutherford, President
 - ii. Ellie Czarnowski, Treasurer
 - iii. Dan Nelson, Member at Large
 - iv. Henk Hoets, Secretary
1. Bill Rutherford addressed highlights of January 4, 2020 meeting.
 2. Ellie Czarnowski, Treasurer, reported a bank balance of \$5,357.25 as of February 14, 2020.
 3. Ellie requested local and national dues for those who have not paid.
 4. Bill Rutherford discussed TSCA-JG 50th anniversary, including themes, articles, and activities.
 5. Bill Rutherford reported about Matt McKenzie's UCONN maritime class visit.
 6. Bill Rutherford called for a meeting scheduled for April 3 at 17:30 hours at the Community Boathouse. *(see below)
 7. Bill and Kate mentioned the Boats, Books, and Art presentation slated for the East Lyme Library on April 7 at 19:00 hours. *(see below).
 8. Ellie mentioned the Powell Lake quarterly meeting scheduled for June 7 at 10:00 hours *(see below).
 9. Brian Cooper has removed the *Good Little Skiff* from the TSCA-JG Community Boathouse and will work on it at home.
 10. Bill Armitage and Phil Behney reported maintenance status of dory and pulling boat.
 11. Meeting adjourned at approximately 13:30.
 12. The majority of the group attended Fred Fischer's video about Noank.

*NOTE: All aforementioned meetings are dependent and superseded by Federal, State of Connecticut and local orders, directives, declarations, and advisories regarding COVID 19.

A note from Our Treasurer, Ellie Czarnowski:

Dues are Due: \$15 to our local Chapter, please, and \$25 to National, those good folks who insure our outings and publish our magazine the “Ash Breeze”. Treasurer Ellie will cash your check if sent to:

JGTSCA, Community Boat Building, 1084 Shennecossett Rd., Groton CT 06340.

National will send you a copy of the “Ash Breeze” in the mail if their dues are sent to TSCA, PO Box 183, West Mystic, CT 06388.

Note that National recently moved their PO Box from #350 in Mystic to #183 in West Mystic.

Matt McKenzie’s Sailor’s Skills Class visits the Community Boathouse

February 17th, 2020: A big Thank You to all who participated. Excellent presentations by everyone. The students will long remember:

- Carl Kaufman: Explaining the two ways to build a boat: from a log, or a pile of planks.
- Brian Cooper: His journey from first kayak to fabric on frame to current plank on frame skiff.
- Henk Hoets: A detailed description of measuring and documenting boats, both by hand and with computer assistance.
- Peter Vermilya: Who took us thru the evolution of Fishing Craft from Shallops to Schooners.

And thanks to our support group: Dan Nelson, John Hacunda and Bill Armitage and Bob Andrie. Some of the best interaction occurred after the talks as we mixed and mingled around the exhibits and examples. The students seemed genuinely interested in what we are about. I expect a few will reach out for further involvement. Maybe even take on the white skiff as an end of term project...Everyone’s efforts over the last month or so definitely paid off.



And this from Matt: “Please allow me to add my thanks to Bill’s for today. I thought the presentations were fantastic, and like Bill, the post presentations even more important. I saw eyes opening, questions coming out, and understandings coming more clear. Thank you all for your time and expertise. I will follow up on Wednesday about a trip to the boat shed (likely a Friday), and more importantly, will encourage them to continue their interest in the JGTSCA. You made boat building come alive today—thank you!”
Best, Matt

Upcoming JGTSCA Activities:

- April & May's Activity/Gatherings - Open to suggestions - As allowed by Authorities
- Ellie Czarnowski's Outing at Power's Lake, 10 am Sunday, June 7th. Details to follow.
- 50th Anniversary of John Gardner's Small Craft Conference at WoodenBoat Show Friday thru Sunday, June 26-28th. Come & plan to participate! (Confirm is happening)
- September's Oar & Sail Outing - 10 am Sept. 19th at Bluff Point State Park

At Mystic Seaport:

Mystic Seaport Boat Livery:

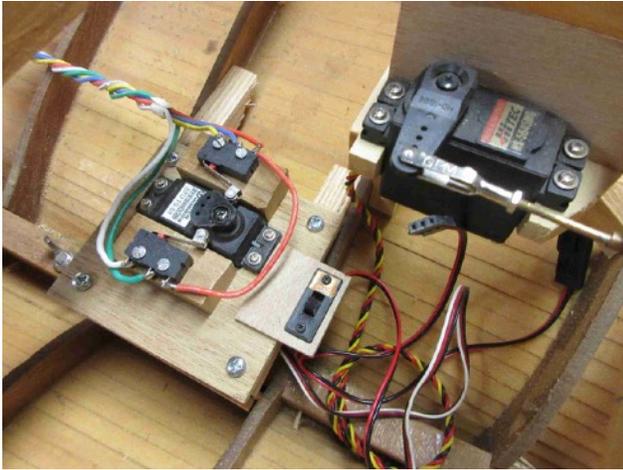
Per last week's New London Day the Seaport the Museum has gone to "Dormant Mode" due to the current health emergency. But, before that happened, progress was made.



