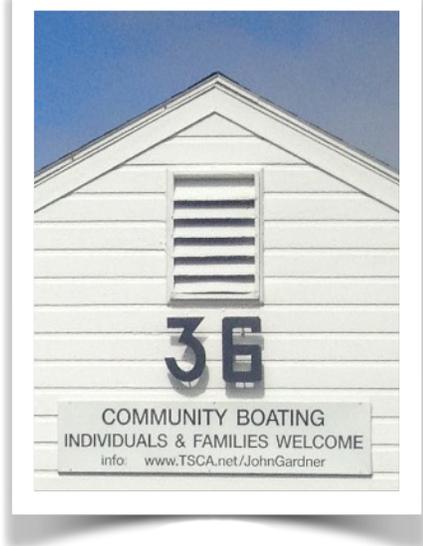


# JGTSCA



## 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**  
at UCONN Avery Point Boat house Building 36

**Next Meeting: In Person Meetings will resume in Fall**  
Our next meeting is our John Gardner Small Craft Workshop over Memorial Day Weekend at Mystic Seaport Museum. All are welcome.

Local: [www.facebook.com/JGTSCA](http://www.facebook.com/JGTSCA) and <http://www.jgtsc.org>  
National: [www.TSCA.net](http://www.TSCA.net)

## News from around the Chapter

Welcome to the John Gardner Chapter of the Traditional Small Craft Association! Visit us at the Community Boathouse, Building #36, on the University of Connecticut's Avery Point campus in Groton, CT. We invite you to attend one of our gatherings, go for a row, a sail or get involved in our next boatbuilding project.

### The Latest Info on the John Gardner Small Craft Workshop:



This weekend we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of John Gardner's first Small Craft Conference and Rowing Workshop at its original location, Australia Beach at Mystic Seaport Museum. We will have lots of activities as we recall the past, celebrate the present and think about the future of Traditional Small Craft. Our kick-off will be a Saturday morning row down-river to meet Steve Jones in his reconditioned

original Barry Thomas dory skiff and escort him and his crew as they reenact their first row to the first workshop back in June 1970. Upon arrival, Steve will regale us with his observations on traditional small craft and the characters who row and sail them. Not to be missed. Plus Sharon Brown describing their sturdy craft. And you will get to meet the “Unarmed Harbormaster” who plied the oars on that long-ago day but was never actually named in any of Steve’s many books.

In the afternoon, Ben Fuller will lead us on a tour through the Seaport’s Small Craft Hall which is jam-packed with over 400 classic small craft. Not normally open to the public, this will be an opportunity to get up close and personal with rowing, sailing and classic small craft from “Pete” Culler’s Good Little Skiffs to Sunfish and Lasers #1. Later, back at Australia Beach will be an all participants 4 pm sail on the River.



Sunday morning’s 8 am row will be down-river for coffee and donuts at Steve Jones’ boatyard just around from the railroad bridge. Remember those early morning rows for coffee and donuts during Workshops past? Upon return to Australia Beach a special guest participant, the Mohawk River Museum’s River Bateaux, will be introduced and explained by their crew, dressed in period (1805?) costume as they tell of their long distance, multi day river travels. Later, the

afternoon “sail” will be in the form of a Versatility Race (four-legged row/sail/row & sail/then everything you’ve got to the finish line). One year a woman won in a double paddle canoe, sporting a small sail...

Monday (three days of fun) will kick off with a morning row up the river to the source of the mighty Mystic River (spoiler - it’s a beautiful wetland marsh). At 11 am we will have a traditional Parade of Sail then convene back at the Beach to a “Show Us What You Brought” session before breaking camp and heading out.

Throughout the weekend there will be presentations on the future (computer printed full sized craft from traditional plans?), the present (a freshly completed “Oonagh” - Doug Hylan’s anti-RIB) as well as a nod to the past through photos, news and articles. Oh, and yes, the Seaport’s “Seafest 2021” will be underway all around us (see below) with live music, a new Panorama exhibition and lots of kid’s activities.

