



Wednesday Night Beetle Sailing at Edgewood Yacht Club

FROM THE HELM

Looking over the transom, we can be proud to call 2023 a successful 102nd year of the Beetle Cat class. The Leo J. Telesmanick Beetle Cat Championships were a delight, with challenging conditions, tough competition, and outstanding hospitality at the Bass River Yacht Club. Reports from clubs across the Beetle universe were uniformly positive. Participation in the provision of content for these pages of the Beetle Sheet has increased. The Beetle Boat Shop is going strong, churning out new boats while also making sure the fleet is repaired and maintained quickly and efficiently. All in all, we are an ancient class of boats with the energy of a kitesurfer. We're in a terrific position to grow further. And where's a great place to start that further growth? With the 2024 Leo being hosted by the Wianno Yacht Club on August 10-11 of next year. You have the dates, so make the plans to join us for what we think will be another superlative event. I have never sailed at Wianno myself, though I've watched my daughters sail there in Optis and C420s. I'm very much looking forward to launching into West Bay and racing there or in the sound. I hope you are too!

Back on the Edgewood Basin of the Providence River, we have seen our fleet grow this year by a few boats, making it possible for us to have regular race nights with 10 boats on the line. That's a lot more exciting than a handful of boats. And what's equally exciting is that the fleet stays fairly tightly together in those races. We have younger and older skippers, and skippers with much less and much more experience (and some of the youngest skippers are not the ones with the least experience sailing Beetles). But the group sails together well and creates dramatic starts and finishes for the spectators who watch from the "boat end" of the line, which is actually the north dock of the Edgewood Yacht Club marina. We love to hear similar reports of Beetle Cat enthusiasm from all corners—please keep those reports rolling in.

As we think about our boats tucked away for the offseason, whether on Thatcher Lane in Wareham or in our backyards and garages, I encourage us to think too about how best we all can perpetuate the love that we share for the Beetle Cat. While there is so much activity in the class to celebrate, there is of course more we can do. So consider this winter which friend you want to introduce to the Beetle Cat next spring. Which kid might like to serve as your crew, or, better yet, your skipper. Which new place you can sail your Beetle to show off its lines to a new audience. Which old place that used to have a big Beetle presence where you might plant the seed for a resurgence. Share a photo of that old Beetle trophy in your closet. Share a story of a memorable sail. Share some time helping someone else get a Beetle ready for its spring launch. The 103rd year of the Beetle Cat is right around December's windward mark.

Fair winds,
George W. Shuster, Jr.
NEBCBA Chairman

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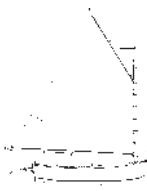
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New England Beetle Cat Boat Association

FALL 2023

2023 LEO J. TELESMANICK CHAMPIONSHIP REGATTA

HOSTED BY THE BASS RIVER YACHT CLUB

AUGUST 11 – 13, 2023

On August 12th and 13th, Bass River Yacht Club hosted the 2023 Leo J. Telesmanick Beetle Cat Championships at their clubhouse on the west side of the Bass River in South Yarmouth, Massachusetts. Nineteen boats competed on the Nantucket Sound racecourse in six races over two days. On the Friday before the racing, BRYC had plenty of staff on hand to assist visiting Beetle sailors with launching at the capacious ramp on Uncle Freemans Road across the river in West Dennis, and towing the boats to moorings loaned to the fleet for the weekend. Beetle, Inc. was also on hand for assistance as needed. Once all of the boats were put away for the evening, BRYC hosted a cocktail reception for sailors and guests. On Saturday morning, the air was light and the incoming current on the river was swift, so BRYC organized a set of tows to bring the fleet to the racecourse. The breeze built as predicted, and the race committee got two races off before the fleet was directed to sail back to the mouth of the river for lunch at Betsy Kamborian’s house. Two more races in the afternoon, in medium breeze and some challenging chop, capped off a great day of racing. In the evening, after cocktails and a raw bar and before dinner, the New England Beetle Cat Boat Association held its annual membership meeting in the BRYC clubhouse. George Shuster, chair of NEBCBA, presided over the meeting and announced the third winner of the annual Terwilliger Award for outstanding contributions to the Beetle Cat class (see elsewhere in this edition for more on that). Dinner was delicious, fortifying the fleet for what would prove to be a sporty second day of racing. Sunday morning started with rain and lightning, leading the race committee to fly the AP flag for a couple of hours. But the storm passed a bit ahead of forecast, and the fleet returned to the Sound for two more races. The breeze was stiff on Sunday, and several boats made the decision to retire before or upon reaching the racecourse. A few others reefed their sails. The competitors battled against each other and the breeze and chop, then made the difficult trip back up the river with wind and current both on the transom. One boat from Edgewood Yacht Club capsized at the mouth of the river (reported also in the From the Helm column in this edition), leading to a well-executed rescue by fellow sailor Sam Lawrence and the BRYC safety boat. All arrived back at BRYC for lunch and awards. Congratulations to all of the podium finishers in the event, indicated on the results chart included here, and especially to Michael Costello and Mariel Marchand in MENOW for repeating their 2022 victory with a repeat win overall in 2023. And a huge thank you to BRYC for hosting. See you at Wianno Yacht Club on August 10-11, 2024, for next year’s Leo!

