

SEBAGO CANOE CLUB E B L A D E

The official electronic & printed newsletter of the Sebago Canoe Club in Brooklyn, NY

kayaking, canoeing, sailing, racing, rowing

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insert



OPEN HOUSE

May 26, 2012

10 am - 4 pm

2012 Season



Commodore's Report *By Tony Pignatello*

It looks like we're going to have a pretty exciting season. If spring and summer are as nice as this past winter, I'm confident that we'll have many wonderful days.

We are about to conclude our winter pool program. We added a few Saturday-night sessions and had the same number of Sunday slots. I was pleased to learn that more Sebago members were attending, and everyone seemed to get a lot out of the sessions. Thanks to all the volunteers who gave up part of their weekends to make them happen.

We are going to celebrate "It's My Park" Day on Saturday, May 19. We are coordinating with the Brooklyn Park Commissioner's Office to have a beach clean-up and barbecue. We'll have volunteers from some of the youth groups that attended our summer program, in addition to our own crew of "do-gooders."

Just when you thought we had more committees than we knew what to do with, I thought up a reason to have one more. The Orientation Committee will ensure that new members don't have problems getting acclimated. Once a month we'll have an orientation day. After a short tour of the grounds, all new members will receive a half-day "quick start" lesson and a barbecue. The dates for 2012 are Sunday, May 27; Saturday, June 16; Sunday, July 22; and Saturday, Aug. 18.

Thanks to John Decker, Chris Bickford, Steve Finger, Fran Pignatello, Gary and Anne Gorman, Ramona Rottkamp, Buzzy Zurrow, Lori Gralnick, Gracie Landes, Jane Dorlester, Walter Lewandowski and the kayak instructors for making this possible.

Meanwhile, we've gone high tech! We have Wi-Fi, an electronic inventory system and a digital workbook. When you enter your volunteer hours use the new worksheets located in the same drawer as the old workbook. Luis Mattallana put in tons of hours to make this system a reality. Thanks, Luis. All we need now is an electronic commodore.

Reporting broken equipment or other problems at the club also just got a lot easier. Simply call the club (718 241 3683) and leave a message. Identify yourself and give a detailed description of the problem. An e-mail containing your voice message will be created within seconds and forwarded to the proper individual.

Friday evenings are going to be more exciting this summer. Vicki Moss and John Harris will be leading a series of Moonlight Paddles, May 4, June 1, July 6, Aug. 3, Aug. 31, and Sept. 28. You should arrive no later than 7:30 p.m. for an 8 p.m. launch. Friday-night paddles are great way to meet new members and start the weekend off right.

I could go on and on about all the things we'll be doing. If I did I wouldn't have time to kayak. You should go to the club's [Google calendar](#) often to see all the activities we have planned. The calendar is constantly being updated.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all on the water. Have a pleasant and safe season.

Sea Kayak Committee Report *By Walter Lewandowski*

The flocks of ducks are gathering on Jamaica Bay, the days seem longer, and the pool sessions are ending. It must be spring.

That brings to a close one of the busiest winters I can remember at Sebago. We had an excellent season of instruction and practice at the Flushing Meadow Aquatic Center. This year we added a series of organized lessons on Saturday nights that were a great success, and the Sunday-morning practice sessions were once again well attended. I want to give a shout-out to Stevie McAllister, Quint Klinger, Bonnie Aldinger and Dottie Lewandowski for organizing these programs for our Sebago members.

Now is the time to get out of the pool, start using those newfound skills, and venture out on Jamaica Bay or Lake Sebago. We will be teaming up with the East River Boat Houses to offer some great New York Harbor paddles. We are planning a trip to the Statue of Liberty and a sunset paddle along the East River.

John Harris and Vickie Moss will lead moonlight “mermaid” paddles throughout the summer. The first one will be Friday, May 4. So, get your nighttime paddling gear ready.

City of Water Day will be held on Saturday, July 14. We will have a day paddle and an overnight paddle for those wishing to camp for the night on Governors Island.

The return-to-Orient Point weekend will kick off Friday, Aug 10. It offers fun-filled days of paddling for all levels, wrapped around a group campout. Motels are available, and the trip is accessible by public transportation.

Sebago’s kayak instructors have planned an ambitious schedule of classes, so make sure you take advantage of this club benefit. All our instructors are certified by the American Canoe Association, and some have professional experience. We have scheduled instruction in Levels 1, 2 and 3 at both Jamaica Bay and Lake Sebago. These classes are offered for Sebago members at a substantial discount, compared with many local paddling schools.

We also are offering “Quick Start Your Kayak” classes in conjunction with new-member orientation days. These half-day classes are appropriate for those who have had no formal kayak training.

Check the [Google calendar](#) regularly for updates on these activities, new events and many more local paddles as the season progresses.

Let’s continue our Sebago tradition of practicing safety rules when on the water. Now that the days are getting warmer, we must remember the water is still cold. Dress for the water temperature, not the air temperature.

See you on the water, paddle safe and may the wind be at your back.

Melanie Lorek and Phil Giller at the Jones Beach seal paddle.





Saturday Night Pool Class - top: Bonnie leads class at Saturday night pool session.
bottom: Quint demonstrating at Saturday Night Class.



Rowing Report

by Joe Romano

I can't believe another winter has come and gone, though it certainly wasn't much of a winter. I've gotten out in one of the rowing sculls a few times during the winter, on nice calm sunny days, and had Jamaica Bay to myself. With no big wakes and no danger of getting run down, it was a really peaceful scene.

We had a mysterious disappearance of a couple of the sculls' rowing seats, but that's been resolved, and we're ready to go. Our Arizona sculler, Ibrahim Habib, will be visiting this spring to enjoy a few rows, and he is planning a more extensive visit this summer. Now how many New York clubs can boast of having a member from Arizona?

As usual we extend an invitation to anyone who would like to learn about the ancient art of sculling. We don't have any formal education program. Rather, we tailor sessions for the individual student.



