Measn Breeze

Journal of the Traditional Small Craft Association

Building America's Whaling Boats

IN THIS ISSUE

Family Boat Building in Texas

How to Make Your Own Cleats

CBMM Summer Boat Shop Programs

Lug Rigs for Everyone



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Traditional Small Craft Association, Inc. is a nonprofit, taxexempt educational organization that works to preserve and continue the living traditions, skills, lore, and legends surrounding working and pleasure watercraft with origins that predate the marine gasoline engine. It encourages the design, construction, and use of these boats, and it embraces contemporary variants and adaptations of traditional designs.

TSCA is an enjoyable yet practical link among users, designers, builders, restorers, historians, government, and maritime institutions.

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President's Message



As I write this letter I am looking forward to the WoodenBoat Show at Mystic Seaport and our annual Small Craft Meet. Hopefully, many of our members will take advantage of the combination of a boat show and an active participation on the water. As in the past, the boat livery will be open and free to participants giving members a chance to try out a variety of boats.

In a previous message I threw out some ideas for expanding our membership by reaching out to young people in the Boy Scouts and other organizations. Another idea has come to my attention. A number of schools are showing an interest in the St. Ayles Skiff Project. These skiffs are ideal for groups of kids to get out on the water. Several schools in South Jersey, where I live, are currently ordering kits. This could be an opportunity for the local TSCA Chapters to get involved helping with

the building and possibly picking up a few new members.

This is my last message since my council term is complete. It has been an honor to serve the TSCA these past three years. We currently have three council members waiting to be approved by vote. Nominated to serve three-year terms are: Russell Smith (CT), Ned Asplundh (PA), and Andy Wolfe (VA). You will receive an electronic ballot by email very soon. We are still searching for a new treasurer to replace Chuck Meyers. I want to thank Chuck for his work as treasurer over the years. I also want to thank Andy Wolfe, and his staff at Mariner Media, for his continual superb job on the Ash Breeze. I look forward to it getting better and better. Remember we need articles from the membership. And, as always, thank you to John Weiss for his continual work as membership coordinator.

-Tom Shephard

Praise for the Color Ash Breeze

"Most impressed with the presentation of the *Ash Breeze*. It has become a real quality publication."

-Stuart K. Hopkins

"Congratulations, what a wonderful publication, it looks great. Receiving the *Ash Breeze* alone is now worth TSCA membership dues."

-David Wyman

"What a beautiful publication. Great paper and color! So far I have read everything at least twice."

-Robert Hallett

Send us your comments. Also, send us your stories and pictures, so that you too can be featured in the *Ash Breeze*.





by Darrah Foster at Independence Seaport Museum

It's an exciting time in the national boat building community—the last surviving whaleship and oldest commercial vessel in America is under complete restoration by Mystic Seaport Museum. The National Whaleboat Project is supporting this effort with ten whaleboats being built by nine organizations in seven states. The new whaleboats will accompany *Charles W. Morgan* on her 38th voyage to various New England ports in 2014.

The partnering organizations include Alexandria Seaport Foundation, the Apprentice Shop, Beetle Boatshop in partnership with New Bedford Whaling Museum, Gannon & Benjamin Marine Railway, Great Lakes Boat Building School, Independence Seaport Museum, Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, Lowell's Boat Shop, and Rocking the Boat.

The National Whaleboat Project reached out to local schools offering students a hands-on experience building a whaleboat.

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Whaleboats

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Independence Seaport Museum's President and CEO, John Brady, said, "We love the idea of working with Mystic Seaport Museum on the *Morgan* restoration project. It fits into our mission and gives us the opportunity to partner with local schools and expand our STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) program."

With this project, each organization faces project challenges while building the whaleboats. Organizations working with students to build the whaleboat are tasked with teaching students while trying to accomplish set benchmarks in a timely manner. Rocking the Boat's Executive Director, Adam Green, explained, "The heart of our challenge has been doing complex work with high expectations working with a group of high school students. The project requires an enormous level of commitment on their part."