2023 Leo J. Telesmanick Beetle Cat Championships

Sail	Boat	Skipper	Yacht Club	Race 1	Race 2	Race 3	Race 4	Race 5	Race 6	Total Points	Place Overall	Place Men's Division	Place Women's Division	Place Junior Division	Place Old Salts	Place Ancient Mariners
T14	Menow	Michael Costello [Men]	Barnstable Yacht Club	1	2	[3]	1	1	1	6	1	1				
W202	Pippin	Sage Wadlow [Junior]	Wianno Yacht Club	7	1	1	[24/OCS]	2	3	14	2			1		
1		Nat Edmonds [Men]	Wianno Yacht Club	3	[4]	4	2	4	2	15	3	2				
R99	Tigger	Gretchen Hibben [Women]	Barnstable Yacht Club	4	9	2	4	[24/DNS]	9	28T	4		1			
E52	Seashell	George Shuster [Men]	Edgewood Yacht Club	5	[13]	7	6	5	5	28T	5	3				
HB1	In The Rough	Taylor Eastman [Women]	Wianno Yacht Club	10	3	10	[11]	3	4	30	6		2			
A13	Mud Puppy	Stephen Culhane [Old Salts]	Atlantic Yacht Club	8	7	9	5	[24/DSQ]	6	35	7				1	
R28	Inolah	Elizabeth Gail Hayden [Women]	Bass River Yacht Club	2	5	11	9	9	[24/DNS]	36T	8		3			
R2327	Best Yet	Bob Churchill [Men]	Bass River Yacht Club	[15]	6	8	6	8	8	36T	9	4				
R7	PIXIE	William Lawrence [Old Salts]	West Dennis Yacht Club	[14]	11	5	10	8	7	41	10				2	
2337	Yelsabet II	Madison Barto [Junior]	Edgewood Yacht Club	9	10	16	3	11	[24/DNF]	49	11			2		
R16	Top Banana	Rick Crawford [Ancient Mariner]	Bass River Yacht Club	12	12	16	7	10	[24/DNS]	56	12					1
0	Windfall II	James Barto [Men]	Edgewood Yacht Club	6	14	6	13	[24/DNF]	24/DNS	63	13	5				
R36	Limmer	Rick O'Leary [Old Salts]	Bass River Yacht Club	11	8	14	15	[24/DNC]	24/DNC	72	14				3	
R40	FIASCO	ELINOR LAWRENCE [Women]	West Dennis Yacht Club	13	15	12	14	[24/DNC]	24/DNC	78	15		4			
R17	Kiwi	Eric Grossman [Old Salts]	Bass River Yacht Club	17	16	17	12	[24/DNC]	24/DNC	86	16				4	
23	Fog Dog	Craig Fillmann [Ancient Mariner]	Portland Yacht Club	18	19	13	16	[24/DNC]	24/DNC	90	17					2
21	Calli	Jackson Barto [Junior]	Edgewood Yacht Club	[24/DNF]	18	24/OCS	24/DNF	7	24/DNF	97	18			3		
R2020	Saltworks	Betsy Kamborian [Ancient Mariner]	Bass River Yacht Club	16	17	[24/DNC]	24/DNC	24/DNC	24/DNC	105	19					3

