

# The Beetle Sheet

New England Beetle Cat  
Boat Association

N.E.B.C.B.A.  
Autumn 2007

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## From The Helm

First off, I want to thank Mark Thornhill for his excellent work as chairman over the past three years. Progress going forward will be due in large part to his success at "clearing the decks" and keeping NEBCBA on course. Thanks Mark.

Thanks also to the outgoing members of the Board of Governors: Peter Clapp and Betsy Kamborian. Welcome to new Board members Michelle Buoniconto (secretary) and Kathy Smith (member at large).

As the fall meeting nears, things are going along nicely in the Beetle Cat world. The 2007 Telesmanick Championship at Bass River YC went really well, a credit to all involved. New Beetles are in construction at the shop. The Hog Island Racers have just concluded another successful fall season. The NEBCBA database project is progressing (with the goal of making NEBCBA more efficient and effective). Weekapaug YC is gearing up to host the 2008 Championship.

**Charlie York**  
NEBCBA Chairman

## From the Beetle Boat Shop:

### Beetle Inc. Report

Hard to believe another summer has passed us by already! The Wooden Boat Show at Mystic Seaport Museum helped

to kick off the summer. The Beetle Shop displayed a new Beetle Cat on the shoreline in front of Mystic Seaport's Sandbagger "Annie". Tim Fallon, Bill Sauerbrey and Mark Williams sailed the 28' Hanley catboat "Kathleen" (using the Willy Potts row boat as its tender) to and from Mystic. It was a perfect venue for the show, particularly for catboat enthusiasts, with "Kathleen" sailing around with Mystic Seaport's 20' "Breck Marshall" Crosby catboat along with its fleet of Beetle Cat sailboats.

August brought NEBCBA's Beetle Cat Championship to Bass River. The Beetle Shop sent two boats this year with Charlie York and his daughter Emma taking 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Men's Division, and Bill Womack and Michelle Buoniconto taking 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Ancient Mariners Division. Bass River Yacht Club, Nancy and Ken Rodgers, and Betsy Kamborian did a great job of organizing the event and made it a very memorable weekend.

This year both Bill and Charlie brought their Beetle Cats to West Falmouth for the post-season Hog Island Race Series. A very talented, fun group of sailors come together every Sunday in September and October for this challenging series. Special thanks to Joe and Becky Kirk for their "beyond the call of duty" efforts as the Race Committee and welcoming committee to all who come to participate.

Two new employees have

joined the shop this year. Mark Williams comes to us with experience in painting, rigging and repair work, but more importantly enjoys sailing the family Beetle Cat. Manny Palomo was welcomed back to the shop after apprenticing with Charlie and Bill back in 2002. Manny will be working with Bill Sauerbrey this fall on a traditionally built new 26' Herreshoff Alerion.

We continue to make small improvements to the shop as money allows. This year we added a spar shed which can house up to 120 sets of spars, rigging, centerboards, rudders, etc... In addition, we added separate floor space for the building of the new Beetle 14' catboat.

We will be holding our 4th Annual Christmas Open House December 8<sup>th</sup> from 1 to 5pm to once again thank our loyal customers, family, and friends for their support.

### Michelle Buoniconto

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### NEBCBA Web Site

Information you need about N.E.B.C.B.A. and Beetle Cats is available at:

[www.beetlecat.org](http://www.beetlecat.org).  
Check out the *Forum!*

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Merry Christmas  
Joyeux Noel  
Frohliche Wiehnachten  
Feliz Navidad  
Kellemes Karacsonyt  
Glaedelig Jul  
Hauskaa Joulua  
God Jul  
Zalig Kerstfeest  
Wesolych Swiat  
Bon Nadal  
Feliz Natal  
Pricigus Ziemassvetkus  
Maligayand Pasko  
Kaung Thaw Hnit Kuu  
Stchastlivigo Rohdestva  
Apko Natal Ki Shubhkamnaye



# Leo J. Telesmanick National Beetle Cat Regatta

## Hosted by the Bass River Yacht Club August 11-12, 2007 Race Results

The New England Beetle Cat Boat Association (NEBCBA) held its Annual Regatta and Leo J. Telesmanick trophy races on the weekend of August 11-12, 2007. The Bass River Yacht Club (BRYC), South Yarmouth, MA on Cape Cod, hosted the event. BRYC is a founding member of NEBCBA and it was a great pleasure to host the Leo. Our "Leo" in Bass River waters was in 1998. It was a terrific event, and a good time was had by all.

