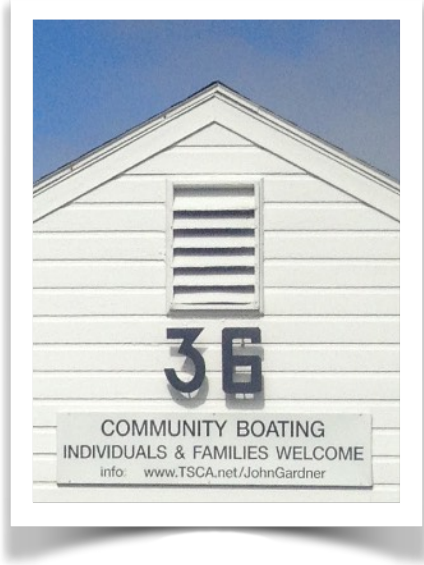


JGTSCA



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 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 and <http://www.jgtsc.org>
National: 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:

On Memorial Day Weekend, the Seaport will be celebrating the beginning of Summer with a Grand Opening of their new exhibit, "Story Boats and the Tales They Tell". More info on their website at <https://www.mysticseaport.org/explore/exhibits/story-boats/> And we at John Gardner TSCA will celebrate the weekend with **an inaugural John Gardner Classic Row** from our Community Boathouse at UCONN Avery Point to the Seaport, and return. Info at our website JGTSCA.org/Events. Matt advises shorter routes possible depending what the group decides.



Shop-to-Shop John Gardner [ersatz] "Classic"

Sat May 28th 8:00am - 5:00pm at the Peruzzotti Boat Launch, (near the Ball Field) at 140 South Rd, Groton, CT 06340, USA [map](#)

Arrive early enough to be on the water at 8:00 am (High tide at Noank is 0825)

Catch the east-running tide to Noank then ride the back eddies up the Mystic River to the John Gardner Boat Shop at Mystic Seaport's Australia Beach. Lunch break and folks can take part in the Seaport's "Story Boats" events until slack tide. Then we will run back down the Mystic River to

catch the fair tide back to the Peruzzotti launch. (Approx. 20 miles) **SAFETY NOTE** This trip will bring us into Fishers Island Sound for a good stretch. Participants should be comfortable with wind, chop, boat wakes and channel crossings.

Matt advises that, similar to the May 1st :”Shakedown Row” (see following report), depending on the weather, wishes of the participants and if folks will be using the Chapter’s Dorries located at Mystic Shipyard, East, the Row could start and finish at Mystic Shipyard East. For more information contact Matt McKenzie matthew.mckenzie@uconn.edu

Tuesday June 14th - Friday June 17th: New this year is the **Squam Lake Raid, Squam Lake, New Hampshire** This filled up quickly. **The event is now full.** Details and map are on our website’s Events page but here is a quick summary: They will meet at the Squam Lake Association (SLA) headquarters/boat ramp in Holderness, NH then row/sail/paddle to a reserved, primitive island campsite about one mile away. The island includes a small beach and small dock to offload gear for the campsite. Space is was limited and advance registration was required. Matthew McKenzie is the organizer: matthew.mckenzie@uconn.edu. **Note to participants: please send photos of your adventure!**

Friday, June 24-Sunday, June 26th: This year the John Gardner Small Craft Workshop will again be held during The WoodenBoat Show on Friday to Sunday June 24 – 26 from 9am to 5pm, hosted by Mystic Seaport Museum and our Traditional Small Craft Association’s John Gardner Chapter.

This year’s theme is “It’s all about the Boats”, so if you bring a boat there will be an opportunity to share its story. **Mystic Seaport will be featuring its recently donated 21 ft. rowing and sailing Beachcomber-Alpha Dory (Chapter 18 in John Gardner’s Dory Book”)** at the Workshop as well as showing the exhibit “Story Boats, The Tales they Tell” in the Thompson



Exhibit Center. The Exhibit draws rich human interest stories from the Museum’s collection of more than 450 small watercraft through which we will be offering guided tours Saturday and Sunday afternoons.