Bass River Yacht Club * South Yarmouth, Massachusetts * August 12-13, 2023

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NEWS FROM THE BEETLE SHOP



Bill Womack and Jon Telesmanick
in front of Leo's Boat

The Beetle Shop had another busy spring/summer maintaining the ever-growing fleet. We launched the new Beetle Cat *Moose* in Duxbury (first in almost 40 years), and many of the other fleets in New England continue to grow with the support of the devoted Beetle Cat community. In addition to the new boats, we tackled three major restorations, bringing *Zou-Zou*, *Super Bug*, and *Water Lilly* back to life. The new boats often-times overshadow the restorations, but they are just as important to us and the long-time owners of these family boats, and great to see them all back on the water.

Lots of gossip this summer about The Perfect Couple Netflix series shooting in Chatham (the murder mystery revolves around a Nantucket wedding) starring Nicole Kidman and Liev Schreiber. Rumor has it a Beetle Cat sailboat appears in the production as the “quintessential New England boat.” Keep an eye out for that in 2024. More importantly, the real-life wedding of Beetle Cat sailor Catie O’Sullivan and Andy Lee took place in Chatham in May, with the family Beetle Cat *Lobster Roll* playing a leading role. We would like to congratulate them once again and thank them for the wedding “swag” they were nice enough to share with us.

Bill Womack officially handed over Leo Telesmanick’s Beetle Cat *Aljean* to Mystic Seaport at the 2023 WoodenBoat Show. Friends and family came by to see her final resting spot and reminisce. In August Bill and I attended the Beetle Cat championships at Bass River Yacht Club. Thank you to everyone at BRYC for giving us a warm welcome and hosting another well-organized Leo!



Jeremy and Manny working on “Zou Zou”



New Boom Crutches and Battens

Summertime, when all the boats are out, we tackle small projects and improvements around the shop. This summer Marc Blandin removed and painted both the Beetle Boat Shop sign and the Wooden Boat Center sign. He must have done an excellent job, as Cathy Taylor thought the Wooden Boat Center sign was new on her recent visit to the shop! Summer is also when we build our Beetle flagpoles. Seth Ahrenholz worked with Bill to design and build a custom 28’ flagpole with a weathervane on the top, and a custom 30’ flagpole with a gaff.

– continued on next page

NEWS FROM THE BEETLE SHOP (CONT.)

Hurricane Lee in early September was luckily a miss but hurried over fifty boats out ahead of its arrival. Now that things have settled back down, we are building Beetle Cat parts and varnishing spars as the cycle begins once again. We thank you once again for your unwavering support as the Beetle Cat sailboat celebrates 102 years!

- Michelle Buoniconito



Sanding Spars



Freshly painted Beetle shop sign

NEW ENGLAND BEETLE CAT BOAT ASSOCIATION (NEBCBA) PRESENTED THE 2023 TERWILLIGER AWARD TO LISBETH (BETSY) KAMBORIAN OF BASS RIVER YACHT CLUB



Following its annual meeting on Saturday, August 12, 2023, George W. Shuster, Jr., Chairman of the New England Beetle Cat Boat Association (NEBCBA) presented the 2023 Terwilliger Award. A summary of his remarks follow: “It is my pleasure to present the 2023 Terwilliger Award on behalf of NEBCBA. The Terwilliger Award is a relatively new award within the Beetle Cat class, having been first presented by NEBCBA at the 100th Anniversary Leo J. Telesmanick Beetle Cat Championships hosted by Chatham Yacht Club in 2021. The award that year was presented to Roy Terwilliger himself, honoring his outstanding contributions to the Beetle Cat class over many decades. In 2022, the award was presented to Jeff Lanphear of Edgewood Yacht Club, the host club of the 2022 Leo, for his own remarkable contributions to the Beetle fleet at Edgewood, and the tradition was established that the Leo host club nominate the recipient of that year’s award. This year’s recipient is also a person who has demonstrated unbelievable support for the Beetle Cat Class over an enduring period of time. Since the early 1970s, when the Beetle was the training boat for young sailors at Bass River Yacht Club, this year’s recipient has been the Beetle Cat’s best advocate. She has served on the NEBCBA board, and she has hosted four Leo regatta lunches, including lunch today, at her home on the Bass River.