So sign up at [MysticSeaport.org](https://MysticSeaport.org) by typing "SmallCraft Workshop" in the Search box then follow the prompts from there or just show up and register when you arrive (Call Bill at 860-222-5249 or Brian

We hope you bring a boat. Launching off the beach is possible, encouraged and we will assist. Campus Drive-on times are 7-9 am and 5-7 pm. The Daniel Packer ramp with its steeper slope is available down-river and we will assist with rowing/driving logistics. Trailers may be left at the old Voting Building at #10 Broadway Extension. Again we can shuttle. Isham Street is there for carry-in; we can mobilize some carriers as required.



What about mask Requirements? In alignment with Connecticut's current regulations:

**Outdoors**, staff, volunteers and visitors will not be required to wear masks. The exception to this is those aboard LIBERTY and BRECK MARSHALL are still required to be masked per the USCG requirements for passenger vessels. This falls under the state's provision for "public and private transit."

**Indoors**, vaccinated staff, volunteers, and visitors will not be required to wear masks. We have to trust that those who are not yet vaccinated will wear their masks. The exception to this is the areas that are considered as falling under the school and childcare exception (our buildings

specifically for children) the Children's Museum, HomePort, and Toy Boats. Masks will also be required while in the Planetarium.

So what else is going on besides the Workshop? This just in from Seaport Communications (note the live links for further information):

Seafest 2021 kicks off May 29 for Memorial Day Weekend. We've been working hard freshening up the buildings and grounds and planning a terrific, busy summer, so come spend a day (or days) by the river enjoying the fresh air, sunshine, and riverfront location. Everything is open, including our newest exhibition debuting this weekend, [A Spectacle in Motion: The Grand Panorama of a Whaling Voyage 'Round the World](#). View the longest painting in North America and take a trip around the world without leaving Mystic!



We have loads of special activities planned for the weekend, including:

- Live music at 3:00 p.m. each day, included with admission
- Saturday: [Sugar](#) (Disco, funk, hip-hop, soul, R&B all rolled into one band!)
- Sunday: [Steve Elci and Friends](#) (an interactive children's show)
- Monday: [Will Evans](#) (of Barefoot Truth)
- A free "Panorama Passport." Get your first stamp on your trip 'round the world in 1848 in our new [Grand Panorama exhibition](#) and come back each month to see more sections of the painting and get more stamps!
- Curator talks about the [Grand Panorama](#)
- Panorama-related art activities and games
- A "Cetacean Celebration on Monday with three life-size inflatable whales and experts from the [Whale & Dolphin Conservation USA](#) available to answer your questions.
- The Traditional Small Craft Association's gathering of sailing and rowing boats at the Small Craft Workshop
- Antique truck rides around the Village Green in a Model A
- On Memorial Day, participate in a wreath-laying ceremony on the waterfront
- Take out a rowboat or sailboat from the Boat Livery (free for the weekend) or take a captained boat ride on Catboat "Breck Marshall" or Launch "Liberty"

## Bateaux Rowing Commands:

To be ready to watch the Mohawk River Bateaux demonstrations, here is a **Short List of Bateau Commands:**



### General Commands

Preparatory command is  
**“Stand by to...”**

**That’s Well!** Stop a task.  
 Not urgent.

**Avast!** Urgent stop.

### The Rowing Commands are as follows:

Modifiers:

**Easy:** very slowly

**Handsomely:** Do it slowly.

**Cheerly:** mid-speed

**Smartly:** Do it with vigor.

Any command may be prefixed or suffixed by **All, Together, Starboard, Larboard, Stroke** (only the stroke oar, sometimes called Strokesman), **Bows**. Stroke and Bows can be combined with Starboard or Larboard to get a specific person. Together and All are interchangeable.

**Get Your Oars to Pass!** Starting with the oars stowed in the boat, the oars are passed outboard and to their appropriate rower. The oars are then brought to Toss Oars.

