

From: Arey's Pond Boat Yard <info@areyspondboatyard.com>
Subject: Our Spring Newsletter



Spring Newsletter



Arey's Lynx catboats sail towards the Narrows.

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If you missed our fall newsletter, [click here to view it online!](#)

Tony's View From the Pond

Reflecting on 30 years, looking forward to 30 more.



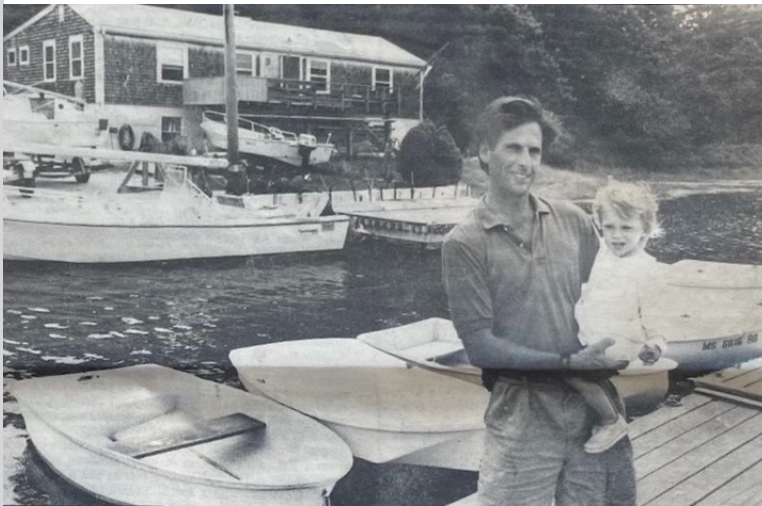


A view of Arey's Pond through the trees.

This spring marks my 31st season at Arey's Pond; I clearly remember three decades ago, standing at the waterfront wondering what I had done. Owning a business at that stage in my career was a learn-by-doing proposition.

I'm not planning on going anywhere, but that being said, and with our 30th Annual Cat Gathering coming up this year, I would like to reflect on the Arey's Pond experience to date.

When I arrived at Arey's, my background had been working in boatyards that specialized in large yachts, where my responsibilities included rigging big boats and repairing or building wooden boats. My sailing experience had been aboard sailboats 30' and over. I had little-to-no experience with small boats.



Tony, as the new owner of Arey's Pond Boat Yard, with older daughter Brooke.

In 1984, when I left Deer Isle, Maine, in a 30' wooden sailboat, which I had built alongside my mentor, master boatbuilder, Arno Day, I was seeking to sail to different ports and make a living building wooden boats with the hope of maybe finding a boat yard I could call home. Five years after my apprenticeship with Arno, I sailed down the Namequoit River and tied up at Arey's Pond Boat Yard, a yard that was known for building and selling small boats. (*Read about Tony's second sail in a catboat, [here on our website](#)*)

When I arrived at Arey's Pond, I did have a business plan, which had been largely influenced by my mentor, Arno, and family friend, Joel White. Joel, the owner of Center Harbor Boatyard, Brooklin, Maine, had wished me luck when I departed, and said if you stick with small boats 30' and under you will always find work. Through my apprenticeship with Arno, I had acquired the skills of woodworking and boatbuilding, which would prove invaluable in expanding the fleet of custom Arey's Pond Catboats.



Tony (left) sails an Arey's Cat in a Namequoit Sailing Association race on Pleasant Bay.

My family and I are so grateful for the support we received from the community from the day we started. As I stated, my wife, Robin, and I have no plans for going anywhere, however I now have the luxury of waking every day with a view of Arey's Pond and spending my time on my passions: designing and building boats, and helping customers learn to sail. This is thanks to our outstanding APBY team working on your boats and providing services, including our nephew, Julian Davis, directing the day-to-day operations, and our older daughter, Brooke Capuano, acting as assistant treasurer and administering new-build agreements. I have the honor of overseeing the design and building of our customers' dream boats, and of helping our brokerage customers to discover sailing for the first time, or transition from a boat they have outgrown to a more ideal fit. On the off-days, I have the freedom to hike a mountain, go for a leisurely sail, or join a race on beautiful Pleasant Bay. We are all looking forward to the next 30 years.