Building a whaleboat is something the Beetle Shop knows how to accomplish. They were the original builders of the Beetle Whaleboat. James Beetle designed this boat in New Bedford, Massachusetts, in the mid-to-late 1800s and was found on most whaleships. Boat builders Bill Sauerbrey and Manny Palomo took the lead on this project. "Being a part of this project brought us back to our original roots as whaleboat builders, and allowed us to share that history. The Beetle Shop was originally located in New Bedford, the "Whaling Capital" of the world in its heyday," said the Beetle Shop's Office Manager, Michelle Buoniconto.

Each organization is excited to be a part of the *Morgan*'s restoration effort. Lowell's Boatshop Workshop Manager, Graham McKay, said, "We took on this whaleboat project to be a part of an amazing national effort, while at the same time, establishing our own apprentice program for local high school students."

The restoration of the *Charles W. Morgan* has brought organizations and workshops together from all over the country to help her begin a new life. "Not only is this a very

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interesting project for our apprentices that are steeped in American history, but also great to have the honor to take part in a national effort to support the *Morgan*," stated Alexandria Seaport Foundation's Workshop Manager, Howell Crim. The ten whaleboats will complete her outfit by swinging from her davits, but her future depends on continual preservation.

Visit www.mysticseaport.org to find out how to donate.



Above: A high school apprentice working on a whaleboat.

Below: The Beetle name was found on most of the original whaleboats, including the Charles W. Morgan.









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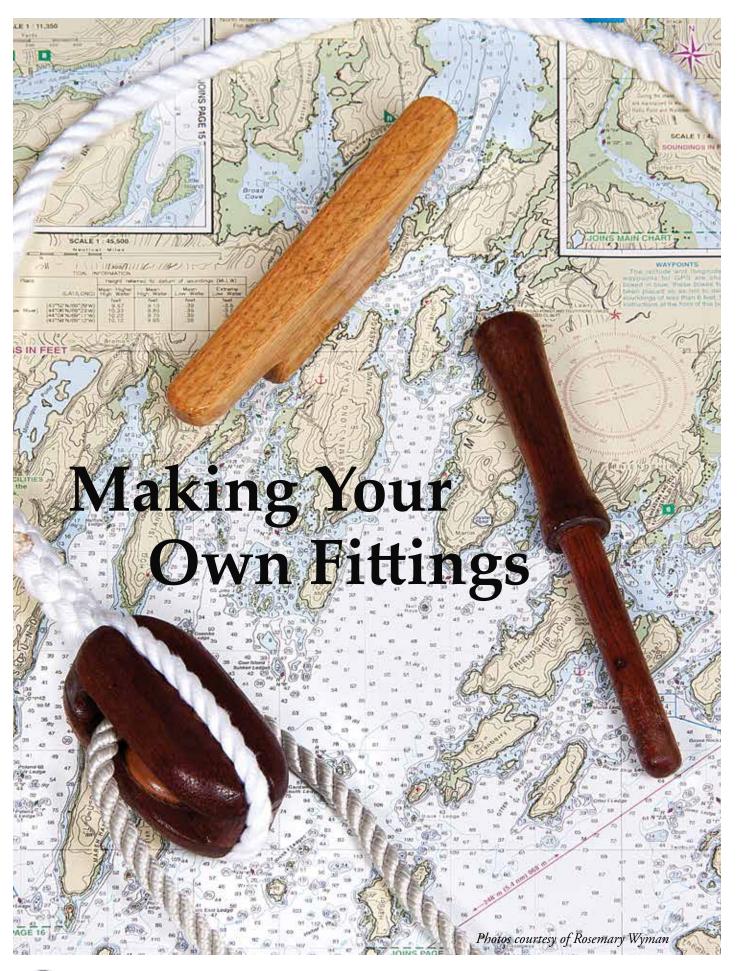
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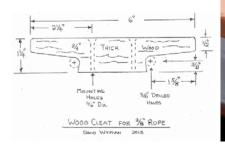


Part 2: Making a Simple but Effective Wooden Cleat

by David Wyman

Cleats are an important part of any small boat's hardware. A simple wooden cleat can easily be made with limited tools and modest skill. Cleats need to be large enough to easily cleat a line; cleats that are too small are an aggravation! Because this wooden cleat is easy, inexpensive, and fun to make, you can have as many as you want. On my 16foot boat I have a large bow cleat for a mooring, two stern cleats, and three additional cleats on each side (if I had just one more, I might have enough!). There have been many types of cleats developed over the years, but this simple cleat works well for temporarily securing any line such as halyard, sheet, mooring line, anchor line, etc. The drawing shows a 6-inch cleat that is designed for use with 3/8-inch diameter rope, which I consider to be the right size for a small boat. A 3/8-inch line is strong enough, and it is the smallest size that is easily held in your hand; anything smaller is hard to grab and pull on with wet and cold hands.

