



## Book Review: The Competitive Cat

There's a new book out called "The Competitive Cat" that is all about racing small gaff-rigged catboats, but it can be a useful book to any Beetle Cat owner. The author, Bill Welch, has sailed many types of boats all over the country and the world, but he started early in Beetle Cats and presently sails a Marshall 15.

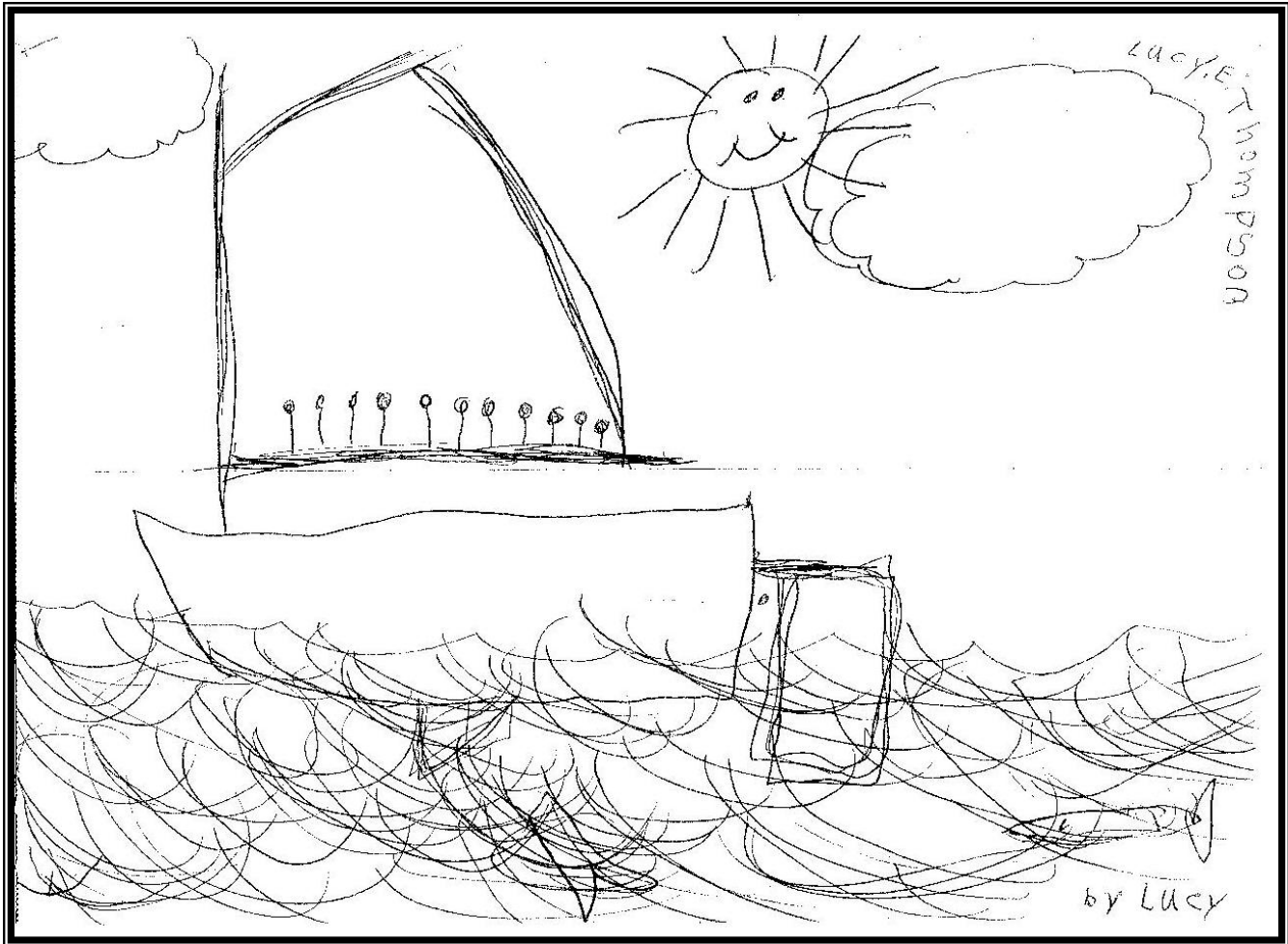
The book covers all aspects of catboat sailing, from initial boat preparation through boat handling and on to the important racing skills of sail trim and balance. It is an easy book to read with many pictures to support the text.

