The Newsletter of the New England Beetle Cat Boat Association

THE BEETLE SHEET SPRING 2023

2022 Leo J. Telesmanick Beetle Cat Championships at Edgewood Yacht Club - *Photo by Bob Brown*

FROM THE HELM

As I write this, we've just turned the corner from winter to spring. At Edgewood Yacht Club, that means putting aside the Sunfish we've been racing in the frostbite fleet and taking stock of what needs to be done to get our Beetle fleet ready for the upcoming season. Those of us who race both Sunfish and Beetles know that there are more similarities between the classes than you might think. Both have large sail areas relative to hull size, and a lateen sail shape is not so different than a gaff-rigged sail shape. Both have masts stepped forward (watch out for swamping on heavy air downwinds), and both can be quite sensitive to where their sailors shift their body weight. Managing weather helm can be a challenge in both classes. But there's also a similarity in both Sunfish and Beetles being highly approachable classes for all levels and ages of sailors, and that is a reason both classes have endured as long as they have. No one is surprised when you say you can have a Sunfish rigged and out sailing in ten minutes—but when you say you have a wooden boat that's so simple you can be underway that quickly, you may see a raised eyebrow. Two of the newer sailors in our Sunfish fleet at EYC are also two of our newer additions to our Beetle fleet—at Edgewood, there is a big overlap between the fleets, because the sailors are looking for the same things in each. I'll admit that I'm yearning for the smell of my cedar cockpit, the feel of my square tiller, and the subtle creaks as my Beetle stretches its ribs against the breeze. Those are things that a Sunfish can't match. But when I am on the downwind leg of the Beetle racecourse this summer, I may also be thinking about giving the boat a little more windward heel in the Sunfish manner, especially in the dying southerly that is just one of the beautiful, perpetual challenges of our Wednesday night Beetle series here on the Edgewood Basin.

Speaking of summer, I want to encourage all Beetle sailors to consider joining us at Bass River Yacht Club on August 12 & 13 for the 2023 Leo J. Telesmanick Beetle Cat Championships. The last time BRYC hosted the event in 2018, we were treated to superb hospitality, expert race committee management, and ideal sailing conditions off the south shore of the Cape. As you'll read in these pages, BRYC has been planning another terrific event this year. Not only is the Leo an opportunity for great racing—and don't worry, there is always a broad range of experience levels on the racecourse—but it's a time to gather with other Beetle sailors to celebrate our 102-year-old class. There are few classes of boats that can boast such a tradition as we have. In fact, there are few traditions in sport that can match the history of the Beetle Cat. So please try to carve out time from your summer schedule to get to Bass River in August. You'll be very glad you did.

Finally, I want to take this space to recognize everyone who brings energy and enthusiasm to the Beetle Cat class. We don't always pause to recognize all of the people in our club and race committee management who support our sailing Beetles, year in and year out. Or the people at the Beetle Boat Shop, who are caring for over 250 (!) of our boats each winter in Wareham, while also finding time to build new hulls. Or the staff and students at the International Yacht Restoration School in Newport, whose annual attention to the Beetle as an exercise in wooden boat reconstruction keeps adding more boats back into the class. Or Emily Ferguson, whose tireless efforts to record the modern history of the Beetle is fueled by her unquestionably genuine love of Beetle Cats and the families who sail them. Or the NEBCBA board, whose continuing efforts hold us together as a community. Thank you, all, for giving us the Beetle Cat class we enjoy today. And on with the 2023 season!

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

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New England Beetle Cat Boat Association SPRING 2023

WELCOME TO THE
2023 LEO J. TELESMANICK CHAMPIONSHIP REGATTA
HOSTED BY THE BASS RIVER YACHT CLUB
AUGUST 11 – 13, 2023

The Bass River Yacht Club (BRYC) is honored to be hosting the 2023 NEBCBA Leo J. Telesmanick Championship Regatta on August 11-13, 2023 in South Yarmouth, MA. Bass River is a tidal river that flows into Nantucket Sound, where we will be conducting the races. The BRYC is easily reachable on Cape Cod from Route 6, just a little east of Hyannis.