Photo: Dan Nelson and Steve Telsey apply a fresh coat of primer to interior of "Dion".

March 12th was our last Volunteer day at the Boathouse. Dane Rochelle was leading us. He stayed on as staff the week following, working on "Captain Hook" and "Dion". They hauled "Breck" late the following week; Dane scraped and partially painted the bottom as well as the centerboard and rudder. He was impressed by how much "water" she draws - more than he is tall. Doug Butler completed painting the bottom and launched her this past Monday. She is in the water at the Boathouse awaiting topside painting, etc. "Captain Hook" (a Whitehall yacht tender) is painted and ready for hardware. "Dion" (a Swampscot dory) interior and rails (they were wooded) are complete; topside and bottom paint remain. Good Little Skiff "Waldo Howland" is outside resplendent in his fresh bright yellow topsides (original colors). "Mary" (a popular flat-bottomed skiff), "Mimi" (a Chaisson Dory skiff), "Fenwick" (a Riverside Yacht Club catboat) and "Idler" (a lovely Lawley tender) are also complete and ready for service.

Mystic Seaport Ship Modelers:



After a big meeting in March with lots of models, the group is communicating virtually, exchanging project photos and techniques. Great Idea!

This from Bob Andrie “The photo on the left shows the servos for the Schooner. The right-hand servo is for the rudder, and the left-hand servo controls two micro-switches to operate the sail winch. It's a pretty simple circuit to make a "bang-bang" winch. The method I am using for decking is teak on a 1/8" plywood sub-deck (now being put in place on the schooner) with thick cardboard used as seam caulking. I cut the cardboard into strips and used a black permanent marker on them before being glued in, then the whole thing gets a coat of satin polyurethane.”

And on the right from Jim Godsey: “I'm finally getting the decking completed on the Dragon. The thick black paper worked well for the caulking. Here's a shot of the bow after a little sanding and a wipe down with a damp cloth.”

If you find yourself dusting off that old model or kit, reach out to Bob at smallyachtsailor@gmail.com and let him know you are interested in joining the group.

View from the Side Deck:

As we shelter from the Storm outside, remember that our Chapter will still be here when we are again allowed to gather. In the meantime, let's use our electronic connections to stay in touch, borrowing a page from the Modelers (see above); send me photos of your projects both large and small and I will collect and send them out in interim newsletters.

Wasn't that first installment of Ellie Czarnowski's Sailing Primer by Don Joffray great? We look forward to more. And a big Thank You to Andy Wolfe and Bob Hicks for supporting the 50th Anniversary of John Gardner's first Small Craft Conference and Rowing Workshop. We look forward to holding it, Good Lord willing and authorities allow. Meanwhile, Be Safe. Bill & Karen

Our Calendar as of March 30th:

January

- Saturday, Jan. 5th: Planning Meeting, Chantey Blast and Pub Sing
- Fridays throughout the year at Avery Point Boat House (APBH): Dory Maintenance & Good Little Skiff Build
- Meetings Quarterly, Activities Monthly, Gatherings Friday evenings at APBH.

February

- Friday, Feb. 7th, 5:30 pm at APBH : Dan's Hot Dogs, no meeting; work on Dory & Good Little Skiff
- Monday, Feb. 17th, 11:15 am: Matt McKenzie's Sailor Skills Class at Boathouse

March

- Sunday, March 1st, 12:30 pm in lower level of the Noank Firehouse: Fred Fischer shows his film "Noank Sampler", a very interesting oral history of Noank w/ Short Meeting.

April

- Wednesday, April 22nd Avery Point Earth Day Celebration 11:30 am to 1:30 pm on the Campus Green; in Student Center in case of rain. (Postponed to September)

May

- First Friday is May 1st if at APBH. Full Moon is May 7th for Horseshoe Crabs. (Verify)

June

- Sunday, June 7th 10 am Saturday Meeting at Powers Lake in Old Lyme: Row/Sail. (Verify)
- Friday, June 26th thru Sunday, 28th: John Gardner Small Craft Workshop. 50th Anniversary of first Small Craft Conference. Register at Seaport Website. (Verify)

July

- Wednesday, July 22nd thru Sunday 26th: Small Reach Regatta, Brooklin, ME. (Verify).

August - On-Water Activity - (to be scheduled).

September

- Pine Island Cleanup with UCONN Eco-Huskies and Earth Day. (Dates TBD).
- Saturday, Sep. 19th 10am to 2pm at Bluff Point S.P.: Oar & Sail Outing (Scheduled)

October

- Oct. 2nd-4th Mid-Atlantic Small Craft Festival in St. Michaels, MD. (Verify)

November

- Saturday evening, Nov. 28th: Mystic River Lighted Boat Parade (Verify)

December

- Sunday, Dec. 6th at New London Custom House: Annual Meeting and Holiday Party with Speaker. (Scheduled)