

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
at UCONN Avery Point Boat House Building 36 - check website for times

Quarterly Meetings at UCONN Avery Point Community Boat Bldg. #36
1084 Shennecossett Road Groton, CT 06340

Rowing and Sailing gatherings occur during all four seasons with special
programs and visits planned throughout the year. All are welcome.

Local: www.facebook.com/JGTSCA and <http://www.jgtzca.org>

National: www.TSCA.net



ROSIE DIMATTEO AND JOE BOZZA LEAVE MYSTIC SHIPYARD EAST AT THE START OF THIS YEAR'S SOLSTICE ROW IN A JGTSCA DORY.



SOLSTICE ROW CELEBRANTS AT AFTER ROW GATHERING AT THE HARP & HOUND. FROM L TO R: RON REINHART, LEIGH REINHART, ROSIE DIMATTEO, PHIL BEHNEY, DANE ROCHELLE, DAVID TANG, JOE BOZZA

'Twas a bluff and breeze day as we continued to enjoy an early winter cold snap but were not to be deterred from celebrating the return of longer days with our traditional Solstice Row. Most of us just headed for the cosy warmth of the Harp & Hound in downtown Mystic but Dory Master Phil Behney readied the dories in the blustery weather including No. 2 which Mystic Seaport Boathouse Supervisor Rosie DiMatteo and new member Joe Bozza took around the point and on up to Mystic Seaport. After a quick tour to show Joe the Boat Livery and the Boat Shop they departed, this time with a stiff breeze mostly following them to return to our dory staging point near Mystic Shipyard East just as the day's early dusk was beginning to fall.

The "Harp" was packed with celebrating tourists but Phil somehow managed to wrangle our favorite table which quickly filled with glasses of Guinness. Joe Bozza put us south coasties to shame by driving all the way down from western Massachusetts to partake in the row. He was made to feel welcome as a good time was had by all. See you all next year...

Upcoming Events:

Our JGTSCA Holiday Brunch: We will gather at McQuade's Mystic, 10 Clara Ave, Mystic, CT 06355 at 11 am in their Lunch/Brunch room. We will order from their bounteous menu, enjoy everyone's company and compare plans for the upcoming season.

Heavy weather for December's gathering (only a few hardy souls made it) so we'll try again. Should be fun!

The Catboat Association's Annual Meeting is this coming weekend Jan 23rd - 25th at the Newport Harbor Island Resort, 1 Goat Island Road, Newport, RI 02840 in Newport, RI. Saturday is the big day with seminars going in multiple rooms culminating in a sumptuous lunch with presentation by Artisan Boatworks on their recent Gil Smith Great South Bay Catboat build. Details at:

<https://catboats.org/event/the-catboat-associations-64th-annual-meeting/>

Friday Evening Gatherings at the Avery Point Boathouse 4 pm to 7 pm: Work on Ian Bradley's Culler Wherry and Maintenance on Club Dorries - get them ready for next season. Email Ian at iggbradley@gmail.com or Dan Nelson at dkenelson@att.net

January's **Chantey Blast** received nice coverage in The Day with a front page photograph. Their next big event is in Essex starting June 12th to the 15th. Details at:

<https://ctseamusicfest.org/2026-festival/2026-chantey-blast>

Visit our website <http://www.jgtasca.org/events.html> for updates on the latest events - a big thank you to webmaster John Hacunda for maintaining this... For example, visit now for details on the **Boat Builders Show on Cape Cod** Friday, Jan 30th - Sunday, February 1st at the Hyport Conference Center, Hyannis, MA 02601 featuring small, independent boat builders.

Have an idea for a Row, Sail or an interesting place to visit? Contact Phil Behney flipbeh@gmail.com Ian Bradley at iggbradley@gmail.com , Matt McKenzie at matthew.mckenzie@uconn.edu or John Hacunda at to set up an event, and add it to our website's upcoming events.

Some Quotable Quotes:

Concerning **Catboat Owners:** "Geoff Marshall quoted in the Catboat Bulletin reflecting on the unique character of Catboat owners: "They are self-sufficient, creative and community minded."

Overheard at a Catboat Association Meeting: Catboats are like their owners, Simple, Honest and Beamy."