In addition to having a booth to acquaint show attendees with the TSCA, there will also be demonstrations of skills that enhance the traditional small boat experience. Mystic Seaport Boathouse craft will also be available at no charge for participants to use. We are hoping for a continuous back drop to the Show of traditional small craft in action on the river.

All TSCA members are encouraged to attend with or without your own boat! There is plenty to do if you don't bring your own vessel. Registration will allow access to Australia Beach to launch & retrieve before and after hours. Launching and parking details will be posted with registration materials.

At 8 am on Saturday and Sunday morning before Museum hours, there will be a cruise in-company open to all workshop attendees. We will gather at the Australia Beach and cruise either up river past the highway bridge to the beautiful salt marshes or down river past the Village and classic yachts on their moorings.

Workshop participants can register to stay onboard the *Joseph Conrad* Friday and Saturday nights.

Attendees will be encouraged to help with the workshop, either by manning the booth at Australia Beach for a 2 hour period and/or giving a demonstration of some skill such as sail rigging, sculling, boat building, hardware making etc. If you have a skill that you would like to demonstrate at the show please volunteer. Demonstrations should last 20 minutes to half an hour and will be held mid-morning and mid-afternoon. We plan to hoist sails at 4 pm daily for a sail on the River.

Registration for the Small Craft Workshop also allows you admission to the WoodenBoat Show for all three days at no additional cost. Workshop fees: \$20 for Seaport Members and \$40 for non-members. Register at the Mystic Seaport Museum website. Go to Calendar and select Small Craft Workshop on June 24th thru 26th.

Indicate your interest in staffing the booth or demonstrating a skill on the registration form or contact Bill Rutherford at smallcrafter@gmail.com or 860-222-5249.

We will be checking people in at the South Gate as well as staffing the booth, leading rows, giving tours and leading workshops so we need volunteers. Please sign up for a time slot or activity. Thanks, Bill

May 1st's Shakedown Row

by Matt McKenzie

Shakedown, 2022, Mystic River

"How do you keep getting these great weather breaks for your rowing events?" Ian asked as we leisurely rode the tide and a quartering breeze down the Mystic River. He was part of the previous Fall's White Dory rehab crew, and like today, we enjoyed amazing weather when we launched that back in November. And indeed, this day proved spectacular—warm and calm after a month of blustering westerly springs winds that would make even Vivaldi rethink the harshness of his movement. But today, the sun shone, the breeze was kind and gentle, and three dories, a dinghy, and a kayak glided around the Mystic River for a few hours to shake out the winter cobwebs. Ian, Mackenzie, Meghan (UCONN Avery Point students), Roberta, Ron, Dane, and myself made up the flotilla for this opening event of the JGTSCA season.

Some surprises were had this spring, to be sure. One of the JGTSCA club dories had minor crack in its bottom plank that promised for a wet row if we launched it. Thankfully, the three prospective members and Ian were willing to pair up in the remaining two dories and make a morning of it. The day also proved kind to beginners—indeed, two of our prospects



had not rowed much before—so flat waters, light winds, and pairing skilled rowers with new comers made sense, as well. To be sure, this was not the 20 mile trip I had planned back in February. But in February, anything seems possible once the snow goes away. Instead, a few days before we head out, I made the executive decision to truncate the itinerary and shift location—and all that went to the good.

So, on a quiet Sunday morning, we gathered at the carry point next to Mystic Shipyard East, offloaded and schlepped a few boats down to the water, gabbed far longer than the impatient trip organizer (i.e., me, but I was a fully engaged gabber myself), and headed out. A few more surprises became clear in the first few hundred yards from the beach. Some of the oarlocks needed repair or overhaul, or just replacement, and I could have done a much better job of assigning the right length oars to rowing positions. But soon, both doubles resorted to one person reclining in the sternsheets, while the other rowed. And on such a glorious day, all was well with that, but for the absence of a parasol to shade the coxswain.

