
Mainsheet

Newsletter of the Delaware River Chapter, TSCA

November 2007

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 6, 7:30 P.M., at the Red Dragon Canoe Club.

There will be a presentation on Strip Plank Construction by Carl Weissinger. Carl has built two perfect Melonseeds in the last two years, a production that exceeds the output of the rest of the club. It will be a class too good to miss.



RE DUCKS, Carl Weissinger's latest Melonseed

The Christmas Party will be held at the Café Gallery, 219 High Street, Burlington, NJ on December 4 at 7 P.M. This is the same location as last year's Christmas Party. The food and the view are excellent; the company is even better. Be sure not to miss this annual event.

The October 2nd presentation was scheduled in anticipation of the Mid-Atlantic Small Craft Festival. It was a review of the updated racing rules by Jenny Thompson. Her presentation was partly responsible for the handful of trophies and ribbons that the Delaware River Fleet was able to bring home from St. Michaels this year. Jenny used boat shaped magnets on a metal board (expertly handled by Andy) to guide us through the rules and situations that can arise on the race course. I was glad to learn that there has been a conscious effort to simplify the rules since the old days. Now you can understand

how the rules apply by thinking about the intention of the rule makers. As an example, legislators encourage boats striving for a mark to try for a safe leeward passage in order to avoid crowding and collisions at the mark. The best way to remember the rules is to think about the intention behind the rule.

A-CAT SAIL



On September 26, John Brady invited the Delaware River TSCA out sailing on the A-cats. The day was sunny and hot with a nice breeze. We assembled at deRouville's Boatshop in Tom's River. The group split into thirds with Ingrid, John Brady, and Bill deRouville as captains. We piled onto Henry's leaky RHI to go out to the moored cats. Someone piped up, "Hope the Coast Guard doesn't see us now," so my son (an off duty Coastie) closed his eyes.

The first group disembarked onto WITCH, a dark purple hulled wonder, built by Bill deRouville in 2002. WITCH is a beautiful boat with a finished cabin and a stereo system. She has full-length benches in her friendly cockpit. That group was off their mooring and sailing before the next bunch disembarked onto WASP, built by Tom Beaton in 1980 and one of the first "new" boats since the 1920's.

WASP has a slightly longer rear deck with the tiller mounted on the deck instead of inside the

cockpit. She is a traditionally built boat and, like her sisters, carries no ballast except for a crew of live weight. The rail meat all sit facing outboard with their feet hanging over rather than the usual hiking out position. This feels very civilized. Also, about half the crew will walk in front of the mast on a tack.

The last batch hopped onto TORCH, built by John Brady in 2002. We slipped the mooring, leaving the workboat there for the ride home later. None of the A-cats have auxiliary power. Everything on these boats is scaled up from our usual small craft. The sail battens are all longer than I am tall. The massive centerboard and case splits the cockpit in two, but as soon as it is down the space becomes more congenial. The boats sail fast with the rail in the water, and there is a heavy weather helm. I was just able to hold it when my turn came to drive. Steering TORCH was the best part of my summer. What a rush 600 square feet of sail provides.

I had been privileged to be part of TORCH's crew for two races in July. Both those times I was responsible for one of the running backstays. The single 46 foot wooden mast has two backstays. On a tack or jibe, one backstay needs to be released while synchronously the other must be hauled in. The boom is almost thirty feet long and swings with a lot of force on a jibe. On our cruise we tacked each time, a much safer maneuver for the boats. As we were sailing around, TAMWOCK came out to join us. She is sailed by the Ocean County College Sailing Club. It was fun to see four A-cats out sailing together.

Thank you John Brady for the opportunity to experience these great boats and a bit of Bay heritage. The Workshop on the Water is building a new A-cat, and we'll visit sometime this winter to see its progress. SILENT MAID, the B-cat, can be seen on live webcam at http://www.phillyseaport.org/boatshop_webcam.shtml. The workshop crew stained her topsides this week; it is on to varnishing next.