Cleats should be made of a reasonably hard wood such as oak or mahogany (most soft woods are not strong enough). Oak and mahogany are readily available at most home building supply stores in 34-inch thick boards, which are a good thickness to use for making cleats for 3%-inch diameter rope. If you need a cleat for larger or smaller rope, you can adjust the dimensions using the ratio of the rope's diameters. For example if you want a cleat for 1/2-inch diameter rope, multiply each dimension by 1.33 ($\frac{1}{2}$ inch divided by $\frac{3}{8}$ inch = 1.33). Therefore our 6-inch cleat becomes an 8-inch cleat made from 1-inch thick wood for securing a 1/2-inch line.



To build this 6-inch cleat, follow these steps:

- 1. First cut out a 1¼-inch by 6-inch piece of wood from a ¾-inch thick board.
- 2. Mark the location for the two 3%-inch diameter holes.



3. Drill the two 3/8-inch diameter holes in the positions marked.



4. Draw the cutout lines for the cleat, intersecting the holes that were just drilled.



5. Cut out the rough shape of the cleat with a saw.



6. Once you have a rough cleat shape cut from the wood, you then want to round all of the edges with a file so that there are no sharp edges on the cleat.



7. Mounting holes should be drilled in the position shown on the drawing and countersunk for mounting with flat head bolts or screws.



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Left: A Wooden Block, Cleat, and Belaying Pin made with simple hand tools by the author. Top Center: Drawing of Cleat Design. Top Right: A simple wooded cleat.





The Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum (CBMM) has announced new summer boat shop programs for woodworkers or anyone with a desire to build. The programs began June 7 and run through August 8.

CBMM's *Friday Open Boat Shop* program takes place on the evenings of June 7, July 26, August 9, and August 23, and invites members of the public to work on a small woodworking project of their own, or to bring ideas for a longer term project. Participants will receive the advice and guidance of an experienced shipwright and woodworker, and can expect assistance with CBMM's machinery and tools, plans, measurements, and the execution of their small-scale project. Projects could include plans for a small gift, frames, furniture, models, artwork, and more. The *Friday Open Boat Shop* program runs from 5:30–8:30 p.m. and costs \$20 per session for CBMM members and \$30 per session for nonmembers. Space is limited with pre-registration required by calling 410-745-4941. Participants must be 16 or older, unless accompanied by an adult.

On June 8 and June 9, CBMM invites the public's participation in an *Oar Making* weekend workshop from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Participants will be able to handcraft their own set of white pine oars to use specific to their vessel, or just for decoration. The two-day workshop is \$50 for

CBMM members and \$75 for non-members, plus the cost of materials (approximately \$50), with space limited. Preregistration is needed by June 5 by calling 410-745-4941. When registering, be sure to specify what type of vessel the oars are for and a CBMM shipwright will help you determine the proper dimensions.

On Friday, July 12, a *Bronze Casting Demonstration* will be held in the boatyard from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Participants will listen to Mariner's Museum Conservator Will Hoffman as he discusses the casting replication project of one of the USS *Monitor*'s artifacts, including iron and bronze parts. Following the discussion, Hoffman and nationally-renowned sculpture artist and Shepherd University professor Christian Benefiel will cast a replication of an oarlock from the *Monitor* in bronze using traditional pattern and molding methods. The cost for the demonstration is \$30 for members and \$50 for non-members, with registration required by July 10 to 410-745-4941.

From July 18 through July 21, a four-day bronze casting workshop with Will Hoffman and Christian Benefiel will have participants learning the intricacies of bronze casting, including creating molds, working the sand and furnace, and pouring the hot metal. Participants take home a working

continued on next page

Top: In CBMM's Oar Making workshop, taking place June 8–9, participants will be able to handcraft their own set of white pine oars to use specific to their vessel, or just for decoration.



continued from previous page

knowledge of casting metal and their own creation cast in bronze. Held from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on all four days, the workshop for ages 16 and up is \$160 for members and \$200 for non-members, plus the cost of materials (approximately \$100). Pre-registration is required by July 12 by calling 410-745-4941.