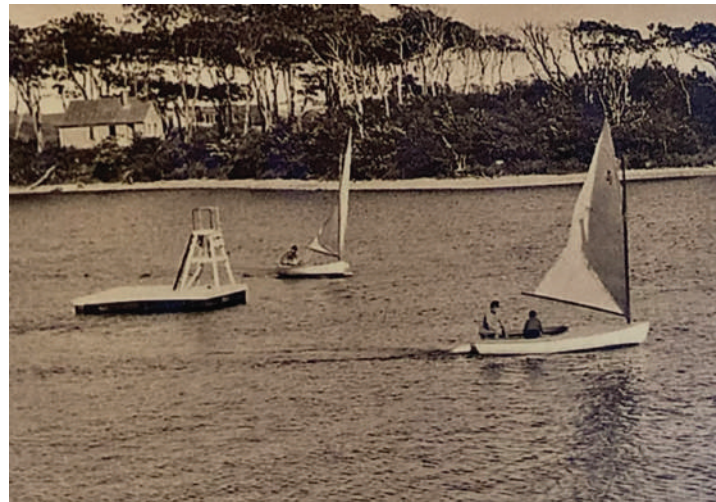
She has worked tirelessly on the planning and execution of each regatta held here. But this year’s recipient has not only assisted the Beetle Cat class from the hard. On the water, this year’s recipient has competed in three Leo regattas in her Beetle Cat number 18, BARRISTER, and this year she skippered Beetle number 2020, SALTWORKS. Her participation in the races today exemplifies her loyalty and love, for more than fifty years, for this wonderful boat. Please join me in congratulating this year’s 2023 Terwilliger Award recipient, Betsy Kamborian of Bass River Yacht Club.”

THE BEETLE CATS OF CAMP FULLER

Compliments of The Camp Fuller Archive Project
www.campfullerarchive.org

Camp Fuller is one of the oldest summer camps in the country. Its roots date back to the 1880's, when the camp served as a get-away for boys in the Providence area for two weeks each summer. Prior to its current home in South County, it operated as an itinerant summer camp and moved to a different location in Rhode Island each summer. The cost to attend was \$5.00 per week and scholarships were quietly given to those families who could not afford the cost to attend.

In 1912, the program re-located to Point Judith Pond in Wakefield and was named Camp Lawton. Frederic H. Fuller, then president of the Providence YMCA purchased the original 15 acres of land on Turner Cove and donated it to the Y so that the camp would have a permanent home. As an acknowledgment of his generosity, the camp was named after him and has been operating and thriving ever since.



Water activities were always a major part of the summer program and sailing has always been the mainstay. The first sailboat was purchased in 1928 with two more coming in 1929 and 1930. Despite the challenges of the Great Depression, Camp Fuller continued to find the resources to put kids in boats and out on the water. Other vessels included six rowboats, a war canoe and a power boat to round out the fleet.

As Camp Fuller continued to grow and serve more kids, the need to expand the program continued as well. As such, more boats were added which included a fleet of new Beetle Cats that were brought to camp in the 1930's. A few others were donated over the years which enabled more kids access to the sailing program and the waters of Point Judith Pond.

The Beetle Cat was a perfect boat for Camp Fuller. Kids were taught the basics elements of sailing and often advanced into racing. Rigging, boat repair and maintenance were also part of the learning experience and kids came up through the ranks after they showed competence both in and out of the boats. The boats were sailed hard each summer before they were carefully put away in the Fuller Boat House for another season.



THE BEETLE CATS OF CAMP FULLER (CONT.)



