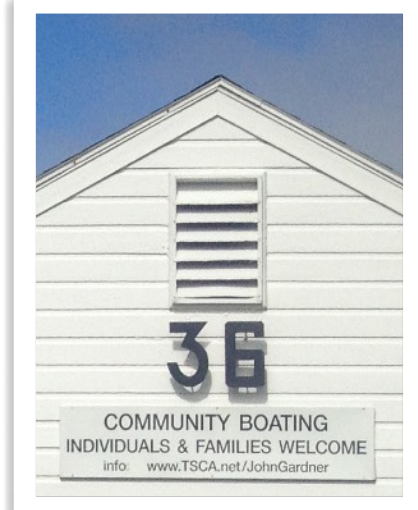


# JGTSCA



## 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.jgtzca.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.

## Report on the Annual Solstice Row:

BY PHIL BEHNEY WITH PHOTOS BY PARTICIPANTS



**PHIL BEHNEY AFT WITH IAN BRADLEY AS CREW LEADING THE ROW IN A JGTSCA DORY**

Going out for a Row on the evening of the Winter Solstice is a tradition at our John Gardner Chapter. This year Phil Behney again led the Row from Mystic Shipyard East (MSE), out around the Point, up to Mystic Seaport and back with an after gathering at Downtown Mystic's best Irish Pub, the "Harp and the Hound". Departing at 3 pm, they rode the last of the incoming tide up the River and bucked the first of the tide coming back. Sunset was at 4:30 pm so they made it back before total darkness.

In addition to Phil and Ian, participants included Ron Reinhart in JGTSCA Dory #3 "Louise", Chris Vargas (down from Hartford) also in a JGTSCA Dory, Brian Cooper rowing his skin-on-frame ultralight, Matt McKenzie in his White Dory and John Hacunda in a JGTSCA Dory. As you can see, most of our JGTSCA Dories were pressed into service. Most of us have our own vessels, but when needed for guest rowers or just plain preference for seaworthiness, it sure is nice to have them. Come in this winter and help with winter maintenance, says Phil.



**PHIL AND IAN DEPART SEAPORT LIGHTHOUSE**



**ROWERS PASS THE DOWN-RIGGED "ALVEI"**



**CHRIS VARGAS LEAVES THE SEAPORT VILLAGE**



**MATT MCKENZIE PASSES SITE OF NOV 27TH FIRE**



After the Dories were back at Mystic Shipyard East and Personal Boats back on their trailers, the Rowers met the “Landlubbers” (as Phil calls them) in downtown Mystic at the “Harp and Hound” to celebrate. Joining were Leigh Reinhart, John and Nikita Unverzagt as well as Frances Bradley, and Ian Bradley’s Mom who came along to find out what this was all about. All reported having a great time (see the photo for the smiles).



CLOCKWISE: RON & LEIGH REINHART, JOHN HACUNDA, FRANCIS & IAN BRADLEY, IAN’S MOM, CHRIS VARGAS, NIKITA & JOHN UNVERZAGT CELEBRATING THE SHORTEST NIGHT AT “HARP AND HOUND”

### Upcoming Events:

**“Student Shop Hours” at UCONN AP Boathouse restart:** Tuesdays and Thursdays with Spring Semester classes January 17th. Starts will be a bit sooner: 12:30 pm or so. Email Matt McKenzie [matthew.mckenzie@uconn.edu](mailto:matthew.mckenzie@uconn.edu) to confirm times. Come by & support our Students.

**Seaport “Shipyard and Watercraft Hall Tours “** resume Fridays and Saturdays in January. Visit the Seaport Museum Calendar page to sign up <https://www.mysticseaport.org/calendar/>

## Special Report: The L. A. Dunton Haul

by John Malmros

(John is an active Volunteer at the Seaport's Boat Livery, a retired licensed Electrician and a cheerful addition to the crew maintaining the Livery Fleet - Ed)

Here are few shots I took of the *Dunton* coming ashore on Tuesday, December 20th. It was a hell of a show. She was lifted out of the water by two 600-ton cranes, which then pirouetted her almost ninety degrees and swung her between them, finally rotating her back to roughly her original orientation and setting her down on her new keel blocks just as neat as you like.

The lift started at just after 9:00 and it took until about 10:15 am to get her up out of the water, turned, and partway between the two crane booms. It looked like the trickiest part was maneuvering the sling spreaders between the booms. Word was that they are about 35 feet wide, and as you can see in the image it's a tight fit at the point where they have to pass between the converging booms--tight enough that one of the cables took out a light on a boom, I think the yellow one. After that point they got her the rest of the way through and turned back and over the keel blocks in maybe ten minutes.

