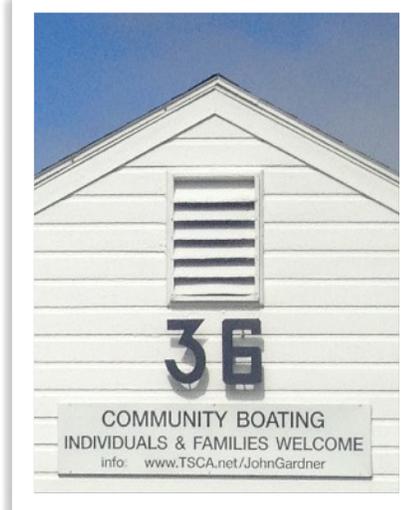


# JGTSCA



## 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

**New Dory Build as well as Winter Maintenance on Rowing Craft**  
at UCONN Avery Point Boat House Building 36

**Next Meeting: In Person Meetings will resume as Feasible**  
Rowing and Sailing gatherings occur during the three seasons with special  
programs and visits planned throughout the year. All are welcome.

Local: [www.facebook.com/JGTSCA](https://www.facebook.com/JGTSCA) and <http://www.jgtsca.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.

### Upcoming Events:

#### Our Annual Solstice Row:

This just in from Phil Behney "Here is Solstice row plan as I see it now, subject to modification: The Solstice row will be kept basic and follow our tradition as best I can. I will have 4 club Dories at Mystic Shipyard East . 18 Stafford street Mystic CT. 41°20'58.2"N 71°57'42.2"W. I plan to leave MSYE at 3pm. Wednesday December 21st. We will proceed up river to downtown Mystic. Anyone who wants to swap boats for return trip may do so at the public dock on Cottrell St. We will then return to MSYE stow the boats and meet at the Harp and Hound at 4 Pearl Street in downtown Mystic between 5 and 6pm, along with any Landlubbers who wish to join us. Everyone is responsible for their own safety and safety gear, Please be responsible and respectful of all. High tide is at 7:30 pm that day so we will be rowing up with the tide and returning against the tide. The moon will not give any illumination but we should be back before total darkness; sunset is approx. 4:30 pm. So we should still have light. Respectfully, Phil Behney, Vice President JGTSCA."

Keep current with any last minute changes via our website Events page <http://www.jgtsca.org/events.html> and If you are planning to attend the row let Phil Behney know at [pbehney@gdeb.com](mailto:pbehney@gdeb.com). The website also includes a Google Maps link [map](#) to the location. Note: we store our dories up against a garage over by the water at the end of the paved area. Parking is available. You are more than welcome to bring your own boat if you chose.

## Fall Colors Row Report:



It was a beautiful fall day, coolish but warm enough for a few short sleeves. Leader Dan Nelson's intent was to hold it a week later than last year to catch the exact peak of Fall color, but Mother Nature chuckled and dropped many of her leaves during high winds the week before. That was fine: they had the river to themselves; the leaf peepers had come and gone.

Attendees: Dan & Kate Nelson brought their bright yellow Necky two person kayak; Kate's friend Karin came in a bright orange 12 ft Old Town Kayak; Matt McKenzie sculled as well as rowed his well known White Dory; Phil Behney was in a souped-up JGTSCA Dory, John Hacunda in his old friend the green JGTSCA dory from Mystic Shipyard East; Roger Mennillo rowed his beautiful CLC Northeaster Dory complete with rear-view mirror, lan and Frances Bradley paddled in their white (as opposed to their green) We-no-nah Canoe.

The group headed upriver, under the rail bridge, past fallen trees and on to the old dam just above Burdickville Road. They stopped for a short break and a quick bite, shared a few stories about the trip up then returned through undeveloped, wooded Burlingame State park to the Bradford, RI Boat Launch. Visit <http://www.jgtzca.org/scuttlebutt/pawcatuck-river-fall-colors-rowpaddle> for more of John Hacunda's excellent photos and a fun 3 minute video.



**DAN AND KATE NELSON THROUGH COLORFUL LEAVES. IAN AND FRANCIS EVADE A "STRAINER"**



**OTHERS ROWED; MATT CHOSE TO SCULL.....**

**PHIL APPROACHES THE UPSTREAM DAM**



**A message under dory seat on Avery Point dory "Prof Jones" (named in honor of retired UCONN Maritime Professor Emeritus Stephen Jones):** a recycled seat from long-time JGTSCA member Bill Armitage's former boat Kia Kaha, a Monument River Wherry, which was built at Avery Point, CT by Bill with international friends from New Zealand back in 2004. Bill used the boat to row the 20+ mile Blackburn Challenge around Cape Ann, MA. Bill, if you are out there tuning in, you are remembered. Give us a shout.