Members up for Senior Membership:

Kari Dahlquist

Jane Dorlester

Beth Eastman

Mary Ann Hoag

Erik Koniger

Grade Landes

Martin Puryear

top: Dottie Lewandowski dressed for cold weather paddling.
mid: Phil Giller off to hunt for seals.
bottom: Derek Osborn, Melanie Lorek and Denis Sivick wait for start of seal paddle.

Sailing Report *By Holly Sears & Jim Luton*

It seems like every year we get up and running earlier. For me, it felt as though the sailing never really ended as I joined Tracy Kornrich to participate in Seawanhaka's frostbite series on Oyster Bay, where we raced our Lasers every Sunday (November-April).

I wasn't sure if I would enjoy this extension of the season, but I loved it, despite my mediocre performance. Sailing with a larger group of more experienced sailors is a challenge, to be sure. I learned a lot!

Tracy had some stellar moments and has been improving by leaps and bounds, even bringing in a bullet on one race, and will be finishing mid-fleet in the series. We looked forward to Sundays every week, but both Tracy and I will be glad to get back to Sebago, our sailing group and sailing on Jamaica Bay.

Jim has been going full force all winter on his Peapod, "Mouse," and you might see it out at the club, ready to row, if not sail, by mid-summer. With the warmer weather he is also busy, with the help of other volunteers--Matthew Peverly, Chris Bickford, John & James Decker, and John Wright--getting the new workroom built and functional, as well as researching potential new boat-building projects at the club. Interested in traditional sailing craft? Join the crew.

I think this is going to be the year we get the 420 in the water. We have plans in April to get the boat rigged and refurbished. We're also on the lookout for another Sunfish and/or a Vanguard 15 for our program. Let us know if you see a potential candidate: the budget is limited.

Our Sebago Sailing Committee had an excellent winter meeting in February, hosted this year at John Decker's house--thanks John! This meeting gets us all thinking about the things we would like to do for the coming season. Generally, our main goal is establishing the calendar for the year (see below), along with some socializing. This year, we also set up some subcommittees to help in running the sailing program.

So far, John Decker has volunteered to help with the "cruises," Bonnie Aldinger with rallying the troops and reminding us of coming events, David Cipton with instruction and workshops, Chris Bickford with d'Shack maintenance and upgrades and showing potential new members around. What would you like to help with?

Here's the 2012 sailing schedule (check the website's sailing page for more information sebagocanooclub.org/sailing.html):

April 21: Season Opener

May 12: Spring Regatta (for all sailors, sunfish and laser.) We're happy to have sailors outside the club join us, but this will be primarily a club event; our Annual Laser Regatta is in September.

May 18: Race Fridays; a NEW EVENT! once a month on Friday. Be on the water by 5:30 p.m.

May 26: Open House

June 9-10: Beginning sailing class (full)

June 15: Race Fridays, on the water by 5:30 p.m.

June 24: June cruise, meet at 9:30 a.m.

July 13: Race Fridays, on the water by 5:30 p.m.

July 15: Kids sailing

July 22: General meeting, 4 p.m.

July 28: July cruise with barbecue afterward, meet at 1 p.m.

Aug. 12: August cruise, meet at 1:30 p.m.

Aug. 17: Race Fridays, on the water by 5:30 p.m.

Aug. 25: Intermediate Sailing and Race Prep Workshop (time to be announced)

Sept. 8: Annual Laser Regatta

Sept. 16: Fall Race Series #1, skippers meet at 11:30 a.m.

Sept. 22: Sebago Cup, skippers meeting at 11:30 a.m., followed by pot-luck and annual Sailing Committee meeting.

Sept. 23: Annual Meeting

Sept. 30: Fall Race Series #2, skippers meet at 11:30 a.m.

Oct. 7: Fall Race Series #3, skippers meet at 11:30 a.m.

Oct. 14: Fall Race Series #4, skippers meet at 11:30 a.m.

Oct. 21: Fall Race Series #5, skippers meet at 11:30 a.m.

Oct. 28: Fall Race Series #6, skippers meet at 11:30 am



There are other workshops and events we would like to see happen, and those will pop up over the summer as we have the interest, personnel and can schedule the time.

And, of course, we will all be getting out on the water as much as possible. Use our Google list to look for sailing companions or to announce events you would like to put together. If you aren't on our Google list and would like to be included, or if you have any questions about Sebago Sailing, contact sailing@sebagocanoecub.org

Let's get on the water!

page 6, left: Work day with sailors Mark Rand & Ami Samin sanding and varnishing boards, Severn Clay cutting new shelves for the Dinghy Shack. right: Don Campbell glassing Willow, Holly Sears & Justin Steil doing epoxy repairs on the 420.

this page, bottom/left: Season Opener - Holly Sears & Justin Steil hoisting the 420 main. top: Justin demonstrates the spinnaker set to Tracy Kornrich, Holly, John Decker.

bottom/right: Justin Steil and Holly Sears sailing newly furbished 420. all photos in this article courtesy of Chris Bickford





Bronx River canoe paddle, 2010. photo courtesy of Andy Novick

Canoe Committee Report *By Andy Novick*

We're starting the season off this year by hosting some training sessions for NYU Polytech's Concrete Canoe Club. The members of this club compete with other groups of engineering students around the country to make the lightest, fastest canoe possible out of space-age concrete. They develop their own secret formulas, decide on a design, then they get together with rival clubs to race their creations.

While the NYU Polytech club is long on engineering talent---it often does very well with its canoe designs---it's short on canoeing experience. That's where the members of the Canoe Committee come in. Starting later this month, we'll be helping out with one thing the concrete canoeists often forget they need to know: how to paddle. We hope to be able to give them some paddling pointers for when they take on other clubs in Massachusetts later this spring.

On May 5, we'll participate in the annual Bronx River Flotilla, a five-mile trip down the Bronx River. The event is full of surprises, including beautiful scenery that you would never expect to see in New York City. You paddle near waterfalls, hit rocks and encounter mini-

rapids that can sometimes be real rapids. You also get to paddle right next to tigers, baboons and other zoo animals.

When you hear banjo music though, paddle faster! This year's event will feature a banjo band called "Crooks and Perverts." The band will be playing right on the river bank to warn you of an approaching falls.