There is a chapter on Beetle Cats with specific information about the class and the boat. The entire book was reviewed by Tim Fallon so you know it has to be good for the Beetle Cat sailor. It is available at most bookstores and on-line, and you can find more information at [www.competitivecat.com](http://www.competitivecat.com).

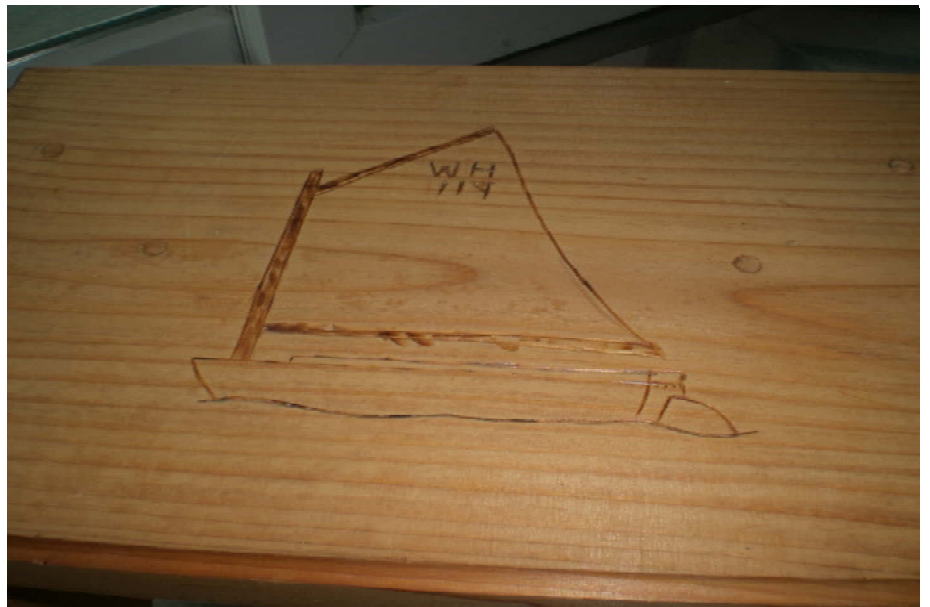
**Roy Terwilliger**



### Kids Perspective: Beetle Art



Drawing created by Lucy E. Thompson. The Thompson's Family Beetle Cat is named LULU and sails out of Vineyard Haven, MA. Photos below are from artwork done by Michael & Sarah Bouchie of North Falmouth.





## Cold Turkey Regatta



It was twenty-seven degrees, sunny and a light variable wind, when twenty hearty sailors gathered on the Cataumet Club Dock, Squeteague Harbor, for the Fifth Annual 'Cold Turkey' Match Racing Regatta. This Thanksgiving weekend Saturday event gathers together Skippers who as kids, learned to sail in Beetle Cat Boats on Buzzards Bay and Nantucket Sound, and have been sailing them ever since.

Beetle Cats are not all they sail. Some went on to collegiate sailing teams, and some to regional and national events. Some are instructors of winning sailing teams at universities like Tufts and Harvard. Robby Richards, who won this year's Cold Turkey Regatta is a national collegiate sailing champion. Tim Fallon is a world champion match racer, and captain of the American National Match Racing Team. George Kirk won the Mallory Cup, a national men's sailing championship.