There will be adequate launching and mooring facilities. The Yacht Club is approximately one mile from the mouth of the Bass River, which empties into Nantucket Sound. Sailors can launch their boats at Uncle Freeman's Landing across the River in Dennis, MA. We will arrange moorings and/or dock assignments from the Yacht Club to the mouth of the river.

The Leo will be sailed on Nantucket Sound, west of the marked channel leaving Bass River. The BRYC will provide our Committee Boat and sufficient mark boats to support the races and to provide ferrying service from the dock of the BRYC to the moorings and back.

Our plans are to follow the schedule for the past few years that have been sponsored by the BRYC. We will begin on Friday, August 11 for Early Check-In in the afternoon and a welcoming party at the Yacht Club from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. Additional Check-In will be provided the morning of Saturday August 12. We will have the first signal on the racecourse around 10:15 AM to 10:30. The final race will begin at or before 16:00. For the convenience of the sailors participating in the Leo, lunch on Saturday will be provided in the front yard of Betsy Kamborian near the mouth of the river. A cocktail party and dinner will be served at the BRYC Club House on Saturday night. The NEBCBA Annual Meeting will follow the cocktail party and precede the dinner. The remaining races will be held on August 13. The race results and Awards Ceremony will be held at the BRYC clubhouse later that afternoon.

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

Terwilliger Award presented to Jeff Lanphear

Thank you for the tremendous honor of being awarded the Roy Terwilliger Award for this year. I was both impressed and surprised. I did not appropriately thank the class or address the import of the award.

I first met Roy at the 2014 Telesmanick Championship in Chatham. I was lost in searching for the boat ramp (and the yacht club) - and there was Roy guiding us each step of the way. Later that weekend, he proved himself to be a skilled racer in our fleet. More than that, he was clearly a respected leader at Chatham, and in Beetle meetings. He helped establish, grow and define the yacht club fleet, not only with his knowledge of the boat but for his dedication to sportsmanship - on and off the water. He follows the rules without being told and helps new sailors into our excellent Beetle fleets.

Sailing Beetles for most of my life has been a true joy. My family grew with two Beetles, and my older brothers became Narragansett Bay and Edgewood Yacht Club champions at early ages. I learned to sail by crewing for them, my father and Edgewood legends such as Sterling Place and Bill Plumb. Along the way, as my friends were discovering fiberglass, I came to appreciate the boat itself - a nearly perfect design, capable of racing or comfortable cruising. It is a boat which one or two people can launch, cruise and learn to improve themselves. It gives much to the sailor, but demands care and attention in the spring. It builds friendships, brings families together, and expands fleets at yacht clubs. I continue to be enthused as younger sailors like George Shuster grow to build the Beetle fleets and class. Each of you know the joy of our Beetles.

I was taken aback when I was awarded "The Terwilliger" for what you suggest are my decades of dedication, encouraging other sailors and displaying sportsmanship on the water. This is what other Beetle sailors have done for me and what Beetle sailors will always do. The Beetle Class Association thrives not only because of this curious little wooden boat, but because of the kindness of the sailors of our fleets, the dedication of our Beetle Class officers and the fantastic people at the Beetle factory. For me, none of this is hard work - the preparation, launching, racing and talks with "Beetlers" are all good fun.

Last year at the 100th anniversary the Beetle Class announced the award. I admired the creativity of the class in creating the award as our class is about much more than winning races. Roy is an excellent recipient, and his cheerfulness, friendship and many skills justify naming the award after him. I never expected to receive this, and it is a very important achievement for me. I am most honored by your kind words and generosity.

Again, my gratitude to you for presenting this award to me.

