

# 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

**Dory Transom Rebuild and Routine Maintenance on Rowing Craft**

**Next Quarterly Meeting: Sunday, at 1:30 pm October 6th at UCONN  
Avery Point Community Boat Bldg. #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 welcome.

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

## News from around the Chapter

This year’s John Gardner Small Craft Workshop, held in conjunction with the WoodenBoat Show at Mystic Seaport Museum, was a great success. Boats arrived from as far North as Maine and as far South as St. Petersburg, Florida. Long-time members rubbed shoulders with new prospective members as we all talked traditional small craft, their shapes optimized for wind and people-power regardless of building material, not focusing on perfection but on utility and function. We use our Boats! Morning rows, quick sails on the river or slow rows along the waterfront admiring the beautiful craft in WoodenBoat’s Concours d’Elegance. We partook of Skills Demonstrations at the Seaport’s Shipyard, enjoyed WoodenBoat’s Speaker’s Series and participated in special celebrations: WoodenBoat’s 50th Anniversary and the kickoff event for the Seaport’s Wells Small Craft Hall.



At left: Joe young demonstrates "Stringing" an Oar with help from (l to R) Jason Youngers, JoAnn Young and grand-daughter with Ben Fuller holding everything together.

First of all a Big Thanks to: Welcoming folks at the South Entrance Registration Table: Liz Rutherford followed by Sarah Clement’s Seaport Staff; Staffing the Booth at Australia Beach: Dan Nelson, Carl Kaufman, Greg Schneider, David Deaville, Adam Blackwell, Mike Jones, John Hacunda; Coordinator of Delivery of

Dories: Phil Behney; Leader of Morning Rows: Brian Cooper; Demonstrations: Pete Peters' Explaining What the Tiller Tells Me" with hand-drawn diagrams, Joe & JoAnn Young and Grand-daughter "String Winding Oar Leathers" with invented oar rotator and Ben Fuller with Kevin Rathbone explaining the intricacies of the Sprintsail Rig. Ben also brought his portable chart holder for small boats (see Small Boats Nation for DIY article); Off-Site Pot-Luck Hosts: the Blackwells & Rutherford's with able assist from Peggy Vermilya (three! salads) as well as "Klondike Bar Deliverers" Charlotte & Oliver Blackwell; Fastest Sailboat: Paul & Dawn Miller in their in their beautiful Wayfarer; Furthest Travelled: Mike Jones towing his "new" (to him) 1966 John Gardner built Gunning Dory) all the way from St. Petersburg, Florida!

And welcome to the first/timers: Jason Youngers, Don Barker, Ian & Francis Bradley, as well as long time members Larry & Bonnie Magee and Charley Hatton as well as good friends Thad Danielson and David & Katherine Cockey.

A big Thanks to our sponsors: Mystic Seaport Museum (Sarah Clement, and her Waterfront Staff including Rosie DiMatteo, Supervisor of the Seaport's Boat Livery) as well as WoodenBoat, who celebrated its 50th Anniversary at the Show.

Events: In addition to those described in our June News: Concours d'Elegance, WB Speaker's Series in the North entrance as well as Skills Demonstrations at the Seaport's Shipyard near the South entrance, we shared two special events, the announcement/celebration for the new Wells Small Craft Hall in the old Rosie Mill/CRC and a 50th Anniversary celebration by WoodenBoat Magazine which included an address by Jon Wilson. Did I mention the free beer?

In addition we had our own events: we Rowed the Mighty Mystic, held Demonstrations on rigging spritsails, stringing oar leathers and a fun talk on sail shape, all at our TSCA tent. Off-site we relaxed at our usual pot-luck Saturday night dinner and swapped sailing yarns until dark.



On Left: Charlotte Blackwell returning from a morning row in her Natoma Skiff.

Next year: Perhaps we provide the means for visitors to hand make a wooden keepsake (a key chain?) A rope fender? QR Codes to Chapter listings of events near where visitors live? Lots of possibilities... let us know your ideas.

## Results of Latest Quarterly Meeting:

John Gardner Chapter of TSCA

Quarterly Business Meeting

July 7, 2024

UCONN Avery Point Campus

President Ian Bradley called the meeting to order at 1:56pm.

Members present: Ron and Leigh Reinhart, John Hacunda, Phil Behney, Elie Czarnowski, Karen Rutherford, Dan Nelson, Peter Vermilya, Bill Rutherford, Matt McKensie, Ian Bradley

### 1. Secretary's report

The Minutes for the last Business Meeting on 01/28.2024 were unanimously accepted.

