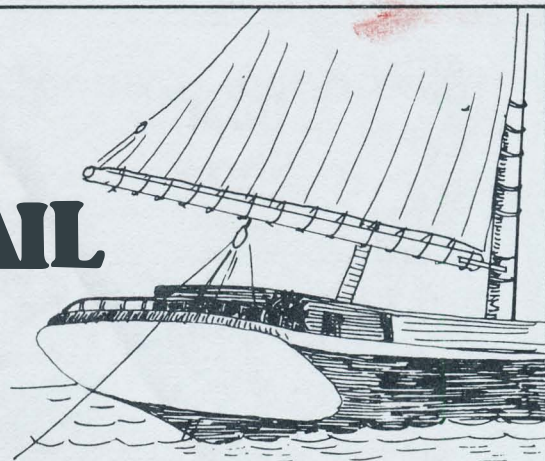




THE TAFFRAIL

Newsletter of the
Long Island Sound Taskforce,
a Chapter of

THE OCEANIC SOCIETY



VOLUME III, No. 1

JANUARY 1978

Volunteer Party

Tuesday, March 14 - 6:00 PM
STAMFORD MARINE CENTER

We're throwing a party for volunteers preceding the "Whaleboat Warriors and the Middlesex" members' meeting. Water samplers, boat owners, lab, Marine Center, and boat show volunteers - everyone who has helped us is invited. Now it's our turn to show how important we think you are to the work we're doing. Come and eat and drink on us!

Shellfish Survey

The Oceanic Society is completing a two-month shellfish survey of Greenwich Cove under contract with the Town of Greenwich Conservation Commission. The purpose of the study is to determine age, size, amount, type, and location of shellfish in order to decide whether to permit resumption of shellfishing which has been banned in the Cove since 1961.

Barbara Whitman, Jane Whitehead, and Bert Carpenter collected samples from over 40 stations, and Barbara and Jane are counting and classifying specimens, some of which will be turned over to the UConn Marine Sciences Institute at Avery Point for heavy metal analysis. Results will be announced in the next issue of the Taffrail.

Members' Meeting

Tuesday, March 14 - 7:30 PM
STAMFORD MARINE CENTER

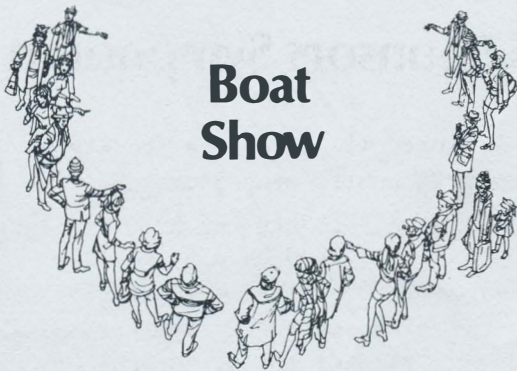
"Whaleboat Warriors and the Middlesex"

In 1974 the Darien Historical Society commissioned William Avery Baker, naval architect, to design an 18th century whaleboat of the type used for coastal raiding, espionage, and privateering during the revolutionary war. His task was difficult - for no such boat or plans for one were known to exist.

Construction of the Middlesex began in 1975 with funding and volunteer labor coming from local residents and school-children, and in 1977, the 25' Middlesex, a hand-made reproduction of an 18th century whaleboat was launched.

Patricia Wall, chairperson of the Committee for the Middlesex, will talk about the history of the whaleboat warriors (Connecticut revolutionaries retaliating against raids by Lloyd's Neck Tories), why and how the Middlesex was built, and the past and future of these magnificent vessels. The program reveals a fascinating aspect of this region's part in the American Revolution that has been long overlooked.





Boat Show

The New York National Boat Show will be held at the Coliseum January 12 - 22. This is where we meet the public to talk about our educational programs and environmental work and as in the past, we need your help again. Volunteer to assist at our booth for a half day or more and we'll provide the admission. To volunteer call (203 327-9789) as soon as possible.

CELESTIAL NAVIGATION

Our popular comprehensive celestial course has been expanded to twelve sessions and now includes a textbook. It covers the celestial triangle, care and use of the sextant, time, nautical almanac, H.O. 249, plotting sheet, running fix, sun, moon, stars, planets, artificial horizon, and a sight taking session. The class will meet at Chelsea Hall 575 6th Ave. in New York City.