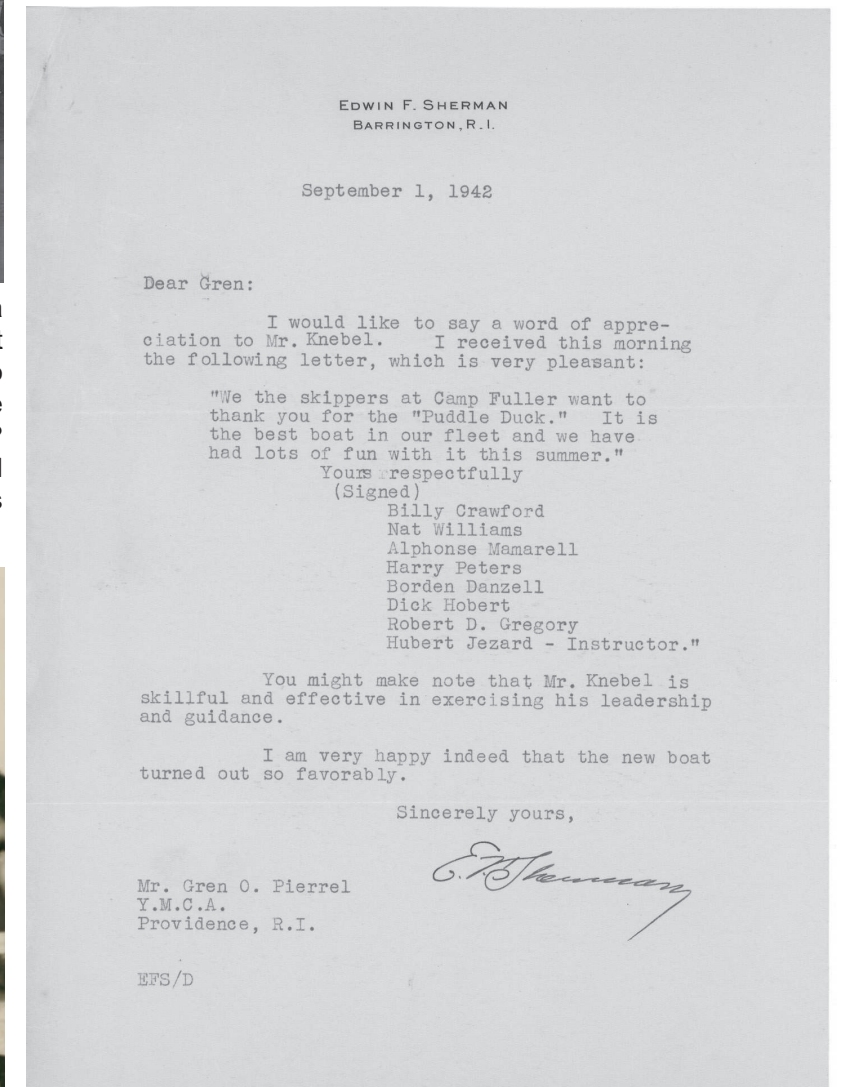
The boats used at Camp Fuller these days are a far cry from the old Beetles. But are they really that different when you think about a kid learning how to sail, gaining confidence and independence on the water and honing his or her boat handling skills? Although the wood and canvas have been replaced with fiberglass, composites, and modern synthetics the principles learned on a Beetle remain the same.



The Fuller Beetles live on in photos, our website and social media platforms, YouTube videos and in the memories of those who were fortunate enough to have sailed them. Who knows, they may just show up again off the shores of Camp Fuller.

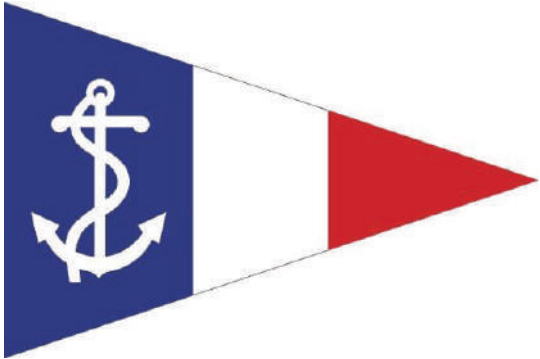
To learn more about the history of Camp Fuller, visit our website: www.campfullerarchive.org

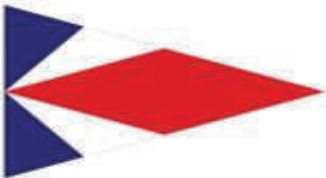
Memories of learning how to sail on a Fuller Beetle occasionally come up in conversations about times spent at camp. At a recent Camp Fuller reunion, someone was overheard reminiscing about one of the Beetles from the 1940's named "Puddle Duck". A few days later, we found this letter dated 1942.



BEETLE FLEET UPDATES
Fall 2023

This new section of the Beetle Sheet features updates about Beetle activity at NEBCBA member clubs. We'd love to include more updates – please send your update for the Spring 2024 Beetle Sheet to Stephanie Van Patten at slvp21@gmail.com.