Sail Away to the City by the Sea

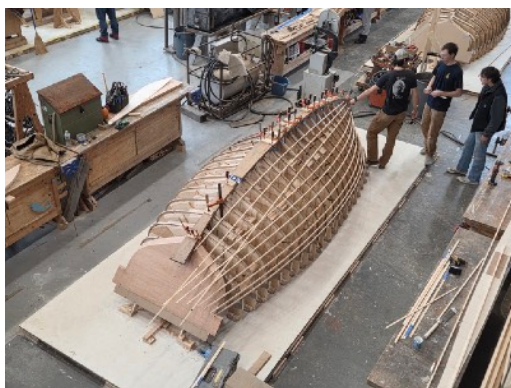
by John Hacunda

Now that winter has set in, are you looking for a way to avoid cabin fever? Then perhaps a trip to the City by the Sea, can provide an escape. Newport, Rhode Island, is widely regarded as the "Sailing Capital of the World." Its reputation is built on a combination of perfect natural conditions, a deep-seated Gilded Age history, and its status as the longtime home of the most prestigious trophy in the sport.



DISPLAYS AT THE THE SAILING MUSEUM INCLUDING ONE CELEBRATING TED TURNER'S AMERICA'S CUP DAYS IN THE NATIONAL SAILING HALL OF FAME

The city is a hub for sailmakers, boat builders, and professional sailors. It is also the home of The Sailing Museum & National Sailing Hall of Fame (www.thesailingmuseum.org). Located in the historic Armory building on Thames Street, The Sailing Museum & National Sailing Hall of Fame is an interactive, high-tech destination that celebrates the legends of the sport through the National Sailing and America's Cup Halls of Fame.



Walk down Thames Street and you will encounter the campus of the IYRS School of Technology & Trades (www.iyrs.edu). IYRS is a world-class vocational institution on Newport's waterfront dedicated to teaching high-level craftsmanship through the restoration of historically significant wooden sailing yachts. While it began with a focus on traditional boatbuilding, the school has expanded into modern manufacturing and marine systems, training students in advanced skills like composites technology and digital modeling to preserve maritime heritage and fuel modern industry.

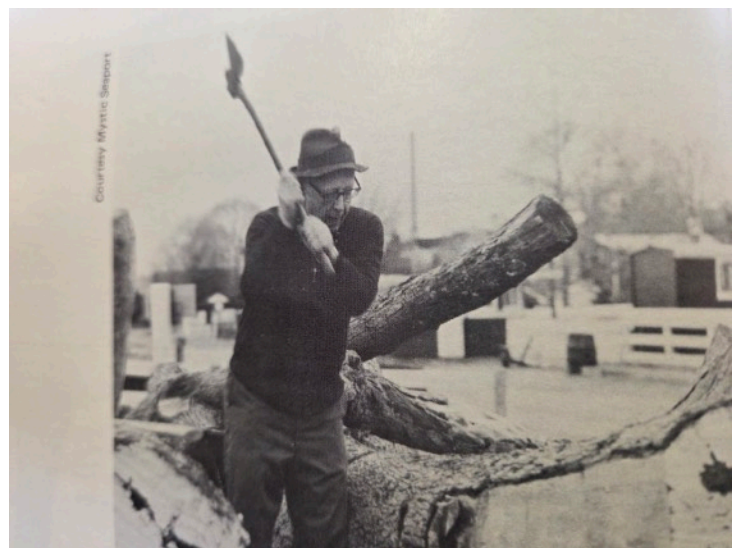
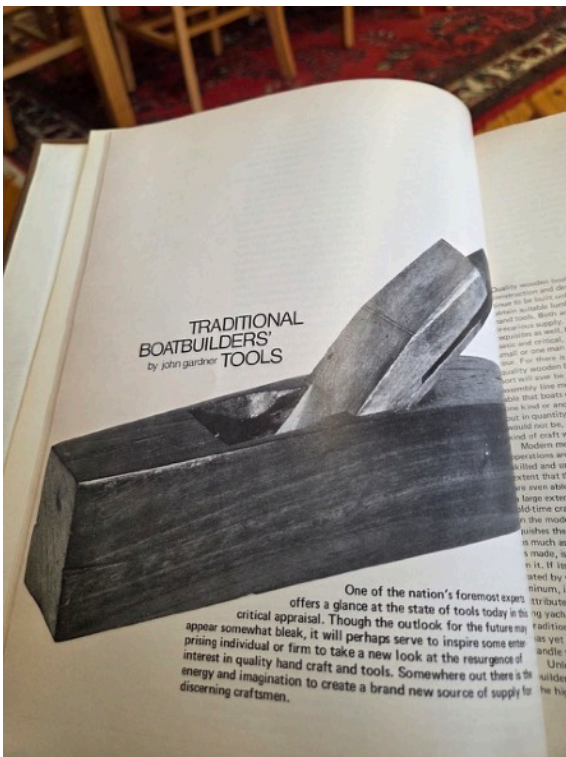
STUDENTS AT IYRS WORKING ON A BOATBUILDING PROJECT