Participants should bring their own note books, parallel rulers, dividers, and a working knowledge of dead reckoning and coastal navigation. You need not own a sextant. All other materials are provided by the Society.

The class meets Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., beginning February 1. Cost is \$90 for Society-LIST members (\$100 for non-members). A \$30 deposit by January 27 will secure your place.

* NOTE: Deposits are refundable only in the event of cancellation of the course. Once you have registered by mail just come to the first scheduled class. Balance of course fee is due at this time. Class size will be limited, so early registration is encouraged.

Courses

PRACTICAL SAIL CARE AND SERVICE AND THE BASICS OF SAILMAKING

Alan Williams, benchman at Hathaway, Reiser, and Raymond sailmakers will conduct a 3-session course covering such practical aspects of sail service as: sewing hanks, sail slides, whipping, handsewn rings, setting grommets, tying cringles, cloth repair (handsewn patches, darns, herringbone stitch, leatherwork, and use of palm), maintenance (care, mildew, condition appraisal, faults, remedies), and a step by step discussion of traditional versus modern sailmaking methods.

The course will meet at the Stamford Marine Center on Wednesdays April 5, 12, and 19 at 7 PM. The cost is \$20 for Society members (\$30 for non-members). Participants will be asked to buy a palm (it won't be necessary to have one the first night). You may register by returning the enclosed form with a non-refundable \$10 deposit. The deadline is March 27. Class size will be limited, so please register early.

TEACHER WORKSHOPS ON MARINE ENVIRONMENT EDUCATION

The Oceanic Society and University of Connecticut, Stamford Branch are co-sponsoring a series of workshops on planning, preparation, and operation of marine science field trips on Long Island Sound, geared for marine science teachers, for 3.6 continuing education credits. The course will run 6 Saturdays from 9 AM - 4 PM at the Stamford Marine Center, beginning April 1, and will be taught by Walter Crane, M.S. Science dept. head of St. Margarets-McTernan. The cost is \$65. For information and registration call (203) 327-9786 or use the enclosed form.

Sound Seminars

SEA BIRDS AND MARINE LIFE OF
LONG ISLAND SOUND-Wed. Feb. 22.

The Norwalk Islands are a major rookery for seabirds of Long Island Sound. Below the water's surface there are surprisingly beautiful and delicate marine life forms. Bob Bachand will show slides of seabirds and their young - then take you to the depths, identifying marine life seen in the Sound.

LOBSTER FISHERIES - Tues. Feb. 28.

Dr. Lance Stewart, marine ecologist with the Sea Grant Marine Advisory Service, will talk about lobsters as a commercial fishery in Long Island Sound, including habitat, ecology, behavior, seasonal changes, and migration. (Sorry, no samples.)

COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE OF SEAWEED-Wed. March 1.

Economic and commercial uses, mariculture, and seaweed as an indicator of water pollution, by Dr. Charles Yarish of the University of Connecticut, Stamford Branch.

ELEMENTS OF YACHT DESIGN - Tues. April 11.

Yacht design from planning through construction and implementation, by a representative of the NAEBM-Westlawn School of Yacht Design.

FISHING THE SOUND-With Bert Carpenter and friends. - Tues. April 18.

Practical aspects to fishing Long Island Sound, including bait, boats and outfitting, gear and rigs, bottom fishing and trolling. This will be a "how to" seminar followed by a question and answer session.

ALL SEMINARS ARE AT THE STAMFORD MARINE CENTER, BEGINNING AT 7:30 PM

O.S.Sponsors Symposium

On February 15 and 16 The Society will present a public symposium Long Island Sound: The People and the Environment. Supported by a grant from the Connecticut Humanities Council, it will consist of 4 sessions. The first three offer a view of the historical use of Long Island Sound.

Topics to be discussed include A History of Oystering, The Impact of 19th Century Urbanization and Industrialization, and Indian Use of the Sound.

The fourth session will be a panel discussion tentatively highlighted by an address by U.S. Senator Abraham Rificoff, addressing the problems of marine resource management.

The program is open to the general public at no charge and will run from 9:30AM - 3:30PM each day at the Turn of River Middle School, Stamford. For information contact: Oceanic Society 203 327-9786.