Twenty-nine boats registered for the event, most from Cape Cod and south-eastern Massachusetts, but some from as far away as Maine. Sailing Beetles is a long-standing tradition on Bass River. Tony Correa, of Christmas Cove Yacht Club in S. Bristol Maine, joined by his trusted crew, Captain Seabiscuit (a.k.a, Jock Purcell), sailed the same Beetle (after restoration by Charlie York) that they won a junior Beetle Cat title on Bass River in the 1950's. Many family and friends joined them for a weekend of sailing and celebration. The Weekapaug contingent came in full Armada strength with five Beetles and crew. They stayed together, sailed together, partied together and generally added a spirit of companionship, competitiveness, and good sportsmanship throughout the weekend. Others from throughout Cape Cod and all New England came to participate in sailing and "good cheer."

In two days of demanding sailing, we were able to get in six races, which permitted being able to throw out the lowest score. In both days, we were blessed by "dying northerlies," a good breeze in the morning from the northwest, which would die in mid-day and rise later from the southwest. Unfortunately, there was plenty of "down time" out on the water while the wind shifts were developing.

Betsy Kamborian generously shared her beach at the mouth of the River. On Saturday for lunch, all of the fleet was able to have lunch on Betsy's lawn, and not have to make their way to the Bass River Yacht Club. The Social Committee, lead by Elaine Carter, Erinn Mcarty, and Maureen Kurtowicz, prepared lunch and brought it from the Yacht Club as a welcome refreshment for the afternoon's races. Throughout the weekend, the Social Committee provided a light breakfast at the beginning of the day and Sunday's lunch back at the Yacht Club before the awards ceremony.

The Annual Meeting was held at the Bass River Yacht Club Saturday evening. An extended social hour was held before dinner. Again the Social Committee prepared a steak dinner, with all of the trimmings. Due to the many generations of skippers and crew who were racing in the Leo, we had several enthusiastic supporters who registered only for the dinner and Annual Meeting.

The whole weekend was supported by a team effort of the Bass River Yacht Club and NEBCBA. There were too many involved to name everyone. We do, however, want to express the gratitude of all who raced for the support provided throughout the weekend. We also want to thank Marty and Alyson Taubert the courtesy provided by Ship Shops, our local marina, to launch and haul the visiting crews.

In addition to the overall Leo J. Telesmanick Championship award, five divisional classes were awarded: Juniors (below 18), Men, Women, Old Salts (50- 60), and Ancient Mariners (60 and over).

### Nancy J. Rodgers



### Overall Winners

1. Scott Bearse,  
Barnstable Yacht Club
2. Charlie York,  
Cataumet Club
3. Thomas Kligerman,  
Weekapaug Y. C.

### Juniors

1. Michael Bouchie,  
Wild Harbor Y. C.
2. Colin Silverio,  
Bass River Yacht Club

### Men

1. Charlie York,  
Cataumet Club
2. Peter Clapp,  
Duxbury Yacht Club
3. Andrew Dunne, IV,  
Bass River Y. C.

### Women

1. Nonie Price,  
Weekapaug Y.C.
2. Julia Bradford,  
Weekapaug Y. C.
3. Betsy Kamborian,  
Bass River Y. C.

### Old Salts

1. Scott Bearse,  
Barnstable Yacht Club
2. Thomas Kligerman,  
Weekapaug Y.C.
3. Steve Glovinsky,  
Weekapaug Y. C.

### Ancient Mariners

1. Allen Bragdon,  
Bass River Yacht Club
2. Bill Womack,  
Onset Island Y. C.
3. Christopher Pile,  
Weekapaug Y. C.



## Edgewood Yacht Club

The 2007 Edgewood Yacht Club Beetle season was one of our best years yet!

Our preseason began in June. We decided to have a spring season to be sure that everyone had a chance to sail the full summer series, but in 2007 most of the boats were launched early. Six boats were launched before June and were anxious to sail right away. Rick MacNeil prepared a handsome trophy which Jeff Lanphear won for the Spring Series.