On August 8 from 5:00–6:00 p.m., the public is invited to the boat shop to see a lathe demonstration. A lathe is a machine tool that operates the wooden work piece on its axis to perform various operations such as cutting, sanding, knurling, drilling, and more. Learn how to turn an object safely—a bowl, furniture piece, whatever you're working on. The cost is \$10 for members, and \$25 for non-members with registration needed by calling 410-745-4941.

Right: CBMM Boatyard Program Manager Jenn Kuhn explains the intricacies of woodworking to two participants in a recent woodworking workshop at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum in St. Michaels, Maryland. For more information, or to pre-register for any of these workshops, contact Helen Van Fleet at 410-745-4941. All classes have limited participation, and take place in or around CBMM's boatshop in St. Michaels, MD. Visit www.cbmm.org for more information.



Making Cleats

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- 8. Next sand the cleat smooth, leaving the bottom of the cleat flat for mounting at the desired location.
- 9. Finally, you need to varnish or paint the cleat. If you intend to glue the cleat in place rather than bolting it, you will want to leave the gluing surface bare so that you get a good glue joint.

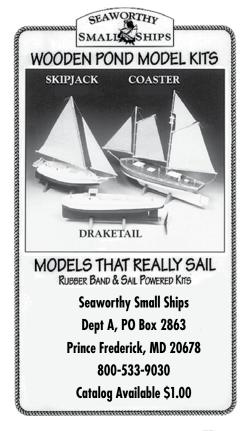


Mounting the cleat can best be done by through bolting with #12 flat head bolts with large washers and nuts on the underside of the surface to which the cleat is being mounted. In some locations it is not feasible to through bolt, so then flat head screws with or without glue can be used. Screws are adequate for lightly loaded cleats but may loosen with use. Another option especially useful on spars is to glue

A simple wooden cleat can easily be made with limited tools.

the cleat in place. Often, to give the connection added strength, in addition to glue I use a ¼-inch diameter dowel in the center of the bottom of the cleat, drilling approximately ¾ inch into both the bottom of the cleat and the mounting surface. Gluing the cleat to a spar lets you avoid putting metal fastening into the spar, which can weaken it and provide a path for fresh water to cause rot.

My next article will show how to build a belaying pin, a good alternative to a cleat for securing a line.





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Texas TSCA Chapter Sponsors Family Boat Building Class

by Steve Lansdowne, Austin & Frank Coletta San Antonio, Texas

2013 February the Texas and Boatcrafters Messers **TSCA** chapter, the San Antonio Sail and Power Squadron, and Duckworks Boat Builders Supply sponsored a family boat building class at the Woodcraft store in San Antonio. Woodcraft promoted the event as a class held at their location and also provided over-night storage, electricity, in-store coffee, and discounts on any items purchased by the participants during the class.

Several TSCA members who were experienced amateur builders helped with planning, shopping, pre-cutting stock, and co-instructing during the event, while others helped out with photos and logistics. A few brought their own boats along to demonstrate the variety of small boats for home builders. A local television station provided some publicity through a mid-day visit, which was screened on a newscast later that day.

Over this 3-day weekend each of six teams built a simple pirogue. Teams consisted of three married couples, a grandfather and young grandchildren, a father and adult son, and three friends. Most had some woodworking background though boat building was new to them. Some were inspired to build for the experience, some to share skills with others, and some as a way of obtaining a relatively inexpensive boat rather than purchasing one, which they were not sure beforehand they'd enjoy using. Certainly all gained some satisfaction of having built their very own boat and learned some new skills.

All of the first time boat builders said they very much enjoyed the experience and gave high marks on the class evaluations. Over the weekend several Woodcraft customers, some of whom were visiting from other states or countries, stopped by to watch.

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Two new red boats and the green test build waiting to go in the water for the first time.





Top: Rick Dawdy works with his grandson cutting and joining plywood on the first day.

Second: Canopy covered workstations in the Woodcraft rear parking lot. The green pirogue displayed in the foreground was a test build before the event.