Another of the Canoe Committee's big events will be the annual Clearwater Festival on June 16-17. This year Arlo Guthrie will be among the regular line-up of great musicians. Andy Novick will be demonstrating how to tie flies and how to fish from both a kayak and canoe.

The committee will be running the war canoes two at a time this year at Sebago's May 26 Open House. We are implementing an improved "ticket system" to prevent any line jumping. In the past we often would have to decide who had really waited their turn and who had jumped the line. No longer. The new ticket system will see to that problem. We hope to give a fun and safe ride to a record number of passengers this year.



College of Engineering students use the Sebago war canoe to train for a race in their own designed and built cement canoe.
photo courtesy of Chris Bickford

photo courtesy of Andy Novick



Adventure in the Philippines

by Phil Rosenberg

On July 11, 2011 we – Phil, Elda and our 7-year-old daughter, Solana – visited the Philippines. We stayed in Manila for about a week, visiting Elda’s family. Then we flew to Suriago City (the southern tip of the Philippines) to continue our journey by boat to visit the rest of Elda’s family on a remote island called Rizal.

Generally the boats in the Philippines, from the small canoes to the large boats, have outriggers (probably to prevent the boat from capsizing, especially the top-heavy large passenger/cargo boats). Fortunately, Rizal has a boat dock, but for the islands that don’t, a large boat would beach itself in the sand, lower a plank for going ashore and reverse the engines when it’s ready to continue to the next island.

Arriving in Rizal, it was a jungle of coconut trees, chickens in every backyard, bamboo huts, some concrete houses and a large crowd of smiling, friendly Philipinos eager to welcome us to their island. There was limited electricity, no flush toilets, no running water – but it was paradise to wake up at daybreak to the call of the chickens in the middle of a damp jungle and look at the Asian sky and all the different types of vegetation.

It rained every day, but we were desperate to go island-hopping in those very narrow canoes with bamboo outriggers. Finally the rain slowed to a drizzle and we ran to the shore and took one of the boats and paddled out into the Pacific Ocean to explore. We each sat on a very small wooden bench inside the boat. The ocean was so clear you could see the smallest sea creature on the bottom of the sea floor. We visited some islands where we went swimming and picnicked.

Soon the calm weather changed, the winds picked up and the ocean began to get rough. We decided we’d better head back. As we paddled, the waves got bigger as the wind howled, and Elda yelled “paddle into the waves!” I struggled with all my strength, but I was scared! I really did not know if we would make it back to Rizal. Exhausted, somehow we made it and then the weather turned really bad.

A typhoon was bearing down on the Philippines and we were lucky to take the last boat back to Suriago City before the storm forced all boats to be cancelled. We flew back to Manila through incredibly thick clouds. We stayed in Manila for another week and when we flew back to America we sang “God Bless America” as we saw the continent.





Year 5, Day 3 - Ready to launch from Sands Point. L to R: Stevie, Ilene, Pete, me, George, Minh, Tom, Steve, Steve's father Ralph Heinzerling (who gained access to this launch, actually the lawn of a grand estate, by being a rather famous sailor of the local Manhassat One Design fleet), John Wright and John Huntington. Last day of the 3-day leg; we finished in Red Hook & came back & closed the loop with Red Hook to Sebago a couple of weeks later. all photos in this article courtesy of Steve Heinzerling

Around Long Island: Year Five Completing the Circle, Mount Sinai Harbor to Sebago *by Steve Heinzerling*

I missed the last Blade for a report on our paddle around Long Island. The trip began five years ago, when we launched our kayaks from Sebago and paddled east toward Montauk. After three days of paddling we made it as far as Smith Point, a total of about 75 miles. The next year we went back and picked up where we left off.

We continued on progressively like that until we finally completed our journey this past fall. The group included George Sullivan, Steve McAllister, Ilene Levenson, Pete Peterson, Minh Nguyen, Bonnie Aldinger, Tom Anderson, John Huntington and myself. Our indispensable ground-support team included John Wright, driving the trailer, and Linda Peterson with a van.

John Huntington joined us in year two. This past summer he completed the distance he'd missed from Sebago to Smith Point. Some of it he did solo, and some with John Wright. His logistics were complicated by not having a ground-support team. He used his bike in some places to get back to his car. In other spots he just had to double back in his boat. John is very organized and got all the mileage covered before last year's trip.

On Friday, Sept. 16, 2011, we returned to Mount Sinai Harbor, just east of Port Jefferson, N.Y., where we had taken out the year before. It was a beautiful clear day. We were all glad to be there and to be embarking on the final leg of our trip.

As a group we've gotten a fairly good rhythm together on the water. There are the faster paddlers and those of us who take it at a moderate pace for the long distance. We came up with a system of rotating sweep paddlers. Whoever was at the lead or point would rotate back and take over the sweep position after an hour out front. This kind of worked, but it was never perfect.

That morning we stopped for a break on Crane Neck Point and plotted our course across Smithtown Bay. The shortest distance was a straight line to Eaton's Point. That would have us paddling about a mile offshore and wouldn't afford us any breaks. In a group of nine paddlers there are always differences of opinion. The majority of us wanted to take the shortest route, and we proceeded with that plan.

As the afternoon wore on our tidal assist was waning and our progress slowed. As much as we wanted to keep going, it just wasn't happen-



above: Year 5, Day 1 - Reviewing the day's plan at Mt. Sinai Harbor
below: Year 5, Day 3 - lunch break just west of the Throg's Neck Bridge



ing, so we took out at the Northport Smoke Stacks. John and Linda met us at a boat ramp, and we loaded up our kayaks. We stayed at my dad's place in Port Washington, which was a convenient distance for both overnights. It was also the home I grew up in.

Stevie, Minh and John H. camped in tents in the front yard. The rest of us found comfort indoors. It was great to have everyone there. My dad loved it too. He got a kick out of meeting the whole crew.

The next day was a paddle from Northport to Sands Point. I had done this leg of the trip three weeks earlier so that I could attend a family function with my dad. John and Linda drove the group out to Northport, and they were on their way.