Summer is our most competitive time, with eight skippers sailing during 32 separate races. The wind directions and speed were far more unpredictable this year, bringing out the hardest souls for the robust winds in upper Narragansett Bay. Nuisance (Jeff Lanphear) won the most coveted President's Cup, Wayne Marcus took the Governor's Cup and Bob Bartro of Wildcat received the Vice President's Cup (for the qualifying boat receiving the highest number of points in our low point series). Wells Pile, Rick MacNeil, Mike Glancy and Vinnie Dellalacono also qualified.

Never wanting to end our summer we continued into our September series, better known as the Harris Sweepstakes. Our special series was won by Vinny Dellalacono. The entry fee for this series is dedicated to a fund which we use to encourage junior sailing at Edgewood, a tradition carried on for fifty-five years. This year, we have been using the money, and dedicating our manpower, to rebuilding a launching ramp. We hope to use this ramp to make it easier for all members of Edgewood to launch small boats, in addition to the sailing school and colleges which use the club. We hope to invite competing Beetle fleets to special contests at the club too.

Beetles have sailed at Edgewood since the 1930s. While Beetles do not number the sixty or seventy Beetles which were moored at the club in 1960s, we are a growing group with a strong tradition. Two more sailors joined our Harris Sweepstakes so we hope to build even larger next year, and we welcome new members to join us!

### Jeff Lanphear



*"My goal in sailing isn't to be brilliant or flashy in individual races, just to be consistent over the long run."*

*Dennis Conner*

### Reminder:

**Please be sure to renew your membership to NEBCBA (if you haven't already) to ensure that you receive the next *Beetle Sheet*. Thank you!**





### 65 Years of Beetles at Coles River Club

Just 21 years after the first "Original Beetle Cat" was designed and built by the Beetle family on Clark's Point, New Bedford, Massachusetts, the first Beetle Cat appeared at Coles River, in the Touisset section of Swansea, Massachusetts, at the head of Mount Hope Bay. George Lake bought *PDQ*, #59, for his son, Skip, in the summer of '42, and a new class of boats was introduced at the Coles River Yacht Club (CRYC). The writer's parents bought *Sardine*, #9, during the summer of '44. It had been stripped of all paint and varnish, as well as being bare of hardware, washboards, rails, and deck canvas. In ten days, the hulk was transformed into a bright yellow *Buttercup*, which was raced in fair weather and foul at various Narragansett Bay locales until it was sold in 1951. It is believed it did not survive a storm sometime later in Padanaram Harbor.

During the early 1940's, boats were added to the growing fleet and soon the club was able to conduct an intensive summer racing schedule for its thirteen young resident skippers and their crews. The highest number of active racing Beetles was achieved during the 1945-1949 period, although racing by Coles River skippers continued at a slower pace into the early 70's. The boats were raced primarily by skippers under eighteen years of age, strongly competing in local races and regattas hosted by member clubs of the Narragansett Bay Yachting Association.

Although the largest number of Beetles claiming CYRC membership topped out at thirteen, Beetle skippers came from all around the Bay to enjoy the racing and hospitality at Coles River regattas. In 1946, forty-seven Beetles raced there in two divisions; in 1947, fifty-five Beetles competed in three divisions (Able, Apprentice and Open); and in one subsequent regatta, where over 300 boats of all kinds competed, there were two classes of "Able" Beetles and one class of "Apprentice" Beetles, with about thirty boats in each class.

Recapping CYRC member accomplishments on the water, in 1949, father and son, Doug Borden, and Bud Borden, represented CRYC in New England Championship regattas. Doug Borden won the Men's Championship at the Rhode Island Yacht Club; Bud missed out by losing a protest at Bass River. Dick Brice won the Narragansett Bay Beetle Championship in 1954, the same year his boat was wrecked in the 1954 hurricane.

Joan Seguin fared better when she won the Women's Championship in 1960 sailed at Weekapaug. Bert Goff won the 1960 Junior Championship at Hyannis. His father, Adelbert, won the Men's Championship in 1963 at Mattapoisett and, as the parent club of the winner, CYRC was the host club for the 1964 Men's Championship series. The following year, continuing the sailing family's tradition, Bert's sister, Nancy, won the Junior Championship at Mattapoisett. Happily, many boats were sold to other club members or passed along to younger siblings, thus remaining on the river.