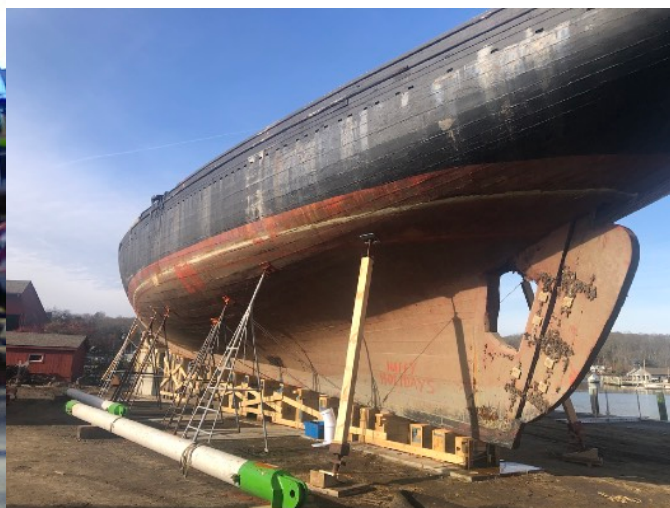




(Hauling the Dunton by John Malmros, cont'd)



A little jiggering back and forth to get her positioned on the blocks, and she was set down in one try, lined up almost perfectly. Poppets in place and the slings released by about 10:50 am. I think she'll make for a very impressive entrance to the shipyard.



Thank you, John for your on-the-spot report! Nothing like being there.

And here for further background information is **Mystic Seaport Museum's December 20th, 2022 press release:** [The L. A. Dunton was hauled today!](#)



"The 101-year-old *L.A. Dunton*, a National Historic Landmark, was hauled this morning to undergo a full, multi-year restoration of the 123-foot fishing schooner.

Designed by Thomas F. McManus, the *L.A. Dunton* is one of the few remaining vessels of its type. Built by Arthur D. Story and launched from his yard at Essex, Mass. in 1921, the *Dunton* was built after auxiliary gasoline power had become common in schooners and was probably the last large engine-less fishing schooner. She was used as a fishing and freighting vessel for 30 years before being acquired by Mystic Seaport Museum in 1963 but the vessel has never undergone a full restoration until now."

For those with an hour and a half to spare, watch the livestream video: [WATCH THE VIDEO](#)

## Avery Point Boathouse Shop Report

by Matt Mckenzie, Shop Manager

(This month you get two reports for the price of one: proof there is advantage to being slow to issue December's News - Ed.....) First, to take us out to the end of the year:



### Dateline December 2nd, Matt reports:

Thanks to UCONN's LED upgrade program, the shop now HAS NEW, AND BRIGHTER LIGHTING! WOOHOOO! The crew came in around Thanksgiving and enlightened us with new fixtures and brighter tube LEDs—Thank You UCONN! With the end of the semester this week (12/9), we will be suspending regular shop hours until Spring term cranks up in January. That said, however, we are making progress and considering where the shop stood a year ago, we can look back on 2022 as a productive year. As for Aidan's dory, we worked through some hiccups, lined up some funding, and figured out some stuff to get the bottom board assembled and cut, the frames assembled and shaped, and the stem scarfed together. The transom is proving a little more difficult, but a trip to a locally owner wood mizer might solve that issue and get us on our way. Our hope is that by the end of the year, we will have transom, stem, and frames mounted on the bottom and ready to start lining and spiling. We will see.

As of now the pending work list is as follows: Aidan Davies' dory and Ian Bradley's canoe yawl (commenced) this winter, with Dan Nelson's build over the summer. As of yet, fall slots may be available, but I will need to consult the board at the shop to confirm.

### Dateline December 27, 2022, Matt looks forward to 2023:

The Shop remains busy! The end of term saw a slight slowdown in progress on the Davies dory (i.e., Aidan's mildly modified Nahant dory from Gardner's *Dory Book*). With finals ending, however, progress exploded like the Big Bang, and the shop manager is now proud to report that Aidan's build now has a floor board, four frames, a stem, and a transom all assembled. Over the next few weeks, we will begin fairing and planking, so soon Avery Pointers will hear the dulcet pinging of riveting hammers tapping away into the night!



