

# 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

**Maintenance on Rowing/Sailing Craft**

Fridays 3:30 - 7:00 pm at UCONN Avery Point Boat House Building 36

**Next Meeting: Quarterly Meetings at UCONN Avery Point Community Boat Building #36 1084 Shennecossett Road Groton, CT 06340?)**

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](http://www.facebook.com/JGTSCA) and <http://www.jgtsca.org>

National: [www.TSCA.net](http://www.TSCA.net)



**ALAN SCHAEFFER'S FRESHLY RE-LAUNCHED "BUTTON SWAN" AT JOHN GARDNER SMALL CRAFT WORKSHOP. NOTE SUBTLE COLORS OF LINSEED OIL PAINT AND LE TONKINOIS OILED SPARS.**

## John Gardner Small Craft Workshop 2025

Folks easing out of their comfort zone, putting down their cell phones and interacting with each other, sun, sea, sand and getting some traditional small craft out on the water. We were blessed with fine weather, excepting a short downpour which caught our Saturday Morning Rowers between bridges heading down river. They were soaked to the skin but came right back Sunday morning to complete the cruise.



**MORNING ROW LEADER LIZ BLACKWELL ROUNDS UP THE SUNDAY MORNING ROWERS TO HEAD DOWNRIVER. A BIG THANK YOU TO BOATHOUSE SUPERVISOR ROSIE DIMATTEO FOR LOANED BOATS.**

Sharks were spotted during the Sunday Morning row in the shallows around Six Penny Island: 11 year old Oliver Blackwell saw them and called out “Sharks!” which elicited comments of disbelief, but Florida native and sailor of coastal shallows Mike Jones, confirmed them as “Smooth Dogfish”, a member of the shark family and took a video to prove it. Never know what you’ll find on a TSCA Morning row. Thanks for flying up to join us, Mike! Learn more about them and their annual travels from the Carolinas to summer in southern New England at [Dusky Smooth Hound Where They Live and Travel](#) Divers report that “Smooth-hounds are generally

shy and are not aggressive, preferring to avoid people. Their flattened teeth are ideal for crushing their diet of crustaceans, mollusks, squid and small fish. They are 14" - 15" long." Coincidentally, last Friday, July 5th, the Seaport is hosted an overflow crowd for [JAWSFest "We're Gonna Need a Bigger Boat"](#) to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the movie JAWS with an outdoor screening of the film at sundown...

We were very fortunate to share our tent with the **Dinghy Cruising Association** who brought their President, YouTube provider and author **Roger Barnes** from France who hung out with us between participating in the WB Show's Speaker's Series and discussing Camp Cruisers. Many of our members also join the Dinghy Cruisers who routinely participate in raids, overnight cruises and expeditions. Roger's visit was coordinated by Mark Wisdom from Michigan and Harald Hefel, local from Pawcatuck. Both also attended the Workshop. Ben Fuller gave a tour of his boat "Ran Tan" outside the North Entrance Building after Roger's talk. Dawn and Paul Miller did likewise with their Wayfarer Dinghy at Australia Beach. View the DCA website at [www.dinghycruising.life](http://www.dinghycruising.life) We hope do do more joint activities in future. They use their boats...



**BEN FULLER EXPLAINING SOME OF THE FUNCTIONS OF "RAN TAN" W/ ROGER BARNES AND PAUL MILLER EXPLAINING HOW HIS EXTENDABLE TILLER WORKS ON HIS WAYFARER**

Meanwhile, back at Australia Beach activities continued with skills and how-to sessions:



**PETE PETERS EXPLAINS HIS RECENTLY DEVELOPED BEVIN'S SKIFF POND YACHT - NOTE FISHING ROD "CONTROLS" WHILE JOE YOUNG & FAMILY LINE WRAP "LEATHERS" ON LIVERY BOAT "CAPTAIN HOOK" OARS USING THEIR HOMEMADE JIG - JOE PLANS ON DONATING A JIG TO THE LIVERY**



