



Our 50th Year!

Great Blue Hill



November 2019

Volume 50, No. 5

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Commander's Message

Cdr Joseph F. Frawley, AP



Dear members of Great Blue Hill:

Alas, another Boating Season has come to an end. I hope that you and your family found time this year to get out on the water and make some memories. The "Mary T" is on stands, winterized, shrink wrapped and in hibernation until April. For us in New England, it's a short season.

When you have a few minutes please check out GBH's new YOUTUBE channel. This channel was developed by our own Gordon Talley. It's first online videos stream our 50th Anniversary slideshow as well as archival footage of our 25th Anniversary celebration. If you were unable to make the 50th Birthday Party, you'll be able to enjoy these videos at your leisure. If you were there, now you can go back and enjoy them again.

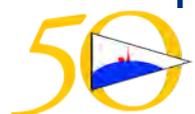
Also, while on YOUTUBE, check out Jim Anderson's new channel Catboat Adventures. Mary and I have watched them all and find them very entertaining. I really like the music.

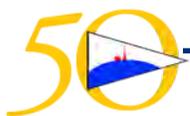
Our next Dinner Meeting on Thursday 11/14/19 looks to be especially interesting. Professor James Holmes "Naval War College" will be giving a Talk on China's 15th Century Treasure Fleet. More info about this Talk and a short impressive bio of the Speaker can be found on the Squadron's website. While there, you can register to attend. Registration is \$25.00 until 11/10. After 11/10 and at the door it will be \$30.00. Once again, I believe that this is going to be very enlightening "and fun" evening.

Registration is now open for the Engine Maintenance Course. This course will run from 1/13/20 - 3/23/20 and will be held at the Westwood Senior Center.

Continued on next page ...

- Editor -
Lt. Jeffrey L. Gardiner, AP
Email: vftb@abc-gbh.org





Commander's Message ... *Continued*

Advanced Piloting is also scheduled to be taught starting on 1/7/20 and will run to 3/10/20. Registration will be opening shortly.

P/C Joe Kelliher is putting together a three night Maine Windjammer Cruise. The dates are 6/24/20 - 6/27/20. This looks like it's going to be a lot of fun. Mary and I have already signed up. Details and registration info can be found on the Squadron's website.

Thirty Members of our Squadron were recommended to National for Merit Marks. A Merit Mark is awarded to a member for substantial personal effort in furthering the interest, programs and objectives of the USPS. Having thirty members recommended is a testament to the contributions of time and effort that our members made to ensure the ongoing success of GBH. A special thanks to P/C Laurie Reilly for tabulating the contributions of our members during the August Executive Board Meeting.

I hope to see some of you at the Fall Multi-District Conference this weekend on Hampton Beach, NH.

See you all on the 11th of November.

Commander Joseph F. Frawley, Jr., AP

Executive Officer's Message

Lt/C Bette O'Conner, S



Dear Members of Great Blue Hill:

Memories are our personal scrapbook of fun events experienced personally or with others. Joyous times on the water with friends, family or with other members of GBH. Seeing our fellow squadron members at the end of the season to share our experiences or maybe misadventures we turn this info into learning experiences. My personal belief is the more information you acquire the safer your time out of port becomes.

Knowledge gained in boating education courses or via electronic post are a great means to communicate and to help others. *News flash* - soon our members will have another means to communicate, explore events, and to garner information from other Squadrons across the country. Yes, GBH will have a social media presence on Facebook and I will send out a notice when it is launched.

I look forward to seeing all at the upcoming meeting in November.

Remember ... if you have a special event or a special day on the horizon take the time to seas the moment to celebrate your special day.

Happy Boating,

Bette

Administrative Officer’s Message

Lt/C David F. Albanese, S

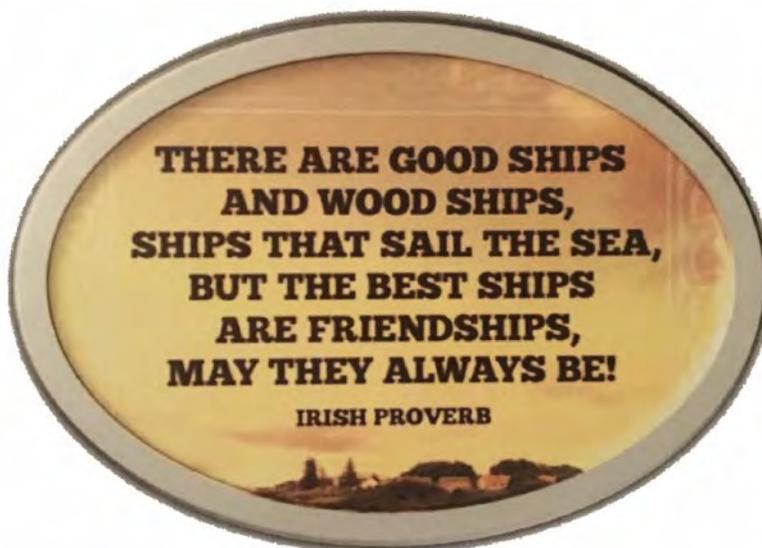


Dear Members of Great Blue Hill:

The fall is upon us and, sadly, we’ve all been hauling our boats for the winter. Time to get some of that maintenance done so everything will be good to go as soon as spring arrives! To fill the time, we’ve got some great speakers and activities planned for our GBH dinner meetings. We all enjoyed Mike Tougias’s presentation on the Pendleton Rescue and the U-Boat incident off of our coasts. At our November meeting we’re looking forward to a talk by Dr. Jim Holmes, from the US Naval War College, who will present a fascinating program on the great Chinese Admiral Zheng He. During the Ming Dynasty, Zheng He explored the world in very large ships, bringing the forerunners of international diplomacy to lands he visited. Looking ahead to January, is the much anticipated “Cheapskate Yankee Swap.” As we start the new year, we’ll also start thinking of the annual GBH cruise. See you all on November 14th.

Fair winds and following seas,

Dave



**Great Blue Hill Sail & Power Squadron
FALL - WINTER 2019 - 2020 CALENDAR**

GBH Dinner Meeting, VFW, Dedham	7	November
GBH Executive Committee Meeting, CoA, Westwood	5	December
GBH Dinner Meeting, (Holiday Party) VFW, Dedham	9	January 2020
GBH Executive Committee Meeting, CoA, Westwood	6	February 2020
New England Boat Show, Boston	8 - 16	February 2020
USPS Annual Meeting - Porte Vedra, FL	9 - 16	February 2020



United States Power Squadrons

Great Blue Hills Sail & Power Squadron Boat Talk
Come for the boating education...stay for the friends

James Holmes is a professor of strategy, the inaugural holder of the J. C. Wylie Chair of Maritime Strategy, and a former visiting professor of national security affairs at the Naval War College, Newport. A former U.S. Navy surface-warfare officer and combat veteran of the first Gulf War, he served as a weapons and engineering officer in the battleship *Wisconsin*, engineering and firefighting instructor at the Surface Warfare Officers School Command, and military professor of strategy at the Naval War College. He is the last gunnery officer in history to fire a battleship's big guns in anger.



Zheng He and his armada made seven epic voyages from the port at Nanjing to India, Arabia, and even East Africa.

Professor Holmes will be enlightening us on the fascinating but little known voyages of Chinese treasure fleets. Over a period of almost three decades in the early 15th century, Ming China sent out a fleet the likes of which the world had never seen. These enormous treasure junks were commanded by the great admiral, Zheng He. Together,

We have raised our dinner prices. At September meeting Danny Murphy set out two entrée choices. All in attendance agreed that it was a big improvement worth the \$5.00 increase.

General Meeting & Boat Talk Thursday November 14

American Legion Hall • 155 Eastern Avenue, Dedham
1830 Social hour - 1900 business reports followed by a buffet dinner
2030 Speaker presentation

Please contact A/O Dave Albanese for reservations: ao@abc-gbh.org or
<https://abc-gbh.org/registration>.

Register by Sunday 11/10 for \$25. After Sunday \$30!

We really don't want the extra money- we want you to register right now!

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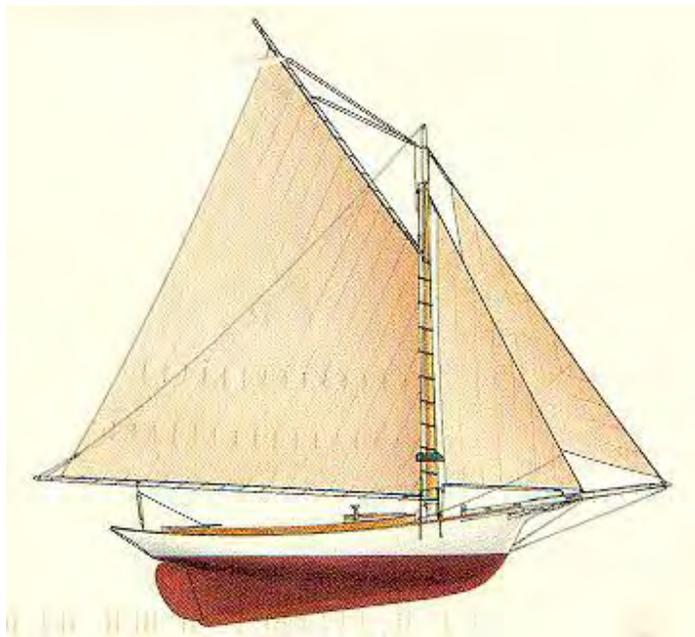
History of the Friendship Sloops