## AP Boathouse Report by Matt McKenzie cont'd - Ed.)



One important learning moment came to the shop manager—and Aidan—when they began to discover just how much work it takes to shave a half inch of thickness off an 18" wide white oak transom. Be grateful for thickness planers and portable saw mills . . . .

While we plug away at the Davies dory, however, we are also building infrastructure for future builds. The club graciously agreed to fund the materials for a 20' double-beam upon which most of our upcoming projects can be built. The

beam is level and square, and has so far provided a sound work space for dory building.

In the coming weeks, shop folks will also turn their attention to battens and clamps. Thanks to the generosity of the manager's father in law Ken Wilson, there will soon be at least four 20' long, clear, straight-grained redwood battens. Additional stock spelunking uncovered some more curvy bits from past projects that can also be ripped straight for battens. Once built, these will be labelled, properly supported from the ceiling, and available for use on future projects. Similarly, bits of  $\frac{3}{4}$ " plywood will be converted into deep planking clamps. We have a few already, but we will need more for Aidan's build. Like the battens, these too will be kept at the shop for future use.

Finally, the shop manager is pleased to report that there is some positive interest, among UCONN deanly-type folks, in the student learning that the JGTSCA supports at the shop. Over the winter, there may be some UCONN internal press coverage of the JGTSCA and Aidan's build, but there are no firm plans at this time. The short version is that all the university folks who have heard about the JGTSCA's efforts have been excited and happy to see the efforts continue.

Looking ahead, shop hours will resume on Tuesdays and Thursdays again this spring, but beginning a little earlier in the afternoon—perhaps 12:30. Please reach out to [matthew.mckenzie@uconn.edu](mailto:matthew.mckenzie@uconn.edu) if you're planning to join us: sometimes work meetings get in the way of the important stuff, so I would hate to have someone make an unnecessary trip.

That's all for now, Respectfully Submitted By your Most Obdn't Srv't, etc.

Matthew McKenzie, Shop Manager.

## Mystic Seaport Boathouse Livery Report

by Boathouse Supervisor, Nick Parker (from Nick's year-end summary to Volunteers)

Nick writes: With the end of this year rapidly approaching I want to connect with everyone to lay the groundwork for the year to come.

Beginning January 5<sup>th</sup> we will meet every Thursday and Saturday. The early crowd usually shows up around 8am and the day closes around 4pm. As always, any time you are able to donate to The Boathouse is greatly appreciated, so come as you can. As new folks begin to join us, I will be on hand to go over general shop procedures, safety, clean-up, and bring everyone up to speed on finished product expectations.

In the last month there have been many additions to our tool box. For those of you who are looking forward to joining us, our cohort of usual suspects can help you find all the new (and reorganized) inventory that will help us do our job in the most practical manner. Please, let us collectively remember to submit your Volunteer Enrollment paperwork to our amazing Volunteer Services Manager Mary Koehler at [mary.koehler@mysticseaport.org](mailto:mary.koehler@mysticseaport.org).

With all the upcoming projects, I want to share a special project from the 2022 season... it took most of 2022 in fact. Captain Hook is a replica of a carvel planked Whitehall in MSM's collection. A perennial favorite among visitors to The Boathouse both due to its name, and its incredible lines and rowing capability. When I first saw the vessel it was in tatters. Most of the planks near the keel had popped their fastening at the transom. One of the shipwrights had made a set of "cheeks" to add fastening thickness to the transom and a few new seat planks for the after seat, but was then diverted to other projects in the Shipyard. Likewise Capt. H. was not a high priority for me, as I navigated the course of prepping a full dock to see us through what would become a record season. So after Capt. H. was brought back to The Boathouse... there it sat. We burned off some paint, reefed some seams, but my focus shifted to operations.



Several sets of student aged folks work with us in the summer time and one rainy day, with need of something to do, we began the process of laying out feather-boards to affix to the after