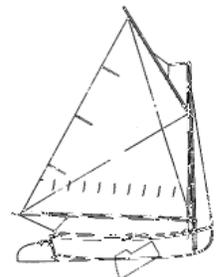
At the other end of the spectrum, during the years of active competition at Coles River, many "Ancient Mariner" member parents the of the young Beetle skippers raced in inter-club series with the Edgewood (RI) Yacht Club "Peppy Pappies" and the Barrington (RI) Yacht Club "Tired Fathers", as well as holding various offices within the NEBCBA administrative organization.

Coles River sailors continued to compete in local races and regattas hosted by other Narragansett Bay clubs into the early 70's; however, over time, because of the age of eighteen limitation, going off to college, following other pursuits, as well as moving up to bigger boats, the class dwindled until there are only two Beetles at Coles River today. Neither boat participates in races. Still and all, having even one Beetle boat at Coles River is a constant and satisfying reminder of the "good old days" for those of us who spent a lot of time on the water in good weather and in bad in a fun boat.

**Doug Borden**, Alexandria, VA: A one-time owner of CRYC Beetle Cat #9, a boat so old it had a nearly flat foredeck and no identification plate which would have showed its real age. Doug currently races a Catalina 25 sloop home-ported at the Mount Vernon Yacht Club on the Potomac River.

#### Sources:

Pamphlet entitled "Original Beetle Cat Boats, 1920-1950", edited by Waldo Howland  
NEBCBA 1995 Handbook  
"Candy Boat Memories", Tiverton Library Services, John Martin and Duke McCann, undated



Refer to page five for scanned photo of Beetles on the Coles River.



## Candy Boat Memories

While making frequent references to "Candy Boat Memories" in preparing my article, I was amused by this paragraph which I will quote in full. It was part of a letter written by a Tom DeMello on 14 December 1999 to a person named Mike.

"There was running animosity between Candy sailors and Beetle Cat sailors. They called us "Dixie Cup sailors" and said that Candies were made of Dixie Cups and scraps of Beetles. We referred to Beetles as "Bug boats". The Candy sailor had the satisfaction of knowing Candies were faster on every (point of) sail, except off the wind in light air (probably because of the additional sail area provided by the gaff). More Beetles capsized as it started to pipe up - a Candy rarely capsized but would swamp about the same as Beetles. Candies were either Class A (older, more experienced kids) or Class B (younger kids) but Beetles were Able or Apprentice. We would get 8-10 boats in Class A and 8-10 boats in Class B for a regatta. Beetles far outnumbered us, getting 30-40 in each class on occasion."

Like Beetles, Candies were built beginning in 1921. Only sixty wooden boats were built by the Wood Brothers of Tiverton, RI, and others, so the boats were not necessarily carbon copies of one another. But that's another story unto itself.

**Doug Borden**



Scanned photo of Beetles racing at Coles River, probably taken in the late 40's early 50's.

## Association Board of Governors

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Kathy Smith  
Fairhaven, MA 02719

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## Weekapaug Yacht Club

The last race in the August series was Saturday, August 25, and the annual Labor Day race at the Weekapaug Yacht Club. These final races of the season set the stage for the closest finish ever for the August Series, as both Bill Boll and Dave Bryant finished August with 38.75 points. Dave inched out Bill to win the August series because Dave had one more third place than Bill did—they both had the same number of firsts and seconds. Bill Boll, sailing every race of the season with his trusted crew--his daughter Julia--won first place for the 2007 season, Tom Kligerman was second, barely beating Dave Bryant for third. Geri Abdo received the Bradford Trophy given to the Beetle sailor who, in the view of the WYC sailing instructors, displays the most enthusiasm, sportsmanship, and cooperation during the season.

The 2007 Beetle season was the best in recent memory for several reasons: First, Beetle racing is clearly a family activity. Bill and Julia Boll; Julia Bradford and Charlie Warner; Nonie and Duff Price; Tom and Catherine Kligerman; Bill, Liz, and Willie Adams; Chris and Ellen Pile; Geri and Cora Abdo; Steve, Katie, and Mac Glovinsky; and Clarke and Caitlin Murphy all raced together. Second, the surfacing of women as competitive sailors has enriched the fleet. Third, Dave Bryant being recognized as a top skipper has encouraged young people to get involved in racing Beetles and perpetuating the Beetle Cat class. Fourth, the spirit of camaraderie, cooperation, and fellowship that has developed among Beetle sailors has emphasized the most lasting benefits of sailing.