<div><div>BASS RIVER YACHT CLUB</div><div></div></div>	<p>BRYC hosted another successful Telesmanick Regatta out in the Sound this past August. We had beetle sailors representing 7 different Yacht Clubs and spanning 7 decades in age. Please see full write up for more information including race results.</p>
<div><div>EDGEWOOD YACHT CLUB</div><div></div></div>	<p>As usual, Edgewood Yacht Club ran three separate racing series this season. We started the first Wednesday in June with the Spring Series, followed with the Summer Series (our club championship series) in July and August, and finished with our Fall Series (otherwise known for the last 81 years as the Harris Sweepstakes) in September. We missed a few weeks due to conditions, but we still held over 50 Beetle races. In addition to our weekly Wednesday racing, we hosted the 9th Annual Pomham Rocks Beetle Cat Circumnavigation Regatta around the 1871 Pomham Rocks Lighthouse across the Edgewood Basin from our club. Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse was gracious in taking members out to the lighthouse island to watch the race from there—believed to be the first sailboat racing watched from the lighthouse in an organized way perhaps ever, and certainly in the modern history of EYC. That event also raised well over \$1,000 for the benefit of the Rhode Island Alzheimer’s Association from voluntary race fees, bringing the total raised by the event over time to north of \$10,000. Our fleet grew this year as did the quality of the racing. Newer fleet members Bill Shaw in SCARAB (who won the club championship) and Jim Myers in KAT (who won the Pomham Rocks event) raised the level of competition within the fleet and kept the rest of us fighting for the front of the pack. Our junior skippers, Jackson and Madison Bartro, got more time at the helm and kept up with the more “mature” members of the fleet. With 11 boats in the EYC Beetle Cat mooring field, we reached 10 boats on the line in some races—a still-growing fleet. We also sent four boats from EYC to the 2023 Leo J. Telesmanick Beetle Cat Championships—CALLI, SEASHELL, YELSABET II, and WINDFALL II—the most from any visiting club—and earned awards for second and third in the Junior Division and third in the Men’s Division. Thanks to Stephanie Van Patten for running the races and to all of the members of the EYC Beetle Cat fleet for a terrific season.</p>

<div><div>Chatham Yacht Club</div><div></div></div>	<p>Chatham Yacht Club Beetle Cat sailors enjoyed another summer of great sailing and good competition on beautiful Pleasant Bay. There are three Series Races at CYC – two on Tuesday, and one on Saturday. For full report please see Cathy Taylor’s article within the Beetle Sheet.</p>
<div><div>SPINDLE ROCK YACHT CLUB</div><div></div></div>	<p>We enjoyed a great season of Beetle Cat sailing in Westport. For our racing season, we held 5 races. Fortunately this season, our races coincided with high tide, which gave us creative options for courses in the river. For all of our races, we had at least 6 boats, and for our Labor Day race, we had 8 Beetles present! Fortunately, Emily Ferguson also joined for the Labor Day race which led to more brilliant Beetle photography! Jillian and Heather Hawes were the winners (again) in <i>Pollywog</i> for the Acoaxet Cup race, while Jeff Gonsalves and Sally Sullivan took first in the newly rebuilt <i>Zou Zou</i> for the Labor Day Race. I am very encouraged by the health of our Beetle Fleet at Spindle Rock and the strong level of consistent participation in our races throughout the summer. With the onset of Fall, our Beetle field of moorings is now empty and all boats are resting for the winter. Looking forward to our next summer season ahead!</p> <p>See photos elsewhere in this edition.</p>
<div><div>WEEKAPAUG</div><div></div><div>YACHT CLUB</div></div>	<p>Weekapaug’s 2023 season was its first in the newly completed Clubhouse. The transition from the “Shack” to a proper facility suitable for large social gatherings boosted Club membership as well as interest in our weekly racing series, and the number of boats on the starting line grew from a high of 11 in 2022 to 14 this year. The newcomers did quite well, challenging the usual trophy winners. The increased level of competition did not however lower the overall spirit of camaraderie that has been the hallmark of this club. Of special note this year was the number of skippers bringing in the younger generation as their crews. It’s a great learning experience for them as future racers, no doubt, but also for setting the example of how friendly competition and good sportsmanship makes racing so fun and rewarding no matter how well you finish.</p> <p>We are looking forward to having even more younger and older racers next year, and to sharpening our skills for the 2025 Leo!</p>
<div><div> Wianno Yacht Club</div></div>	<p>WYC is pleased and proud to host the 2024 Leo J. Telesmanick Regatta on August 10-11, 2024. Be on the lookout for more information as the event approaches.</p>