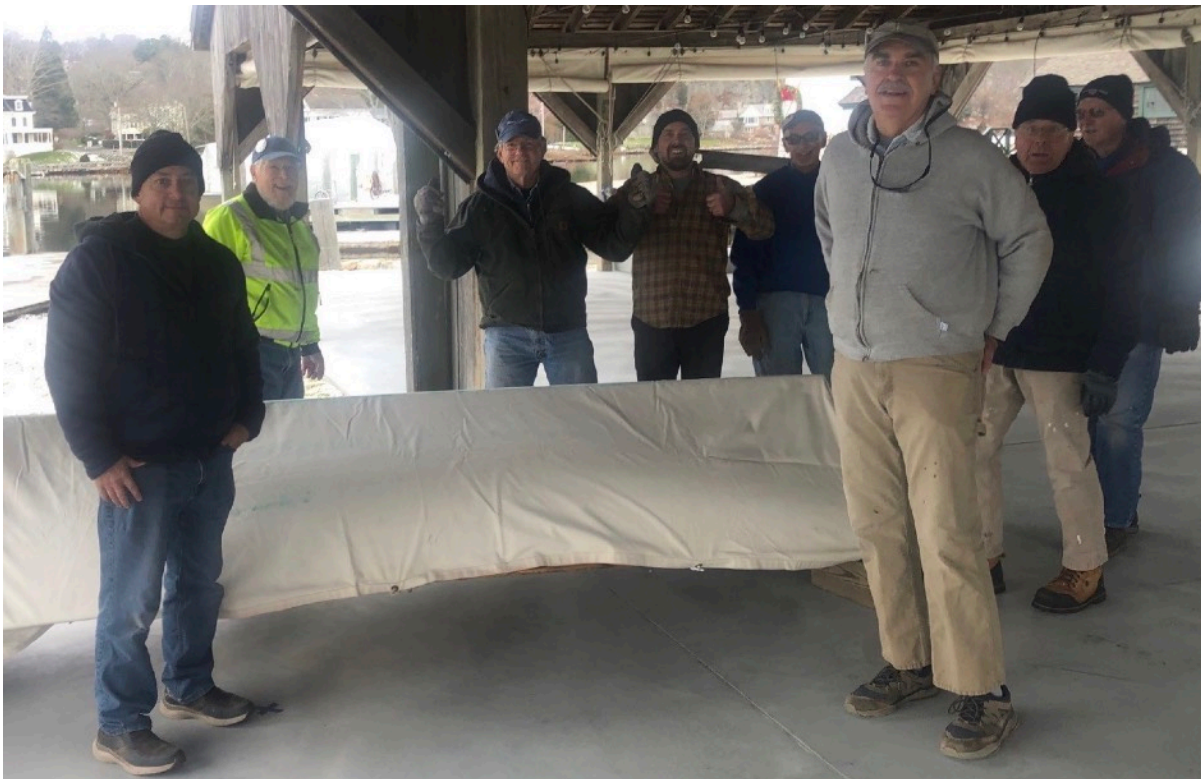




portion of the keel. As if by magic, around that same time, you senior Volunteers all began to reassemble for summer work days en masse. Feather-boards were fit, seams were paid, transom was fastened, primer, filler, fairing, paint. Almost whole again, then began the inboard "treatment" chipping, scraping, sanding, removing sole boards, affixing seats, varnish, varnish, varnish.

Finally ready. Captain Hooks stands ready, our first finished project for the 2023 season. Thank you all for your diligence to the details and dedication to our Boathouse. I wish you the best of the season and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

Nick Parker, Boathouse Supervisor, Mystic Seaport Museum



**SENIOR BOATHOUSE VOLUNTEERS MOVE CAPTAIN HOOK TO THE CLAGGETT BOAT SHED FOR WINTER STORAGE FROM L TO R: JOHNNY WHEELER, STEVE TELSEY, JOE WILLIAMS, NICK PARKER, CARMIN CIMINO, LARRY TYTLA, JOHN MALMROS, JIM MORROW (BILL RUTHERFORD PHOTO)**

## Mystic Seaport Museum Activities:



### ***Coronet* Has Arrived!**

The 1885 Schooner Yacht *Coronet* was successfully launched in Newport, Rhode Island following eight months of meticulous planning and coordination. On Monday, December 5, the vessel made its way to the [Henry B. du Pont Preservation Shipyard](#) to complete its restoration, a process that is expected to take three years.

Did you miss *Coronet's* arrival to Mystic? No problem, we streamed it live. Relive the experience [here!](#)



### **We Saved You a Seat**

"Mystic Seaport mounts a gorgeous show on how Sargent and Whistler translated the fabled city's aesthetic into American classics." [The National Review](#)

The reviews are in and [Sargent, Whistler & Venetian Glass: American Artists & the Magic of Murano](#) is a smashing hit! (No pun intended) Take a break from the New England winter and cozy up to the warm tones of 19th Century Venice!

