



Photo by Emily Ferguson

FROM THE HELM

My younger sister Katharine is prone to creative ideas. When she was around 7 years old, she linked together a bunch of bungee cords, tied them to herself, and jumped out of a tree, figuring that was the way to do a bungee jump at home. Fearing the wrath of my mother, she then climbed into the house through the garage window to clean up the blood in the back bathroom. This past winter, some 35 years later, Katharine, now living on the North Carolina coast, had another doozy of a plan. She decided to take her daughter and husband to Nantucket for a week in early March, intending to show them the highlights of the place we'd go for a week most summers growing up, not fully internalizing that Nantucket in March is not Nantucket in August. My wife and I picked them up at Logan Airport to join them on the first part of the trip. Knowing that seeing Rainbow Fleet Beetles on Nantucket during the first week of March was, well, unlikely, I called Bill Womack at Beetle, Inc. as we were driving down Route 3 towards the Steamship Authority dock in Hyannis, to ask if we could stop in for a visit. He cheerfully obliged. I was grateful to be able to show my niece, Coverly, the mold on which her grandmother's Beetle Cat was built, as well as her uncle's, and to let the southern contingent of my family see how the tradition of New England wooden boatbuilding was keeping up. The new Beetles built this winter look absolutely terrific. While I can't say that the trip to Nantucket was all that balmy, the reception we had at Beetle, Inc. could not have been warmer.

As it turns out, that was not the first I had seen of Bill Womack during Beetle Cat hibernation season. A couple of weeks before our visit to Wareham, Bill made the trip to Providence on a breezy Thursday evening—suffering through the Washington Bridge traffic—for the Edgewood Yacht Club speaker series. Bill brought with him Beetle Cat scrapbooks from the 1950s, and he gave us an outstanding lecture about the history of the Beetle Cat. We had



a great turnout, including a few prospective new members of the Beetle Cat fleet at EYC. And a month before that, I saw Bill in Mystic at the annual meeting of the Catboat Association, where he manned the Beetle, Inc. table, and where we were both treated to a memorable keynote address by the Fallon family about their big boat adventures (with a cameo appearance of Beetle sailing). I've enjoyed all of those Beetle Cat touchpoints this winter, but I also hope that Bill has had some time to rest! Because now, of course, comes the scramble for all of us to get our boats ready to splash. There are never enough weeks in April or May to get everything done, and the summer comes quickly.

- continued on page 4

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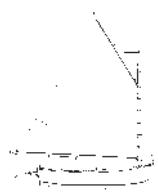


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2024 LEO J. TELES MANICK CHAMPIONSHIP BEETLE CAT REGATTA AUGUST 9-11, 2024

The Wianno Yacht Club (WYC) is hosting the 2024 NEBCBA Leo Telesmanick Championship Regatta the weekend of August 9 -11 (Racing on August 10 and 11). West Bay is a flat-water bay with a cut out to Nantucket Sound. Races may be run in West Bay or the Sound, depending on the wind and wave conditions. Wianno is pleased to host the "Leo" this summer. Our plan is to follow the schedule like past Leos most recently hosted by Bass River and Edgewood.

On Friday August 9, Early Check-in will run from 4-5:30 pm. Craigville Beach Inn is a nearby hotel. Additional hotels can be found in Hyannis. Either Friday afternoon or early Saturday morning, sailors can launch their boats at the ramp at WYC. Trailers may be parked at Cape Cod Academy. We will arrange moorings and/or dock assignments at locations in West Bay and provide volunteer launch service.

Additional Check-in will be offered the morning of August 10 beginning at 7:30am. The first warning signal on the race-course will be at 10:00 am. The final race on Saturday will start on or before 4pm. Lunch on Saturday will be held during a break of racing by briefly returning to shore at Sheila Largay's dock and beach near the cut at the south end of West Bay. Dinner will be served at WYC on Saturday night, with the NEBCBA Annual Meeting held just before dinner.

The remaining races will be held on August 11, with a starting signal on the racecourse at 10:00am. The final race on Saturday will begin on or before 1:30 pm. Following racing, we will enjoy a late lunch and the Awards Ceremony at the Club.

Please see the WYC website for the Notice of Race and for registration later this summer. Stay tuned for more information to RSVP for the Saturday evening dinner. We look forward to your participation in this year's Leo!

