

# Mainsheet



Newsletter of the Delaware River Chapter, TSCA

February, 2006

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, February 7, 7:30 pm  
at Red Dragon Canoe Club

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 7, 1930 hours at the Red Dragon Canoe Club. Here is the schedule for 2006 meetings, so far:

- Jan** Workshop on the Water
- Feb** "The Wet Edge"  
(Varnishing with Cap'n Pete)
- Mar** GPS (Bill Covert and Dan Noble)
- Apr** Bid & Buy (auctioneer TBD)
- May** Trailer Preparation (Outside speaker)  
Marion Fixup (first weekend)
- Jun** Pond Boat Regatta  
TSCA National and Mystic Meet  
St. Mary's Regatta possible (18-19)
- Jul** Shanty Sing  
Berkley Island Sail (July 12)
- Aug** Inboard Motor (Phil Maynard)  
Marion Days
- Sep** Racing Rules for Sailboats  
Messabout at Union Lake (Sep 9 or 16)
- Oct** Wood (Paul Skalka)  
MASCFC (Oct 7 & 8)
- Nov** Adirondack Guide Boat (Frank Stauss)
- Dec** Christmas party

Notes From Cap'n Frank...

Our January meeting found us as visitors at the Workshop on the Water which is part of the Independence Seaport Museum. I expected a large turnout and was not disappointed.



Photo by Phil Maynard

John Brady gave a fascinating talk on several items in the museum; first on the list was the replica of a Barnegat Bay B-cat he is building, SILENT MAID. She is Sweisguth-designed, marginally larger than the A-cats, and a two year project. John described in fascinating detail the difficulty of engineering a plank on frame catboat of that size that could stand up to the torques of a modern rig in a competitive environment. (More info about SILENT MAID can be seen at [www.woodboatbuilder.com](http://www.woodboatbuilder.com))

Next on the program was the shad fishing boat that is part of the museum's hands-on exhibit (Mar 2003).

Finally we entered the main exhibition room where so many of our favorite boats are displayed; sneakboxes, tuckups, duckers, railbird skiffs, naptha launches, with John giving a short talk about each one. The night ended with our group being able to explore the Workshop on the Water, ask questions, and

## **Notes from Cap'n Frank, cont'd.**

possibly dream of our own projects waiting to be built.

Meetings such as this always give me "a kick in the stern" to get busy on my next project.

Winter is a great time for me to catch up on reading. Thanks to Pete, I read *First You Have to Row a Little Boat*. The only problem was that I read it last month and wanted to go sailing. Unfortunately, I will have to wait a few months for that to happen. If someone is looking for a book to read let me suggest *A Unit of Water, A Unit of Time*, written by Douglas Whynott in 1999. Mr. Whynott spent a year at Brooklin Boat Yard, observing the building of the W-76, a large day boat. It was the last boat the legendary boat designer, Joel White, was involved in. Great story, I think I might read it again.

I hope to see you all at the next meeting. I am trying to come up with a budget for 2006. Any ideas you might have would be greatly appreciated.

## **Other Clubs**

January 8, I went to a meeting of the Wooden Canoe Heritage Association. Dick Christie gave a great demonstration of building a double paddle. The next meeting is February 12 in Bristol; Al Bratton will demonstrate tool sharpening. He is the ultimate authority on strip planking and restoring wood-canvas canoes. He has two double-ended rowboats for sale and ready for restoration. It is a great outfit for winter meets and summer trips. To join see **CanoeAl@aol.com**.

## **Other Articles**

Speaking of new projects, I love my Bolger Gypsy, but wouldn't it be heaven to build and have your own Melonseed? Being a Melonseed aficionado-without-portfolio, I was excited about an article in *Messing About in Boats*. It was a workshop in Norwalk, Connecticut that would help you to build an Eric Schade-designed kit boat. One of the boats offered is a Melonseed. So I went for a visit and was very impressed with the whole operation.

The shop is not far from the train station in Norwalk, Connecticut, so traveling back and forth by train is workable.

You start with a pre-fabricated kit where each plank has been cut by a computer-controlled router, and you build the boat in their Norwalk shop with tools, supervision and even a dust free area for spray painting. One of the principles of the program is that they not build the boat for you but show you how to do a good job of it yourself.

I found the builder, Peter Hess, was very knowledgeable and would be an easy person to work with. I am very tempted to sign up.

Obviously, there is a premium for this kind of treatment, but, if you need confidence, or are ready to reach for the next skill level in boatbuilding, it would be worth every penny.

Anybody want to join me?

Mike Wick

## **Film Festival**

On February 11 from 12- 6 pm there will be a Film Festival sponsored by the Lehigh Valley Canoe Club. It will be open to the public and families are invited.

The theme is "Alternatives to River Paddling." Films will come from the National Paddling Film Festival and local talent. Marilyn Vogel will submit a video. There will be speakers and pool demos.

It will be in Hellertown, PA at the Saucon Valley High School, 2100 Polk Valley Road, Hellertown, PA 18055, 610-838-7001.

There will be a silent auction. For more info see the Lehigh Valley Canoe Club website:

**<http://www.enter.net/~lvcc/>**

## **Paddlesport 2006**

***The East Coast's biggest kayak, canoe, and outdoor expo!!!*** March 24, 25 & 26 Friday Noon-9 pm, Saturday 9 am-6 pm & Sunday 9 am-4:30 pm. Garden State Exhibit Center, Somerset, New Jersey. Admission is only \$10 and FREE to children under 14 years of age.

## ***Paddlesport, cont'd.***

The biggest Kayak, Canoe and Outdoor Show on the East Coast will once again be presented by The Jersey Paddler of Brick, New Jersey. Exhibits will include manufacturers of kayaks, canoes, accessories, sportswear, paddling clubs professional instruction and expeditions.

Lectures and video/slide shows of exotic trips and expeditions, plus paddling techniques.

PaddleSport 2006 will host over 100 vendors including the top names in paddle sports such as Perception, Dagger, Ocean Kayak, Wilderness Systems, Mad River Canoe, Old Town and much more! Also attending will be many outdoor gear and clothing manufacturers such as Mountain Hardwear, Life Is Good, Teva, Kokatat and Chota just to name a few.

Throughout the weekend there will be a variety of informative and entertaining lectures from experts in the industry. From novice to expert, whether you attend to learn or to buy, don't miss the chance to take advantage of professional advice and great show pricing.

The Garden State Exposition Center, in Somerset, NJ is a 70,000 square foot facility making PaddleSport 2006 the biggest show on the East Coast. It is conveniently located off of I-287 Exit 10, a 45-minute drive from Manhattan, one hour from Center City Philadelphia, and within easy reach of the Garden State Parkway and the New Jersey Turnpike, giving easy access to all of New Jersey, New York, Connecticut and Pennsylvania.

Presented by The Jersey Paddler, Brick, NJ and sanctioned by the American Canoe Association and Subaru.

FOR MORE, INFORMATION CALL  
1-888-22-KAYAK or 1-732-458-5777

## Progress Report

New member Harold Bernard is building an Iain Oughtred Macgregor canoe. Here's a quick look at his progress:



## For Sale

For additional info and photos, contact Chuck Sutherland or Marilyn Vogel at 215-453-9084 or [skimmer@enter.net](mailto:skimmer@enter.net).

17' aluminum Grumman sailing canoe. Wood mast with jib mast attachment. Factory main and jib. Rig includes rudder, leeboard, mounting thwarts and boom, \$750.

Also, an electric trolling motor, four speed. Includes mounting bracket, battery and cable, \$90.

# *Mainsheet*

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