Six boats from the WYC went to

Cape Cod's Bass River Yacht Club for the Leo Telesmanick Beetle national championships sponsored by the New England Beetle Cat Boat Association (NEBCBA) Saturday and Sunday, August 11 and 12. There were six races and WYC skippers won two of them, sailing against the best Beetle sailors in the country, including Charlie York, who builds the Beetles. Nonie Price and Julia Bradford each won a race.

The WYC won the Chairman's Trophy for the second straight year for having the best overall finishes of any participating yacht club. Weekapaug sailors also dominated the award ceremony: Tom Kligerman and Scot Wakeman (alternating being skipper) were third overall and second in the Old Salts division (50+) and Steve and Mac Glovinsky were third in that division. Nonie Price and her crew Duff Price won the women's division and Julia Bradford and her crew Charlie Warner were second in that division. Chris Pile and his crew Ellen Pile were third in the Ancient Mariners division (60+). The emergence of Weekapaug as one of the more dominant Beetle fleets in the country is testimony to the excellence of the WYC racing program and the consistently high quality of its instructors.

The summer of 2008 should be an exciting one, as the Weekapaug Yacht club will be hosting the 2008 Leo Telesmanick Championship series. The WYC is looking forward to welcoming Beetle sailors from New England to the calm waters of Quonochontaug Pond.

### Charles H. Warner

You can reference **The Beetle Sheet** with color photographs at the NEBCBA website:  
[www.beetlecat.org/newslet.html](http://www.beetlecat.org/newslet.html)

## Sailing

*Words and music by Christopher Cross*

*It's not far down to paradise  
At least it's not for me  
And if the wind is right you can sail away  
And find tranquility  
The canvas can do miracles  
Just you wait and see  
Believe me*

*It's not far to never never land  
No reason to pretend  
And if the wind is right you can find the joy  
Of innocence again  
The canvas can do miracles  
Just you wait and see  
Believe me*

*Sailing  
Takes me away  
To where I've always heard it could be  
Just a dream and the wind to carry me  
And soon I will be free*

*Fantasy  
It gets the best of me  
When I'm sailing  
All caught up in the reverie  
Every word is a symphony  
Won't you believe me*

*It's not far back to sanity  
At least it's not for me  
And when the wind is right you can sail away  
And find serenity  
The canvas can do miracles  
Just you wait and see  
Believe me*



## Beetle Cat Art

**The Beetle Sheet** will feature children's artwork in the Spring 2008 issue.

Please send scanned or digital pictures of original artwork, or artwork, to:

Kathy Smith  
10 Point Street  
Fairhaven, MA 02719

E-mail: [thebeetlesheet@yahoo.com](mailto:thebeetlesheet@yahoo.com)  
*Be sure to include your child's name, town, etc.*



## From the Archives: Care of a Beetle Cat

The following article was written by Leo J. Telesmanic for the 1978-1981 N.E.B.C.B.A. Yearbook:

### STORAGE

Storage under cover with the boat right side up on bare ground is best with 2" blocks under the keel, one just ahead of the centerboard box and the other approximately under the middle of the skeg and something checked under the bilges to keep her up-right.

If a boat must be left outside, turn her over keeping high off the ground and in the shade. Cover with canvas or perhaps a simple a tarpaper roof. Before the hot spring sun open the seams, she should be turned right side up

Centerboards will stay straighter if left in position in the boat. Rudders should not be stored in a hot or dry place. It is best if they are stored in a cool, moist place so the air reaches them from each side.

Spars can be placed on racks or blocking on the floor so as to be supported in two or three places. It is best if the sun does not beat directly on them.

### COMMISSIONING

#### *Topsides*

An extremely good sanding is necessary for a smooth job. Putty bulging from the seams should be sanded off with sandpaper over a block. 1/0 sandpaper is perhaps best. Any loose putty in seams or screw holes should be removed. Don't be afraid to sand. *Flat* paint can now be applied or if a different color is desired, a thinner coat of the new paint can be applied. After a prime coat any holes can be filled either with a seam compound which will not harden solid or a trowel cement which will. If the seams of a boat are open due to drying out, the *seam* compound should be used since it will squeeze out when swelling occurs. If a boat is in fairly good shape, and the few bare spots are spot painted, one full coat of the

flat and one coat of semi-gloss will look good. If not, two coats of the flat will be required under the semi-gloss. A *full gloss* paint is not desirable.