Most Sincerely,

Jeffrey Lanphear
"Nuisance"

SPINDLE ROCK BEETLE CAT FLEET - 2023

Acoaxet Cup - John and William Bergland in "Off Call" (Starboard tack) Heather and Jillian Hawes in "Pollywog" (Port tack)

Mark and Sarah Edward (Sail # 51) and Heather and Jillian Hawes (Sail # 4)

As I write, a few final snowflakes are falling as this mid-March Nor'Easter blows through the region. I can imagine the Westport River is pretty churned up at this moment. Soon enough, our Beetles will be out of storage, freshly painted, and I expect the mooring field at Spindle Rock will be full with approximately 10 or more active Beetles. It is always a beautiful sight! Personally, I relish that first moment sitting in the boat while it is calmly on the mooring and breathing in that fresh smell of cedar. OK – Sailing Season with the Beetle may now begin!

Our fleet of Beetles at Spindle Rock is in a healthy, growing state. Within the last 2 seasons, we have had 4 new or restored boats launched, to the point where I believe we only have 1 spot left within the Beetle field. I find it incredibly reassuring to know that people who love sailing on the Westport River and the surrounding waters are very willing to continue investing in purchasing, restoring, and maintaining these gorgeous wooden boats.

During the coming summer 2023 season, we will continue to host our racing series on every other Sunday afternoon, beginning the first week in July and going through Labor Day. We typically get between 6 and 8 boats out per race. Our band of regular attendees typically includes the following people: Tom and Katharine Schmitt in *Katharine*, Michael and Jennifer Silverman in *Bufflehead*, Mark Edwards with his daughter Sarah Kastrinelis in *Whereas*, Heather Hawes and Jillian Hawes in *Pollywog*, Gardener Lane and his family in *SeaBee*, Bob Hawes – sometimes sailing with Gardener or one of his daughters, John Bergland and William Bergland in *Off Call*. Most recently we have been fortunate to have Borden Snow join us with his daughter in *Whistler*, as well as Carrie ONeil-Smith and her husband Rich in *Tansy*.

Honoring Jillian and Heather Hawes – winners of the 2022 Labor Day Cup Race.

Our 2022 racing season presented us with an interesting mix of weather and racing conditions. Our early races in July took place with a mild breeze and most of the strategy was how to carefully navigate the Westport River against an incoming tide. (This is always a challenge.) For our "Acoaxet Cup" held in early August, it was blowing 20+ knots and even with a reef, it was all we could do to control our boats through the course. Heather and Jillian Hawes were the winners of that race, though they received the typical intense challenge from Mark and Sarah Edwards. Fortunately, no parts broke and boats weren't damaged even with the strong gusts. We were all exhausted afterward. I recall my son William hiking off the deck as if he was in a Laser. Finally, we closed out our season with our Spindle Rock Labor Day Cup race. It was a gorgeous day. Heather and Jillian Hawes were (again) victorious and get to keep the cup for the season.

Heading to the windward mark – Mark and Sarah Edwards in "Whereas" (Sail # 51), John and William Bergland in "Off Call" (Sail # 83) and Borden Snow and his daughter in "Whistler"

I have included some pictures reflecting back upon our 2022 racing season.

Looking forward to another sailing season beginning shortly.

If you wish to join the Spindle Rock racing series this summer, or are in any way interested to learn more about our Beetlecat fleet, please reach out at sailing@spindlerockclub.org

