

From: Arey's Pond Boat Yard <info@areyspondboatyard.com>

Subject: Our Fall/Winter Newsletter



# Fall/Winter Newsletter



Biggest project of the year, renovation of 1893 Catboat, *Dolphin*

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## Tony's View From the Pond

First and foremost, thanks to all our customers for a great year. Last winter the boat yard was consumed with new builds, including building new wooden and carbon fiber spars, repair work, and the very special opportunity to renovate the famous catboat, *Dolphin*. Having both *Conjurer* (1909) and *Dolphin* (1893) together in the Rayber Road shop was a meaningful experience as we continue to promote catboats as a great choice for the sailors of Cape Cod.

As I've transitioned to a more hands-off role at the boat yard, I've had a lot more time to travel and sail, and this past year was no exception. The season started with an annual New Year's Day sail aboard the custom Arey's 22', *Carolyn*. Later that day, APBY hosted nine Traditional Small Craft Association boats for a row on Pleasant Bay. Soon after the winter break, the shop was buzzing with projects and the traveling happened when time allowed. In March, head boatbuilder, Leslie, and I attended the Classic Boat Awards in London, where we reunited with another one of our boatbuilders, Dan Agar, who had recently returned home to England. We were honored at the [ceremony](#) for our new XFC 22', which was very rewarding for our hard-working boatbuilders.

Every April, we kick off the sailing season with our Spring Seminar. This year, we were fortunate to have Mark Faherty, Science Coordinator at Mass Audubon's Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, as our guest speaker, discussing the fate of the horseshoe crab in Massachusetts. If you are interested in learning more or supporting horseshoe crab protection efforts, please follow [this link](#). We had a great turnout for the event, and Mark's talk was very well received. Unfortunately, the legislative help for vulnerable horseshoe crab populations that was hoped for in the spring of 2023 did not come to

pass, so the struggle to protect this ancient species continues.

Through the spring and summer, we attended Catboat Association (CBA) regattas in South Carolina, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island. Between travel events, we sailed in Chatham Yacht Club (CYC) and Namequoit Sailing Association (NSA) weekend races as often as we could. Despite the busy racing season, I only missed one Wednesday night sail. Wednesday evening sails are the highlights of the summer, representing a relaxed time after work to sail with friends, involving no formal plans other than to follow the wind and tide for a couple of hours as the summer sun sets.

After the Newport Boat Show in September, we had to bid farewell to two long-time employees, Haley and Dustin, who had made plans during the summer to move back to Dustin's home state of Rhode Island. We will miss them very much, and we wish them all the success in the world as they pursue their dreams.



Harvest moon rising over Nauset Beach in October, photo by Tony Davis

We are now booking new boat orders for delivery in 2025. In the meantime, I am very excited about some special launches coming up in 2024. Our Arey's 22' Cutlass powerboat will be introduced to the custom boat world soon. Hull #1 was recently launched and test run in the pond (more information and photo in boatbuilding section of this newsletter). Next year, we'll be launching our first fiberglass Caracal 19' and our fourth Caracal 19' in wood. We have been doing a cosmetic restoration on a 26' Fenwick Catboat, which will be launched soon and headed to its home in Charleston, South Carolina. We will be hosting an Arey's 14' event, which we will call the Arey's 14' regionals; stay tuned for the date of this regatta. This event is part of an ongoing effort to get US Sailing to recognize the 14' Cat as an association class. As builders of the boat, Arey's Custom Boats cannot be the sponsor of the class, it has to be a group of volunteers that creates the class; if anyone is interested in helping with this project, please contact me, [tony@areyspondboatyard.com](mailto:tony@areyspondboatyard.com). Also, as we plan for 2025 new boat orders, we are actively seeking a skilled wooden boatbuilder to fill Dustin's position.