**ADAM BLACKWELL GIVES SPLICING DEMONSTRATION AND MIKE JONES SHARES THE RESULT**

Workshop participants thoroughly enjoyed the WoodenBoat Show's activities and presentations: Six speakers in the Speaker's Series at the North Entrance, Ten Skills Demonstrations at the Seaport Shipyard plus daily Open House and Tour of Jamestown's "Susan Constant" (their "Mayflower") which is undergoing restoration at the Seaport Shipyard under the "Big White Tent" or as we call it the "Mailbox". Beautiful yachts lined the waterfront as part of the Concours d'Elegance as well as smaller ones of more interest to us on the floats opposite the South Entrance.

As Workshop Participants we also enjoyed participant presentations of their boats like the Mohawk River Bateau group who dressed in late 18th century costumes and explained how they go camp-cruising for a week every year as well as for period reenactments. They like coming to our events because we greatly admire their boat rather than their costumes. Boats launched and were retrieved both before and after Show hours, some folks spent the night on the ship "Conrad" (which may be returning to Denmark). We celebrated National TSCA's 50th Anniversary Friday after hours at Australia Beach and we had fun and music at an off-site BBQ Saturday evening.

It all wound down Sunday evening as we pulled boats, folded our tent and bid adieu for another year. A special thanks to the Seaport's Director of Waterfront Programs Sarah Clement, Boathouse Supervisor Rosie DiMatteo and volunteer coordinators Liz & Adam Blackwell assisted by Charlotte and Oliver, Members John Hacunda, Phil Behney, John Gearing, photographers Sharon Brown and Chris Brickman and a special thanks to Dan Nelson who not only staffed the tent but rowed JGTSCA Dory "Professor Jones" back to its home at Mystic Shipyard East. See you next year.



**LIZ BLACKWELL AND SON OLIVER RETURN IN THEIR NATOMA SKIFF FROM A MORNING ROW**

## Upcoming Events:

**Saturday, September 12th UCONN Messing About In Boats Event:** Reach out to Ian Bradley [Ian Bradley](#) or Phil Behney with an offer to assist from transporting Dorries to assisting with Dory use to greeting visitors at the Community Boathouse. Ian is attending a planning meeting and will be present at the event. Our involvement is on-the-water. If you aren't familiar with the event, it's a day full of free fun - fishing, rowing, and kayaking! Don't have sea legs? There will be walking tours, a scavenger hunt, and other land-based activities. Learn more at the links below, highlighting last year's event led by Larissa Graham, Education Coordinator, Connecticut National Estuarine Research Reserve

UConn's Today's article about the 2024 event: [2024 Messing About Article](#)

**Impromptu Rows or Sails or Boatyard Visits:** contact Ian Bradley or Phil Behney w/ offer to lead a Row or Sail or Boatyard Visit. Doesn't have to be fancy - just spread the word...

**Also watch the Events page on our Website** [JGTSCA Events](#) Contact John Hacunda to add items of interest [John Hacunda](#)

## Avery Point Boathouse News



Alan Schaeffer's boat has left the building: Liz, Charlotte & Oliver Blackwell help guide the boat onto its trailer. Reach out to [Dan Nelson](#) if you have a project you would like to work on.

If you are looking for a project our third Dory is inside the Shop needing some final touches. [Phil Behney](#) can bring you up to speed as to what has recently been accomplished and what few items remain.

Our Webmaster, John Hacunda, recently added both plans for the Dory as well as its Building Manual to our JGTSCA Website. Written by Warren Dolphin during and after our Chapter's building of the Dorries, it wraps up with an interesting comparison of the different versions our Chapter has built as well as a John Gardner's own 12 ft. and 14ft. designs (measured on bottom length). See it here: [Avery Point Dory Plans & Manual](#) If interested in trying one out, Chapter Members may take one for a spin from Mystic Shipyard East. [John Hacunda](#) or [Dan Nelson](#) can fill you in on the particulars. There is a launch path to the water right nearby.