John Wright had fun exploring a few museums and galleries near Cold Spring Harbor while the group was on the water. A sailing friend of my dad's who lives out on Sands Point had agreed to let us land and store our boats on her property overnight. We all met the group just as they came in from their day on the water.

It was a thrill for everyone to see the New York skyline and to be completing the circle. Bonnie, being an F. Scott Fitzgerald fan, was excited to learn that we were standing in East Egg looking across the bay to West Egg.

From there we took the group to the Manhasset Bay Yacht Club, where my dad has been an active member for years. I handed out towels and pointed everyone to the showers. We all met up out on the patio of the club for beers and snacks. The sailors who were there enjoyed meeting the group and hearing about our adventures.

Dinner was back at the house. Local corn and grilled rib-eye steaks made for happy campers.

On Sunday morning we paddled from Sands Point to Red Hook, Brooklyn. Crossing Little Neck Bay we paddled past some sailboat races. The wind was brisk, and the action was intense. Our first break was under the Throgs Neck Bridge. We were returning to an urban landscape. The end was in sight.

Our next stop was on one of the Brothers Islands, just across from Rikers. The current through the Hells Gate wouldn't change in our favor for two hours, so we had a very leisurely lunch and rested. We shared food, joked and napped on the beach. We'd paddled, camped, and shared struggles together for five years. We knew each other's quirks and foibles, so the humor was all good fun.

The paddle through "The Gate" was very tranquil, as the current was just changing. As we continued down the East River the speed picked up, and we had a real sleigh ride. We were back in our own playground and loving it.

We landed at Valentino Pier in Red Hook, to be met by John and Linda. Our friend Todd Seidman of the Red Hook paddlers was there, as well. We all felt great to be completing our journey, but it wasn't over quite yet. We had started five years earlier at Sebago and wanted to finish at Sebago.

At 7 a.m. two weeks later we were back at Valentino Pier for the big finish. It was still dark as we unloaded the boats. Bonnie and Quint Klinger, who was joining us, arrived at the pier by limo. As with most of our trip, we chose that morning's launch time for optimal assists from the tides and currents.

Our first and only rest stop was on the western tip of Coney Island. It was a beautiful clear day without a cloud in the sky. We shared the beach with a few fishermen and dog walkers. It was early October, a little cool and very comfortable for paddling. The last leg to Sebago went quicker than we'd expected. Tony Pignatello and Walter Lewandowski led a group of paddlers from the club to greet us as we entered Jamaica Bay.

Back at the clubhouse John Wright had the sterno lit and the beer chilling for our celebration. I'd cooked some pulled pork the night before, and we all feasted and toasted the trip.

It still wasn't quite over. There were 12 miles of beach in East Hampton that we missed due to time and weather constraints. One weekend in November John H. and Bonnie "took the beach" with one car, two kayaks and a bike. John left his bike at one end to retrieve his car after completing the paddle. On an early weekend in December a group of us drove out with two cars and finished up the last bit.

It's been a great adventure and lots of fun to paddle with this group. I'll always remember our times together. We all thank John and Linda for their indispensable help.

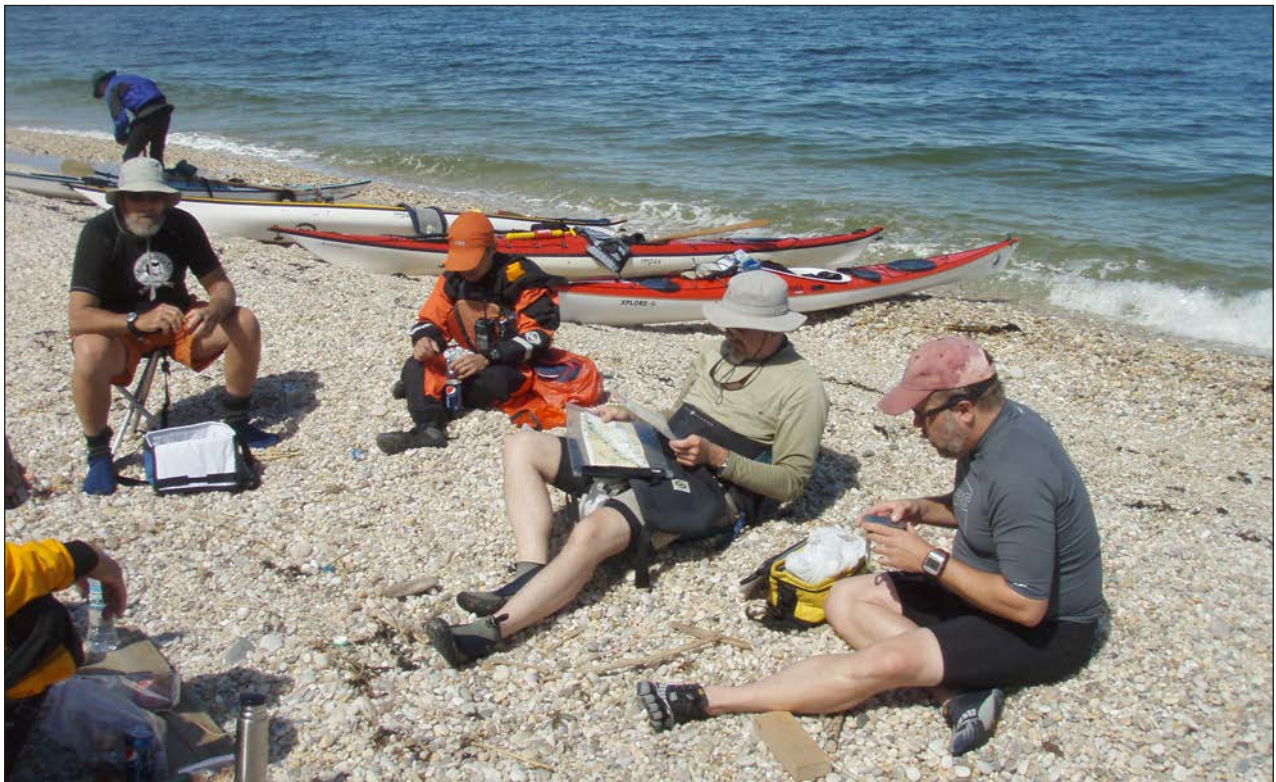
Some people are asking what the next trip will be. I am thinking of a trip from Sebago to Cape May, N.J., spread over three years. There are a few openings for new paddlers. If you are interested, get in touch with me or John Wright. Happy times on the water to all.