Ery Largay, Regatta Co-Chair
Peter Creedon, Regatta Co-Chair

Galen Ryley, Regatta Co-Chair
Allison Pelligrino, WYC Commodore

FALLONS

– Emily Ferguson

If you've been to a Beetle Cat regatta in the last 20 years, you have probably found yourself behind a boat with an orange hull and orange and white striped sail. You may even remember the year that the skipper and crew for that boat brought a black lab puppy who entertained everybody by chewing on the mast shims, and went overboard at least once during a race on a downwind tack. For sure, during the award ceremony, you'll remember one or another of the boys accepting First Men's place and Champion awards from the race committee chair.

Of course, I'm talking about Tim and Karen Fallon and their two boys, Ben and Jamie.

Tim and Karen have another catboat, a 28-foot CC Hanley design built by Beetle, Inc. in 2006, the *KATHLEEN*. Over the last 15 years, Tim and Karen have cruised around New England, attending many catboat rendezvous, and even going so far as Brooklin, Maine to sail in the Eggemoggin Reach Regatta. And because Tim has been interested in catboats and involved with catboats for his entire life, he's also been involved with The Catboat Association.

Every year, The Catboat Association gathers for an annual meeting in a hotel near Mystic in Groton, CT. And every year they have a fine luncheon, and they distribute awards, and they have a raffle, and then they have a presentation.

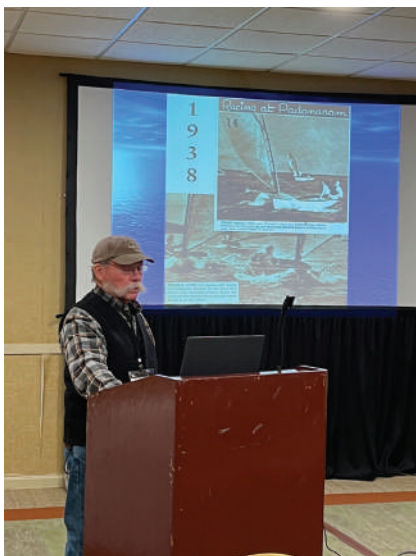
This year, with a certain pride, we Beetle Cat sailors watched the wonderful presentation by Tim, Karen, Ben, and Jamie about their adventures cruising to the Bahamas for the last two winters.

And no, they did not do that in the *KATHLEEN*.

You can view their presentation here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OjRG7XQR82c> or on the Catboat Association Lounge page on Facebook.



NEWS FROM THE BEETLE SHOP



Bill speaking at Boatbuilders Show on Cape Cod

We have had an exceptionally busy winter here at the Beetle Shop. We are finishing up 4 new Beetle Cat sailboats (all of which are sold), working on getting all the boats ready for spring commissioning, and building 3 new Onset Island Skiffs. We continue to see strong demand on the brokerage side, with some of the boats being sold before they are even listed.

Bill and I attended the Catboat Association All Resource Show in Groton, CT in January, followed by the return of the Boatbuilders Show on Cape Cod the following weekend. Bill was then invited to speak at Edgewood Yacht Club on February 22nd where we were warmly welcomed by the club members. Bill always enjoys sharing the history of the Beetle Cat sailboat, and it was nice to look back specifically on Edgewood Yacht Clubs long history as one of the founding member clubs of NEBCBA. The EYC Beetle Cat fleet continues to grow (one

of the new Beetle Cat sailboats is headed there) and their ongoing enthusiasm and support of the boat is much appreciated, and one of the reasons the Beetle Cat is still going strong in its 103rd year!



Manny works on the deck structures of 4 new Beetle Cats

We can now officially report there is a Beetle Cat sailing in New Zealand. In September we loaded up Old Joe for the long trip to New Zealand, arriving just in time for their Spring season, and the proud new owner just updated us with some photos. As much as we hated to see Old Joe leave, we are happy to see the Beetle Cat out sailing again after a long hiatus.

The Woodenboat Show is scheduled for June 28th thru 30th at Mystic Seaport this year. We are also looking forward to the NEBCBA Beetle Cat Championships at Wianno Yacht Club on August 10th and 11th in Osterville, MA. It is hard to believe that Wianno has never hosted, as they have had a long history of Beetle Cat sailing. We hope to see you there!



"Old Joe" sailing in New Zealand

- Michelle Buoniconto

FROM THE HELM (CONT.)