OCEANIC JOB OPPORTUNITY

The Oceanic Society is seeking a Development Officer for the Stamford office. Activities include chapter development, fund raising, proposal writing and general administrative duties. Must be self-starter, good with people, confident and with some experience. Modest starting salary with room to grow. Send resume to Chris Roosevelt, Oceanic Society, Magee Ave. Stamford, Ct. 06902. The Oceanic Society is an equal opportunity employer.

DIRECTIONS TO THE STAMFORD MARINE CENTER:

By car: Connecticut Turnpike (I 95) to Exit 8, south on Elm Street to four street intersection and right on Shippan Avenue to the light. Turn right on Magee Avenue and then left into second driveway. By train and bus to Stamford, then taxi to SMC; or call 327-9786 for a ride.



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Striped Bass Kill

By Arthur Glowka

During the last two weeks of September 1977, hundreds of striped bass were found dead and dying in western Long Island Sound. They were mainly large fish running up to 67 lbs., (the world's record fish is 73 lbs.) and were confined to an area from Milford, Connecticut to Mamaroneck, New York and generally along the Connecticut shore.

This kill was highly unusual since it covered such a small area, only affected striped bass, and lasted about two weeks.

My investigation of this kill has turned up the following facts:

Two freshly dead striped bass were found and turned over to the National Marine Fisheries Service biologists. Outwardly they appeared normal but when they were dissected it was found that the forward part of their kidneys was greatly enlarged. Small pieces of the liver, spleen, and kidneys of these fish were placed in a culture medium and bacteria began to grow. Bacteria cultures were also made from gill lesions on both fish.

Dilutions of these cultures were injected into live healthy fish which came from the federal hatchery in North Carolina. Those fish which were injected with bacteria from the liver, spleen,

and kidney extracts died within two days while those injected with the gill bacteria suffered no ill effects.

This bacteria does not seem to be a normal fish pathogen and has not yet been identified. The bacteriologists are having trouble getting it to grow in a simple medium so that they can begin keying it out through the use of nutrients and chemicals.

Questions about this bacterial disease are both numerous and vexing: since according to what we now know, this has never happened before. Is it an "Andromeda Strain", a strange new bacteria or mutant that has developed in response to toxic chemicals? Until it is identified we won't know where it came from, how the fish acquired it (since there was nothing in their stomachs), nor how it actually killed the fish and why only striped bass.

When I ask how long it might take to get some answers, the biologists involved shrug their shoulders and point out how long it took the federal government, with their limitless manpower and money, to finally track down the cause of the Legionnaires disease. Hopefully the cause of our striped bass Legionnaires disease will be discovered before it happens again.

O.S. Locker

Belt Buckles - Finely crafted in pewter with The Oceanic Society logo; available in round or square designs. Price to Society members: \$10.

T-Shirts - Keep cool in our 100% cotton 4-color shirt available in S-M-L-XL and childrens sizes. Cost to members is \$5.50 adult; \$3.50 child's.

Float coats - Keep afloat in our navy blue or international orange float coats. The shell and lining are 100% nylon and inner material is ensolite. They feature a zipped-in hood and velcro closed pockets and are available in mens' and womens' sizes. Price to members is \$50.

Use the enclosed form to order and, where necessary, specify quantity, size, style, or color.

Join

The Long Island Sound Taskforce is the local chapter of the Oceanic Society and needs your active support. You can join LIST by returning the form with your annual \$10 membership fee which entitles you to a discount on all courses and free field trips and sails. If your membership has expired, why not take the time now to renew? In addition, we urge you to visit the Stamford Marine Center for a seminar or meeting; to see our water quality lab and display; to take part in some of our educational programs or to volunteer your time and skills. The more interested, active members we have, the more we can offer you. You can also help by interesting a friend in membership in the Society and Taskforce.

The Long Island Sound Taskforce is planning to begin a youth program this Spring which may include a whale watch expedition, design and building of a museum/resource room at the Center, classroom sessions in marine sciences and nautical arts, and community service projects. Teenagers interested in joining, or adults with good ideas and a desire to work with the group should call Director Trudy Bryson at 203 322-5291.

Name _____ Daytime phone() _____
Address _____ Zip _____

I want to support the Long Island Sound Taskforce chapter of the Oceanic Society. Here's my \$10 annual membership dues. (Check if renewal)

I am not currently a Society member and enclose \$12 for membership. Please start OCEANS magazine

I enclose payment for the following:

\$10 LIST \$12 Oceanic membership

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\$3.50 each child's T-shirt
circle size: 16, 14, 12, 10, 8.