Year 5, day trip from Red Hook to Sebago - Pete and Ilene enjoying a lunch break at the western end of the Coney Island public beach (beach season was over so we were able to land).





above: Year 5, Day 1 - Preparing to launch from Mt. Sinai Harbor
below: Lunch break & leg stretch at Flax Pond, prior to crossing Smithtown Bay.





above: Ilene with the trailer in Red Hook at oh-dark-thirty on the morning of the day trip that brought us back to the club.
below: The original 8 back at Sebago, end of the Red Hook to Sebago day trip. L to R - me, Tom, Minh, Pete, George, Stevie, Ilene & Steve. John H. had joined in midway through the 5 years but was unable to make this last day trip - he'd done the leg before though.



The Beachcomber-Alpha Dory

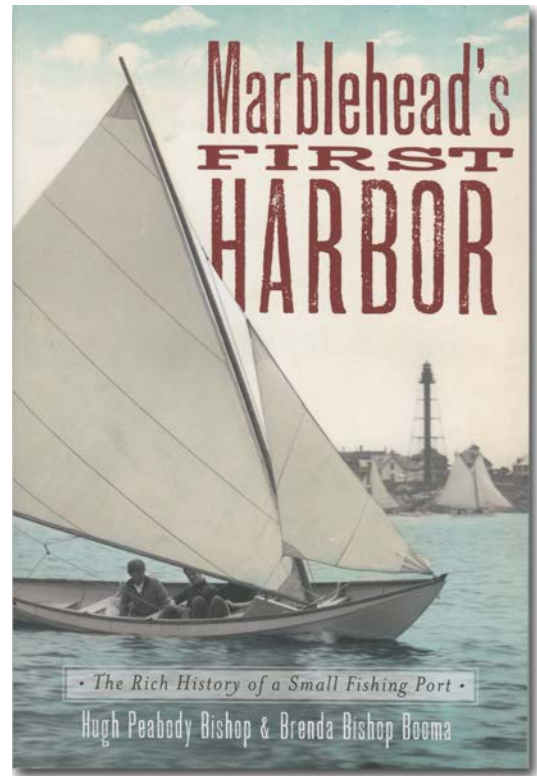
by Jim Luton

I was very fortunate to meet the late John Gardner, author, boat-builder, historian, curator, and champion of traditional small craft, just a few years before his death in 1995. We were at Mystic Seaport one early June with a new semi-dory that I built to plans from one of John's books, when Sharon Brown saw the boat and offered to introduce us. Sharon was the Seaport Boathouse supervisor at the time, and was an associate and colleague of John's. I had every one of his books, and was particularly interested at that time in the Swampscott type dories that he introduced to what was becoming a pretty large and devoted group of traditional boat enthusiasts.

Dories were built in many forms, evolving to suit the work to which they were employed. What most people visualize when they think "dory" is the Banks type: a narrow, straight-sided craft used in the trawl fisheries on the offshore banks, carried aboard schooners stacked like sardines on deck, and lowered, with their fishing gear, to the water from tackle rigged to the ship's cross-trees high up on the masts. There were large, rugged dories built at St. Pierre and Miquelon, Newfoundland that were hauled on shore up greased plank ways with simple tackle after a day's fishing. And then there were the elegant, round-sided types built on the North Shore of Boston, in Swampscott, Lynn, Marblehead, and Salem, and used in the alongshore lobster fisheries. It is the "Swampscott" type that lends itself best to today's recreational uses, being lighter, finer, and more easily handled than the before-mentioned slab-sided Banks types.

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, there were several sailing clubs on the North Shore. In Marblehead there was the Beachcomber Club, and in Salem, the Alpha Dory Club. These were not fancy yacht clubs, but clubs (not unlike Sebago Canoe Club) that were popular with the working class. Originally, boats that were used for fishing or other waterfront work during the week were raced on the weekends at these clubs. William Chamberlain, who was a well-known dory builder on Orne Street in Marblehead, built a twenty-one foot sailing dory for the Beachcomber Club that proved to be quite fast. The same boat, with a slightly different rig, was built for the Alpha Club in Salem. John Gardner wrote in *The Dory Book* that, "The Beachcombers and the Alphas constitute the final chapter in the evolution of the sailing work dories of the North Shore, before sailing dories were transformed into purely racing craft..." He goes on to say that "the true Beachcomber is an open, un-decked boat... as well suited to rowing as to sailing." It is these attributes, as well as the unusual grace and beauty that these craft exhibit, that recommend them to a builder interested in fine traditional craft today, a hundred years later.

The Beachcomber is a long and lean seabird, twenty-one feet in length with just five feet of beam. Like many working craft of that era, the boat's greatest beam is just forward of amidship. It's not what we think of as a fast shape these days, but they were slippery, nonetheless. She has a narrow, flat bottom like most dories, a fairly high deadrise angle, and a narrow "tombstone" transom which makes her virtually double-ended on the waterline. This shape is great for rowing, upright on her narrow waterline, but she stiffens up considerably as she is heeled down, sailing



With a chapter on William Chamberlain and the sailing dory clubs, *Marblehead's First Harbor* is a rich account of seaside life by longtime commercial fisherman, Hugh Peabody and his sister, Brenda Bishop Booma. This is a wonderful book!

in a breeze. Dories are built lapstrake, with few planks, usually only four or five to a side (contrast this with a peapod or a wherry, with 7, 8, or 9 planks to a side). The planks are naturally quite wide, cut from the once plentiful and cheap sawn pine lumber. It was the availability of this wide planking, in fact, that was responsible for the huge numbers of dories built in the previous century and a half. The bottoms were also planked of pine, lengthwise, with oak cleats spaced out fore and aft to tie the bottom boards together. Frames were originally sawn from grown hackmatack knees, but in later years were made up of straight oak, gusseted or clipped together at their lower knuckles. There were usually only four sawn frames, even in the twenty-one foot Beachcomber, with a pair of steam-bent frames in between the sawn frames. The boat was set up on her bottom, right side up, with the frames screwed on from the outside. She was shored down from overhead to her bottom rocker, and planked up. Two men could plank a boat in a day!