- Tony Davis

President/Owner
Arey's Pond Boat Yard

[Click here to visit 'Tony's Corner' and read more articles like this one.](#)



Tony while climbing Mount Aconcagua in Argentina this past winter. Aconcagua is the tallest mountain in the Americas.

EVENTS

Spring Seminar: First In Person Since 2019!



This year's Spring Seminar was the first live event we have held since before the pandemic, with a virtual option offered for those who couldn't join us in person. It was great to see everyone's smiling faces!

The seminar began with a welcome from boat yard owner, Tony Davis, and a reflection on the past as he enters his 31st season at the helm. Many long-time customers were in attendance. Next, our Director of Operations, Julian Davis, spoke about some new staff additions to the yard this spring, including Sam and Ting at the waterfront.

Tony spoke about the importance of safety on the water and stressed that all boaters should have a [float plan](#) ensuring that all the necessary safety equipment is on board. This includes properly fitting lifejackets, VHF radio, chart, whistle or horn, paddle, and a fire extinguisher if applicable. Tony does not recommend the inflatable life jackets for those boating alone. [Click here to learn more about choosing the right lifejacket.](#)

The highlight of the spring seminar was our guest speaker, Agnes Mittermayr, Ph.D.



Agnes is a Marine Ecologist from the [Center for Coastal Studies](#). She presented her work on marine invertebrates (worms, clams, crabs) in Pleasant Bay. This included samples collected in a recent study that was funded in part by [Friends of Pleasant Bay](#).



Agnes Mittermayr, Ph.D.

We learned more about the types of marine invertebrates in the pond (mostly worms!), as well as those further out in the bay and inlet where small shrimp and clams are more common.

Thank you to those who attended!



Participants sail through the narrows at the 29th Cat Gathering. Photo by Anita Winstanley Roark.

30th Annual Arey's Pond Cat Gathering

Saturday, August 20th, 2022 (practice race on Friday)

In Honor of Henry F. Davis III

Registration will open soon for the [30th Annual Arey's Pond Cat Gathering](#). It is hard to believe it has been thirty years! This just-for-fun parade of sail is the main event we host every summer. Sailors start in Little Pleasant Bay, sail through the narrows, around marks and finish in Big Pleasant Bay. The event is open to all catboats and classic sailboats. Boats come to the Gathering from all over New England, and beyond.

The first Cat Gathering in 1992 had six boats participating; sailors included employees, friends, and family. Mike Duggan and family, owners of Arey's Lynx 'Wandering', along with Tom Crowley and family, sailing their M-18 Windpurr, and the Davis family have all sailed in just about every Gathering to date.

All of us at Arey's Pond are so grateful for the sailing community on Pleasant Bay's support of this event. It has been rewarding to watch it grow into the highly anticipated event it is today. We regularly have over 100 boats sailing, and are able to raise funds for the [Friends of Pleasant Bay](#)'s efforts to preserve and protect the beautiful waters we are so lucky to call 'home.'



Big Cats sail in Little Pleasant Bay at the 29th Cat Gathering. Photo by Anita Winstanley Roark.

The results of our 25th Annual Cat Gathering in 2017 were submitted to the Guinness Book of World Records for the most catboats sailing at one time (104 Cats)! Our goal is for 105 catboats or more to participate in our 30th!

This year's event will be very similar to the celebration for our 25th Cat Gathering. A practice race will take place on Friday 8/19 and the Gathering will be held on Saturday 8/20 with an awards ceremony, followed by a catered dinner and music for those who would like to join us. On Sunday, there will be a parade of sail and salute to all the boats who are heading back to their home ports.

Registration will be available on the [Cat Gathering page on our website](#) in May.

BOATBUILDING

Head Boatbuilder Leslie Gouveia and [her team of builders](#) (Dustin, Dan, Sean and Bill) have been working on many exciting projects. Below is a roundup of some of the things happening in our boatbuilding shop. Additional projects include a new design, our [22' Racing Catboat](#), which will be launched this summer, three [Open Lynx Cats](#), and three [Arey's 14' Cats](#).

Arey's Caracal Goes Glass



Arey's Caracal 'An Cat Mathair' sails into the sunset on a 'glassy' Little Pleasant Bay.

