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Fresh Thinking in a Herreshoff Daysailer
A Restored Chesapeake Bay Buyboat
An Unrestored Catboat

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UNCAS

A 29' Herreshoff Sloop

Photographs by Alison Langley

Last year, Camden, Maine-based photographer Alison Langley photographed the construction and early days of UNCAS, a Nathanael Herreshoff-designed Buzzards Bay 18 built by Artisan Boatworks in Rockport, Maine. Herreshoff built only a handful of boats to this 1903 design, and none of them had survived by the time Alec Brainerd, owner of Artisan Boatworks, found the drawings in the archives of the Hart Nautical Collections at the MIT Museum in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

The 18'-waterline sloop "captures the spirit of Herreshoff's big boats," Alec says. "The Buzzards Bay 18," he says, "is one of the smallest designs of this type that has cabin space for occasional overnight use, and adequate displacement to accommodate either diesel or electric propulsion. She is very similar in size and shape to the Sparkman & Stephens Dark Harbor 20,

but her greater beam adds considerably to the available interior and cockpit space."

Alison began photographing boats under construction at Artisan in 2008. She says the shop is "perfect for shooting because of its small size, and there are varied heights giving me options for different angles. The walls are painted yellow, which gives a warm cast of lighting—and counterbalances the fluorescent lights nicely."

"There's a story in the sequence of images," she says of the boats she's photographed from construction to sailing. In the case of UNCAS, Alison was able to shoot a good deal of the boat's building, the launching, and the sea trials, creating an unusually fine record of a boat that fits a niche between larger, more expensive cruising boats and smaller, more cramped daysailers. "It's the story of how the boat was made... the journey," she says. "It's about the artisans." —Eds.

"If I were to own a sailboat (and someday, I will), I would choose a Herreshoff of this size," Alison says. "I used to want a Herreshoff 12½, but since I now have kids, I would like to have something a little bigger so we could all go out for the day to explore Penobscot Bay. Visually, the Herreshoff daysailers are the sweetest, and I enjoy the sensation of being right on the water. The responsiveness of a small boat feels great."



Artisan Boatworks craftsmen Ben Loveless (left) and Chad Meyers touch up the keel rabbet on UNCAS before they begin planking. For a detailed description of how these boats are built, see the article beginning on page 59.



Ben Loveless touches up a floor timber prior to planking. "Alec's shop is perfect for shooting because of its size," says Alison. "There are varied heights giving me options for different angles and the walls are painted yellow, which gives a warm cast of lighting—which counterbalances the fluorescent lights nicely."

Using the facilities of nearby Rockport Marine, UNCAS was launched for the first time. "It was a very small hive with lots of bees in it," Alison says of the scene on launching day. "Everyone was in that pre-launch mode—focused and fast-working. All were happy and the owner and his family—kids and grandkids—were over the moon."





Shortly after UNCAS's launching, builder Alec Brainerd called Alison to alert her to a photo opportunity: "Alec called and said they were leaving from Rockport to bring the boat to Camden, and if I wanted to grab some shots I could meet them out there. It was foggy, but windy, so I went. I was surprised to have the fog lift enough times to get some great shots."



The Herreshoff Mfg. Co. built the original fleet of Buzzards Bay 18s in 1903, and the design lay dormant after that until UNCAS came along. The design's particulars are: LOA, 29'; LWL, 18'; draft, 3'11"; beam, 8'1"; sail area, 472 sq ft; and displacement, 4,430 lbs.



"During our on-the-water shoot," Alison says, "I was happy to see that only Alec and his wife, Erin, were aboard. A classic yacht race from Castine was also coming in at the time, but I kept with UNCAS instead because she was so beautiful." UNCAS has a full keel; the original Buzzards Bay 18s were centerboarders.