In this season of giving, if you're looking for a local cause to support, please consider becoming a member of the [Cape Cod Maritime Museum](#). The museum preserves maritime history and is an educational resource offering programs, events, and exhibits in Hyannis. I have been volunteering for the museum in their [current restoration of a](#)

[historic surfboat](#) used by the US Lifesaving Service on the outer Cape.

Thank you all very much for a wonderful 2023 boating season. We greatly appreciate your support and participation despite the many rainy days, including over Cat Gathering weekend, which did not dampen our customers' enthusiasm for sailing. Also, special thanks to Julian and all the employees at Arey's Pond Boat Yard for their hard work and attention to detail, allowing me to feel comfortable leaving the yard on occasion for extended times.

We are in the final push of getting all the boats serviced and safely put away for the winter. It is a seasonal passage that I have experienced many times, but I never get tired of the changing seasons; it means we can move on to other interests for the winter months as we eagerly await the first day of sailing in the spring of 2024. Wishing you all a wonderful and festive holiday season; sail on!

Tony Davis

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## Thank You From Julian

As we approach the end of this remarkable year, I would like to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude to our valued customers and dedicated employees. Your unwavering support and commitment have been the driving force behind our success and we are truly grateful for the trust you have placed in us.

On a personal note, I am delighted to share the wonderful news of welcoming my second child into the world. This precious addition to our family has brought immeasurable happiness, and I am immensely grateful for the love and support we have received.

Wishing you all a joyous holiday season and a prosperous New Year ahead!

Julian Davis

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## Celebrating 31 Cat Gatherings



First of the fleet approaching the finish line, photo by talented photographer and employee, Anita Winstanley Roark

After last year's Cat Gathering, Tony shared a bold announcement that he was retiring from running the event; after 30 years of success, it was time to go out on top. With that announcement, this year's Cat Gathering was destined to be exciting. The 31st Cat Gathering was one of many firsts. This was the first Cat Gathering that Tony had sailed

since the gathering caught momentum; the first Cat Gathering that Tony did not run the Committee Boat; the first that Tony did not have a heavy hand in the behind-the-scenes; and finally, the first Cat Gathering that had to be postponed and sailed on a Sunday. The 31st Cat Gathering fell on a weekend later than years past and had an early morning start. With the late August weekend came dicey and unpredictable weather. The weather channels were calling for thunderstorms and heavy winds. The decision had to be made first thing Saturday morning due to the early start. Under stressful circumstances and facing the unknown, the novice race committee made the call; for the first time in 30 years, the race was postponed to Sunday.



Woody Norwood, first place overall at 2023 Cat Gathering, receiving furthest-trailer boat at Saturday night pre-celebration

The skippers' meeting was held on Friday evening and at that point, the race date and time were still not decided, but rules and email notices were discussed. The race committee decided the celebration would happen Saturday night either way. It was a good call as the rain stopped and we had a nice turnout with live music. Sailors were in great spirits as the clouds parted and the skies were calming, Sunday looked promising and everyone was eager to get out the next day.



Early preparation for race sequence as wind starts to fill in, photo by Anita Winstanley Roark

Sunday, August 27th, turned out to be a beautiful day with a steady 10-knot breeze that filled in just as the race sequence started. Despite a difficult start for some, the race was one of the best and set a high bar for the next 30 years.

It was fun for those who were just out for the parade of sail yet competitive for those who wanted to do well in their class. Julian, who bravely stepped up to replace Tony on the committee boat, helped to make it a seamless transition. The committee, which recorded over 70 boats crossing the line, had to contend with several photo finishes. Woody Norwood in his Marshall 18, *Geezer*, who trailered his boat from Beaufort, South Carolina, took a well-deserved line honors in a very competitive M-18 division. The Bernie Huddelston design, *Pandora*, finished ahead of the new Arey's custom XFC 22' by mere seconds—it was a duel. The XFC 22' was designed to beat *Pandora* so, for now, it is *Pandora* 1, XFC 0.



