



New England Beetle Cat
Boat Association

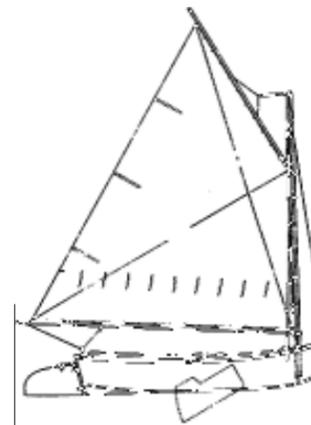
The Beetle Sheet
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Beetle Word Search

sail
cover
paddle
anchor
mooring
batten
boom
centerboard
gaff
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rudder
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From The Helm

With another season behind us we can now reflect on things of the past year and look forward to the future. This past spring all members that paid their yearly dues received the new handbook which brought our Association up to date with all our by-laws along with information that can help both Beetle racers and cruisers alike.

Our Annual Telesmanick Championships returned to the birth place of the Beetle Cat in New Bedford, MA. Despite light and fluky winds, there was a good time for all those who raced. Thank you to the Fort Rodman Marine Education Association / Low Tide Yacht Club for their hospitality and an outstanding job in running our annual Telesmanick Championship Regatta.

At the Annual meeting of NEBCBA held at the FRMEA / Low Tide Yacht Club the 2007 slate of officers was presented and approved by the membership. Joining our 2007 Board are Bob Small of Westerly RI./Fairhaven MA., Wayne Marcus from Edgewood YC and Cranston RI and our new Treasurer Sueanne Bouchie from Wild Harbor in Falmouth.

After many years on our Board I would like to recognize those who have stepped down from our Board. Jim Kitredge, one of our older and experienced Board members always brought true facts and ideas to our meetings. Jim has always been involved in NEB-

Kathleen Crane Smith, Editor

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www.beetlecat.org

CBA and I know that despite that his term has ended on our Board, I know that Jim will be around to set things straight whenever he feels 'the boat' is not on course.

Roy Terwilliger has been pretty much everything to NEBCBA, from a Past Chairman to Treasurer and Board member. Roy's experiences from being through all the NEBCBA opportunities has been a great help to me, especially when things were especially busy for me (as they do for many of us). It was Roy's emails that would keep me abreast of things that would have to be done. His work as our Membership Chairman has gone unnoticed by many. If not for him working closely with NEBCBA Secretary Nancy Rogers, we would have far less paid members in our Association.

Bob Bartro has served his time as Board member and has recently sold his Beetle Cat. We all hope he gets another soon! Bob's time always gave us a different outlook from those who were off the Cape.

To these three fine gentlemen, NEBCBA says Thank You, for your time, service and dedication!

For now, the winter comes and many of us have put our beloved Beetles away for the winter. Soon we will all start again, for spring will be here and we will meet in April and then again at the 2007 Telesmanick Championships at Bass River in August.

Smooth Sailing,
Mark Thornhill
NEBCBA Chairman

Can you identify this location?



The answer is on page 5.

Technical Tip

When making repairs or refastening below the waterline on Beetle Cat hulls built before 1973 (the year Beetle Inc. converted to silicone bronze fasteners), use only steel or stainless steel fasteners. Any other metals, i.e. bronze or brass, will increase the rate of deterioration due to the galvanic action of the existing steel fasteners. You don't want to make a battery!

Bob Clarke



Best wishes to all for a wonderful and healthy 2007!

David received the Traveling Trophy at the NEBCBA spring meeting at the Low Tide Yacht Club. Bob and David Small team together to sail their familys' 5-Star Beetle Cat Tiki.

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2007 Spring Board of Directors Meeting

The spring Board of Directors meeting will be held on Sunday, **April 15, 2007** at the Bass River Yacht Club in South Yarmouth, MA. We encourage members of NEBCBA to attend this meeting. Information about Bass River can be found at their website: <http://www.bassriveryc.org/>

Another great source for sailing news: www.catboats.org www.sailingscuttlebutt.com

Gratitudes:

To the Editor:

At last I have all the missing parts I needed to restore my 1932-3 Beetle "Wendlea."

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all those who answered my plea and came up everything I needed.

With the work I did started in the spring, she was floating and sailable by mid-summer. This work is truly be a labor of love.

Thanks again to The Beetle Sheet and to those who generously came through in my time of need.

