

**NEW ENGLAND BEETLE CAT BOAT ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CHAMPIONSHIP  
REGATTA, July 31-August 1, 2021**

*Celebrating 100 years of CYC and John Beetle's Cat  
and 10 decades of Beetle Cats on Pleasant Bay.*

- Who:** Chatham Yacht Club to host New England Beetle Cat Association Annual Championship Regatta on July 31-August 1, 2021, on Pleasant Bay!
- What:** In the summer of 2021, Chatham Yacht Club will celebrate three centennials (the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of both Chatham Yacht Club and John Beetle's cat boat and ten decades of sailing Beetle Cats on Pleasant Bay) by hosting the New England Beetle Cat Association Annual Championship Regatta. This is the annual championships for the Beetle Cat, the jaunty little catboats that have held a special spot in the hearts of Cape & Island boaters of all ages for a century. In the spring of 1940, the New England Beetle Cat Association (NEBCBA) was formed in New Bedford for the purpose of providing an annual junior championship for Beetle Cat Boats. Over the years, NEBCBA initiated several other championships for both juniors and adults. Today, NEBCBA sponsors an annual championship under the umbrella of the "Leo J. Telesmanick Championship" in honor of Leo J. Telesmanick (1915-2001), who built the Beetle Cats for over 50 years. In addition to the overall champion, prizes will be awarded to the skipper and crew of the first three boats in the following divisions: Junior (under 18), Women/Men's/Old Salts (50-59) and Ancient Mariners (60+). This is the third time this century that CYC has hosted this event.
- Where:** Races will be sailed on Pleasant Bay in front of the Chatham Yacht Club, which is located on the grounds of the Eastward Ho! Country Club.
- When:** Saturday & Sunday, July 31-August 1, starting by 10 am each day
- More:** The Beetle Cat, a 12-foot, gaff-rigged sailboat, was initially built by whaleboat builder John Beetle in 1921 so that his kids could learn to sail. Since that time, the little craft's popularity has sailed along for years with yachting clubs, summer camps and been passed down through generations of families including Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, Steven Spielberg, Calvin Klein and Senator John Kerry. The Beetle Cat is currently built in Wareham by Beetle, Inc., owned by Bill Womack. Catboat lovers can also participate in the annual Chatham Yacht Club regatta on August 7-8, 2021, and the 29<sup>th</sup> annual Arey's Pond Cat Gathering on August 14, 2021. All of these events will be held on Pleasant Bay.
- Registration:** The planning committee is preparing several options for the daily schedule of the regatta to be able to address whatever state regulations will be in place due to the COVID pandemic. More information and online registration will be available on the Chatham Yacht Club website by June 15, 2021.  
<https://chathamyachtclub.wildapricot.org/>