



Winter 2010 Newsletter

# ARTISAN BOATWORKS

410 Main Street • Rockport, Maine 04856 • [artisanboatworks.com](http://artisanboatworks.com)

It's mid-January, the Christmas tree is out in a snow bank, and the days are getting longer. Despite temperatures in the teens and wind gusts in the 20's, things at Artisan Boatworks couldn't be better.



In October we put the finishing touches on our new 5,600 sq. ft. storage building, which now houses our entire fleet under one roof. For anyone interested in building a classic wooden daysailer, but unsure of the right one, here's a great opportunity to drive up for a visit and to compare many contrasting designs. With Cape Air now flying to Rockland, and Portland Jetport only an hour and a half south, we really aren't too far from "the rest of the world."

## Current Projects

First in line for fall projects was an Olin Stephens designed Dark Harbor 20 from Islesboro. Twenty-one of these 30' marconi sloops were built in the mid to late thirties', and most of them continue to race from the Tarratine Yacht Club in Dark Harbor. The Dark Harbor 20's have been well maintained, but as they approach 80 years of age, many are due for rebuilds. Without removing the deck or keel, we were able to replace all of the frames and floor timbers from the mast step back to the rudder. The bilge stringers were removed, as they were determined to be the cause of many broken frames. The planking and plywood deck edge were splined, the hull was faired and epoxy coated, and the toe rails replaced. This proved to be a great example of how a wooden boat can be given an entirely new life, in a relatively straight-forward manner, for half the cost of a fiberglass replacement.



Next up is a rebuild of one of Clinton Crane's prestigious 32' Idem scows from Upper St. Regis Lake in the Adirondacks. Twelve of these boats were built from 1900 to 1902, and all except one are still racing together.

Simultaneously with the Idem rebuild, we are building our third Herreshoff 15. The customer visited the shop recently, and stretched out in the cockpit of our full keel Buzzards Bay 15 *Murmur* which was built last winter. "Would you change anything?" he asked. "Nope," was my honest reply, and several hours later a contract was signed.

## Current Projects Continued

Of course all of this work needs to be completed by May, in order to turn to painting, varnishing, and delivering the storage boats. It's the busiest we've ever been, and despite our country's slow economic recovery, the outlook for wooden boatbuilding is bright. To top it off, we have a signed contract to build a 21' Herreshoff Fish Class for a family in Southern Maine, which we will set up in June for delivery in October of 2010.

## Noteworthy



Speaking of the Fish Class, we have been offered an original Herreshoff Fish in dire need of a restoration. Of the roughly forty Fish boats originally built, perhaps only ten exist today. Of those remaining boats, only a handful can be traced back to their original owners and hull number. The particular boat now available is #816 listed as *Squid* in the Herreshoff records. She was built in 1916 for Franklin Remington and renamed *Sculpin* to race with the original fleet at the Seawanhaka Yacht Club in New York. She was later owned by John Foster Dulles, and then belonged to Mystic Seaport, among others, before her current owner purchased her in 1981. This rare and prestigious original Herreshoff is available for free to the right owner dedicated to authentically

restoring her to her original specifications. This boat won't survive much longer in her current state, and represents an important piece of history which should be saved. You don't need another boat? Well, the Herreshoff Museum in Bristol has expressed a keen interest in having *Sculpin* as part of their sailing collection, and the donation would be tax deductible.

## On the Water

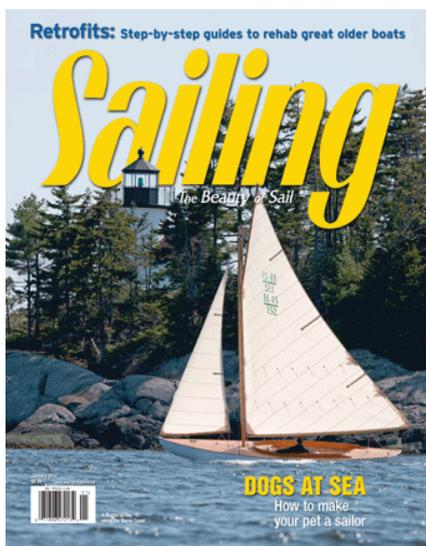
Artisan Boatworks will be sponsoring the 100th anniversary regatta for Manchester 17's, North Haven Knockabouts, Dark Harbor 17's, and Northeast Harbor "B" boats. These 26' B.B. Crowninshield knockabouts were among the most popular one-designs of the early 20th century, and our reproduction *Phoenix* was featured on the cover of *Wooden Boat Magazine* in June of 2007.

The regatta will begin on August 22nd, with a beach picnic in Southern Harbor on North Haven. There will be a series of round the buoy races in the afternoon, followed by a parade of sail through the Thourofare, and back to the Casino Yacht Club for a raft up and cocktail reception. If you or anyone you know owns one of these boats in sailing or near sailing condition, please have them contact us for more information.



## Lazarette

Besides business news we've welcomed our second daughter Georgia on November 6th, and Adella is now eighteen months old. She is talking, running, and jumping. An additional carpenter has joined our crew, and we are looking forward to heat in the loft and a whole shop dust collection system in



the coming month. Thanks to the tireless editing and organization of Bernie Gustin and Steve Nagy, our 27-page paper entitled, "The Herreshoff 15 Is Alive And Well" has been completed for the 2010 Classic Yacht Symposium sponsored by the Herreshoff Marine Museum. The Symposium will take place from April 9 – 11 in Bristol, RI.

We recently received news that *Murmur*, the Buzzards Bay 15 we built last winter, is on the January cover of *Sailing*. You'll recall that our Dark Harbor 17, *Frolic* was also on the cover of *Sailing* just over a year ago in November of '08. As always, the credit goes to Alison Langley for her spectacular photographs, which can be seen by going to our web sight at [www.artisanboatworks.com](http://www.artisanboatworks.com) and clicking on the link attached to either boat.

On the topic of our web sight: We've done the best we can to keep it more or less current, but the time has come for a major overhaul. Please send us your thoughts and suggestions.

We look forward to seeing many of you at the Maine Boatbuilders Show in March, The Wooden Boat Show in June, the Maine Boats and Harbors show in August, and the Newport International Boatshow in September. Please feel to call or e-mail with any questions or comments- or better yet, plan a trip to Maine for some great skiing and a visit to the shop.



Best Regards,

Alec and Erin Brainerd,  
And the crew at Artisan Boatworks.