[Click Here to View Results](#)

Thanks to all who participated in this year's Gathering. The proceeds from the event went to [Friends of Pleasant Bay](#), a non-profit dedicated to preserving and protecting our bay, and [Sipson Island Trust](#), which is in the process of restoring Pleasant Bay's precious landmark.

Mark your calendar!

Next Year's Cat Gathering is Saturday, 17 August 2024

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## Arey's XFC 22', a Summer Like No Other



XFC 22' on the road visiting multiple states over the summer

In April, the XFC 22' was shipped off to Beaufort, South Carolina, on a flatbed trailer. We had a successful event racing from Savannah, Georgia, to the [Beaufort Sail and Yacht Club](#). The XFC was sailed as a traditional catboat, with no headsails used during the three-day rally. A big thanks to Woody Norwood and his team for putting on a great event. We are looking forward to next year!

The XFC 22' continued its winning streak sailing in the [100th Edgartown Catboat Race](#) hosted by the Catboat Association (CBA) alongside *Conjurer* and many other cats. Then it was off to Dartmouth, MA, to sail in the Marshall Marine/CBA annual catboat event, which, like Edgartown, featured a great breeze and plenty of catboats sharing good times on and off the water. Special thanks to Kurt Peterson of [Catboat Charters](#) and Geoff and Kristin Marshall of [Marshall Marine](#).



XFC 22' sailing in Eggemoggin Reach, photo by Tyler Fields

We packed up the XFC 22' at the town ramp in Padanaram, MA, and shipped her to Brooklin, ME, where we competed in the [Eggemoggin Reach Regatta \(ERR\)](#) annual race, hosted by [Brooklin Boat Yard](#) at the [WoodenBoat](#) School campus. We had light air and the tide was against us, making for a confusing start. Once the wind filled in, we had a great time sailing the 18-mile course alongside hundreds of some of the most beautiful wooden boats on the planet. To our knowledge, we were the only catboat participating, so, in this case, we did not sail with the classic catboat rig, but we made use of all the accessory sails.

From Maine, the XFC 22' returned to Cape Cod safely on the flatbed to get rigged for the annual APBY Cat Gathering and the long-awaited match against *Pandora*, the 20' Bernie's Huddleston Catboat, which, in her 32-year history of Catboat racing, has rarely not placed in a race. *Pandora* caught the XFC at mark C and won by 7 seconds. The rivalry is on, and we all look forward to seeing them both out there again next year!

After the Cat Gathering, we shipped the XFC to Rhode Island to sail in the annual [Conanicut Yacht Club Around the Island](#) race. We spent the day prior to the race practicing in rough reefing conditions setting us up for success on race day (which, fortunately, had perfect weather). We were once again the only catboat in a fleet of 84 racing machines, and it appeared we may have been the only wooden boat as well. We were proud to place third in the non-spinnaker A class.

We returned for the [Sail Newport Sail for Hope regatta](#) in late September. We felt more comfortable as we had sailed the same course around Jamestown Island earlier in the summer, but this time we had stronger winds, with gusts over 18 knots, and overcast skies. We placed second in our class, reaching close to 10-knot speeds as we sailed downwind with full sails.

The 14' version of the XFC made its second appearance at the [Spofford Yacht Club](#) annual *Chesire Cat Gathering* on Spofford Lake in New Hampshire, which was held in mid-September. We had a great time participating in three races with a steady breeze, with line honors in two of the three races. Meanwhile, back on the Cape, the Arey's 14' and 16's sailed with great results at the weekend Chatham Yacht Club (CYC) and Namequoit Sailing Association (NSA) series races. Congratulations to Phil Dickinson, Nick Athanassiou, and Mike Donnelly, sailing their Open Lynxes in the NSA series and to Allison Coleman and Ann Carson earning first and second in the CYC summer series in their Arey's 14's



## Waterfront News & Boatbuilding Updates



New bulkhead installed at the waterfront to prevent further tidal undermining of the original 1970's bulkhead

In waterfront news, improvements to the yard continue. Thanks to Anchor Marine, N&M Excavation, and the APBY crew, our main bulkhead was rebuilt and we can now move on to the next section. We will keep you posted as we take on other capital improvement projects in 2024.