As Rhode Island's premier maritime resource, the IYRS Maritime Library offers public access to an unparalleled collection of books, vessel plans, and historic artifacts. The library preserves the rich nautical heritage of Newport and Narragansett Bay through both a diverse circulating collection and an extensive archive of rare manuscripts, films, and digital media.

IYRS MARITIME LIBRARY - FRANCIS FROST, LIBRARIAN

The library includes a comprehensive collection of WoodenBoat magazine, including the first issue from 1974. Frances Frost, the librarian, is very knowledgeable and will gladly assist you if you have any questions or special requests regarding the library collection.



A WOODENBOAT ARTICLE BY JOHN GARDNER AND JOHN GARDNER "PREPS" SOME WOOD

Complete your visit to Newport by enjoying a meal at one of its many exceptional restaurants.

Avery Point Boathouse:



This just in from Ian Bradley: "I am getting things designed and laid out as of now (card board cut outs to start). Will start cutting and fitting things soon.

The Club Dory Louise is still in the shop and needs some final sanding, paint and finish. I will pick away at some of this work when time allows in between my projects. Anyone is welcome to join me to offer some help or suggestions.

Looking forward to catching up with folks and making some fun shapes of wood float"
Contact Ian at igbradley@gmail.com to coordinate times.

Notes from our President:

Greetings, All: Benjamin Ellcome— from New London Community Boat Works— has reached out to me asking if any JGTSCA officers can meet with him to discuss this year's planning of youth projects. This is a program that teaches New London region youth entry level shop skills through wooden boat building. They need any help we can offer in the way of demonstrations in wood working skills, epoxy work, tools, basic boat model making, layout of plans etc.

The New London Community Boat Works is an excellent organization who's mission aligns very closely with our own TSCA mission— passing on the knowledge and skills involved in the design, building and enjoying the use of traditional wooden craft! This is also a great way for us to meet local families and people that may be interested in wooden boats & boat building but may not know about our JGTSCA organization. We can gain new members from our involvement with New London Boat Works!

Ben says they are in the process of planning out the year so he would like to meet with us soon. That in mind I invited him to our JGTSCA Club brunch on January 25.

I would like at least a few of us to meet and talk with him during this coming week if possible so we can discuss ideas and then talk about them at the brunch.

Please let me know if you have times after 5:00 pm to meet with Ben in the New London area.

I believe it important to spread the word to our membership that the windows of the JGTSCA boat house need replacement soon. The side deck along the garage door needs repair also. Asking the members at the club brunch for support with: donation of materials, repair ideas, suggestions, helping with a work party— this is the time to do it.

Looking forward to seeing you at the brunch!

Thank you all, Ian Bradley~~~JGTSCA President

Mystic Seaport Boat Livery:

As the winds howl outside, maintenance on the Livery fleet moves indoors. Here are two photos of work in the Boat Livery shop. Similar work is underway in the John Gardner Small Boat Shop just across the way. Plus in the Boat Shop Annex oars and spars are being varnished in its dust-free environment. Anything disassembled is carefully labeled, screws separated in divided boxes, lines and sails inspected and repaired. Keeping ahead of a total of twenty-two volunteers keeps Boathouse Supervisor Rosie DiMatteo busy, say nothing of the guys tasked with bringing donuts...