#### *Bottom*

Preparation is the same as above. The same compound or cement can be used even if a different color. Two coats will be best with the last applied very close to the launching time. The centerboard should be removed and the box well painted at least 8" up using a rag or sponge on a stick. The new standard Beetle has an International anti-fouling copper paint which is not a hard finish paint. There are the hard finish copper paints which can be applied and buffed. One paint being used by many is Woolsey's Vinelast which can be polished smooth. However, in many cases, it should be applied directly to the bare wood since it acts as a paint remover, although we have found that where the original paint has aged enough, there is no unfavorable result when Vinelast is applied.

#### *Deck*

As little paint as possible should be applied here since repeated coats of paint cause the canvas to crack. Give the deck a light sanding with 2/0 paper and apply a coat of deck paint perhaps thinned down a little.

#### *Cockpit*

Give a good sanding with 1/0 sandpaper and paint one coat.

#### *Bilge*

Many owners paint the bilge forward under the deck and it is a practiced idea, although not necessary every year or even two.

#### *Brightwork*

An extremely good sanding with with 2/0 sandpaper is necessary to get the top surface clean and smooth. The worn spots should perhaps be sanded down to

wood and spot varnished twice before applying at least *two coats* of good spar varnish. Sand lightly between coats.

#### *Spars*

These should have a good sanding and have at least *two coats* of varnish each year. Don't be afraid to sand for the first

#### *Rigging*

Manila running rigging should be renewed each spring using 1/4" diameter rope. The bronze turnbuckle and rigging blocks should be oiled. To renew lines the following information is helpful:

Throat-----40 feet  
Peak-----45 feet  
Sheet Line---46 feet  
Bridle-----42 inches  
Two block peak rig---55 feet

At the boatyard, we do spars usually in the late fall. During the winter we paint the deck and cockpit one coat, and varnish the brightwork two coats, leaving the topsides and bottom until nearer the launching time. However, in some yards they complete the topsides and all but the final coat on the bottom since they have ideal conditions where the boat neither swells or dries out while in storage.



#### **To our readers:**

We would really appreciate your input. What would you like to see in **The Beetle Sheet**? We would love to hear your ideas -and- your stories. Perhaps you know someone who can contribute too? We would be happy to collaborate thoughts and information to create future articles. They can be informative, humorous, photographs, drawings, remembrances/ back in the day, technical tips, etc. The easiest was to do this is by sending an e-mail and/or photos to: [thebeetlesheet@yahoo.com](mailto:thebeetlesheet@yahoo.com).

## Drama in the Devil's Pocket Hole: Westport, MA

The 45th Annual Westport River Labor Day Regatta was held on a breezy, sunny, Sunday, September 2nd. Famous for pitting residents of Westport Point against those of Westport Harbor, the Labor Day Regatta is Westport's traditional 'head of the river' race.

With an able race committee led by Meg Spicer and Borden Wicks, the course presented an epic journey down, up and back down the West Branch of the Westport River. As in races past, the passages through the mid-river marshes posed critical judgments for the ten-boat fleet. Scheduled to begin at high tide, the river's notorious current became an increasing factor throughout the almost two hour race, as did the ever-rising sandbars lining the channels. By tradition, representatives of the prior year's winner acted as committee in the following year.

Mark Edwards and his daughter Sarah, sailing *Whereas*, won a closely contested start and the lead changed hands repeatedly during the first windward leg. *Whereas* was the first to cut through the mid-river marshes, and slowly solidified its lead over the rest of the fleet. *Katherine* and the *Mud Puppy* followed *Whereas* through the marsh and traded second and third for the next several legs. Rounding R28 and reaching back for the last two mark roundings, it looked like a lock for the *Whereas* until, in the final beat to the finish, several of the leaders suddenly bore off and headed back downwind. The top of the fleet had crossed the river too far to port, passing too windward of a critical private buoy on the reaching leg. Out of nowhere, *Santalina*, sailed by Doug and John Spicer, catapulted from 5th to 1st, stunning the race leaders and capturing the trophy for the second year running. *Emma*, sailed by Andy Tymowski and Susan Berringer, and *Whistler*, sailed by Chip Gillespie and Chip McGrath, rounded out the top three.