Third: Four of the six boats lined up on day 3.

Bottom: Students taking their boats on the maiden voyage under the watchful eye of instructor Frank Coletta. It was a windy choppy day. All boat did well and did not leak.



Texas TSCA

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Some were quite interested in learning more about how to get started in boat building. Relevant web sites, magazines, books, and other instructional opportunities were shared by various co-instructors. Some of these visitors asked about taking this class if it is offered again, and Woodcraft asked us to come back to do another class. Clearly this event was a catalyst that inspired some to try building their own boats.

The following weekend the students were invited to Canyon Lake to launch their new boats. Before the launch the San Antonio Sail and Power Squadron presented the U.S. Power Squadron Paddle Smart Seminar designed to help these students learn safe boating practices.

The pictures show the progress on some of the boats at the end of the second day and the splash the following weekend. Time in the water was minimal due to the waves and weather conditions, but that didn't stop these proud builders from getting their bottoms wet!



Above: Rick Dawdy, his other grandson, and his grandson's mother came out on day two.

Right Top: Co-instructor Kent Rush guides a father and adult son team.

Right Middle: Proud boys with the boat they built.

Right Bottom: Event coordinator and instructor Frank Coletta presented a U.S. Power Squadron Paddle Smart Seminar at Canyon Lake before the new boats were splashed.







Model Skipjack Sailing at CBMM

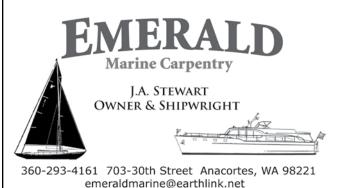
The Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum's (CBMM) Model Sailing Club has announced the dates for this year's model skipjack sailing in St. Michaels, MD. The Model Sailing Club started in 1983.

Club members began racing radio-controlled (RC) model skipjacks along CBMM's Fogg's Cove on May 19, and will hold future events on July 21, August 18, and October 20. All races take place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The radio-controlled races are fun to watch and free with museum admission.

Built in the early twentieth century, the sail-powered skipjack was once a cost effective working boat used by watermen for oyster dredging. Today, only a few remain working on the Chesapeake Bay. The club races RC models of these two-sailed *bateaux*, which at full size can vary from 38 to 48 feet in length.

To learn more about the races, or joining the club, contact Commodore Richard Clayton at 410-745-2372.





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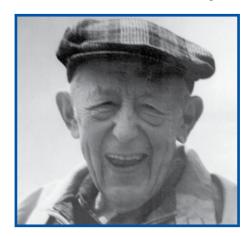


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John Gardner Grant



"To preserve, continue, and expand the achievements, vision and goals of John Gardner by enriching and disseminating our traditional small craft heritage."

In 1999, TSCA created the John Gardner Grant program to support projects for which sufficient funding would otherwise be unavailable. Eligible projects are those which research, document, preserve, and replicate traditional small craft, associated skills (including their construction and uses) and the skills of those who built and used them. Youth involvement is encouraged.

Proposals for projects ranging from \$200 to \$2000 are invited for consideration. Grants are awarded competitively and reviewed semiannually by the John Gardner Memorial Fund Committee of TSCA, typically in May and

October. The source of funding is the John Gardner Memorial Endowment Fund. Funding availability is determined annually.

Eligible applicants include anyone who can demonstrate serious interest in, and knowledge of, traditional small craft. Affiliation with a museum or academic organization is not required. Projects must have tangible, enduring results which are published, exhibited, or otherwise made available to the interested public. **Projects must be reported in** *The Ash Breeze.*

Program details, applications, and additional information:

www.tsca.net/gardner.html

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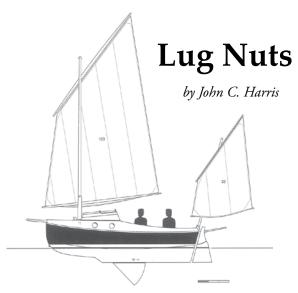
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Used to be, I couldn't sell a lug rig to anyone. Some early Chesapeake Light Craft (CLC) boats, including the now-ubiquitous Eastport Pram, featured lug rigs. At the time, one prospective customer's reaction to the Pram's humble but effective sail plan was typical. He called it a "square rig." Gently corrected, he persisted. "No, I'm calling it a SQUARE rig!" he harrumphed. What he was trying to say was that he thought the boat would sail upwind like a barkentine. He was wrong, of course; lug rigs are the most close-winded of any traditional type. Driving a carefully-rigged lugger with an expertly-cut sail, I can and have done horizon jobs on

"modern" sloops that were sloppily set up and handled.