\$10 each belt buckle round square

\$10 for "Celestial Navigation Mystery:
Solved."

\$50 each float coat: men women
 blue orange size

\$10 Sail Repair Course Deposit

\$30 Celestial Navigation Course Deposit

\$ _____ Total Enclosed

Please make checks payable to:

The Oceanic Society
Stamford Marine Center
Magee Avenue
Stamford, CT 06902

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10576

As of 10/25/77 (term of office)

*Chairman elected 10/25/77

The Long Island Sound Taskforce Board of Directors will meet at the Stamford Marine Center in January. Interested members are urged to attend. For date and time call (203 327-9786).

Clip For Us

We're asking members to help keep us informed of local issues, programs, articles, etc. of environmental interest by sending clippings from newspapers, magazines, or journals. The Society and Taskforce have also been in the news recently and we're not always aware of who's writing about us, so if you see an article or calendar listing, please let us know.

As part of our plan to serve as a regional clearinghouse of information, we are continuing to build our library and have begun to report local environmental news in the Taffrail. If you can help in any of these areas, please call or write - Taffrail editor, Oceanic Society, Magee Ave. Stamford, Ct. 06902. 203 327-9789.

Water Sampling

We've tapered off the sampling program since Thanksgiving and will be starting again in the Spring. As preliminary data is being tabulated, we want to thank all the volunteers who have participated, and announce a meeting for lab volunteers on Thursday, March 2 at 6:30 p.m. Sampling, testing, and lab procedure will be outlined. We hope to see all the people who have expressed interest in the sampling program.

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Laminated cards- handy "field" reference for divers, fishermen or underwater naturalists. \$2.50 ea

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MEMBER PATRICK FARRELL REPORTS.....

"The Morning of November 17th shed light on a 43 foot whale in the surf, one mile east of Parking Field 6 of Jones' Beach State Park.

One Friday, November 18th, local radio reports of a beached whale brought dozens of curious south shore Long Islanders to Jones Beach for a close look and possible photograph of a Finback Whale.

When the tide changed, the 40 ton Common Rorqual was beached facing the dunes with a large chunk gone from its side just a few feet forward of the tail flukes.

Marine Biologists from the New York City Smithsonian Institution positively identified the mammal and took skin and other samplings for further information.

Supervising burial of the Whale at 12 noon Friday were State Parks Commission Authorities. The carcass was dragged by bulldozer into a grave about 8 feet deep, just above the shores' high tide level."

U.W. Photo Course

An underwater photography course will be given by Bob Bachand and Noel Voroba (Orbit Marine) at the Bridgeport YMCA, beginning January 2, 1978. The course will consist of five classroom and two pool sessions. The course is meant for the beginner as well as the more advanced marine photographer. Underwater cameras and scuba tanks will be provided. The course will be repeated every other month.

Bob Bachand has published numerous articles on underwater photography and has won many awards for his photographs. Noel Voroba is an experienced marine photographer and SCUBA instructor for NAUI and PADI. For more details, call 333-3483.



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Excerpts from the Nautical Almanac and H.O. 249; problems and answers for navigation with the sun, moon, stars, and planets; plotting sheets and work sheets.

Price to Oceanic Society Members: \$10 includes postage and handling.

Write: The Oceanic Society
Magee Avenue
Stamford, CT 06902

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Andree's

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(516) 538-2299

Calendar

January

- 12-22 New York National Boat Show
27 Registration Deadline for Celestial Navigation

February

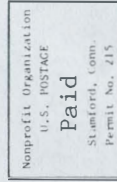
- 1 Celestial Navigation Course Begins
15-16 "Long Island Sound: The People and
The Environment" 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
22 Sea Birds and Marine Life of Long
Island Sound 7:30 p.m.
28 Lobster Fisheries 7:30 p.m.

March

- 1 Commercial Importance of Seaweed 7:30 p.m.
2 Lab Meeting 6:30 p.m.
14 Volunteer Party 6:00 p.m.
Members' Meeting 7:30 p.m.
"Whaleboat Warriors and the Middlesex"
27 Registration Deadline for Sail Repair Course

April

- 1 Teacher Workshop Begins
5 Sail Care and Service Course Begins
11 Elements of Yacht Design 7:30 p.m.
18 Fishing the Sound 7:30 p.m.



ENACT (Linda Siegel)
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Stonybrook, N.Y. 11794