Wendy Byar

Gunkhole Cruise to Wye Island:

This is an expedition just before the beginning of the MASCF at St. Michaels. Last year there was too much wind for the camp-cruising fleet to make the passage down the Miles River to Wye Island. Instead, they sailed upriver and camped out on a member's lawn. That wasn't the case this year. This year there was too little wind. Most of us chose to outboard and tow or row down the Miles and up the Wye, about 9 miles each way. We set out at noon, shepherded by John Stump in a small inboard that managed to carry most of the excess baggage "Not Required on the Voyage". There were four small boats, and many of the crew were survivors from a similar cruise last spring from Cortez to Sarasota, Florida.

It is true that we suffered from a lack of wind, but there was good food, good camping, and good company. Roland Anderson and John England made the trip in Roland's Glen-L 15. Ron Gibbs and Greg Decowsky traveled in Ron's Celebrity MUD HEN. Our intrepid sailors Bill and Karen Rutherford were in their Bolger Harbinger Catboat, CACTUS WREN, and Doug Oeller and Mike Wick were aboard Doug's Marsh Cat COMFORT. And comfort it was, indeed. Sleeping on either side of the centerboard left plenty of room to roll over, a luxury foreign to sleeping aboard most small craft. Our boom tent offered plenty of headroom, enough even for a rainy day.

The next day was equally flat. At first we towed Roland and Ron behind COMFORT, duckling style, but we quickly decided it made better sense to turn them over to our new chase-boat, Don's YANKEE TRADER, as our gasoline supply became problematic in an extended calm. Bill and Karen, patient sailors that they are, toughed it out and drifted from catspaw to catspaw to arrive back at St. Michaels not much after their more impatient brethren. That brings me to:

MASCF 2007:

Last year there was too much wind; this year there was too little.



Skippers' Meeting

You can see from the stern looks of the high-strung participants that they have been tested by the calm of the big high that remained over Chesapeake Bay that weekend. Even George Loos was challenged by the ghosting conditions.



George Loos in his Blue Jay



Mike Wick on his way to the start, giving way to a log canoe

I guess I was too busy taking pictures, because I was back in the pack at the start, but our fleet didn't do badly. Bill Covert and Pete Peters were near the top of the fleet; they hugged the South Shore while the rest of us ran across the river in the tide surrounding the turning mark. Roger Allen was up there too, with his borrowed Cortez Melonseed, MISS KATE. I saw a sailing canoe just miss disaster as he rounded the weather mark too close, forgetting he had a wider structure at rig-height than at the waterline. He just scraped by. The run to the finish was too late for me to recover much.



Roger Allen in MISS KATE

THREE-LEGGED RACE:

Sunday started with the strenuous three-legged race. This is a fun event that begins at the big tent for a walk-don't-run start. Cast off and row to the first mark, set sail and race to the mid-channel turning mark, then row and/or sail to the dock and race-walk to the finish in the tent. First to finish was APPLE PIE, then CALICO JACK, URCHIN, PEPITA, and BLACK SWAN.

MASCF XXV RACE RESULTS

* Starred entries are Delaware River TSCA types.

Sailing, Performance Class

1st Graham Byrnes SOUTHERN SKIMMER
2nd Rod Mincher TWEEZER
3rd Al Fittipaldi SEXY GRANDPA *

3 Sail

1st Robert Blomquist SCOOMA
2nd Mariana Leshner MARIANNE
3rd James Miller SCHOONER

2 Sail

1st Doug Burrill HOPE
2nd Ron Gibbs MUDHEN *
3rd Robert Austin SIRIUS

1 Sail

1st Chris Smith
2nd Nathan Brown "310" SAGAMORE
3rd Pete Peters OBADIAH *

Melonseed

1st David Lucas LAYLAH
2nd Roger Allen MISS KATE
3rd John Guidera Tom Jones' MELONSEED

Sailing Canoe

1st Brian Duff STORMY SKYES
2nd William Covert BLACK SWAN *
3rd Scott Lavertue 16/30 CANOE

