



ARTISAN BOATWORKS

CLASSIC WOODEN DAYSAILERS

After a wet and dreary start, spring has finally arrived here in mid-coast Maine! We are about half way through the seasonal paint, varnish, delivery, and launching of our thirty plus wooden storage boats, and we recently delivered two new commissions. On May 25, the owner's birthday, we delivered a new Herreshoff Fish Class, TULIP, to Georgetown, Maine. A week later on June 2nd, we delivered a new Watch Hill 15, JEANNE, to her owners in Southport, CT.

Year in Review



GLORY, a 43' Sparkman & Stephens yawl built in 1957, is undergoing a complete rebuild. Since October our team has replaced all of her frames with laminated oak. The stern post and horn timber, fore foot, floor timbers, and keel bolts have also been replaced. We have enjoyed learning the history of this prestigious, unsung hero, including, a spectacular collection of Rosenfeld photos at Mystic Seaport, and a class C win in the 1958 Bermuda Race. (Her little sister, FINISTERRE, won class D and took the overall prize.) Mark Fitzgerald, of Fitzgerald Marine Architecture in Camden, has designed a new interior for GLORY, with updated systems and a more comfortable cruising arrangement. You can see the new interior layout

on our website www.ArtisanBoatworks.com. GLORY's new Volvo D2-55 diesel engine will be installed this spring, and she will stretch her new suit of sails from Pope Sails and Rigging in September. Her owner has elected to day-sail GLORY this fall with no interior, which Artisan Boatworks will then build next winter.

SKYLARK, a Dark Harbor 20 from Islesboro, was in the shop for a few weeks to receive eighteen new frames and nine floor timbers. These S&S sloops are raced hard, and a common occurrence is for the highly tuned Marconi rigged mast to actually push down through the keel, causing a localized hump in the planking. By removing all of the offending frames and floor timbers, most of which were badly deteriorated and broken, we were able to restore the hull shape using stiff, temporary stringers on the outside of the hull. One of Artisan Boatworks' particular specialties is the restoration of hull shape: It is relatively easy to replace old wood with new- but when restoring prestigious classics, a distorted hull can be severely devalued by installing localized repairs without first addressing sectional hull shape, longitudinal fairness, and most noticeably the sheer line.



Also this past winter, we built a custom, 9' ultra-light yacht tender designed by Stephens Waring of Belfast. The tender is of composite wood construction, varnished on the inside, Awl-grip on the outside, and features a gold leaf cove stripe, all bronze hardware, and varnished seats and transom that are 1/8" teak veneer over 1/2" Divinycell foam core. KIPPER made her debut at the Maine Boatbuilders Show in March, and will be delivered to her owner in Brooklin, Maine later this summer. We would particularly enjoy building more of these little tenders, which would be equally at home on a lake side dock or the deck of an ocean going yacht.

Year in Review Cont.



Our other small boat project this winter could not have been more different. We built a 19' outboard Long Point Skiff for a local pharmacist. Designed by Thomas Hill, the boat was completed in just two weeks, with lapstrake plywood topsides, and a solid plywood bottom. Although Artisan Boatworks is best known for our replicas of classic daysailers, this winter has been a good reminder that from fifty footers to eight footers, sail or power, new construction or restoration, traditional or composite- we are a truly diverse boatyard, bringing each and every customer's dream to reality.

Noteworthy

Of particular interest, was a project involving a partnership with GMT Composites of Bristol Rhode Island. GMT built a round, tapered carbon fiber mast for a gaff rigged Herreshoff sloop, over which our crew applied a ¼" layer of varnished Sitka Spruce. The new mast is exactly the same dimensions, and totally indistinguishable from the previous wood mast, but literally twice the strength, twice the stiffness, and the same weight. This increase in strength and stiffness allowed for the elimination the running backstays, making the rig self-tacking. We get excited about these opportunities to improve on classic designs using modern materials and techniques- especially when we can accomplish our customer's goals without any visible aesthetic alteration.

New Herreshoff Fish Class, TULIP Launched May 25



Current Project



In February, we received a call from a gentleman in Palm Beach, Florida. He was interested in a new Watch Hill 15 to sail in Connecticut, his research was thorough, and he was sure this was the boat for him. However, we needed to convince his wife. With two feet of snow on the ground two kids home in diapers, I had an epiphany: "Why don't I tow one of our Watch Hill 15's down to Palm Beach for a trial sail?" With the blessing of my incredibly supportive wife, I left Rockport the following Monday morning, and arrived at Cracker Boy Boatworks in Palm Beach, Tuesday evening. The boat was rigged and launched Wednesday, and we went for a tranquil sail that evening. We sailed again on Thursday morning, which resulted in a bit more excitement, and by evening

the boat was back on her trailer. Friday morning I was back on the road, and home on Saturday night. Retrospectively, this was not quite the tropical vacation I had been hoping for, but I did get to spend a few hours on the beach!

On March 1st we began construction, and delivered JEANNE to Southport, CT on June 2nd- exactly three months later. I know that Herreshoff Manufacturing Co. would have done it faster, but still, I couldn't be prouder of the heroic effort by our crew. JEANNE's construction was tongue and groove strip planking over steam bent frames, sheathed in a 12 oz biaxial cloth set in epoxy. With this method we were able to achieve all of the strength and stability of a cold-molded hull, without sacrificing any of Herreshoff's original structural details.

Brokerage

On the brokerage side of things, we have a 2004 Haven 12 ½ for sale. Her price includes a three year warranty, and free delivery, launching, and setup anywhere in New England or New York. Also of interest is PENTIMENTO- a 26' weekender designed by Chuck Paine that could be considered a larger version of the Herreshoff Fish Class. PENTIMENTO is essentially brand new, built to an exceptionally high standard, and is listed with David Jones Yacht Brokerage for approximately a quarter of her replacement cost.



Press

Artisan Boatworks had two nice write-ups in the winter issue of Maine Boats Homes and Harbors. The first feature was on our 100th Anniversary Regatta for the North Haven Knockabouts and Dark Harbor 17's, and the second was a glowing review of our new design by Mark Fitzgerald, the Artisan 30 Weekender. Wooden Boat Magazine published their annual Small Boats issue, which featured one of our Watch Hill 15's, and Points East Magazine published an article by Steve Cartwright in May, simply called "A day at Artisan Boatworks"

Upcoming

We are preparing to make a big splash at the Wooden Boat Show this year at Mystic Seaport, June 24 – 26. This show is a great opportunity for us to shake hands and meet with both prospective and existing customers face to face. For the Mystic show this year, the owners of both TULIP, the Herreshoff Fish Class, and JEANNE, the Herreshoff Watch Hill 15 have graciously allowed us to show off their new boats for a long weekend, after only three weeks of precious use. In my opinion the Herreshoff 15 and Fish are the two best daysailers ever designed- and if seeing two brand new examples side by side, and meeting their builder is appealing to you- then please, schedule time to visit us in Mystic June 24-26.

Thank you all for your continued support, and for recommending Artisan Boatworks to your friends and colleagues. We continue to take on new storage customers as far south as Long Island, and we are grateful to be doing what we love: Building, restoring, and maintaining wooden boats. We finally convinced our three year old daughter to join her dad in a row boat last week- and she is officially hooked! I think someone might be getting a pink Nutshell Pram for her birthday.

Best Regards,

Alec and Erin Brainerd,
And the crew at Artisan Boatworks