Our electric launch has been restored featuring fresh varnish and beautiful canvas work done by our APBY team. It was great to see it up and running, shuttling customers to and from their boats.

Over at Rayber Road, our new power wash station is in full operation. We had to close the Chatham system due to issues with flooding in Chatham's Commerce Park, so we are happy to have the new station in place.



New Rayber Road power wash station





*Dolphin cockpit renovation*

Leslie and her team had another very productive winter with new builds, restorations, and repairs. The 1893 catboat, *Dolphin*, was in our main bay for many months. We re-powered her with a new Beta diesel and rebuilt the cabin and cockpit to comfortably accommodate six passengers for charters in Newport, RI. We built a new 14' trailerable Arey's Racing Cat, which Tony and Brooke had the pleasure of delivering and sailing on beautiful Lake Muskoka in Ontario, Canada. Our boatbuilders, Dan and Dustin, built a special Cabin Lynx that was launched in Mattapoisett, MA. This had some very nice custom details that the owner requested, along with many aspects he incorporated himself. It was a wonderful collaborative project that turned out beautifully. We also built an [Arey's Club 14, which is currently for sale on our website](#). Finally, we built an Arey's Open 16' Lynx, which is to sail out of Pocasset, MA.



*Arey's Cutlass 22' Powerboat Hull #1*



We will soon be making an official announcement about our new Arey's 22' Cutlass powerboat, which is a project we are excited about. Hull #1 was launched and test run in November. This is a new boat design for Pleasant Bay and beyond, which has been added to the fleet of Arey's custom boats and can be fitted as an inboard or outboard. The Chris Craft design was originally built in wood but we will be building it as a fiberglass boat. The story of how we acquired this mold and the hull is too long to explain in this newsletter, but keep an eye on our website and social media as we share more details. We expect this boat to be ideal for Pleasant Bay and taking day trips to Monomoy Island.



First fiberglass Caracal just released from its mold; to be equipped with an Oceanvolt electric inboard

Our fourth wooden Caracal hull (pictured below) was completed and used as a plug to make a mold allowing us to now build the Caracals with a fiberglass hull (pictured above). This option will save building time as we continue to grow the fleet.





Caracal wooden hull #4 ready to flip

## PERFECT LAST MINUTE GIFT: Arey's Pond Sailing School Lesson or Rental!



Arey's Pond Sailing School boats early morning in Little Pleasant Bay

The [Arey's Pond Sailing School](#), led by head instructor, Catherine Sawyer, had a very successful summer. We were lucky to have Ryan join Catherine again this summer, and we are excited to welcome Wim, who rounded out our sailing school team and assisted in getting many people out on the water.

Our rentals and private lessons take place on our [14'](#) or [16'](#) Arey's Catboats in Little Pleasant Bay. Our certified instructors specialize in working one-on-one with students on catboats, the traditional sailboats of Cape Cod. Catboats are perfect boats for learning to sail because they are very stable and typically have only one sail. Our catboats can accommodate up to three students at a time.

For those with adequate previous sailing experience, we offer two-hour and half-day (four-hour) rentals on our 14' and 16' catboats. Both models offer space for up to four adults and are sailed in beautiful Little Pleasant Bay.

Two-hour private sailing lessons start at \$175, with additional students for \$25/each (up to three total). Catboat rentals are \$150/2 hours (14' cat) or \$180/2 hours (16' cat). Gift cards can be purchased over the phone by [calling 508-255-0994](#) or through the "Gift Vouchers" [link](#), and we will email you a copy to print and give to your recipient.