The exhibit is on view in the Thompson Exhibition Building's Collins Gallery and open 7 days a week from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Be sure to see it before it closes on February 27! [VISIT TODAY](#)

## Mystic Seaport Ship Modelers:



**As we move inside**, consider becoming active with the Mystic Seaport Ship Modelers. They are a welcoming group with a wide range of interests from historically correct ship models to modern radio controlled boats. They are generous with advice and assistance. Entry is MSM membership, sharing your email with their leader, Bob Andrie [smallyachtsailor@gmail.com](mailto:smallyachtsailor@gmail.com), and showing up once in a while at their second Saturday morning meetings. They have a number of on-going activities including seasonal shows at the Seaport. Their latest is a Tugboat rendezvous planned for March 9th thru 12th. Currently 50 vessels are signed up for the show.



## From the Mailbag:

**This from the WoodenBoat School: Okay folks... time to get on the stick.** Our WoodenBoat School opened-up registrations this week for Summer 2023 courses. Head over to [thewoodenboatschool.com](http://thewoodenboatschool.com) site to see the offerings and sign-up for a one or two week course, happening between June and September. And if you really can't make it to our 60 acre waterfront campus this summer, consider the [on-line Mastering Skills video courses](#), where WoodenBoat School instructors pass on their knowledge to you from the comfort of your favorite moaning chair. January is the final episode of Season 2, and Season 3 begins in February.

**This from Mike Wick: Cruising:** "I had a lovely overnight (11/2-11/3/22) at Barn Island in PEPITA, Wednesday and Thursday. The Spit was wonderful with perfect weather and all alone...I have waitlisted at a Newburyport Yacht Club for a year, but looks like at least another year, but I am loving my commute. The Barn Island ramp is very accommodating to an old Fart in a catboat, and everybody stops to chat about my boat. Any place that supports Beetle Cats can't be all bad. This picture was from last week at the Stonington entrance where a boater in his runabout told me he had just decommissioned his Beetle Cat and took my picture. I found Peter Vermilya's winter mooring in the rapidly deserting harbor.



See photo of Pepita 11/23/22. Chris (Mike's brother) and I met at the Herreshoff Museum for a lecture on the Offshore Patrol of WW2. Our father was just married and in the Inshore Patrol in charge of the THANIA patrolling from Point Judith to Nomans Island, The lecture brought back memories of growing up full of his stories, and THANIA is right in the building and looking great.

I am thinking of converting PEPITA to a carbon fiber mast. For some reason, my 16 foot keel-stepped spruce spar is getting harder to step at the launch ramp. However, I have a feeling that, when I am on my own, fifty degree water is of some danger in a trip

or fall. I think it is time to put PEPITA away. I am not keen about driving after dark, which would limit my attending meetings, but I would like to join the JGTSCA and support your fine work."

## Remember your Dues for 2022:

\$15 to Ellie Czarnowski for **LOCAL CHAPTER JOHN GARDNER TSCA** dues: Join and Renew Online [www.JGTSCA.org](http://www.JGTSCA.org) or Mail to the following: JGTSCA Treasurer, Community Boat Building #36, UCONN Avery Point Campus, 1084 Shennecossett Road, Groton, CT 06340

Plus \$25 for **NATIONAL TSCA MEMBERSHIP** (remember, they pay our event Insurance and mail us the magazine the "Ash Breeze") Join and Renew Online at [www.tsca.net](http://www.tsca.net) and receive a copy of the "Ash Breeze".



And we will leave you with these photos from Sharon Brown: "Celebrating community in Mystic recently were (L to R), Bill Scheer retired Mystic Seaport Museum Education Department Shipsmith, Mike Saari master Metalsmith who's wide ranging career includes Mystic Seaport and the AMISTAD construction (<http://www.michaelsaari.com/>), and Lou Scheer retired long term Mystic Seaport employee and personal blacksmith assistant. Both Smiths have featured in promotional materials for the museum, including videos of them making whaleboat rowlocks for the CW MORGAN's 38th voyage (<https://youtu.be/kkRRrm8eHws> and <https://youtu.be/3vOpov2iMIA>). Mike's visit helped relocate some artifacts of the Scheer family collection. Links in a continuum of change, they graciously posed in recognition of the occasion (Sharon Brown Photo)."



**"ON THE EVE OF THE BEAVER MOON, AQUACULTURE PERSONNEL TEND OYSTERS ON THE MYSTIC RIVER FLATS, WHILE A LOCAL SAILOR EPITOMIZES WHAT RATTY HAD IN MIND WORKING HIS WAY TO THE SOUTHWESTERLY BREEZE GUSTING IN THE CHANNEL (SHARON BROWN PHOTOGRAPH)."**