The first [19' Arey's Caracal](#) catboat was launched in 2014 and received lots of attention, including an article in [Small Boat Magazine](#). Hull number two was launched in 2017, number three is slated for launch in 2022, and by 2024 five Caracals will be sailing!

This standard design combines the large open cockpit of our [16' Open Lynx](#), seating up to eight adults, with a two berth cabin similar to our [16' Cabin Lynx](#). We're pleased to see this design taking off in recent years and are excited to announce that we will soon offer the Caracal with a fiberglass hull!



The advantage of the fiberglass hull is two fold—we can both increase the speed of production and decrease the cost for owners, all while maintaining the custom aspects our boats are known for.

While traditionally, the standard Caracal design has offered a large cockpit and two berth cabin, our new fiberglass hull will allow for additional layouts.

New build customers may prefer a Caracal outfitted for cruising with a larger cockpit and small galley and



An Arey's Caracal sails in front of the Sampson Island bluffs.

Caracal hull numbers three and four will be powered by [OceanVolt](#) inboard electric engines. Arey's Pond is at the forefront of marine electric engines and we believe they're the future of the industry. With the upcoming addition of these two engines in the Caracals, we will become the leading OceanVolt US partner with more installs than any other U.S. boatbuilder!

head.

We're also excited about the possibility of an 'Open Caracal' with a huge cockpit that could be used as a charter vessel or for taking the whole family out on a daysail.



OCEANVOLT

14' Arey's Cat hull number 300 is in production!

Arey's Pond has been building 14' catboats in Orleans since 1973, and we're looking forward to launching hull number 300 in 2022!

The Arey's Cat Origin Story: In 1973, under the second owners of the yard, the manager at the time, Merv Hammet, molded a wooden hull based on a 14' Edson Schock design called *Hortense*. Instead of making her a Marconi rig as Edson had done, Merv designed her with a roomy cockpit and gaff rig.

In 1984, the original version of the AP 14 was re-designed and changes were made to the combination hull/deck mold.

In 1995, it was decided by the third owner of Arey's Pond Boat Yard, Tony Davis, that the 1984 mold was due for a redesign. The goal was to give the boat a sleeker look and faster feel, especially in light air. The transom was lifted to reduce drag and the forward waterline was hollowed for better windward performance. The 1995 design is still used for 14' Arey's Cats.



Hull 231 sails past Hog Island.

Dolphin: A Cat with Many Lives



Dolphin sailing on the Connecticut River after major restoration in the 1990's ([photo source](#)).

DOLPHIN is a beautiful wooden 29' catboat built by George Huxford in 1893 on Martha's Vineyard. She has been restored many times since then, [most recently in the late 1990's](#). She is a cat with many lives and her next adventure will take her back to the Vineyard as a charter boat with [Catboat Charters](#)!



Dolphin's cockpit prior to expansion for charter sails with [Catboat Charters](#) on Martha's Vineyard.

Our boatbuilders are in the process of expanding her cockpit to accommodate additional charter guests. In the photo below cardboard templates show layout of additional seating and new bulkhead.



Dolphin's cockpit in the process of being expanded to seat additional charter guests.

From Julian's Desk

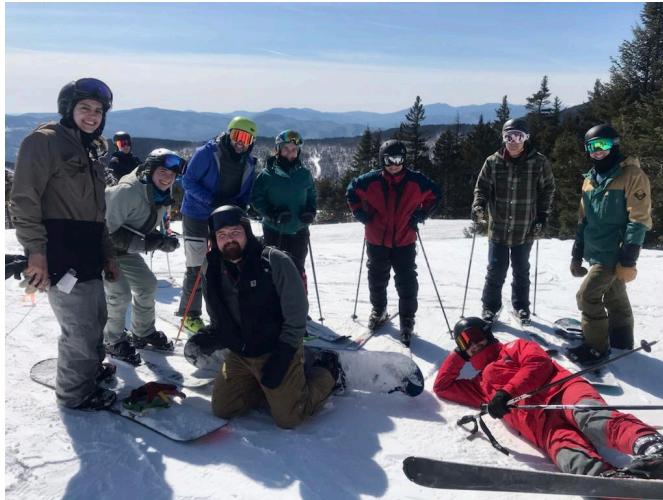
As I begin my 8th season at Arey's Pond, the view from my desk has changed. People have come and gone, infrastructure has improved, and the company continues to grow and evolve. However, through the years a few key elements remain: teamwork, pride, enthusiasm, and family.