If you don't already have your place to stay on the Cape for the August 9-10 weekend, you should find it soon, because this year's Leo J. Telesmanick Beetle Cat Championships promise to be both competitive and a lot of fun. We hope to see many of you there at Wianno Yacht Club, both on the racecourse and off. Until then, I wish all of my fellow Beetle Cat sailors an easy launch and a pleasant start to the 103rd season of the Beetle Cat.

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

BEETLE CAT RACING AT THE LEWIS BAY YACHT CLUB

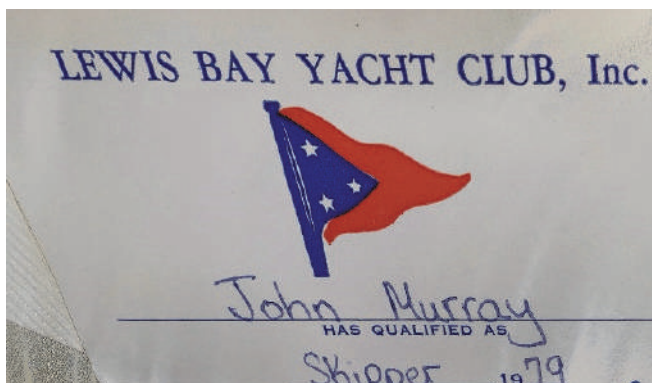
- John Murray

In the 1970's and early 1980's Beetle Cats were the most popular youth racing boat on Cape Cod. In the summer of 1979, when I was 14, my father purchased a Beetle Cat for me from his friend in West Dennis. The boat was built the same year I was born (1964) and I named it "Leprechaun" which was the name of my dad's Snipe sailboat years earlier. I was eager to race it and convinced my parents to join the Lewis Bay Yacht Club (LBYC) which was a short walk from our summer cottage and a block from Englewood Beach in West Yarmouth, MA. The LBYC membership cost was minimal, probably \$50, and I was welcomed by the other kids who nicknamed me "Smiley".

Now defunct, the Lewis Bay Yacht Club was a 20 foot by 40 foot shed-like building; it had some tables, chairs, and a chalk board used for teaching sailing lessons. Its rafters were covered in chalk with everyone's boat names and sail numbers written during rainy day lessons. Most LBYC members either owned a Beetle Cat or crewed for someone that owned one; the club's focus was for children and teens to learn to sail and race Beetle Cats. In the 1970s, boat owners selected a mooring spot anywhere they pleased and walked out to their boats from shore or used a dinghy from the free public dock



Murry brothers John (left) and Pat (right) sand and paint their used Beetle Cat their father bought for John in 1979



Membership card for Lewis Bay Yacht Club

(now there is official mooring and dinghy registration and wait lists). Sailing lessons and races were split by age and ability comprising of Juniors (mornings) and Seniors (afternoons). Lessons were on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, and youth races were on Tuesdays and Thursdays and Sunday races had no age restriction, and parents sometimes raced. One memorable instructor named Dickie would always yell "sit forward!" when we purposely sat in the transom so he would yell at us. Every Thursday night the club held a dance for the teen members. Just before the last song teens looked to pair up with their romantic interest to slow dance to either *Free bird* by Lynyrd

Skynyrd or *Stairway to Heaven* by Led Zeppelin.

Beetle Cat sail numbers were comprised of a letter prefix (to signify yacht club affiliation) and a sail number. Local sail prefixes included "H" for Hyannis, "HP" for Hyannis Port, "L" for Lewis Bay, "R" for Bass River, and "WD" for West Dennis. The sail number was somewhat random based on available number in the club you sailed from (you could select any available number). My boat was originally from West Dennis and had a "WD 33" on the sail. I used a razor to cut off the "W" and part of the "D" to form a "L 33". Some sails, had one or two little stripes at the highest point of the sail. I was told those boat earned the stripes by winning some sort of championship race. I do not recall seeing the current beetle (bug) logo on any sails, and all sails were white Dacron, not striped as is popular today. By the early 1980's I remember there was talk about someone making fiberglass Beetle Cats, but I never saw one; all were wooden.

Most boats had white topsides with either orange, red, green, or blue canvas covered decks and either green or blue bottom paint. I remember once while racing downwind, I was behind so decided to take a shortcut over Egg Island (a sandbar island at low tide). I miscalculated the tide and struck bottom (all the other boats went around Egg Island). My crew and I immediately got out

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"Leprechaun" was originally from West Dennis and had a WD on the sail. Later, the W and part of the D were removed to form an L for Lewis Bay.