Appreciatively,

Jim Kittredge

Westport Harbor Annual Labor Day Race 2006

There were high hopes for squeezing in the Annual Westport Harbor Beetle Cat Race, a tradition since the 1960's. The start was postponed several times that day, in hopes that the weather would clear. It was decided that one last attempt would be made at 4:00pm, and everyone met at the Spindle Rock Yacht Club in Westport. A group of seven Beetle Cats were gathered at the beach and racers received their instructions.

It was still overcast and foggy as they made their way to the start. As the horn sounded, the fog began to lift, and the sun came out for what turned out to be a picture perfect day. The race committee boat consisted of Dick, Barbara, and Patricia Koenitzer, along with Whitney Chadwick. With the weather clearing, the wind conditions changed dramatically and what started as a moderate breeze became light winds at best. The winner, Doug Spicer, led pretty much from the start and steadily increased his lead throughout. The remaining six

boats were in smaller packs trying to catch the leader. A key element to the race was knowing which channel to take thru the thick marshy area in the middle of the river in order to round the final mark.

Everyone gathered at the beach after the race, and Doug Spicer and Crew were congratulated and presented with the Plaque containing a long list of previous winners. A fitting end to the summer sailing season in Westport!

Final Race Results

1. Doug Spicer
2. John Koenitzer
3. Stephen Culhane
4. Chip Gillespie
5. Caroll Williamson
6. Matt Herreid
7. Bob Hawes (DNF)

Michelle Buoniconto

Photos:

Doug Spicer and Crew

Rounding the Final Mark



Chatham Yacht Club Beetle Fleet 2006

The Chatham Yacht Club Beetle Cat fleet continues to be very active. There are over 25 boats registered in the fleet, at least 13 are moored in front of the club and the rest moored in various locations on Pleasant Bay in Chatham on Cape Cod.

A wide variety of racers are included in the fleet as evidenced by the winners of the different series: Ted Dickson won the Saturday series, Alice Ronty won the Tuesday series and the Ladies series, and Tina Spring won the July 4th race. The Saturday series had fourteen different boats entered, and

nine boats showed up at the regatta this year along with over 100 boats in other classes.

The interest in the fleet continues to grow. Kathy Taylor bought a boat from an older member of the fleet and had it refurbished, including a brand new pink-striped sail. She was thrilled to win one of the races in the regatta. Carol Blair shared her new boat with her daughter Carolyn, and Alice Ronty, both of whom did well all summer in the boat.

Alan McClennen, former Day-Sailer champion, came out of retirement and showed the fleet

how to sail a Beetle as he won the first race he sailed in. He also sailed in the regatta with a couple of grandkids that didn't seem to be all that happy at times.

So, the fleet is now looking forward to 2007 with the possibility of a couple of new boats, and some more eager Beetle Cat sailors.

Roy Terwilliger

www.chatham yachtclub.org



Beetle Built Kathleen



Photos

By Emily L. Ferguson

Look for more of her photographs, New England landscapes, wooden boats and races, press photography at her website:

www.vsu.cape.com/~elf/

You can also send e-mail to her at: elf@cape.com



Association Board of Governors

Officers:

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Vice-Chairman

Charlie York
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Harvey Pentleton (2008)
Holbrook, MA 02343

Wayne Marcus (2009)
Cranston, RI 02905

Bob Small (2009)
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Fairhaven, MA 02719

Membership Chairman

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Harwich, MA 02645

From the Boat Shop: Beetle Inc. Report

The Beetle Cat boat shop is celebrating its 85th year thanks to the continued support of the Beetle Cat community. It has been another busy and exciting year for us. In addition to building the new boats, we took care of over 90 Beetle Cats this season, utilizing the extra space the new shop allows us. The do-it-yourselfers have also kept us active with a steady stream of parts orders and accompanying installation and tricks-of-the-trade questions.

Jonathan Richards continues to "learn the ropes" from Charlie York, who himself learned from Leo Telesmanick, passing on the valuable knowledge gained from over 85 years of construction. We recently welcomed a new employee to the shop Mark Blandin. Mark did a terrific job of getting the boats painted and varnished for spring launching. The Beetle Cats have been pouring back in for winter storage and maintenance, and the cycle starts all over again!

On a side note, Tim Fallon's 28' Hanley catboat "Kathleen" (named after his mother) was launched on Patriot's Day in Wareham and resides in North Falmouth. We recently got a picture of Tim's Beetle Cat "Mole Minder" next to Kathleen after a race at Hog Island. Bill Sauerbrey did an awesome job on the big boat, but was glad to be "laying low" over the summer and tackled some "smaller" projects (i.e. Beetle Cats and skiffs). Our most recent Beetle Cat launching took place in mid-

September in Onset Harbor. The shop closed up early and headed down to Onset to launch Michelle's new boat. Bill Womack took out "Sea Bee" and the two boats went out for a rendezvous around Onset Island.