The Spicers' victory represented the third consecutive triumph for the denizens of Westport Point and fourth in the last five years, fuelling Harbor accusations that their cross-river rivals continue to rely unfairly upon their knowledge of the marshes, rather than clean sailing in the open waters of the Harbor and nearby ocean. The day ended peacefully, however, with a traditional late afternoon reception at Spindle Rock Yacht Club, punctuated by toasts, merriment, assertions of future vengeance and renewed commitment all around to Westport's piratical nautical traditions and its growing Beetle fleet.

Article and photographs by

**Stephen Culhane**





## Beetle Cat Boat Shop

Photos by  
Michelle Buoniconto & Kathy Smith



# HAWES FAMILY BEETLE CAT HISTORY Westport, MA



**Anne Rogers Hawes**

**Richard K. Hawes, Jr.**

## **BLACK DUCK (1934 to 1938)**

My Grandmother gave my brother Sydney (then 15) the boat around 1934. Sydney was a lifelong sailing enthusiast having raced to Bermuda 8 or so years, sailed Transatlantic, and even raced one year in the Fastnet. Black Duck was damaged in the 1938 hurricane and subsequently sold.



## **QUEEN MARY (1928 – WWII)**

Bought by my Grandmother from the Beetle Boat Shop in its early days for her 4 sons. Sailed her in the summer of 1939 while courting my future wife Anne Rogers.



## **QUEEN ANNE (named for my spouse) (1947 – 1985)**

Purchased by my father from Concordia (Waldo Howland) when it was 8-10 years old for \$350! Anne and I sailed on the Westport River with the children. *Quote from 1951 NEBCBA yearbook Westport River Happenings: "Mr. R.K. Hawes tells me that Beetles at Westport are used more for utility boats than for racing. His children and grandchildren are using their boat all day long for picnics on the river or fishing outside the harbor for blues or just sailing."*



## **BLACK DUCK II (After WWII – 1964)**

Bought by my mother and was mostly raced by my brother Sydney in Padanaram. The boat was also enjoyed by all the family for sails along the Westport River.

## **BLACK DUCK III (1976 – Present)**

My mother bought the latest family Beetle Cat brand new from Waldo Howland at Concordia Co. She is currently moored next to POLLYWOG and continues to be sailed and raced by all my siblings.



## **CAT'S PAW (1993 – 2005)**

Bought this 1960 Beetle Cat after answering an ad in Brooklin, ME. Was sailed mostly by my son Robert and his two daughters Heather and Jillian who both taught sailing at the Spindle Rock Club in Westport Harbor. Robert won several of the Westport races over this time period.

## **POLLYWOG (2007 – Present)**

Purchased new this year by our Granddaughter Heather and her husband David. A launching party took place in June where family and friends were invited for a warm welcome to the newest Beetle Cat. Moored at the boathouse next to BLACK DUCK III, Heather and her family enjoyed sailing and racing POLLYWOG this summer on the Westport River.





## Destination Sail!

O N M A H H E H D W A S L T R W R S E L T A W D L  
 S C H S U T T S N T R C A D Y G E O P S D E N T N  
 N T L Y L H R L A E L W G O K V N D E M S S O N E  
 X D E P A R O D R R T D E Y A E G W G T U N S I R  
 T T O D A N V G B R D T O S O N P S E E S R L S W  
 T H U T I E N Y I N A Y E T T D W R P E W D T E S  
 S B H E A T E I C S R V E S H D L A T B R O E O D  
 L T A G O W W D S U L A U A I Y E I T S T K O A U  
 W U R O T R T O B P D A I G B O S N D W A W D D E  
 U I A T W T D X L Y O W N M N L P E N P R U W E R  
 C M L T S W U E T O C R E D A R I A A I V T N E M  
 C T W D M D E P V E D T T N R I R U T I S L W B O  
 T H B W H N B P R O M H D E R P G E T T O M E E A  
 D T A M T A I A R E C U H R E W B E V A A A R N I  
 M T E T A M R A P L V S A U T L T D E I D M M D L  
 V A I K H P A B E N W I A T L C B T L R R D U O T  
 A A V L C A H R O T Y D R M A A T A H L V S M E N  
 R R L R R U M T A R L O B T T C M H T R I E S A U  
 S S N E O O T I U N C N G M R S D I D S T T W A M  
 A P B X R T R N O O A A X P A O I V W D N O L E B  
 E R Y O L T G G A O M D T T A X P R T I N R E S D  
 T T E R R P I A D N M Y A K I H S T H I D V A D E  
 T H T A P I I O S C K A L P N U N D S C T P D B I  
 R M E S H S I R O A R S O P T O T A A E H A A E R  
 C B R P E M R D H T I T S M U D R S T N W O U D E