A big Thanks to Dan Nelson for again organizing another successful Fall Colors Row! Put a note on your Calendar for next year...

## Avery Point Boathouse BBQ Report:

A rousing good time was had by all when Ellie Czarnowski led our Chapter in welcoming UCONN Avery Point students and faculty to at a BBQ at Building 36, our Community Boathouse. Starting at noon, Thursday, November 10th, it ran continuously through mid-afternoon as classes, members and faculty came and went. Through it all our sturdy grill kept pumping out “Burgers & Hots”, as Ellie calls them (hamburgers and hotdogs, for us non-natives). Assisting were Members Dan Nelson, Phil Behney, Karen Rutherford, John Hacunda, Peter Vermilya and Brian Cooper, among others. The timing matched Professor and Shop Manager Matt McKenzie’s “Office Hours”, 2pm to 4pm Tuesdays and Thursdays at the ‘Shop.



Professor Syma Ebbins brought her Maritime Studies class (all 26 of them), some for their first visit to the Community Boathouse. Others had been there before when Ellie and other Chapter Members provided lunch for UCONN AP’s Eco-Husky Club members after their annual Spring Cleanups of nearby Pine Island.

Professor McKenzie’s “Office Hour” students were the second shift. They in turn introduced us to their lofted Nahant Dory. Student Aidan Davies, who is leading the build, shared his team’s progress on their roughed-out frames. Members present all wished that they were students again so they, too, could participate. Actually, they can; show up at the “Office Hours”, pitch in and assist...

Professor Alexis Dudden was most popular when she showed up soon after lunch with a box of a couple dozen home-made macaroon cookies, none of which went to waste; many found their way home with some lucky students...

Thank you Ellie and Team for a great event to welcome back Students, Faculty and Members to the Boathouse!

## Impromptu Board Meeting:

Right after lunch JGTSCA President Brian Cooper held an impromptu Board Meeting to discuss possible future events and activities, the upcoming Solstice Row being one of them. Others, like an annual Holiday Party were postponed, pending how the flu, Covid and otherwise, plays out this Winter (indoor) season.

Pres. Brian reiterated that any Member can organize an event, the process being to prepare a write-up describing the activity, the date, time, location and leader's email address. Send it to Brian [briancooperbd@aol.com](mailto:briancooperbd@aol.com) who will act as gate-keeper. He will then post it on our website Events page. If Brian is unavailable, send it to Webmaster John Hacunda [john1hac@gmail.com](mailto:john1hac@gmail.com) who can also post it. If you wish, copy our Newsletter Editor [smallcrafter@gmail.com](mailto:smallcrafter@gmail.com) for inclusion in the next "News". If time does not provide, fall back to old word-of-mouth. After the event, send a few words and photos to share to Bill R. for the "News" and to John Hacunda for our Website "Scuttlebutt" page. Share your passions.

## The Fly Fisher:

Roger Mennillo shared this excellent photo of the Fly Fisherman referenced last month in Phil Behney's Narrow River Row report. Truly a magical moment. Thanks, Roger.



Reminder: It's not too early to be thinking about updating your dues for next year: \$15 for LOCAL CHAPTER JOHN GARDNER TSCA dues at [www.JGTSCA.org](http://www.JGTSCA.org) and \$25 for NATIONAL TSCA MEMBERSHIP (remember they pay for our event Insurance). Join and Renew Online at [www.tasca.net](http://www.tasca.net) and receive a copy of the "Ash Breeze".

## Happenings at Mystic Seaport:

**At the Boathouse Livery:** Off-season maintenance on the Livery fleet is underway. Contact Volunteer Services in interested in becoming part of the crew. More than just “putty and paint” we get into some complex repairs and this year plan on making some oars to replace the ones subjected to some rough usage. Experiential learning can be tough on the boats but worth it to see the smiles on the participants when they come back to the dock.

**Lantern Light Village:** Lantern Light Village is an outdoor, free-roaming experience designed to exemplify the differences between the modern and 19th century holiday seasons. Take a journey through time as you seamlessly transition between the holidays you experience today and the holidays of the past. Enjoy festive lighting displays, live music, horse and carriage rides, fire pits, a visit from St. Nicholas, and more including holiday themed stories, crafts, and games!

Premiering this year, Experience our original theatrical event “Yuletide Spirits” and learn how ghost stories like “A Christmas Carol” became a staple of winter festivities. As you explore our historic village, you’ll enjoy classic carols, master a 19th century dance, and of course sip hot drinks while listening to chilling tales - but not too hot or too chilling for the whole family to enjoy! Dates: Dec. 2, 3, 9, 10, 16 & 17, 5:00-8:00 pm



**Sargent, Whistler and Venetian Glass:** <https://www.mysticseaport.org/exhibit/sargent-whistler-and-venetian-glass/> Amaze your friends and family with a National level exhibit right here in Mystic! You will not be disappointed.