The last few years have been fraught with challenges but I could not be more proud of the way the Arey's Pond team stuck together, embraced these challenges, and without knowing it, expanded this family.

What Tony and Robin have accomplished over the last 30 years cannot be understated, and though culture is distilled from the top, success comes from the bottom. It is the decades of dedicated employees, customers, and friends who have allowed this company to thrive and grow.

We have recently added some new faces to Arey's Pond: Ting Holmes, Sam Papert, Mark Renkawitz, and Sean Brown joined our team from varying backgrounds but with overlapping themes of team building potential. Please [visit our website](#) to learn about each of them in greater detail.

This winter a large group of us ventured north for the first official Arey's Pond Ski Weekend. We encountered ideal conditions and enjoyed everything from drinks around a fire pit to board games involving rainbow unicorns (please, don't ask). It may have been the year-plus of isolation but a great time was had by all. We plan to continue this tradition while creating more along the way.



Arey's Pond crew enjoys the first annual ski weekend at Sunday River.

All of us here at Arey's Pond are excited to welcome everyone back as we celebrate 30 years of ownership with Tony and Robin. I wish everyone a safe and thrilling sailing season; and as my view continues to change, I look forward to what's ahead.

SAILING

Pleasant Bay Sailing Opportunities

Sailing school, Wednesday Night Sails, Namequoit Sailing Association Racing, and Chatham Yacht Club

Whether you're learning to sail with our Sailing School, pleasure sailing on Wednesday nights, racing with NSA and CYC, or a mix, there's no shortage of sailing opportunities on Pleasant Bay this summer!

Learn to Sail with Arey's Pond Sailing School



We are looking forward to welcoming students to the 2022 sailing season! Whether you are new to sailing or just want to hone certain skills, we're here to help! This year, we are offering three time slots to accommodate more sailors. Starting in June, lessons and rentals will start every weekday at 9am, noon, and 3pm. Earlier season lessons are available but limited. Booking is now available through [our website](#). Please [call](#) if you

need assistance or have any questions.

We are excited to debut a new program called "Adventure Sails." The goal of this program is to familiarize our customers with our beautiful Pleasant Bay sailing area and to build confidence to explore it on their own. This can be either a group or individually guided lesson. It will include a brief onshore introduction to where we're going, how we're going to get there, and what we'll do when we get there. For example, an Island Adventure Sail could involve planning our course ahead of time based on wind, tide, and current, as well as direction on how to beach or anchor our vessels at the island given the aforementioned variables. It's a great way to meet other avid sailors and learn about special spots accessible by sail in Pleasant Bay. The current plan is to offer this program once a month on a Saturday for a 4 hour period.

We can't wait for you to join us this season!

[Book Sailing Lessons Online](#)

Just-For-Fun Wednesday Night Sails

Wednesday Night Sails are a casual group sail around Pleasant Bay. All sailors are welcome! Leave Arey's Pond around 5:30pm, or meet us in Little Pleasant Bay around 6pm.

Click the button below to sign up for our weekly reminder emails, and receive weather cancellation alerts.



[Sign Up for Wednesday Night Sail Emails](#)

Namequoit Sailing Association (NSA) Race Series



NSA holds races for catboats and other designs on Sundays; start times are scheduled around high tide in July and August. New this year, the NSA is offering a one time free trial race day for those who want to try racing before committing. Visit [their website](#) for more information.

Chatham Yacht Club Racing

CYC holds races, including their popular Chatham Regatta, on Pleasant Bay. Visit [their website](#) to learn more about their regattas.



2022 Events Calendar

WoodenBoat Show

24-26 June 2022 in Mystic, CT

APBY Wednesday Night Sails

Wednesdays at 5:30 pm in July
& August, weather permitting, meet at
Arey's Pond

30th Arey's Pond Cat Gathering

19-21 August 2022 on Pleasant Bay, MA

Newport International Boat Show

15-18 September 2022 in Newport, RI



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