Our weekends this summer were chock full with several yacht club visits, the "Leo" race weekend, the Westport Harbor Labor day race, and several visits to the Hog Island race series in West Falmouth. Charlie York and family even managed to find time to join the Hog Island racers this season! In the spring, we showcased the Beetle Cat at the Maine Boatbuilders Show in Portland, Maine and once again at the Wooden Boat Show in Newport, RI in August. Tim also sailed Kathleen over to Newport and displayed her in the dock area of the Wooden Boat Show.

We want to thank our loyal customers and vendors who were able to attend our Annual Open House held on December ninth. Beetle Cat enthusiasts are welcome to visit the shop, or our website, for updates!

Michelle Buoniconto

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



Onset Harbor Launching of Michelle's new Beetle Cat.

Scene from Beetle, Inc.



New England Beetle Cat Boat Association 2006 Leo J. Telesmanick Championship Results August 12-13, 2006 Low Tide Yacht Club, New Bedford, MA

Overall Leo J. Telesmanick Championship Winner: Peter Eastman

Ancient Mariners

1. Charles Warner Weekapaug YC

Old Salts

1. Robert Clarke Low Tide YC
2. Steve Glovinsky Weekapaug YC
3. Wells Pile Edgewood YC

Juniors

1. Michael Bouchie Wild Harbor YC

Men

1. Peter Eastman Hyannis Port YC
2. Boyzey Zezza Champoquoit YC
3. Thomas Kligerman Weekapaug YC
4. Jeffrey Lanphear Edgewood YC
5. Stephen Culhane Princeton U. YC
6. Mark Thornhill Low Tide YC
7. Robert Small Westerly YC
8. Jeff Gonsalves New Bedford

The Leo

This year's Leo, held at The Low Tide Yacht Club, was conducted just a few beaches away from the original Beetle shop location. Sailors from New England proved their graciousness before the race even started when equipment and boat parts were readily shared amongst members with unexpected setbacks to their regatta plans. After Beetle owners shared masts, anchors and the like, they were treated to a delightful breakfast prepared by a plethora of Low Tide volunteers.

After venturing out to the deeper waters of the Acushnet River, regatta participants found the Buzzards Bay event to be quite a challenge. Strategies and experience

weren't necessarily all that was needed to cross the finish mark in a 'washing machine' of churned up water and ever changing winds. A few 'nips and tucks' to sails made a difference for a few.

Regardless of placement in the Leo, the family of Beetle Cat owners gathered in the whaling city yacht club to share stories and cheer on their fellow sailors. **Kathy Smith**





Center Harbor Yacht Club Brooklin, ME

Maine's only Beetle fleet has an abbreviated season, July and August, and faces the constraints that all summer activities encounter: sports camps, overnight camps, travel, and family gatherings. However, every Wednesday and Saturday in those two months, one can find a handful or more of Beetles crowding the line at Center Harbor Yacht Club in Brooklin.

This year's season was highlighted by a July visit from Charlie York who spoke to a small but intensely interested crowd of Beetle enthusiasts who ranged in age from 12 to 82. In the course of his visit Charlie reviewed history, boat preparation and restoration, performed a centerboard transplant, conducted a sail shape clinic, and sailed in the afternoon races with a couple junior sailors. Under Charlie's patient guidance, both boats closed the gap with the frontrunners. As he often does, Charlie preached from the book of sailing the boat flat and praised the virtues of reefing.

As luck would have it, a couple weeks later, in the one offshore race we conduct (the White Island Race in which the island is the only mark and can be rounded either direction), the race committee stipulated that boats leave their moorings reefed, but skippers could exercise choice during the race. All the older skippers preferred to shake out the reef even before the start of the race; one boat sailed by three 12 year old girls, skippered by Margaret Sturtevant, kept theirs tied in. And you have already guessed the rest of the story. The wind picked up, some said gusts to 30 knots, the older skippers tried to lug their sails,

then tried to tie in a reef under rough, exposed conditions, and finally staggered home well behind the girls who when approached by a chase boat were heard to be singing at the tops of their lungs. One skipper was so exhausted, he was towed home. Charlie knows best.