**Watercraft Hall Tours:** Friday Afternoons and Saturday Mornings, Starting Friday December 2 - December 17. Open to the public only a few times per year. Join us this December for small group guided tours of the Museum’s Watercraft Collection.

**The History of the Venetian Gondola and Becoming a Gondolier:** Learn about gondola history, construction, and significance from gondolier Marcello Haynes. With a greater understanding of gondola and gondolier history, visiting the Sargent, Whistler, and Venetian Glass exhibit will be even more exciting. Thursday, December 15, 2 p.m. - 3 p.m. Registration is free for members and included in admission for non-members.

**The Community Carol Sing:** Join us for the 75th Annual Community Carol Sing on Sunday, December 18, 2022. Museum visitors will be admitted free of charge on this day from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Donation of non-perishable food will be collected for the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center well as monetary donations in lieu of admission.

**Holiday Magic:** Thursday - Sunday, December 29 - January 1, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. The kids are home for a week! Your whole family (and neighborhood) can enjoy special programming.

## Shop News from our Avery Point Community Boathouse:

**This just in from Shop Manager Matt McKenzie:** Well, we've got some ribs.



This is Aidan Davies and the frames for his Nahant dory build. He's building this as part of a two course sequence exploring dories, American development, and the unique perspectives that come from shop work. More to come.

**Matt's latest proposal:** To make two, reusable and stable beams for upcoming builds I propose each be comprised of sistered 8 and 12 foot lengths of select 2x8 PTs (PT more for the stability of the wood than for the rot resistance). That means 2x8s and 2x12s for each beam, totaling 4 each 8 ft lengths and 4 each 12 foot lengths.

He researched prices from Big Orange (Home Depot) - and calls it roughly \$200 for all the timbers. He goes on: "We have fasteners and cross-timber materials (I had some lying about and was happy to donate them), so that should be the total cost." The proposal is currently in to the Executive Committee for review and approval.

**Matt is already thinking ahead to next Season:** "Calling JGTSCA Camp Cruisers! Over the past year, a number of folks have expressed an interest in organizing JGTSCA regional camp cruising (that is, two or three day forays during which folks either sleep aboard their boat, or at a waterside campground/five star resort). I'm putting out this call to see if there is enough interest among chapter members to start planning trips for next season. If you are one of the JGTSCA's community interested in adding camping and small craft cruising to regular JGTSCA events, reach out to Matthew McKenzie ([matthew.mckenzie@uconn.edu](mailto:matthew.mckenzie@uconn.edu)), and let's see if there is enough of us to have some good trips next summer."

## Mystic Seaport Ship Modelers:

### This just in from Leader Bob Andrie:

Hi all: We had a nice meeting on the 12th then looked around the Watercraft Hall for a while. We mostly discussed details of the upcoming 2023 Model Tugboat Show in March, gazed adoringly at each other's models that we brought, and talked boats!

I'll leave you with a photo of Hudson Valley Barge No. 6 on Manchester pond a few days ago - a beautiful late Fall day that Hans, Jim, and I spent getting some tugboat videos for the upcoming event. Enjoy! Bob  
Next Meeting: Saturday, December 10th.



### Photo of the month from Sharon Brown:



“On November 11, Veteran’s Day, and the eve of Nicole’s arrival, friends Richard Dixon, Steve Jones, Matthew McKenzie and Andrew Guest, paused long enough in West Mystic Wooden Boat to discuss the weather, Scandinavian boat design, the John Gardner chapter of TSCA, Veteran’s Day benefits, a 1903 Cornish Lugger ROSALIND, Luna speed, and a few other topics.” (Sharon Brown Photograph)

**The View From the Side Deck:** A few upcoming opportunities: Anyone interested in a small gathering at Seaport to visit the Boatshop, Small Craft Hall or Boatyard? Or a special opportunity: be involved in the planning and implementation of the Seaport’s new Small Craft Hall? Construction starts next spring! And here’s a fun one: Send a photo of your favorite boat with a few words why and we’ll share with our group as our own Mini Boat Show. And in the near term: the Portuguese Holy Ghost Society’s **Thanksgiving Breakfast:** 26 Main Street Stonington Village 6:30 am - 9:30 am presented by the staff of Kitchen Little with proceeds going to Safe Futures of New London, Flo’s favorite charity. Two menu choices: The Portuguese Fisherman (not for the faint-hearted) or the more benign two eggs any style with bacon, sausage, home fries and toast, both \$15. Everyone welcome. Support a worthy cause.