We worked our way up under the railroad bridge, then under the highway bridge, and on to Australia Beach at Mystic Seaport on the tail end of the flood tide. *Roseway*, the best example of a New England fishing schooner afloat, in my opinion, had just tied up at the seaport earlier in the morning, so we gave her and her crew a quick welcome as they unbent sails and did other work to ready her for a short yard stint. We beached, used the shore heads, walked around to ogle Mystic's schooner *Brilliant* and generally chit-chat about maritime history, small boats, and Swamp Yankees, and headed off again. Gliding back under the bridges, a few fellow courageous souls, who had roused early and walked along main street, took some snaps of us going down river past the finger piers—and I think we made a pretty picture for them. Then under the railroad bridge, and off to Steve Jones' yard in West Mystic to see if



anyone was about. This boatyard, filled with projects past and current, reminded both me and Dane the yards we had grown up in in southern New England. From the pier we could see fascinating boats on the hard waiting for overhaul, including a heavy, Norse looking dinghy with the most beautiful curved sheer I had ever seen. After a couple of minutes, though, seeing no one about, we headed off again, finishing our tour around 12:30.

I was indeed a good end to a blustery spring and a good start to the coming season. Time to clean off the cobwebs and fix the trailer lights.



The Rejuvenation of Building 36

The last three weeks have seen an amazing transformation of our Community Boathouse on the Avery Point Campus of the University of Connecticut. Shop Steward Matt Mckenzie marshaled a group of willing volunteers: Dan Nelson, Brian Cooper, Ellie Czarnowski, Roberta Engle and Bill Rutherford. Major amounts of siding were replaced, then the remaining siding scraped (a lot came off), primed and painted. Thanks to the University Facilities team for footing the bill for materials. Truly a team effort. We will let the pictures tell the story:





At the end of the day, Saturday, May 14th, repairs were made to the East (Entrance) side of the building, all siding primed and painted. What a difference! Thanks to Ellie, Brian, Dan and Matt.



During the week of May 17th, Matt tackled the North & South sides himself, leaving only the West end of the building to be scraped, primed and painted which was accomplished by Matt, new member Roberta Engle, Bill Rutherford and Ellie Czarnowski on Saturday, May 21st.

Quite a transformation! Only the windows remain, but we have a plan: simple “barn” type sashes set into the old rough openings then trimmed out with fresh casings. To be Continued!

Meanwhile, at the Seaport's Boat Livery:

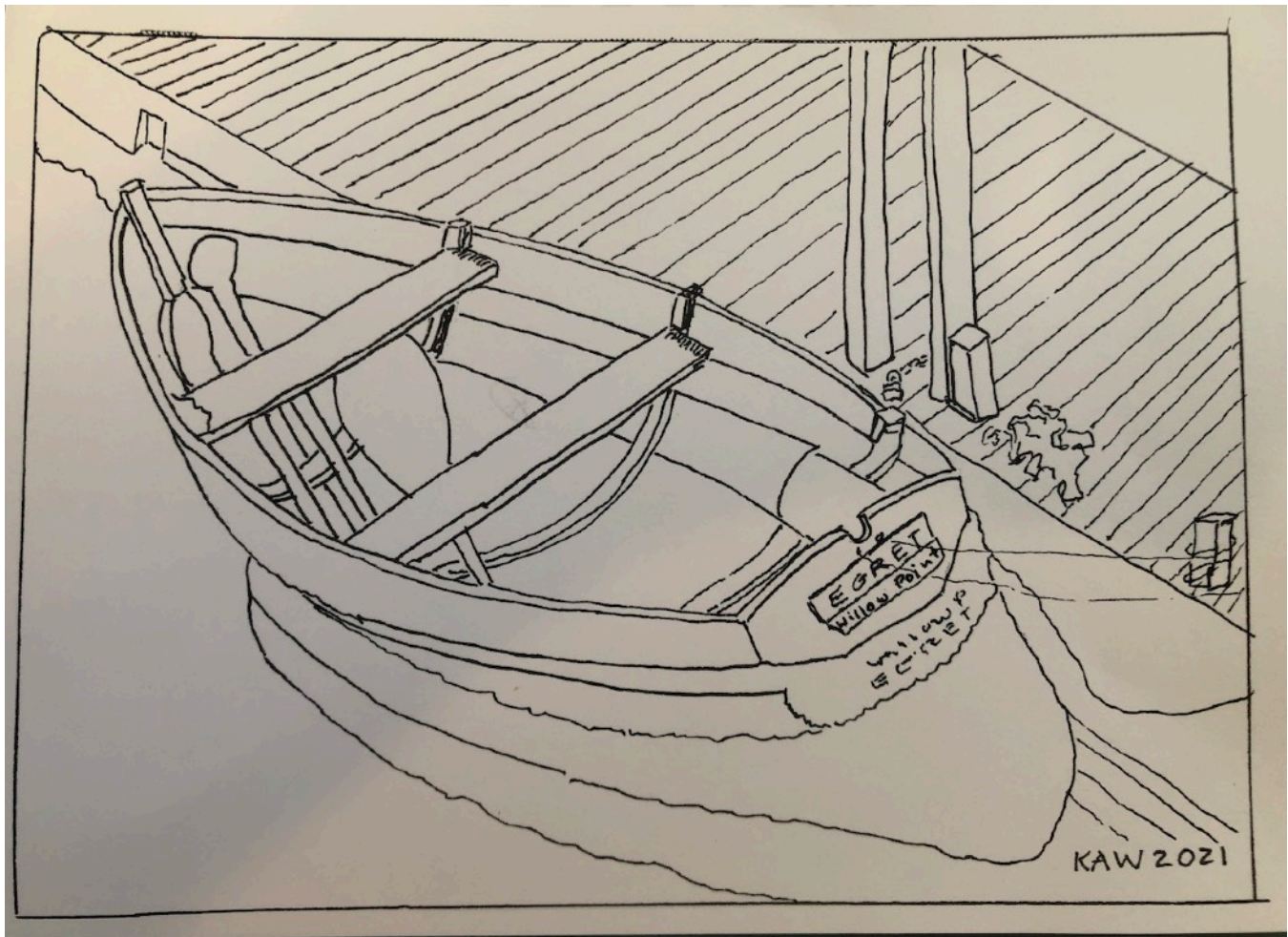
May 14th was "Pilots" Weekend when a group of supercharged Volunteers who show up only twice a year grabbed the freshly repaired, caulked and painted livery boats we winter Volunteers have been working on since last fall and carefully launched them for the season.



WINTER VOLUNTEERS JOE WILLIAMS & KAREN RUTHERFORD SORTING OARS AND NAMING BOATS



BOATHOUSE SUPERVISOR NICK PARKER PROUDLY TAKES SKIFF "MARY" OUT FOR HER FIRST ROW



MEMBER KATE WELLS' SKETCH OF STEVE JONES' EGRET

From the Side Deck:

Lots of activity at our respective Boathouses this month: our Community Boathouse at UCONN Avery Point getting a refurbished exterior and Mystic Seaport's Boat Livery launching boats after a winter's maintenance to start the new season. As Matt McKenzie's report shows, May 1st's Shakedown Row was a success and this weekend another opportunity presents: the first annual John Gardner Classic Row, which, Matt advises, may be truncated as was the Shakedown, so drop him an email at matthew.mckenzie@uconn.edu and open a conversation.

Keep your eye on the Events page of our website for further on-the-water activities. Better yet, plan to lead one, notify Brian Cooper at cooperbd@aol.com of your idea and we'll meet on boats during the summer. We, as a Chapter, are what we members make it.

The big deal, of course, is our signature Chapter event, our leading the John Gardner Small Craft Workshop, so take a minute now to go to www.mysticseaport.org/calendar and sign up to attend June 24th-26th. Even better email me smallcrafter@gmail.com to help with the event.

In the meantime, enjoy this great weather and send us a few words and photos to share. B&K