**Toss Your Oars Up! or Toss Oars!** Oars are swiftly brought to the vertical, blades trimmed fore and aft. The handle of each oar is to be between the feet of the oarsman on the floorboard, the outboard hand holding the loom at chin level, the inboard hand holding at thigh level.

**Let Fall!** From Toss Oars, the oars are quickly, but in a controlled motion, brought down from the vertical to the horizontal, loom resting in the thole pins. This ends in the same position as Oars.

**Give Way Together! or Pull!** Oarsman row together in a forward direction, keeping time by watching the strokesman. Oar blades should be vertical when pulling, horizontal when recovering from the stroke. Can also be given to only the Larboard or Starboard side

**Oars!** Once finished with the current stroke, oars are brought to the horizontal, blades parallel to the water’s surface.



**Pick Up The Stroke!** The oarsmen not already giving way join in on the start of the next stroke. This is typically given after one side has been rowing and the other side has been at Oars, Hold Water, or Back Astern.

**Hold Water!** Outboard hand grabs gunwale aft of oarlock, inboard arm is placed over oar so that the handle is in the armpit. The blade is vertical and placed in the water by the raising and bracing of the body of the oarsman. Care should be taken when this command is given at speed, as the force transmitted to the oarsman is great. At speed, the oar is placed in the water with the blade parallel to the direction of motion, so that most of the water slips by the oar. The oars are gradually turned until they are flat with the

water. Note that the helmsman should give a warning to novices when the command is issued at speed.

**Back Astern!** (sometimes **Stern All!**) Oarsman row together in an astern-motion, with the stroke oarsman setting the pace. Should not be given at speed, use Hold Water! to take way off before backing. Can also be given to only the Larboard or Starboard side.

**Bank Oars!** Oars are slid in until the handle rests under the gunwale on the far side of the boat.

**Out Oars!** From Get Your Oars to Pass! or from Bank Oars!, outboard arm cradles oar at elbow, inboard hand on handle, oar is lifted to a 45 degree angle and swung into the thole pins. Oars are lowered to the horizontal.

**Boat Your Oars!** Can be given from Oars or Toss Oars. The oars are passed overhead into the center one at a time and stacked (along the centerline in a wide boat, along the sides in a narrow boat. The steering oar is placed on top. Oars are always stowed with the blade toward the bow, and above the thwarts.

**Rowed Of All!** or **Way Enough!** Inboard hand on the handle, outboard arm lifting oar in the crook of the elbow, the oar is tossed to 45 degrees, and swung in to lay on the gunwale, blade flat, after oars outboard of forward ones. This is a single command that takes the place of Oars, Toss Oars and Boat Oars.

### **The Mooring and General Boat Commands are as follows:**

**Cast Off!** Only used with the boat's own mooring lines. The line is unwrapped from the cleat or bitt on the dock or other vessel, so that it can run free.

**Take In** (a line)! Pull the specified line into the boat, typically the bow painter or a mooring line, coiling it and stowing it in its place.

**Shove Off!** Push off from the dock, wall, shore, or other boat.

**Fend Off!** or **Fend the Boat!** Using the oars or boathooks, keep the boat from brushing against another boat, dock, wall, or rock.



**The Line Handling Commands are as follows:**

**Let Go** (a line)! or **Cast Loose** (a line)! or **Loose** (a line)! Undo the rope from the cleat, keeping a firm grip on it and with the line running under the cleat so as to be able to apply force to it.

**Haul** (a line)! Pull in the line.

**Slacken** (a line)! or **Ease Off!** Give slack as it is required, keeping the line taut but not strained.

**Pay out** (a line)! Feed the line past the cleat or belaying pin. This is used when Slacken doesn't let the line run freely enough to allow the line to be hauled or when used for an anchoring line.

**Set Taut** (a line)! Remove the slack from the line.

**Clear** (a line)! Untangle the line.

**Hold** (a line)!, **Check** (a line)!, **Snub** (a line)! These commands are similar, though vary in degree. In all cases, the line is passed under the arm of the cleat or around the belaying pin. Tension is kept on the line to prevent it from moving. When snubbed, the line is held so that it won't move under any circumstances unless it feels that the line is about to part. When held, the line is allowed to move if a reasonable force is applied to it. Checking is somewhere between holding and snubbing.