My own devotion to the type has never wavered. My very first sailboat rigging project, age 10, was a rubber raft with a broomstick mast and a loose-footed standing lug sail cut from a blue cotton bedsheet. I was assisted in rigging by a 1950s-era Sea Scout manual, which assumed that a good scout should know how to set up a lug sail.

Public acceptance of lug sails improved overnight, when my friend and colleague Geoff Kerr grabbed the front cover of *WoodenBoat* magazine with his Oughtred-designed, lugrigged Caledonia Yawl. Around that time, the number one question about every CLC sailboat shifted to "Could it have a lug rig instead?"

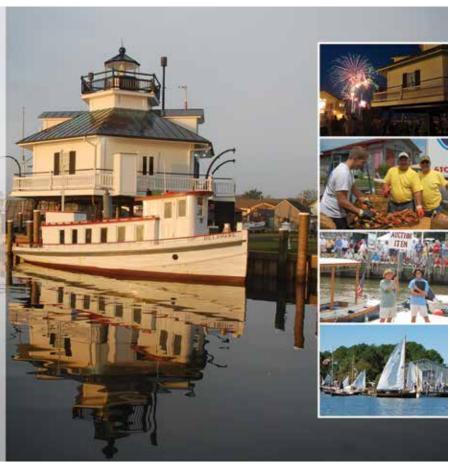
The lug is an ancient type of sail, my guess being that the Vikings invented it when sailcloth improved and they found they could brace their square sails around and sail upwind. Phil Bolger wrote that the lug sail is "the most powerful windward sail possible with primitive technology." To do any better upwind, you need stainless steel cabling to tension the luff of a jib.

A lug sail is a quadrilateral shape, with a yard at the top. (Please don't call it a gaff.) There are three main types: dipping lugs, balanced lugs, and standing lugs.

We won't linger over the oldest and historically most-used lug rig, the dipping lug. Dipping lugs were very common in

continued on page 16







Lug Nuts

continued from page 15

working sailing craft, especially in Europe. They offer the most power, especially upwind, but also require a highly trained and patient crew, so they are unknown in yachts. To tack, you must drop the sail, pass the yard to the other side of the mast, and rehoist. These days it's only a good choice in a boat that doesn't need to do much tacking.

Balanced lug sails are the most popular type in the 21st century. Balanced lug sails always have a boom, and are distinguished by a tack that's positioned well forward of the mast. The sail area in front of the mast helps balance the sail area aft—thus the name—and so sheeting loads are lighter. The mast DOES cut into the sail on the "bad"

tack, but nobody has ever established that luggers are much slower on that tack. The signal advantages of the balanced lug sail are the speed at which it can be hoisted and stowed and the ease of reefing. You don't need a boom vang because the boom is locked horizontally by luff tension,

eliminating horsepower-robbing twist in the sail. The center of effort (a very approximate geometric location of the sail's thrust) is comparatively low for a given amount of sail area, meaning that there's less heeling moment for a given amount of thrust.

The standing lug looks like a balanced lug at a glance. The difference is that the tack of the sail is fastened at or near the mast. The reasons to choose this rig over a balanced lug are somewhat incremental. The spars tend to be short, making them easy to stow (say, in a dinghy). On my drawing board standing lugs usually appear when the boat's layout demands a mast placed far forward in the boat, such that the balanced lug rig would shift the center of effort too far forward. You can also rig a standing lug without a boom, which is nice if you hate getting clocked in the head.

To those of us who know the secret lugger handshake, lugs are the obvious choice for pleasure sailing. Why aren't luggers more popular? Unfamiliarity is the main culprit. While comparatively simple, getting a lug sail rigged for best performance requires a certain artfulness. Most luggers that I see lack enough tension in the outhauls on the boom and yard so that the sail is too baggy. Those boats don't go to windward well, reinforcing the incorrect notion that "traditional" rigs have innate deficiencies upwind. Once you hoist the sail, you need loads of downhaul tension, too. Even if you get enough tension at the beach, the halyard and downhaul will stretch under way and need to be tended often.