BEETLE CAT RACING AT THE LEWIS BAY YACHT CLUB (CONT.)



Young sailors from the Lewis Bay and Hyannis Yacht Clubs shove off their beetle cats to compete in the Hyannis club's 27th annual Regatta held over the weekend in the waters of Lewis Bay. (Staff Photo by Gordon)

Hyannis Regatta was the main event of the summer and had between 50 and 75 Beetle Cats racing in about 3 or 4 divisions.

"The Register" Newspaper Aug 4, 1979.

Optimist Prams or 420's which are the popular youth racing boats today.

Lewis Bay is known for strong southwest breezes (15-20 knots) especially in the afternoon. Some people loved sailing in heavy wind and other hated it. As sailing gloves were not yet popular (or invented), every crew member had blisters on their hands from holding the mainsheet. The mainsheet was three-strand line which passed from the boom to under a cleat on the centerboard trunk for the crew to hold. There was lots of pressure on the line and my brother Pat, who crewed for me, often complained and regularly announced "I am never going to sail with John again". To keep the peace, my father bought a new Harken ratchet block which we mounted aft of the centerboard trunk to take the load off Pat's hands. In the first heavy wind race, the wood holding the block in place ripped out along with the block.

Beetle Cat sailing downwind in a heavy breeze was exhilarating and boats would sometimes capsize often from pitch-poling forward into the approaching wave. Weather helm caused many tillers to break on windy days. As an unemployed teenager, I was unable to afford an expensive new tiller, so I crafted broken hockey sticks into spare tillers. I made one of the hockey stick tillers extra-long so that I could sit at the forward cockpit combing while steering, but after someone complained that it gave me an unfair advantage, they made me cut my tillers down to size.



In 1981, "Leprechaun" got a fresh new look.

of the boat; with less weight the boat lifted and the wind pushed the boat over the sandbar leaving a long smudge of blue bottom paint on Egg Island. My shortcut enabled me to win the race that day. Weeks later I went back to the scene of the crime and saw my blue stripe still on the sandbar.

The premier Beetle Cat event of the summer was the Hyannis Regatta. Everyone washed their bottoms by tipping their boat on its side on the beach and rubbed sand over the bottom to remove the mid-summer slime. In this multi-day regatta, over a dozen Beetle Cats from Bass River and West Dennis would sail or be towed around Great Island for the week. Other Beetle Cats from neighboring communities like Cotuit would join the dozens of Lewis Bay, Hyannis, and Hyannis Port boats. There were several divisions each with about 20 boats and each division flew a colored ribbon (e.g., blue, red, yellow, black) from their headstay. In addition to the massive number of Beetle Cats sailed by youths, the regatta also had fleets of Cape Cod Knockabouts which were raced by older teens who aged-out of Beetle Cats, and Wianno Juniors and Wianno Seniors gaff-rigged knockabouts sailed by adults including members of the Kennedy clan. Later, Lasers, J24's and J30's came on the scene.

There were no



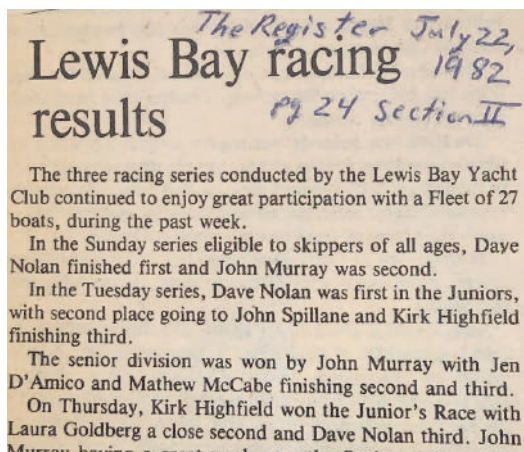
Racing in heavy wind was hard on the crews' hands, and sailing downwind sometimes resulted in pitch-poling.

My boat *Leprechaun* leaked constantly, had damaged rub rails, and its canvas top was ripping. In 1981, I decided to spruce my boat up. My friend Jimmy Kingston helped me recanvas my deck and install new rub rails. Then I painted the deck orange, the topsides white (using left-over house paint), and the cockpit Battleship-gray with sand for extra grip. I painted two leprechauns and a pot of gold on the transom along with the name *Leprechaun* in Celtic calligraphy. To give the boat some more oomph, I painted some angled multi-colored racing stripes that extended from the topsides to the deck. *Leprechaun* now was a head turner.

