



West Coast Trailer Sailing Squadron News

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Bob's New Boat

There comes a time in every man's life when he knows that he needs a smaller boat. Bob Wood has owned a lot of boats, some small, and some quite large. Over the years he has whittled away at the size of these boats, and the scope and purpose of his sailing has likewise become somewhat smaller. At some point in life most of us want to "Sail Around the World;" to cast aside all of the trivial cares of the society in which we find ourselves, and narrow our focus to the task at hand, the sea, the sky and the next landfall. Most of us, however, also find comfort in the familiarity of home, a wife or husband, and children. The desire to leap off into the unknown never really leaves us, but our leaps become more measured and we know we will be coming home sooner, rather than later. As Bob likes to say, "Many are called, but few are chosen," and "It's the difference between the dream and the reality."

I think Bob has his fleet down to seven boats now, counting two O'day sailboats, and various canoes and a kayak or two. His latest is the brainchild of Dr. Jay Ludwig, who is an amateur yacht designer and boat builder in the Daytona Beach area of Florida. Over the years we've seen Dr. J, as he's known, at Cedar Key in any number of small boats, including a Nutshell Pram. He sails more than most, stopping only infrequently to rest at the Island Place. Last year he was seen sailing an aqua blue cat rigged boat with a large barn door rudder hung on a wineglass transom. When he finally came sliding to a stop on the beach in front of the pool at the Island Place, Bob and I were the beach right about where he landed. Bob was instantly interested in this boat! Here was a simple cat rigged boat, made of fiberglass, and it had a lovely sheer, and a plumb bow with rather fine entry. Dr. Jay said that he'd been sailing her at 6.5 knots going across the harbor between Atseana Otie Key and Way Key. Bob was smitten. As we looked at the interior of the boat, we failed to see any kind of centerboard or daggerboard, and wondered how it could sail to windward! "Open the forward hatch and look inside," Dr. Jay advised. We did, and were surprised to find a centerboard trunk inside the forward deck. "I designed a large rudder with end plate to balance the Center of Lateral Resistance," Dr. Ludwig added. We also noted two rowing stations but only one rowing seat. "Oh, you just turn the seat over to move it to the other rowing station," he explained. The interior was completely open with the exception of a large foredeck and afterdeck which also had a large hatch for the lazarette. The rig was a simple sprit cat rig of about 59 square feet. Easily handled. Lacking a kick up rudder, the only drawback we could find was that you would need more than a few inches of water in which to sail, but it was still a shallow boat.

Now Bob was really intrigued and wanted to know if there was a mold, or if it was entirely a one-off boat. He was delighted to hear that there was a mold, and a builder, Americraft Boats in South Daytona. If Bob was interested in having only built he would introduce him to Gene Blake who owned Americraft. In fact, Gene was just arriving on the beach in an 18 foot Swampscott Dory that he had also recently built.

The seed had been planted, and after talking to his family, who encouraged him to "go for it," Bob struck a deal with Gene Blake to build a copy of what has now become known as the Cedar Key 15. Before Bob left for Maine this summer, the contract was agreed upon and since then, Bob has been back to check on the progress of his CK 15 several times.



Bob and Gene inspect the Cedar Key 15

This past weekend Bob and I traveled over to Daytona to pick up the finished boat. And she's a beauty!

Easy to launch and retrieve, simple to rig and put away, light enough to roll around on her trailer by hand, and large enough to take out a few friends for a daysail. Bob thinks she's just perfect! That's how it should be, right?

Indian River Lagoon Expedition by Bill Fite

A small group of WCTSS members salvaged what had looked like another no-boating bad-weather weekend as the originally planned dates of 12-14 February (Friday-Sunday) approached. The location was Honest John's Fish Camp on Indian River Lagoon (IRL) just south of Melbourne Beach on Florida's East coast. Our host was WCTSS member Jonathan Arthur, a descendant of Honest John himself, whose father and uncle established a homestead on the property in 1887.

Despite predicted and actual cold and windy conditions, Stin Linkerd arrived at the camp on Thursday with his Potter 19 *Lily P* and his dog Nikita. Ted Jean and his Potter 15 arrived early Saturday afternoon, as did I with SeaPearl 21 *Moon Shadow* a short time after Ted. By the time I got there the sun made an appearance, and the temperature rose to the low fifties, though it had been no higher than 45 anywhere on my trip from Tampa through Celebration, Kissimmee, and Melbourne. A very nice pig roast picnic was underway at the docks, attended by mostly regular customers of the fish camp, as well as we few visiting sailors. Things were looking up!

I won't write an essay here about Honest John's Fish Camp. The camp has a website that includes pictures and much other information. Suffice it to say for now that a very nice piece of old Florida has been saved for generations by Jonathan's family. The original house on the property is still there, as well as rustic outbuildings, docks, boats, and great natural beauty. Even better, make plans to see it for yourselves by attending FISH (Florida Inshore Sailing Holiday) at the fish camp, currently scheduled for this coming June 12-16.

It was fun simply being there, so Ted and I took some time to mingle and explore the grounds and waterfront a little bit. We saw part of Jonathan's flotilla (Ron Hoddinott is the Commodore, but Jonathan may be the member with the largest personal navy). His latest joy is a C Dory, a kind of fishing boat-trawler hybrid with a very nice pilot house, V-berths, and galley.