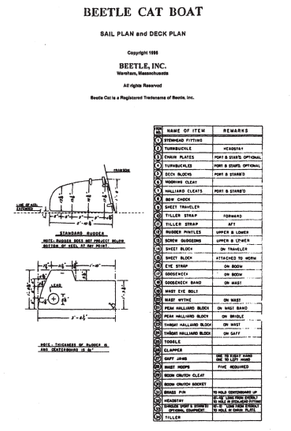
""- John Bergland

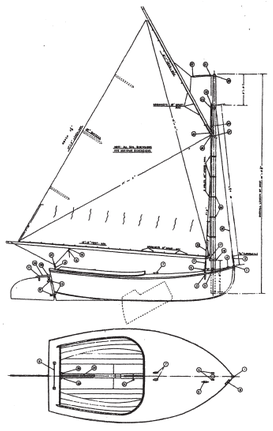
BEETLE FLEET UPDATES
Spring 2023

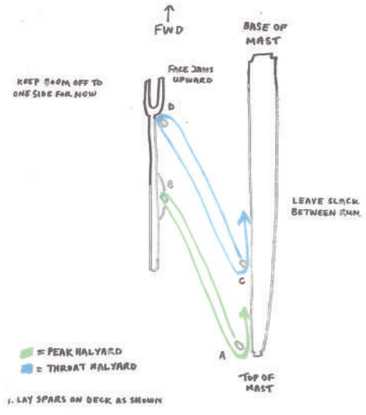
This new section of the Beetle Sheet features updates about Beetle activity at NEBCBA member clubs. We'd love to include more updates – please send your update for the Fall 2023 Beetle Sheet to Stephanie Van Patten at slvp21@gmail.com.

BASS RIVER YACHT CLUB	BRYC is the gracious host of the 2023 Leo J. Telesmanick Beetle Cat Championships on August 12 & 13. Races will be held on Nantucket Sound off South Yarmouth. Please see the full summary of the regatta details in this issue of the Beetle Sheet. We hope to see you at BRYC in August!
EDGEWOOD YACHT CLUB	EYC starts its Wednesday night Beetle racing for the 2023 season on June 7 at 630pm. If you find yourself near Providence on a Wednesday, drop by and watch the races, which start right off the marina and proceed in "stadium sailing" style around the mooring field. We are expecting as many as 14 boats in the fleet this year. Racing continues all Wednesdays through the end of September, weather permitting, and we usually get in over 60 races per year. In addition, EYC will host its 9th Annual Pomham Rocks Beetle Cat Circumnavigation Regatta on Friday, July 28, at 6pm. We're excited that Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse are permitting spectating from the lighthouse island for the first time this year.
MISHAUM POINT YACHT CLUB	The MPYC fleet is eight Beetles strong and is looking forward to another great season of weekly Beetle racing. The MPYC race committee mixes up the course selection and incorporates fun race alternatives from time to time—like finishes on shore and picking up tennis balls from the water after the finish to gain extra points. Their scoring system awards points for skippers and crew, and they give awards to both at the season's end.
SPINDLE ROCK YACHT CLUB	Our fleet of Beetles at Spindle Rock is in a healthy, growing state. Within the last 2 seasons, we have had 4 new or restored boats launched, to the point where I believe we only have 1 spot left within the Beetle field. We find it incredibly reassuring to know that people who love sailing on the Westport River and the surrounding waters are very willing to continue investing in purchasing, restoring, and maintaining these gorgeous wooden boats. Please see the full write-up from John Bergland about Beetle Sailing at Spindle Rock in this issue of the Beetle Sheet.

WEEKAPAUG YACHT CLUB	WYC reports that its new clubhouse is basically complete, and this summer the club will be enjoying its panoramic second-floor views to Block Island and down the Pond. They are looking forward to showing it off to the Beetle fleet at the 2025 Leo J. Telesmanick Beetle Cat Championships—the NEBCBA board unanimously approved the siting of the 2025 Leo in Weekapaug at its April 2023 meeting. WYC is also on the lookout for potential sailing instructors for the summer season. If you know of anyone qualified who is looking for a great summer job, please put them in touch (info@weekapaugyachtclub.com).
Wianno Yacht Club	Looking to summer 2024, WYC will be hosting the 2024 Leo J. Telesmanick Beetle Cat Championships at its unique home in Osterville. It has been some time since Beetles assembled in mass at that location, and WYC is excited for the opportunity. Ery Largay from WYC writes: My younger sister Galen Ryley is the current Commodore and she sails a black beetle named Hanelei. My older sister sails her white beetle, Quick. My mom has a Barnstable Cat named Merry, and I sail a burgundy Beetle named Pippin. We love the Lord of the Rings! Our Wianno Senior is named Eowyn.
WILD HARBOR YACHT CLUB W H	Beetle racing at WHYC is making a comeback. There were around 15 boats in the harbor in summer 2022, and several impromptu races were held with parents, kids, & friends. WHYC was also able to organize some team racing with the Beetle cats, putting the fleet to a different use and a different challenge than the more ordinary fleet racing.