In 1982, I was the top ranked sailor at the Lewis Bay Yacht Club and was selected to represent the club in the New England Beetle Cat Boat Association (NEBCBA) Juniors Championship. Several qualifying races were held at various locations and mine

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BEETLE CAT RACING AT THE LEWIS BAY YACHT CLUB (CONT.)



*In 1982, LBYC had an active fleet of Beetle Cats racing Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.
The Register Newspaper July 22, 1982*

was at Wild Harbor on Buzzards Bay with round robin format (switching boats). I placed second in the series, which qualified me for the championship race in Hyannis which gave me the home-court advantage. I remember being intimidated by the other top Beetle Cat sailors who I knew by reputation, but I remember how confident I was that I would win. After a long day of racing, and being involved in a protest hearing, I was victorious. Although it is called the New England championship, I reckoned that since all Beetle Cats are raced in New England, and most Beetle Cat sailors were Juniors (under 18), I considered myself the World Beetle Cat Champion that year.



John Murray with the NEBCA Junior Championship trophy in 1982

The following summer I worked two jobs to save money for college and had little time for sailing. I eventually sold *Leprechaun* for \$300 (I was asking \$700) to the only person who came to see it. I remember the buyer, a man from Hyannis, was not interested in the boat's racing record. He shook the ribs to see which ones were loose; as there were many loose ribs; I was worried he would break them all off. He said the boat needed a total overhaul. I later heard he replaced some of the ribs, refastened the planks and painted the hull navy blue including over my transom masterpiece. I can only hope that he found and fixed the leak. While I only raced Beetle Cats for four years in high school, I have very fond memories of Beetle Cat sailing and my summer friends at the Lewis Bay Yacht Club. My senior year in college, while interviewing for a job, one recruiter asked me what was my greatest accomplishment. I responded "winning the Beetle Cat World Championship".

FEEDING THE SOUL!

- John Bergland, February 2024

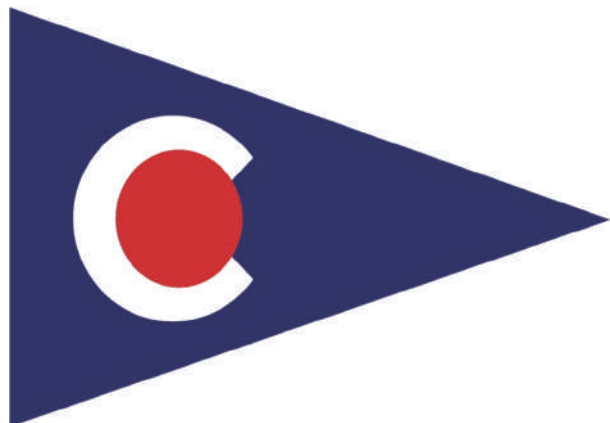
How do you handle that longing feeling during those cold, dreary New England Winter months when your Beetle Cat is stored away? In my case, I decided it was time to feed my soul and go directly to the source. Despite expecting a quiet winter afternoon in late February, I found the shop bustling with activity. Seth warmly welcomed me and allowed me to roam freely, while witnessing Jonathan and Manny at work on various repair projects. The scent of fresh cedar filled the air, instantly fulfilling my spirit. As I toured the shop, I observed at least 4 new Beetles being prepared for painting, marveling at Marc's ability to make it look so easy. It's a gorgeous site, with each Beetle, resting proudly, soon to have its own unique colors and personality. Finally, I stepped out back and stole a quick glance at my own boat, freshly painted and varnished, eagerly awaiting its launch in the coming summer. Though my visit was brief, I left with a sense of fulfillment and joy. The energy and vitality of Beetle Inc. were palpable, reaffirming my love for the Beetle Cat community and thankful that this shop is thriving.



BEETLE FLEET UPDATES Spring 2024

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 2024 Beetle Sheet to Stephanie Van Patten at slvp21@gmail.com.