## Mystic Seaport Boat Livery

Busiest weekend so far this year! **After WoodenBoat Weekend Boathouse Supervisor Rosie DiMatteo reports: “We have had over 650 people in boats in the past 4 days!!! Which is awesome!”** And again this past weekend: **“We are getting into the swing of summer. Friday and Saturday alone we had 572 people in boats.** The crew is doing awesome here“ A big thanks to Rosie and her Assistant, Finn, for supporting our Morning Rows at the Small Craft Workshop! The Boat Livery is now open daily, weather dependent, so come give your favorite boat some exercise...the price is right: **Still free with admission to Members and Visitors.**

Hot News! **This Saturday June 12th there will be Early Morning Access to the Boathouse** as part of Member Double Discount Weekend: Experience the peaceful atmosphere while mingling w/ fellow Members. Row & Pedal. Reserve here: [Member's Early Morning Access](#)

From Rosie at WoodenBoat School in early June: “Working on a Chaisson Dory in class these two weeks and a Whitehall style boat. The type is unknown to all. But I’m excited to be getting experience on a boat we have.”

## Mystic Seaport Museum Activities

### Summer Music Series:

#### [Music Cruises on Sabino](#)

Thursdays through August 28 | 5:30–7:00 p.m.

Enjoy live music and a cash bar on a *Sabino* downriver cruise every Thursday evening all summer (weather permitting)!

Please note: July 17, August 21, September 4 are reserved for Museum members only.

See lineup and purchase tickets [here](#).

#### [After Hours Music at the Tavern](#)

Fridays through August 29 | 4:30–7:30 p.m.

Live music at Schaefer's Spouter Tavern on Friday evenings all summer! Free entry to the Museum begins at 5:00 p.m. through the Museum’s North Entrance. Bring a blanket or lawn chair—seating is limited and fills quickly!

Please note: outside alcohol is NOT permitted. See the full [lineup](#).

#### [SEACLASS: Digital Learning](#)

Episode 4 Maritime Navigation and Nautical Instruments Explained

Premieres July 9

[Episode 1](#), [Episode 2](#), and [Episode 3](#) now streaming on YouTube.

#### [Newfoundland Dog Water Rescue Training](#)

#### [Woodie Cars on the Green](#)

More details at [MysticSeaport.org](http://MysticSeaport.org)

### Photos/Artwork



In keeping with our Camp Cruising theme, you may get a chuckle from this cartoon from "Yachting" November 1946

### Advertisements

**Two Canoes for Sale:** Not Your Average "Banana Boat"

**For Sale: 16'6" Mad River Kevlar "Malacite" tandem canoe,** yellow, wood trim, cane seats, seat back + paddles. Excellent condition. \$1,950.00. 860-535-3623. Stonington , CT

**Ye Olde Green Canoe for Sale:**

15' x 3', a classic in good condition, but needs new center carrier bar (not structural) if desired. Cushioned seats. Tan interior. Aluminum trim. \$500.00 860-535-3623. Stonington, CT

**"Cactus Wren" - a Phil Bolger "Harbinger" Catboat, Oar & Sail Camp Cruiser:** \$8800 [Bill R](#)

### From the Side Deck

We'll leave you with this: Clay Seelgen showed up with a fresh T-Shirt:

"Sailor" a noun, "sail-or sa-ler"

1: One who does precision guesswork based on unreliable data provided by those of questionable knowledge; See also: Wizard, Magician: Davy Jones Neptune Dictionary

That's it for this issue. Thanks to all Participants at the Small Craft Workshop! Enjoy your Summer Cruises. Send reports to [Smallcrafter@gmail.com](mailto:Smallcrafter@gmail.com) ATB, Bill & Karen Rutherford