BARNSTABLE

EDGEWOOD

WESTDENNIS

HOGISLAND

CATAUMET

WILDHARBOR

CHRISTMASCOVE

HYANNISPORT

WEEKAPAUG

DUXBURY

WESTPORTRIVER

PLYMOUTH

BASSRIVER

LOWTIDE

MATTAPOISETT

NANTUCKET

ONSETISLAND

WESTERLY

CHATHAM

PADANARAM

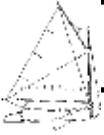
### Chocolate Covered Pretzels

Ingredients: Square pretzels, Hershey Kisses, M&M's

These pretzels are really easy for either parents or children to create during the cozy winter months. Enjoy!

Set the oven at 170\* and line cookie sheets with parchment or wax paper. Lay out the pretzels and put Hershey kisses on top. If you use white chocolate or any with fillings (like peanut butter or caramel) bake for about four minutes; other chocolates usually take approximately six minutes. As soon as you take them out of the oven squish an M & M on top of each one, then, put them in the fridge to harden.

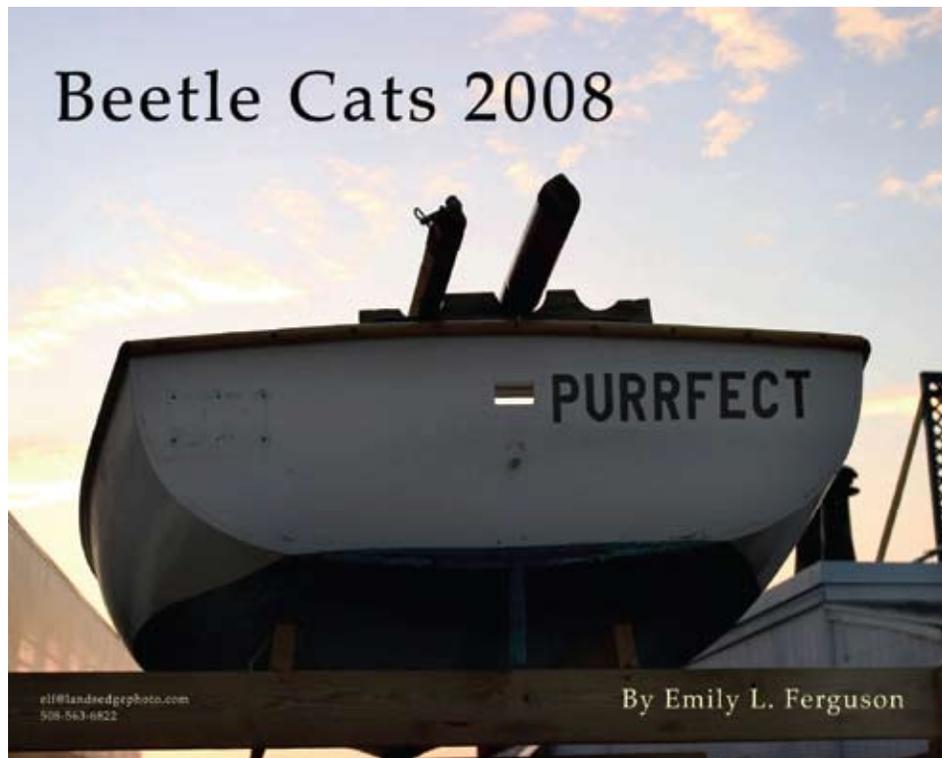
I use the extra large size and peanut M & M's, in addition to traditional Kisses, when making this treat.



New England Beetle Cat  
Boat Association

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Twelve month 2008 Beetle Cat Calendar by Emily L. Ferguson.

You can see it at <http://www.lulu.com/content/945320>  
E-mail to: [elf@landsedgephoto.com](mailto:elf@landsedgephoto.com) Phone: 508-563-6822  
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