### 1. Treasurer's report

Elie Czarnowski submitted a current Treasurer's report which was unanimously accepted. The Report shows a bank balance of \$16,371.12, of which \$10,000.00 makes up the Sidney Whelan Fund.

### 1. Old Business

- Sidney Whalen donation for traditional small craft education, research, and construction:

There was a lengthy discussion about the need for a well thought out structure for distributing grants from Sidney Whelan's donation, a process that would reflect his wishes. Sid's letter that accompanied the gift will be re-circulated.

The structure that lies behind the national TSCA John Gardner Grants may serve as a possible model. John Weiss will be contacted.

Issues of liability and the need to work with UCONN were discussed, especially if young people are involved.

All present agreed that we will want to be slow and thorough in developing the structure.

- Club Dories

Phil Behney reported that work on two of the club dories (now in the shop) was progressing, if a bit slowly. He needs new pumps for the epoxy jugs. Elie Czarnowski said she would buy them.

- Modifications to the Club Trailer

Phil reported that the club trailer can carry all four of the club dories without further modifications - but this situation may not continue as club members get older.

## 1. New Business

- Possible upcoming events, outings and adventures.
  - Members discussed
    - Mamacoke Island
    - Rogers Lake
    - Lieutenant River and Great Island
    - Use of Pilgrims Landing
    - The foliage row in late October on the Pawcatuck River
    - Possible visits to boatbuilders Arnold Chester, Tony Lush, David Snediker
  - There was general agreement the we should reinstitute having our December meeting at the Customs House Maritime Museum.
- Plans for visitor presentations
  - Bill Rutherford suggested following the example of the North Shore Chapter's holding of monthly speakers presentations.
- Member presentations of crafts and skills/ small projects.
  - Bill Rutherford gave a short presentation that included his wooden boat hook, a full hull model, and a chart holder as hands-on activities that might attract people to meetings who were not necessarily fascinated by working on club boats or the "other person yacht"
- Photos and update of the Pete Culler Wherry Skiff rehab project.
  - Ian Bradley will supply Bill Rutherford with photos of the Culler skiff for Bill to include in the next JGTSCA Newsletter.

## 2. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:56pm.

Respectfully submitted by

Peter Vermilya

Secretary

Note: Our next formal meeting is scheduled for Sunday, October 6th at 1:30 pm at our Avery Point Community Boathouse. Watch our events page <http://www.jgtasca.org/events.html> for any possible change in venue as well as upcoming Rows, Sails or above mentioned Shipyard visits.

Dory Maintenance continues. If any of the small hands-on projects are of interest, contact Bill Rutherford and we'll re-institute the Friday evening shop gatherings, perhaps even roasting some hot dogs...



## Upcoming at Mystic Seaport Museum:

**July 12-14: Member Reciprocal Days with the Wadsworth Atheneum** <https://secure.mysticseaport.org/24098/24101>

**July 13th: Newfoundland Dog Water Rescue Training** <https://secure.mysticseaport.org/public-events/23990>

**July 13th: Flock Theatre presents "As You Like It"** <https://secure.mysticseaport.org/public-events/24120>

**July 13th: Woodies on the Green** <https://secure.mysticseaport.org/public-events/24002>

**July 25: Member's Music Cruise** <https://secure.mysticseaport.org/21909/23965>

## From the Mailbag:

This just in from fellow Seaport Boathouse Volunteer Larry Tytla: "Should you run into Rob Pittaway..." with the accompanying photo of his "new" Pittaway-designed Stonington Pulling Boat:



Looks fast just standing still....

## The View from then Side Deck:

Pretty quiet here after the grill has been put away but the view is terrific! Stop on by...

Meanwhile remember your dues: go to <http://www.jgtsca.org/join-us.html> for the form and map of the Avery Point Campus which shows the location of the Community Boathouse, Building #36.

And think of joining National, if you have not already done so. More members help us defray the cost of event insurance, provide copies of the "Ash Breeze" and promote our traditional small craft. Go to <https://tsca.net/join/> for a mail-in form or join on-line. A copy of our latest National TSCA Council Meeting Minutes are attached so you can see what we are up to...

And we'll close with a photo of Clay Seelgen and his tee shirt which says it all...



Fair Winds: Send us logs of your travels and adventures. Hope to see you in person soon.

Bill & Karen Rutherford