ON THE LEFT, JON STODDARD AND STEVE TELSEY START CLEANUP, INSPECTION AND SANDING OF A RECENTLY FLIPPED NOANK SKIFF WHILE IN THE BACKGROUND CARMIN CAMINO HOLDS DOWN THE BOW WITH HIS ELBOW WHILE MATTHEW STUART CONFERS WITH ROSIE ABOUT ONGOING TRIAGE TO THE THREE BOATS IN THE JG SMALL BOAT SHOP.

ON THE RIGHT, L TO RT, AL GRANT GETS READY TO DRILL A PILOT HOLE FOR A SCREW TO HOLD A NEW BOTTOM PLANK IN PLACE ON SUSAN SKIFF "MARY" WHILE JOHN MALMROS SIGHTS THE ANGLE AND GENE CAPUTO HOLDS THE PLANK IN PLACE.

Mystic Seaport Museum:

Meanwhile, the rest of the Museum is open with Winter Hours: Daily 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. **Monday–Thursday** Collins Gallery in the Thompson Exhibition Building open. Remaining campus closed. **Friday–Sunday** North campus, all exhibition galleries, and Whaleship *Charles W. Morgan* open. Grounds close at 5:00 p.m. South Entrance, Village, and Shipyard will reopen March 20. Ticket prices are reduced during this time. Adults: \$15-20. Sea Classes continue: check them out at [Sea Class Link](#) and Shipyard Tours at [Tours](#) plus Planetarium Winter Stars at <https://mysticseaport.org/explore/planetarium/>

JGTSCA and National TSCA:

First of the year is a good time to re-up your dues: Send \$15 to Ellie Czarnowski for

LOCAL CHAPTER JOHN GARDNER TSCA dues:

Use the On Line Join & Renew form at www.JGTSCA.org click on “More” and “Join or Renew” and Mail in the form with your check to the following: JGTSCA Treasurer, Community Boat Building #36, UCONN Avery Point Campus, 1084 Shennecossett Road, Groton, CT 06340

And \$35 for NATIONAL TSCA MEMBERSHIP (remember, they pay our event Insurance): Join and Renew Online at www.tsca.net and receive a copy of the “Ash Breeze”. Click on “Join and Renew” to either join on line or print a form and mail in with your check.

Our John Gardner Chapter does not require National TSCA membership but we strongly encourage it. National TSCA pays for the insurance that covers all of our shop and on-the-water activities and events like the John Gardner Small Craft Workshop that attracts many visitors. Please consider becoming a National member if you're not one already. It's still only \$35/year and you'll receive the Ash Breeze, our quarterly boating journal and help pay our for our insurance.

The TSCA National Council Meeting is held on the 3rd Wednesday each month, the next meeting is this Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at 8:00 PM EST, 7:00 CST, 6:00 MST, 5:00 PST. at <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/296561733048?p=50GlipO3fMzUhF7OGo>

View from the Side Deck:

The recent January thaw led to thoughts of spring prep and summer boating plans. That came to an abrupt halt with last night's snowfall and today's sudden drop in temperature. So it's back to sitting by the fire, reading and re-reading favorite boating books and sharpening tools.

If you hanker for some hands-on action we could use some help in the Avery Point Boathouse. our Avery Point Dory “Louise” needs one last coat of paint. Karen & I are re-doing her nameplate. Dan Nelson could use some help finalizing some emergence shutters in case window glass gets broken again. And Ian Bradley's beautiful Culler Wherry could use a few extra hands refinishing the deck... reach out, don't be shy.

For those with truly small boats in their imaginations, I have a few full-size plans for the 36 inch Bevin's Skiff model. Grab a young person and spark a lifetime of fun on the water.

And speaking of young persons, Ben Ellcome and his New London Community Boatworks could use a few seasoned hands guiding his young persons as they explore boatbuilding right here in our backyard...

Meanwhile, Easter is right around the corner (kinda). Fish & Chips start at the Portuguese Holy Ghost Society Friday, February 13th at 26 Main Street, Stonington, CT 06378...

Karen and I look forward to seeing everyone at McQuade's Mystic Sunday at 11 am for our annual brunch gathering. As always, Fair Winds and keep those cards & letters coming!

Bill & Karen at smallcrafter@gmail.com