**Hang On** (a line)! Hold the line. In this case, the line is NOT passed around a cleat, belaying pin, or bitt. **Make** (a line)! or **Belay** (a line)! Secure the line on the cleat or belaying pin.

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This is a much shortened list. For the full one, please see <http://www.orbitals.com/self/history/rowing.html>.

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## A Practice Capsize:

And this just in from Brian Cooper: He actually implemented the recommended practice capsize. (look closely and you will see a dry suit..). Many thanks to Judy Cooper for the photos.

### Self Rescue Practice – Skin on Frame Rowboat

First rescue done with no water in the boat. Only a little water came into the boat during the rescue. Then capsize for another rescue. Pink foam under seats for buoyancy/limit amount of water in boat.



Second rescue. A lot of water came into boat during capsize but then boat righted itself. More water came in as I climbed back into boat. Water is now up to top of seats but there is still free board so boat can be bailed. Used bailer for 100 bails and water level down to second chine. Still rows well and fast with water in the boat.



Opportunity for you Summer Boatbuilders:

White cedar planking stock for sale. 26 pieces, averaging 14' to 16' LOA, 8 - 10" wide. One half inch thick. Well-seasoned. \$600.00. Will only sell as a whole. No picking. Located in SE CT. 860-535-3623. [pvermilya@gmail.com](mailto:pvermilya@gmail.com)

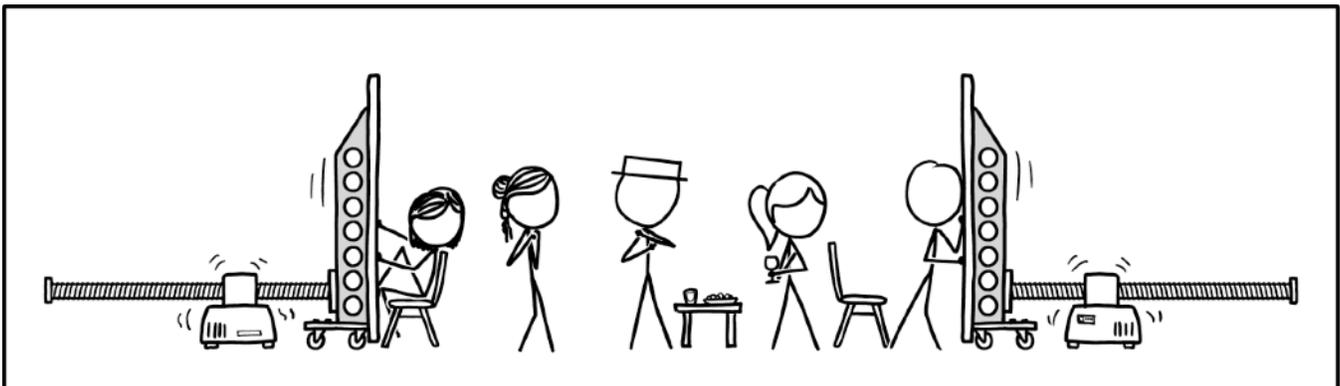
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From the Side Deck:

Well, that's about it for this issue. We are looking forward to seeing everyone's smiles at the JG Small Craft Workshop and later in the season on rows, sails and outings. Please keep in touch. Send us photos and a quick recap of your activities this summer. Remember Maine's Small Reach Regatta in early July and our Oar and Sail Outing in mid September.

We'll close with this cartoon to sum up how we feel as we transition back to "Normal".

Fair Winds,  
Bill & Karen Rutherford



I'M PLANNING A TRASH-COMPACTOR-THEMED PARTY FOR WHEN THIS IS ALL OVER SO WE CAN GET USED TO STANDING NEAR EACH OTHER AGAIN.