In the third week of August, the club conducted its Beetle championship. Early school openings, camps, and travel cut into the numbers, but nine boats came to the line for a seven race series over two days. Young Ben Parson crewed by his dad, Tim, dominated the series and came away with 6 points after the throwout. Ben was closely pursued by his uncle John crewed by Ben's sister, Meg, and by Maggie Hunt and her crew Mary Wilkinson, whose father-in-law, George Wilkinson inspired the series and donated the Wilkinson Beetle Bowl. Among boats sailed by juniors, competition was fiercest between Will Henry/Eleanor MacLean and Margaret Sturtevant/Louisa Dallett. Will edged his rival after the throwout for 3rd overall, and Margaret finished 4th.

Quite apart from the fireweed and tansy going by, a sure sign of the end of summer is the Nanny Goats' and Old Goats' Race. Senior members of the club recall their youth and take out the Beetles. This year's race occurred during boisterous conditions so the traditional exchange of boats was suspended much to the relief of the exchange boat. At the end of the day, the large stuffed Billy goat went to John Parson and the more diminutive nanny goat was awarded to Maggie Hunt.

Frank Henry

Photos by
Grace MacLean



The Big Beetle Cat

I think people tend to like things they knew well in childhood. You're either a Skippy or Jif person depending on what you grew up with. The same goes for me and boats. I've got a great picture of Leo, John Kirk and myself at age six holding up the Telesmanick Trophy after our win in Waquoit Bay. By then I'd been crewing in Beetles for a few years and been dubbed "super crew". I even had the t-shirt! Back then I think the ice cream sundae that I was treated to when we won drew me back again and again (we did win a lot), but today it's the memories of those glorious years growing up in a Beetle Cat that sucks me in.

KATHLEEN was launched on Patriot's Day about three years after I had considered having a big catboat built. She was built by Bill Sauerbrey at the new Beetle shop in Wareham. One day after sailing in the Hog Island series, I mentioned to Charlie York that I was interested in building a large catboat and asked if he knew of anyone that could do it. A week later, he called me back. Apparently Beetle's soon-to-be owner Bill Womack was interested in just such a project. The new building in Wareham was chosen with enough extra space to accommodate not only the 12 1/2 foot versions, but also some much larger wooden boats as well. Perhaps some of you saw her under construction when stopping by for Beetle parts and repairs. KATHLEEN is a 28' CC Hanley designed Cape Cod catboat with a beam equal to one Beetle Cat and a sail area of nine Beetle Cat sails. She has been sailing recently and truly

does sail a lot like a big Beetle Cat, just like I wanted.

I still sail the family Beetle Cat MOLE MINDER and have cruised her extensively in the past. Why then would I want something so much bigger? Well - I was looking for a home and real estate prices were out of my league in and around the Boston area where I lived. I figure I got a heck of a bargain for waterfront property. KATHLEEN was built large enough to be a comfortable live-aboard, and that she is. With such a wide beam, she's got a great big bunk and a roomy galley, not to mention the Jacuzzi and plasma TV that'll be installed soon. In my search for a live-aboard, I came across countless fiberglass sloops that were the norm. I never felt quite right about these boats that didn't quite fit into what I always thought a boat should look like. Even the traditional lines of a nice sloop from the offices of John Alden couldn't sway me. And those dangerous jib sheets that fling around and try to decapitate anyone on the foredeck every time you come about? I'll stick with my weather helm thank you very much.

All in all, KATHLEEN suits me just fine. I'll of course continue racing the Beetle Cat as avidly as ever, but my tender just got a little bigger. I hope to see you on the water soon; I try to seek out fellow catboaters as much as possible. If you see a large gaff rigged sail bearing down on you aboard your Beetle Cat the next time you're out sailing, it

may just be KATHLEEN coming to say hello to her roots.

Tim Fallon

See additional photos of KATHLEEN on page 7.

"The effect of sailing is produced by a judicious arrangement of the sails to the direction of the wind."
William Falconer

Were this world an endless pain, and by sailing eastward we could forever reach new distances, and discover sights more sweet and strange than any Cyclades or Islands of King Solomon, then there were promise in the voyage.

Herman Melville (1819 - 1891), Moby Dick

To our readers:

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

You can reference **The Beetle Sheet** at the NEBCBA website: www.beetlecat.org/newslet.html

Please send us your e-mail address too! We want to share Beetle Cat news with as many people as possible! Thanks:)

Answer from the cover:

Where's the location?
Barnstable Yacht Club



Mole Minder next to Kathleen