In our twenty-first century world, with dwindling resources and limited time, this fine boat could be built of high quality plywood, for both her bottom and her planking. Built glued-lapstrake, the boat would be lighter (and stay lighter) than her pine-planked forebear. I would build her upside down, on sapele frames double-sawn and glued together, to address the cross grain issues. Sapele is a tough, mahogany-like wood that is still reasonably priced. It is a little tough to work, but is strong and glues well. The bottom would be laminated of two layers of 12mm (about 1/2") plywood, for a total thickness of close to an inch. A little weight down low is a good thing in a dory. The planking would

THE BEACHCOMBER DORY

*A RACING DORY FROM MARBLEHEAD MASSACHUSETTS, CIRCA 1910
From Original Lines by John Gardner*



*Length on deck: 20' 11"
Beam over plank: 5' 1"
Draft: 7-1/2" - 2' 8-1/2"
Sail Area: 136 sq. ft.*

Copyright © 2000 Jim Luton Islander Design

right: Pulling two or four oars, the lean Beachcomber is great for rowing. Here, Dan Noyes and crew row *Spear* in a New England competition. photo courtesy of Lauren K. Noyes

be 9mm (3/8") plywood, glued in the laps, and bronze-fastened to the stem, frames, and plywood transom. She would carry two sets of nine-foot oars for rowing single and double. For her sails we could use the traditional "leg of mutton" main like I've shown in the sail plan. This is how the boats were traditionally rigged. The clew was peaked well up to keep that long boom from dragging in the water on a reach. As drawn, she carries about 135 feet of sail, moderate for a twenty-one foot boat, but she is narrow after all.

There is a young boat builder that I know of up in Newbury, Massachusetts who built a fine Beachcomber that he named *Spear*. Dan



Noyes' shop is in the heart of dory country, and Dan worked formerly at both the Pert Lowell Company and Lowell's Boat Shop (now a museum, but in continuous operation since 1793!) I saw *Spear* one year at Wooden Boat's Small Reach Regatta, and was really knocked out by her long, lean lines. Dan added a bit more area to *Spear's* rig, as he sails in a fairly light wind area. She flies, by all accounts. Dan's wife, Lauren K. Noyes, is a professional photographer and took these wonderful photos of *Spear*. Lauren graciously allowed me to use these photos for the article, and I've provided a link below, to both her website and to Dan's. As I said before, I've been enamored with the Swampscotts for many years,

and seeing Dan's boat really made me want to build one! As I write this, Sebago's new work space is taking shape. Should the Beachcomber Dory be our first project? We'll see. In the meantime, let's go sailing!

Dan Noyes, Boatbuilder- sites.google.com/site/dansdories/
Lauren K. Noyes, Photographer- laurennoyes.com/Nautical

Further reading:

The Dory Book by John Gardner
Mystic Seaport Museum- 1987

Building Classic Small Craft by John Gardner
International Marine- 1977

Marblehead's First Harbor, The Rich History of a Small Fishing Port by Hugh Peabody Bishop and Brenda Bishop Booma
The History Press- 2011

Swampscott Dories
WoodenBoat Magazine #36
September-October 1980

left: Sailing *Spear* on the North shore, near Newbury, Massachusetts.
bottom: Hiked out in a fresh breeze, the Beachcomber sails like a racing dinghy!
photos courtesy of Lauren K. Noyes





Workday activities: above: Kaspar Clay-Youman washing boats.

below: Tim Donovan, Dennis Quigley, John Messina ,Kevin Rogers, Patrick MGuire doing concrete work and setting the posts for our new handrail.



EBlade

Thanks to Editor: Beth Bloedow, Assistant Editor: Beth Eastman, Designer: Holly Sears, Photographers: Bonnie Aldinger and Chris Bickford and all contributors.

All content in this issue is from individual contributors and does not necessarily reflect the views of the Sebago Canoe Club.

Next Issue: December 2012

Sebago Canoe Club Board of Directors:

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General Information – contact@sebagocanoecub.org 718-241-3683

SEBAGO CANOE CLUB

Paerdegat Basin @ Foot of Avenue N

1400 Paerdegat Avenue North

Brooklyn, NY 11236

Calendar of Events – 2012 *Keep checking these pages for more dates to come . . .*

April

SEASON OPENER AND GENERAL MEETING 4 pm

Brooklyn clubhouse

Saturday, April 21, 9am-4pm

Get on the water for the first time this year and see old friends. Potluck; bring food and drinks to share. Stay for the meeting to hear club news and vote in new senior members.

May

Cabin Opening Weekend

Lake Sebago

Saturday-Sunday, May 5-6

Join us setting up the ACA camp and Sebago's cabin for the season, and get some volunteer hours in. Potluck dinner Saturday evening. Lovely lake paddling all weekend.

Sebago Sailing Club Spring Regatta

Brooklyn clubhouse

Saturday, May 12

Spring regatta for sailors at our club. We welcome sailors (Laser/Sunfish) from the area to participate. Visit sebagocanooclub.org/sailing.html for event details including NOR and SI. Skippers meeting noon; first gun 1 pm.

Sebago Sailing Race Fridays

Brooklyn clubhouse

Friday, May 18

Rigged and on the water for first race at 5:30 pm. All Sebago-certified sailors welcome.

It's My Park Day

Brooklyn clubhouse

Saturday, May 19

Beach clean-up and barbecue. We will be joined by volunteers from youth groups.