Other great gifts are in store! For the sailor in your life, we have lots of merchandise options that will have you looking forward to the sunny seas ahead. This photo features beautiful tote bags, created by the head of our canvas department, Geoff Cabral, who puts up-cycled sail material to good use. We have hats, sweatshirts, mugs, up-cycled wine bags, and other items for sale. If you're not in the area, give us a [call](#) and we will ship in time for the holidays!



Call to Purchase a Sailing School Gift Card or Other Merchandise

## Summer Sailing on Pleasant Bay



Wednesday Night Sail through Hog Island creek

### Arey's Pond Wednesday Night Sails

For years now, Arey's Pond has hosted Wednesday Night Sails from the last week of June through the second week of September, spending the evening sailing around the Bay. Sometimes the wind and tide would take us through The Narrows, other weeks it was more suitable to sail around Little Pleasant Bay, or through the Hog Island creek.

Our Wednesday Night Sail community continued to grow this summer and we hope you'll join us! [Click here to sign up for Wednesday Night Sail reminder emails.](#)

### Namequoit Sailing Association

Arey's Cats had a very successful season participating in the [Namequoit Sailing Association](#) (NSA) racing series that Bill and Maura Terrell organized this summer. This year, they had shorter courses and more races each Sunday in Little Pleasant Bay. The NSA series is competitive and lots of fun.

### Chatham Yacht Club

The [Chatham Yacht Club](#) (CYC) program is another great summer series that happens every Saturday at 1 PM in Big Pleasant Bay. There are several classes of boats that sail, but they have a 14' catboat class which is competitive and led mostly by Arey's 14's, along with Compass Cats and Handy Cats.

## APBY Crew

With the Thanksgiving holiday just behind us, we want to share how grateful we are for all of our employees, past and present. Currently, our stellar team comprises Geoff, canvas and sail shop manager; Leslie, boatbuilding department head; Anita, administrative coordinator; Matt, head rigger; Catherine, service manager; Travis, service technician and boat hauler; Trevor, assistant rigger; Terry, engine mechanic; Karl, boat finisher; Colin, service technician; Drew, boatbuilder; John, Sean, and David, finish workers. We are also eternally grateful for being able to sustain a family-run business led by Tony, owner and president; Julian, director of operations; Robin, treasurer; Brooke, assistant treasurer; and Skye, public relations officer.

## Employee Profile

## Employee Notice

After more than five years of great work and friendship, we had to bid farewell to Dustin and Haley. A special thank you goes out to these two exceptional individuals. They have been a big part of our recent success in all aspects of the business; their outstanding contributions have significantly shaped our journey. Haley's dedication and passion were instrumental in providing exceptional service to our customers and advancing our branding into the future. Dustin's tireless efforts played a crucial role in the growth of our boatbuilding department and with his personality and good spirit, he always demonstrated a welcoming presence. Their hard work and commitment will not be forgotten and we extend our heartfelt appreciation for all they have done. We will miss them, but we wish them only the best and great success in their next venture as they reestablish their roots in Rhode Island; they will forever be a part of the Arey's Pond Boat Yard family!



## 2024 Events Calendar

Spring Commissioning Forms Open  
1 February 2024

Spring Seminar  
20th April, Arey's Pond Boat Yard

WoodenBoat Show  
28-30 June in Mystic, CT

APBY Wednesday Night Sails  
Wednesdays at 5:30 pm, last week in

June thru second week in September,  
weather permitting, meet at Arey's  
Pond

Catboat Association (CBA) Events  
[View Online](#)

Namequoit Sailing Association Series  
Sundays in late June through August

Chatham Yacht Club Regatta  
3rd August, Chatham, MA

32nd Arey's Pond Cat Gathering  
17th August on Pleasant Bay, MA

Arey's 14' Invitational  
Date To Be Announced

Newport International Boat Show  
12-15 September in Newport, RI

United States Sailboat Show  
10-14 October in Annapolis, MD





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