CHAPOQUOIT YACHT CLUB

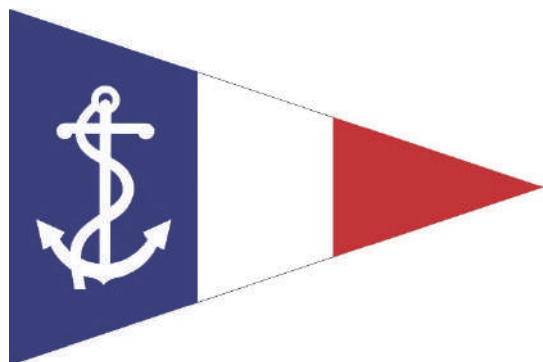


Chapoquoit Yacht Club, in its 121st year, has been hard at work in recent years to continue its legacy of introducing new sailors to the sport, while increasing opportunities for club members -- young and old -- to sail and race in Beetle Cats. CYC's focus has been to ramp up maintenance of its existing fleet of Beetles, while also acquiring five boats to keep up with demand. Wednesday night and Saturday morning races are cornerstones of the busy CYC summer sailing program, but come the Sunday after Labor Day, the seven-week long Hog Island Series is not to be missed. The 10:00 a.m. (sharp!) starting gun, in 2023, regularly sent 12-18 Beetles around the picturesque harbor of West Falmouth where spectators have numerous vantage points from which to catch the action.

Submitted by Jan Harley.



EDGEWOOD YACHT CLUB



EYC was pleased to have Bill Womack of Beetle, Inc. at its speaker series in February, warming us up for another great Beetle season on the Providence River! We will welcome another newly-built Beetle to the fleet this year, and we hope to see many weeks with "double digit" starting lines! EYC starts its Beetle racing for the 2024 season on June 5 at 630pm. 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 10th Annual Pomham Rocks Beetle Cat Circumnavigation Regatta on Friday, August 2, at 6pm. We're excited that Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse are again permitting spectating from the lighthouse island and running their launch for EYC members and guests.

Submitted by George Shuster.

SPINDLE ROCK YACHT CLUB



Our fleet of Beetles at Spindle Rock continues in a healthy, growing state. As we closed out our Fall racing season, we had 8 gorgeous Beetles sailing together. We are hoping to build upon this number into 2024.

During the coming summer 2024 season, we will continue to host our racing series on every other Sunday afternoon at 2:00, beginning the first week in July and going through Labor Day. We are a very welcoming fleet and can assure you, our races are all about having fun and figuring out navigating the currents of the Westport River. Again, we will plan the dates ideally to be in sync with high tides so we can have creative courses.

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 Beetle Cat fleet, please reach out at I sailing@spindlerockclub.org

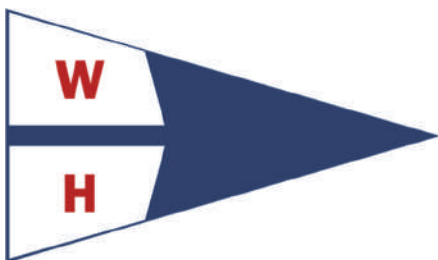
Submitted by John Bergland.



The Wianno Yacht Club (WYC) is pleased to host the 2024 NEBCBA Leo Telesmanick Championship Regatta the weekend of August 9 -11 (Racing on August 10 and 11). West Bay is a flat-water bay with a cut out to Nantucket Sound. Races may be run in West Bay or the Sound, depending on the wind and wave conditions. Our plan is to follow the schedule like past Leos most recently hosted by Bass River and Edgewood. See full write up inside.

Submitted by Ery Largay.

WILD HARBOR YACHT CLUB



At Wild Harbor, 2 beetle cats remained in the water throughout the fall. As the day after Thanksgiving was a perfect day for sailing with winds out of the southwest at 6-10, Reminder and Lyra were rigged and ready to race. A makeshift course was made using mooring balls, while the starting line was sighted between a mooring ball and the dock. For over 3 hours, match races were raced while spectators and racers enjoyed the afternoon sunshine. Skippers and crews rotated throughout the races and all were included. Husbands and wives, brothers and sisters, cousins and friends, parents and children all sailed with and against each other. Races were not officially scored, but personal wins were etched in minds. It was a marvelous day to be at Wild Harbor.

Submitted by Jane O'Connor.



WEST COAST BEETLE CATS

- Winston Bumpus

I was born in New Bedford and worked a summer, as a kid, scraping barnacles off boats and buoys for a dollar an hour at the Mattapoisett Boat Yard in the 60's. I was also given the opportunity to crew with the owner's son on his Beetle Cat. This was my first taste of sailing and I have loved these little boats ever since. The thrill of sailing and competing in these traditional wooden boats grabbed my heart strings.