OPEN HOUSE

Brooklyn clubhouse

Saturday, May 26, 10-4

Open to the public. Join us for a day of kayaking, sailing, canoeing, rowing and flatwater racing. Club members are needed to volunteer for a variety of tasks, on-water and off. Contact Commodore Tony Pignatello picksix929@aol.com for more information.

Quick Start Training

Lake Sebago

Sunday, May 27, 10 am

Learn the basics of kayaking.

New Member Orientation

Brooklyn clubhouse

Sunday, May 27, 10-11 am

If you are new to the club, let us tell you all we have to offer and answer any questions. BBQ and kayak lesson to follow orientation.

Quick Start Training

Brooklyn clubhouse

Sunday, May 27, 12 noon-3 pm

Learn the basics of kayaking. Contact Walter Lewandowski kayaker824@gmail.com to register.

BOARD MEETINGS

Brooklyn clubhouse

First Tuesday of the month, 7 pm

All Sebago members are welcome.

OPEN PADDLES

Brooklyn clubhouse

Wednesdays 5:30-8 pm

May 30 – August 29 and

Saturdays 9-12 am

June 6 – September 1

Open to the public. Join us for a kayak trip on Jamaica Bay. Free or low cost. Space is limited. Sorry, no reservations.

June

Annual Jamaica Bay Blessing of the Fleet Regatta

Brooklyn clubhouse

Saturday, June 2, 9 am

Join us for breakfast before we take out both war canoes and as many kayaks as needed and paddle to Canarsie Pier for the blessing at 11 am. Show your club spirit and join our marina neighbors for this local tradition. Contact Tony Pignatello picksix929@aol.com for more information. *

Trip Leader Workshop

Brooklyn clubhouse

Saturday, June 2

Training and certification for Open Paddle trip leaders and assistants. Contact Walter Lewandowski kayaker824@gmail.com for more information and to register.

Brooklyn clubhouse events are at Sebago Canoe Club, 1400 Paerdegat Avenue North, Brooklyn, NY 11236.

Lake Sebago events are at the Sebago Canoe Club cabin in Harriman State Park.

ACA Rolling Instruction and Endorsement

Lake Sebago

Saturday-Sunday, June 2-3

Taught by Chris Raab. Participants must have ACA Level 2 skills. For information and to register, contact Gerard Dunne jerry.dunne645@gmail.com.

Sebago Sailing Annual Beginning Sailing Clinic

Brooklyn clubhouse

Saturday-Sunday, June 9-10

Using club boats: Sunfish/Laser. Open to members only. Limited enrollment. Fee \$160; payment reserves a slot. Contact Sebago sailing chairs Jim Luton and Holly Sears sailing@sebagocanooclub.org or 917.587.0117 for more information and reservations.

ACA Level 3 Training

Brooklyn clubhouse

Saturday-Sunday, June 9-10

This two-day kayak course is open to Level 2 paddlers. For more information and to register, contact Walter Lewandowski kayaker824@gmail.com.

Sebago Sailing Race Fridays

Brooklyn clubhouse

Friday, June 15

Rigged and on the water for first race at 5:30 pm. All Sebago-certified sailors welcome.

New Member Orientation

Brooklyn clubhouse

Saturday, June 16, 1-2 pm

If you are new to the club, let us tell you all we have to offer and answer any questions. BBQ and kayak lesson to follow orientation.

Quick Start Training

Brooklyn clubhouse

Saturday, June 16, 2-5 pm

Learn the basics of kayaking. Contact Walter Lewandowski kayaker824@gmail.com to register.

Trip Leader Workshop

Brooklyn clubhouse

Saturday, June 16

Training and certification for Open Paddle trip leaders and assistants. Contact Walter Lewandowski kayaker824@gmail.com for more information and to register.

ACA Rolling Instruction and Endorsement

Lake Sebago

Friday-Sunday, June 22-24

Taught by Chris Raab. If you have good canoeing skills, learn to train others. For information and to register, contact Gerard Dunne jerry.dunne645@gmail.com.

Sebago Sailing June Cruise

Brooklyn clubhouse

Sunday, June 24, 9:30 am

Monthly cruise of the sailing committee, including a lunch stop (bring your own picnic). All Sebago-certified sailors are welcome. Contact sailing@sebagocanooclub.org for more information.

Member Paddle

Brooklyn clubhouse

Saturday, June 30, 12 noon

July

ACA Level 1 Training Plus Assessment

Lake Sebago

Saturday-Sunday, July 7-8

On Saturday, a full ACA Level 1 course will be given. On Sunday, a four-hour workshop with instructors will be given for class members. This is a beginners' course with limited enrollment. Contact Jerry Dunne jerry.dunne@dunnelaw.net for information and to register.

ACA Level 1 Training

Brooklyn clubhouse

Sunday, July 8

This one-day course is for beginners. For more information and to register, contact Walter Lewandowski kayaker824@gmail.com.

Sebago Sailing Race Fridays

Brooklyn clubhouse

Friday, July 13

Rigged and on the water for first race at 5:30 pm. All Sebago-certified sailors welcome.

City of Water Day

Governor's Island

Saturday, July 14, 10 am-4 pm

www.cityofwaterday.org/ Be part of the celebration brought to you by the Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance.*

Crazy Scupper Races

Lake Sebago

Sunday, July 15

Join us for family fun races on the lake!

Sebago Sailing Family Fun and 3rd Annual Kids' Relay Event!

Brooklyn clubhouse

Sunday, July 15

Family fun on the water, including picnic lunch (bring your own). Kids' relay races with two to a boat: one certified sailor, one child. All minors must have an adult to sail with. Sebago-certified sailors and youth family members are encouraged to participate. Contact sailing@sebagocanooclub.org for more information.

New Member Orientation

Brooklyn clubhouse

Sunday, July 22, 9-10 am

If you are new to the club, let us tell you all we have to offer and answer any questions. BBQ and kayak lesson to follow orientation.

Quick Start Training

Brooklyn clubhouse

Sunday, July 22, 11 am-2 pm

Learn the basics of kayaking. Contact Walter Lewandowski kayaker824@gmail.com to register.