SPINDLE ROCK BEETLE CAT FLEET - 2023



Heading to 1/2 Mile rock, just beyond the Knubble



Lining up and reviewing the course for the Labor Day Race



Our crew after the Acoaxet Cup Race



Our crew for the Labor Day Race



Beetle from the dock: looking out on the EYC starting line

- Photo by Stephanie Van Patten



Beetle from below: looking up at SEASHELL, E52
- Photo by George Shuster

Opposite: Beetles from above: looking down from Pomham Rocks Lighthouse on the 2023 EYC PRBCCR - Photo by John Howell

CHATHAM YACHT CLUB 2023 SEASON WRAP UP

- Cathy Taylor



Chatham Yacht Club Beetle Cat sailors enjoyed another summer of great sailing and good competition on beautiful Pleasant Bay. There are three Series Races at CYC - two on Tuesday, and one on Saturday. Fortunately, in 2023, unlike 2022, only a couple of series races needed to be rescheduled due to high winds or weather.

Winning the Tuesday Beetle Cat Series (Midweek Bowl) was skipper Anne Sampson and her young grandchildren in "Jolly Two". The second Series Race on Tuesdays is the Ladies' Series. This year it was won (Tomlinson Trophy) by skipper, Cathy Taylor, and her crew, Dottie Mackey in "Kit Kat".

The Saturday Beetle Cat Series was won by Ted & Melissa Dickson (Commodore's Cup), who also took first place at the annual Chatham Yacht Club Regatta on August 5 & 6, 2023. Winds were fair and skies were sunny both days for the event. Eleven Beetle Cats competed, and the fleet was unusually competitive, with competitors of all ages (from 11 years to 70 years!). Commodore Marshall Bartlett, skipper, and daughter Brooke, crew, claimed second place in their beautiful and fast Beetle Cat, Centennial, with sail number, of course, E100! Elizabeth (Sampson) Luciano and her young sons, Chris and Nicky, took third place in "Jolly Two".

Unfortunately, Cathy Taylor and Natalie Coleman-Fuller were unable to race in the annual Telesmanick Regatta as they had registered for, and looked forward to, as Cathy contracted Covid just a few days prior to the event. It was a disappointment to many, as they had planned to trailer pink "Kit Kat" to Bass River Yacht Club for the event. They missed sailing on Nantucket Sound and competing with many like-minded new friends!

At CYC, Beetle Cats are used to teach beginners in the sailing school. They are also used, along with 14' catboats, in the new and popular Adult Sailing class, held on Monday afternoons.

Although Roy Terwilliger is not racing "Missy", he generously continues to lend her to the CYC sailing school. Roy also keeps up with the Beetle race results and on race days, he can often be spotted watching the Beetle races from his car at the head of the Bay!

It is nearly summer's end, and there are several Beetle Cats still moored in Pleasant Bay. Usually, their owners participate in one last group sail and picnic up the Bay on an incoming tide, snaking through the islands, stopping for a picnic (and picture, of course!), and then sailing home together midafternoon, with the assistance of the outgoing Bay tide.

Phil Robbins ("Jitterbug") and Cathy Taylor raced and also kept a watchful eye on the CYC Beetle Cat fleet all season, and assisted owners with boat repairs, as needed. Phil checked on the fleet on a regular basis and often pumped boats that were looking "low in the water". Phil and Cathy (when not sailing) also regularly patrolled the CYC races, always offering to watch the Beetles, of course!

It is always a bit melancholy as the late summer weather can be unpredictable on the Cape, and the Beetles start to gradually disappear from their moorings, one by one. At CYC, we like to think that the process just takes us all a little closer to sailing season, 2024!



The Beetle Sheet
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SAVE THE DATE

2024 Leo J. Telesmanick Regatta at Wianno Yacht Club

August 10th-11th

Visit us at our website: www.beetlecat.org
or on Facebook at the Group Page
"Beetle Cat Sailors"