Pumpkin Class

Jim Thayer

Paddling and Rowing

Men's Kayak

1st Peter Doyle
2nd Mark Kaufman

Women's Kayak

1st Dawn Johns
2nd Rebecca Murtha
3rd Cathy Guddy

Men's Oar on Gunwale

1st Brian Scher
2nd George Loos *
3rd Al Fittipaldi *

Women's Rowing

1st Wendy Byar *
2nd Liz Rutherford *
3rd Marla Surgent

Men's and Mixed Double

1st Kevin Brennan, George Surgent
2nd Claude Lawrence, Lauren Wenzel, Thomas Lawrence
3rd Peter Byar, Wendy Byar *

Kids 9 & over

1st Iain Parkes
2nd Frances Klavercamp
3rd Rebecca Murtha

Kids 8 & under

Destiny Lavertue

Cardboard Canoe

1st Kelly Blasé
2nd Frances Klavercamp, Rebecca Murtha
3rd Stuart Butler, Peter Butler
4th Ian Parkes

JUDGING

Traditional Design, Contemporary Construction

- 1st Dennis Wolfe SPARKY
- 2nd Jerry Mulins TUXEDO JUNCTION
- 3rd Tom Lathrop SCAMP

Traditional Design & Construction

- 1st John Hutchinson GRACE
- 2nd Keene J Garvin ANITA
- 3rd Charles Steigerwald MYSTIC

Restoration

- 1st Leslie Owen SOLO
- 2nd Claude Lawrence

Contemporary

- 1st Jim Drake SCRAT
- 2nd Philip McLean SEA DART
- 3rd Wilcoxon Marine ELECTRACAT

Paddling

- 1st Brian Carlsen
- 2nd Mark Kaufman ALEUT BIADARKA
- 3rd Jimmy Smith LIL' GWENIE

Joe Leiner Award

Tom Shephard MARION BREWINGTON



Notes from Cap'n Frank:

Kids Write about the Sea

1. This is a picture of an octopus. It has eight testicles. (Kelly, age 6)
2. Oysters' balls are called pearls. (James, age 6)
3. If you are surrounded by sea, you are on an island. If you don't have sea all around you, you are incontinent. (Wayne, age 7)
4. Sharks are ugly and mean, and have big teeth, just like Emily Richardson. She's not my friend no more. (Kylie, age 6)
5. A dolphin breathes through an asshole on top of its head. (Billy, age 8)
6. My uncle goes out in his boat with pots, and comes back with crabs. (Millie, age 6)
7. When ships had sails, they used the trade winds to cross the ocean. Sometimes, when the wind didn't blow, the sailors would whistle to make the wind come. My brother said they would have been better off eating beans. (William, age 7)
8. I like mermaids. They are beautiful, and I like their shiny tails. And how on earth do mermaids get pregnant? Like, really. (Helen, age 6)
9. Some fish are dangerous. Jellyfish can sting. Electric eels can give you a shock. They live in caves under the sea where I think they plug themselves into chargers. (Chris age 7)
10. When you go swimming in the sea, it's very cold, and it makes my willy small. (Kevin, age 6)
11. Divers have to be safe when they go under the water. Two divers can't go alone, so they have to go down on each other. (Becky, age 8)

For Sale:

West Wight Potter 15' 1986, vg condition \$2700.
Shoreline Trailer 1986, good condition, \$300.
David Soltesz, 609-351-2312
soulinvictus@comcast.net

'83 Sea Pearl, MHC00043M83H. Fast, unballasted leeboard model; wishbone Marconi rig. Boat, rig, and tanbark sails all in good condition. Includes 1983 Highlander trailer in fair-to-good condition; bunks need replacing for any long-distance travel. New 9.5' ash oars and custom cover by Linthicum Sailmakers, 2006. Tanaka 5.5 hp outboard and remote tank; motor not run since 2003. Canvas Cabin like new; used once \$4800 firm. Ned Asplundh, 215-947-2052 or nasplundh@yahoo.com.

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