NEWS FROM THE BEETLE SHOP

4 new Beetle Cat sailboats

New Beetle 14' Catboat

Another busy Winter and Spring here at the Beetle Shop. We started out by building 4 new Beetle Cat sailboats, and 1 of the larger Beetle 14' catboats. Although only 2' longer, the Beetle 14 is 80% larger in volume than the traditional 12' Beetle Cat sailboat and requires more than twice the manhours to build. In addition, we built a 28' Azorean whaleboat mast for the Azorean Maritime Heritage Society. The Azorean whaleboat will be a "competitor" to our Beetle whaleboat at the XII International Regatta of Whaling Boats in New Bedford this summer where they will both row and sail in competitions.

Bill and I attended the Catboat Association All Resource Show in January. This year we were accompanied by NEBCBA members Steve Glovinsky, Cathy Taylor and Bob Hawes who set up a table for NEBCBA for the 1st time. It is always a great event with lots of seminars, vendors, and like-minded catboaters to chat with.

The Wooden Boat Show is scheduled for June 23rd through 25th at Mystic Seaport this year. We will be bringing Leo J. Telesmanick's personal Beetle Cat *Aljean* down with us, as she will be donated by the family to the museum this year. We will be sad to see her go but can't think of a more fitting place for her to reside and be admired by people for years to come.

Schnellfahrt (which means "fast ride" literally or "high speed travel" in German) was launched in Martha's Vineyard on March 29th, and so begins again the exodus out of the shop and into the water. We look forward to another season, and to seeing many of you at the 2023 Leo at Bass River August 12th and 13th!

- Michelle Buoniconto

Michelle, Sharon Brown and Bill at the Catboat Association All Resource Show

Steps for Rigging of a Beetle Cat

1) Rig mast with:
- Mast Hoops - put hoops over eye bolt by rotating the hoops to their widest point. Sail fasteners should be facing up towards the top of the mast
- Forestay (and shrouds where applicable)
- Throat Halyard
- Peak Halyard

2) Place mast on deck with gooseneck fitting forward and down

3) Place gaff next to boom, jaws forward and bridle up

4) Lead peak (upper) halyard thru bridle block from forward to aft - then back up to block at top of mast and lead from outside to mast side and down (leave some slack for raising mast).

5) Lead throat halyard (fastened to eye bolt on mast) to block on front of gaff and pass thru from left to right, then lead back to block on eye bolt and lead from right to left (again - leave some slack)

6) The mast can now be raised - ALWAYS LOOK UP FOR POWER LINES! If the boat is on a well adjusted trailer (weight of the boat rests on trailer keel rollers) it is okay to do this by standing on the deck. It is NOT okay if in the water, since the boat is very tippy when up forward. Others may be able to step the mast by standing alongside the boat, lifting the mast upright with the butt of the mast on the ground, and then lifting it straight up and over the deck into place.

7) Forestay may then be attached and made snug, not tight.

8) Boom is set into boom crutch aft and gooseneck forward.

9) The mainsheet (which is attached to the end of the boom) is led thru the traveler block, then thru the 2 blocks on the boom, and then down to the cleat on the centerboard trunk. Make sure a knot is then tied in the end of the mainsheet.

10) Sail should be slid onto track, clipped into hoops, and tied off on each end of the boom and gaff with outhaul lines and outhaul cars (if so equipped).

11) Place mast wedges aft of the mast beginning in the middle and working towards the front in order to limit mast movement and push the mast forward helping to reduce weather helm.

12) Raise halyards together, tie- off throat and then tighten peak.

Launching "Schnellfahrt" in Martha's Vineyard

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SAVE THE DATE

2023 Leo J. Telesmanick Regatta at Bass River Yacht Club

August 11th-13th

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