GENERAL MEETING

Brooklyn clubhouse

Sunday, July 22, 4 pm

Find out what's happening and vote in new senior members. Get involved!

Sebago Sailing July Cruise

Brooklyn clubhouse

Sunday, July 28, 1 pm

Monthly cruise of the sailing committee, including a shore stop somewhere along the course, and a cook-out upon return to the club. All Sebago-certified sailors are welcome. Contact sailing@sebagocanoclub.org for more information.

ACA Level 2 Training

Lake Sebago

Saturday-Sunday, July 28-29

This two-day course is open to Level 1 kayakers. Limited enrollment. Contact Jerry Dunne jerry.dunne@dunnelaw.net for information and to register.

August

Kayak Safety and Rescue Clinic

Brooklyn clubhouse

Saturday, August 4

For more information and to register, contact Walter Lewandowski kayaker824@gmail.com.

Regional Trip: Orient Point

Orient Point, LI

Friday-Sunday, August 10-12

Overnight camping. Contact Tony Pignatello picksix929@aol.com for more information.

Sebago Sailing August Cruise

Brooklyn clubhouse

Sunday, August 12, 1 pm

Monthly cruise of the sailing committee, including a snack stop (bring your own picnic). All Sebago-certified sailors are welcome. Contact sailing@sebagocanoclub.org for more information.

Sebago Sailing Race Fridays

Brooklyn clubhouse

Friday, August 17

Rigged and on the water for first race at 5:30 pm. All Sebago-certified sailors welcome.

New Member Orientation

Brooklyn clubhouse

Saturday, August 18, 1-2 pm

If you are new to the club, let us tell you all we have to offer and answer any questions. BBQ and kayak lesson to follow orientation.

Quick Start Training

Brooklyn clubhouse

Saturday, August 18, 2-5 pm

Learn the basics of kayaking. Contact Walter Lewandowski kayaker824@gmail.com to register.

ACA Level 3 Training

Brooklyn clubhouse

Saturday-Sunday, August 18-19

This two-day kayak course is open to Level 2 paddlers. For more information and to register, contact Walter Lewandowski kayaker824@gmail.com.

Trip Leader Workshop

Brooklyn clubhouse

Saturday-Sunday, August 25-26

Training and certification for ACA trip leaders. Contact Walter Lewandowski kayaker824@gmail.com for more information and to register.

Sebago Sailing Intermediate Refresher and Race Prep Workshop

Brooklyn clubhouse

Saturday, August 25

Skill and strategy session for intermediate sailors in preparation for the Sebago Cup/Fall race series. On-land discussion, lunch (bring your own) and an afternoon of on-the-water exercises. All sailors encouraged to attend and get a jump-start on the competition! Contact sailing@sebagocanoclub.org for more information.

September

Sebago Sailing 4th Annual Laser Regatta

Brooklyn clubhouse

Saturday, September 8

Regional Laser Regatta for District 8. All Laser sailors welcome. Skippers' meeting noon. First gun 1 pm. NOR, SI for the event. Volunteers are needed for on- and off-water support. Contact sailing@sebagocanoclub.org for information.

ACA Level 1 Training

Brooklyn clubhouse

Saturday, September 8

This one-day course is for beginners. For more information and to register, contact Walter Lewandowski kayaker824@gmail.com.

Annual Trash Bash

Brooklyn clubhouse

Sunday, September 9

In association with the American Littoral Society, help clean up Paerdegat Basin, on foot or from a boat. Volunteers needed. Contact Mary Eyster profmaryjo@aol.com for more information.

Sebago Sailing Sebago Cup Race

Brooklyn clubhouse

Saturday, September 22

Annual cruise-style race. One-design classes (Sunfish, Laser) and open-class mixed fleet. Skipper meeting 11:30, ready to launch. Potluck supper party and annual Sailing Committee meeting to follow. All Sebago-certified sailors encouraged to participate. Contact sailing@sebagocanoclub.org for information.

ANNUAL MEETING

Brooklyn clubhouse

Sunday, September 23, 2 pm

Voting for board members, officers and constitutional amendments, as well as senior membership for those who have been members for one year and have had their names published in the Blade. Contact Beth Bloedow bethbloedow@netzero.com to have your name published. Potluck; bring food and drinks to share.

Greenland Paddlemaking Workshop

Lake Sebago

Saturday, September 29

Taught by Chris Raab. Make a completed paddle to fit you! For information and to register, contact Gerard Dunne jerry.dunne645@gmail.com.

Atlantic Division Annual Meeting

Lake Sebago

Sunday, September 30, 12 noon

Elections for Atlantic Division board of directors. Contact chair Jerry Dunne jerry.dunne@dunnelaw.net for details.

SEBAGO SAILING FALL RACE SERIES

Brooklyn clubhouse

Sundays, September 16 and 30, October 7, 14, 21 and 28

Fall race series for Sunfish and Lasers. Skippers' meeting 11:30 am; first gun at 12:30 pm All Sebago-certified sailors are encouraged to participate. **NOR** and **SI** Experienced sailors from the area interested in the series should visit www.sebagocanoeclub.org/sailing.html Contact sailing@sebagocanoeclub.org for more information.

All events are subject to change without notice. Check with contact person listed to confirm all events.

Sailors should contact Sebago Sailing Committee chairs Holly Sears or Jim Luton to schedule time for certification to use the club (see sailing page of www.SebagoCanoeClub.org/sailing.html for requirements). Contact the chairs at sailing@sebagocanoeclub.org or 917.587.0117.

Sea Kayakers should contact Sea Kayak Committee chair Walter Lewandowski to schedule time for certification to use the club kayaks (see sea kayaking page of www.SebagoCanoeClub.org for requirements). Contact kayaker824@gmail.com for information.

Racers should contact Racing Committee chair Michael Boxer to schedule time for certification to use the club racing boats. Contact 917.670.0336 or racing@sebagocanoeclub.org.

* Events with this symbol are not sponsored and/or endorsed by Sebago Canoe Club. This information is provided for those who may be interested. Please check with the organization sponsoring the event to confirm all dates, times and details.