For the many spectators, this Saturday turned into a beautiful bright sunny day on the beach, thanks to an offshore breeze. They enjoyed watching from the Cataumet Boathouse deck where hot chowder and lunch was provided courtesy of the shore-side crew headed by the Yorks and Casselmans of Cataumet, and the Fallons of North Falmouth.

The races were sailed in Squeteague Harbor. The course was windward to leeward in light variable westerly winds. There were nine match races in each of three rounds using four boats in a masterful plan designed by regatta organizer John York, an MIT collegiate sailor. The design alternated crews and boats successfully for good competition and fun. The race committee of Joe and Becky Kirk stood by the finish flag on the dock throughout the races keeping them carefully timed and recorded.

Competing in the event were Peter Kirk, Mike O'Connor, Ben Casselman, Lu Yoder, Dan O'Connor, Tom Riley, George Kirk, Fritz Casselman, Charles York, Robby Richards, John York, Ryan Richards, Dan Marshall, Emma York, Alison Plessner, Kathy Fallon and her sons – John, Mark, Tim, Dave and Peter Fallon.

There were two boats in the final match to decide the championship. In the winning boat were Skipper Robby Richards and crew Ryan Richards of Falmouth, and in the second place boat, were skipper John York of Cataumet and crew Dan Marshall of the Mass Maritime Academy sailing team.

The racers were gathering their gear exclaiming 'This was a wonderful day! See you next Thanksgiving...'.

**Laurie York**



## Learning to Sail a Beetle

When I retired I decided that I was going to learn how to sail. That I had not done so before might seem strange as I had grown up in Port Jefferson, and my younger brother had even built himself a sailboat. But Hebb and I moved in different worlds. I said to him many years later when we too had a boat and he was doing some splicing for us, "I wish I had spent more time learning how to splice and tie knots when I was a kid instead of hanging out and chasing boys." He replied that he wished he had spent more of his youth chasing girls rather than working at Bayles Dock doing splices. So that was that.

In the 1990's when Baruch and I bought a little place on the east branch of the Westport River I took up kayaking. One day, having gone lightly upriver, I came back down against a wall of wind, the famous southwest wind that comes up afternoons in the summer. Finally clearing Hix Bridge, I saw what I now know was a Beetle Cat breezing along seemingly without any effort on the part of the person at the tiller. That was when I decided that it would be a good thing to diversify.

I began watching the sailboats on the river and realized how many were Cat boats. Early one spring when we were down at the Point, Charlie York arrived with a Beetle Cat. It was such a sweet boat, not too big for a novice, I thought, and it looked like it wanted to sail. Of course I was a bit daunted to learn that the person who was taking possession of it had been sailing alone since he was six. But I swore to Charlie then and there that I was going to get a Beetle Cat once I learned to sail.

That summer I signed up for sailing lessons at the Community Boating Center in Providence and quickly learned that I was not a natural. In fact, I had so much trouble figuring out how to move from one side of the boat to the other while keeping a hand on the sheet and the tiller, that I built myself a device in the basement for practicing this maneuver. I realized that if I were really going to learn to sail I would have to get a boat.

And by the end of the season I had done so. First we went to Beetle Inc., to see if we could go for a sail in a Beetle Cat. Bill Womack himself took us out in the remarkably crowded harbor of Onset. With Baruch and Michelle Buoniconto there were four of us. It was, as I knew it would be, a great sail. Now all we needed was to find our boat. Ode to Joy, a 1989 Beetle Cat, was for sale on a mooring in Barnstable Harbor. To see the boat afloat was very reassuring and we bought it on the spot. We got Ode to a friend's mooring on the Westport River in September, which left only a few weeks in the season. I got a notebook to write down tips for the future. One of them reads: "It seems that one must go gently through all points of sail when changing from upwind to downwind. If one goes too fast from a close reach to run it will jibe." Another, "Make sure main sheet is not allowed to tangle in the rudder."