Another troubling misconception is that traditional sails are just flat sheets of canvas. The lug sail in a \$1,000 dinghy needs as much thoughtful three-dimensional shaping as a

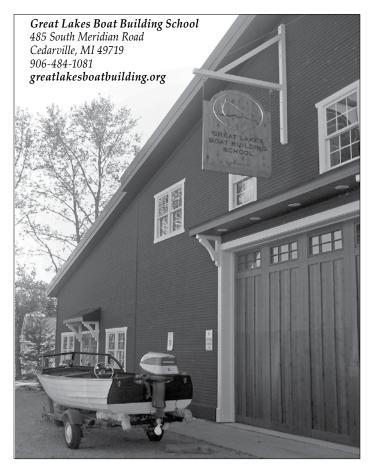
mainsail on a million-dollar racing yacht. Douglas Fowler, (CLC's longtime sailmaker) is obsessive about broadseam and the "round" built into the head and foot of the sail. The combination of ultra-modern synthetic sailcloth and careful sail shape means that you don't have to give up anything in performance in a modern lugger.

Spars offer bewildering choices to the designer and builder of a lug-rigged boat. Generally speaking, the spars should be desperately light. Shave them down to just this side of breaking, especially the yard, which is up high trying to capsize you with its weight. Yet spars that are too bendy will make the sails baggy, which in heavy air will set up a regressive cycle that ends in capsize or broken spars. I'm always testing the limits.

The lug sail is laced to the yard, of course, but most luggers

don't lace the foot of the sail to the boom. A deep round in the foot of the sail looks good on paper AND on the water, but beware: you need a much stiffer (and thus heavier) boom. Lacing the sail to the boom adds a lot of support, so the boom can be lighter, and it's easier to control the draft of the sail without very high outhaul and downhaul tension.

John C. Harris designs, builds, and writes about boats at Chesapeake Light Craft in Annapolis, MD.





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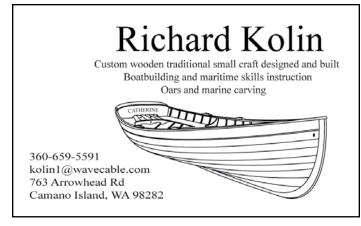
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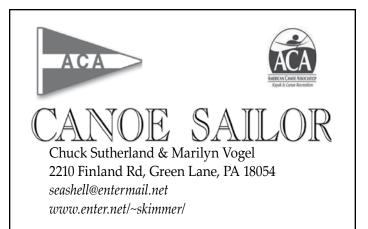
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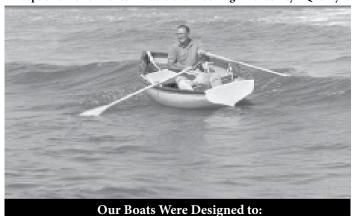
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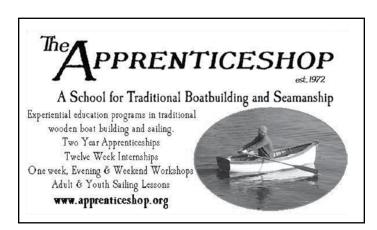
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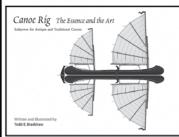






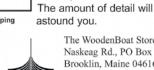
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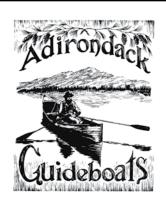


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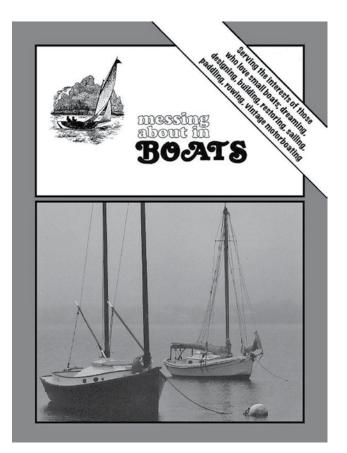
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Fall 2013, Volume 34, Number 3

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