Many years later, after that humble beginning to my sailing adventures, I moved to the San Francisco area where I received my US Sailing certifications and purchased a 38-foot cruising boat in 2000. I have also been very involved in the boating community as Commodore of our Yacht Club and Past President of the Recreational Boaters of California.

In November 2020, I purchased a Beetle Cat which was berthed in Santa Cruz Harbor. It was built just miles from where I lived in New Bedford in 1969, the year I graduated from high school. Later that same year my mother passed away from cancer. Her name was Evelyn. So, when this Beetle Cat, named *Evelyn*, became



Winston & wife, Carole, with Evelyn in Santa Cruz, CA Harbor when purchased.

available for purchase on the West Coast, I just could not pass it up.

So, in March 2021, and much to my wife's chagrin, I hauled her out and put it in my garage and proceeded to restore it from top to bottom with the help of friends. My friend, Jim Turner, spent time at The Wooden Boat School in Maine and was the help I needed. It had once been restored by the International Yacht Restoration School in Newport Rhode Island (IYRS) in 2000 but needed another renovation. We pulled it apart and installed a new deck canvas, rub rails, coaming molding and updated hardware where needed. Everything, including paint, came from the Beetle Cat Boat Shop in Wareham, MA. I don't know what I would have done without the help and guidance I received from Michelle Buoniconto from that shop.

Today my boat is berthed in a slip in Westpoint Harbor in Redwood City next to my 38-foot sailboat. I can often be seen sailing her in the area. Last Fall I hauled her out again as she needed a little touchup of paint and varnish, and I added new halyards. Then put her back in the water as that is where she loves to be.

I have also made friends with another Beetle Cat owner, Michael Symmes, who lives in the area. I discovered via social media he had a Beetle Cat too. I helped him restore his boat and he keeps it in a slip near mine. (He even made me a beautiful new tiller out of sapele as he is a retired master wood craftsman.) We can be seen sailing together and go out as often as we can. We have both added small Torqeedo electric outboards, which is just enough to get us into and out of the busy marina safely.



Winston & friend, Jim Turner - Restoring "Evelyn" in my Garage in Redwood City, CA

Best of all, it seems like every time we go out to sail, people ask us about the boats. They are surprised to hear their age and that they are completely made of wood. Wooden boats are few and far between on the West Coast, so the little gaff-rigged beauties continue to be head turners.

Since then, I have met a few other Beetle Cat owners on the West Coast, but they are very rare. We have even jokingly discussed forming a West Coast branch of the NEBCBA in order to hold a West Coast Leo.

Now that I am retired, I continue to support youth sailing and serve on the board of the Peninsula Youth Sailing Foundation, The Pacific Coast Yachting Association and chair the annual Bay Area inter-club Lipton Cup Regatta on the San Francisco Bay.



My new sapele tiller

(more photos on opposite page)

A LETTER FROM BRYAN OLIVER

I own an IYRS restored Concordia Beetle Cat, originally built in 1965 (hull #1201). I found her in excellent condition, for sail in a boat yard in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina. Apparently, she had been acquired from IYRS back in 2007 by Mr. Edgar Cato, of Aiken, SC, who did not appear to have ever launched it, but stored in a barn with other collectables. On his passing, It was sold off in an estate sail approx 10 years ago, to a boatyard



owner, with intent to fix-up and sail. It never happened. He finally decided to put it up for sale at the Low Country Maritime School's boatyard, where I often volunteer, when I'm not coordinating Volunteers, and acting as Bos'un on the Schooner, *Spirit of South Carolina*. I recognized her hull from past visits to Newport and tours of IYRS.



I believe her to be the only boat of her class south of the Chesapeake. I launch and sail here in Charleston Harbor, or one of the three Tributary's, Ashley, Cooper, or Wando Rivers. She does get lots of second glances, compliments, and conversations started. Very few recognize the class. In fact, if there's anyone around, it takes me twice as long to up-rig her for launching, due to all the questions, and conversations started around her.



Bryan and Craig on ICW



Winston and daughter Adaire - Sailing in Westpoint Slough, Redwood City, CA



Michael Symmes – Beautifully restored Beetle Cat - "Clipper"

Have news to share with Beetle Cat sailors?

Please submit write-ups and photos to Stephanie at slvp21@gmail.com

Fall submissions due by October 15, 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"