Submitted by George Hagerty, P

Betty Roberts has written this brief history of the Sloop:

Along the shore a beautiful gaff-rigged sloop majestically cuts through the water taking each wave masterfully and with poise. On a nearby wharf a man turns to a friend to inquire about the impressive sloop sailing by. "Why, it's a Friendship" is the reply. Wherever a Friendship Sloop can be seen, sailing or moored, there will be people to admire her graceful lines and sailing ability.

The Friendship Sloop has no real birth, but was gradually developed around 1880 from the fishing and lobstering needs of the men of Muscongus Bay on the Maine coast. It is certain some of these fishermen had seen a Gloucester fishing boat, and being impressed with lines, had incorporated some of its features into their own hull designs. These men did not build a "class boat" where every hull is the same length. From existing records we find that the original builders constructed sloops varying in length of 21' - 50'. Probably the average length would be about 30' - 40'. The basic designed was scaled up or down depending on length, and followed a pre-set formula. They all had an elliptical stern, and most of them a clipper bow, and were gaffed rigged. The pre-set formula included such measurements as: the beam equaled one third the overall length, and the length of the mast should equal the length overall plus half the draft, etc.



Boat shops dotted the coastline of Bremen, Bremen Long Island, Morse Island, Cushing, Thomaston, and Friendship. In 1903 there were 22 sloops being built on the shores of Bremen Long Island alone. Many of the men went into the woods to cut their own wood, and hauled it to the saw mill with horses. The island builders floated their sawed planks (25' - 36') suspended over two dories to get it to their offshore boat houses. Each builder had some little secret innovation which in his estimation made his model better than the others.

The wives were put to work when it came time to make the sails. Usually the builder took the sail cloth out in the field to cut the pieces the way he wanted them. Then his wife had to take a "bite" down through each piece, and set it together. All this was done with a treadle sewing machine.

Launching was done in many ways. Some sloops were dragged onto the ice in the spring and left to float as the ice melted. Others were hauled to the water by oxen.

Continued on next page ...

History of the Friendship Sloops *Continued...*

The usual procedure was for the fisherman to spend his winter building the sloop, fish with it all summer, sell her in the fall and start the process over again come winter. She was sold for what the builder had in it, usually \$350 - \$500. This schedule enabled him to have a boat to work from and something to keep him busy all winter.

There are many names that are remembered as builders: Carters, McLains, Collomores, Winchenbachs, Morses and others but Wilbur Morse's name comes up as father of the Friendship Sloop because of the large number that come from his shop. It is said a sloop was launched every two or three months. Because of Wilbur's mass production and his shop being in Friendship, this great sloop acquired the name of the town he was building in.

Thus it was before the turn of the century one could see Friendship Sloops all over the bay engaged in seining for herring, hand lining for cod, sword fishing, mackereling, and lobstering. Lobstering today is a difficult enough job with all the modern-day motors, electronic gear and the like, but to haul and bait traps, plus managing a huge sail and keeping a boat with about a five foot draft off the rocks must have been a full-sized order for most men. When an eighty-year old lobsterman was asked about this, he said, "Lead out the sheet of the mains'l quite a way, and trim the jib tight while you're hauling. The sloop will lay good then."

The advent of motors and modern equipment around 1915 almost relegated this great craft to extinction, but her fine lines, her seaworthiness, and her great record have added "yachting" to her long list of uses. Many a yachtsman has been awed by the graceful lines of this sloop. Bernard MacKenzie of Scituate was one such sailor. He sailed his beautiful **Voyager** in a Boston Power Squadron race in 1960, and in the strong winds, won the race. This inspired him to have a Homecoming Race in Friendship. In 1961 fourteen Sloops sailed in a regatta, and the Friendship Sloop Society was born. Each year now a regatta sponsored by the Society is held in July in Maine and Connecticut. It is also held in Massachusetts during August.

The Friendship Sloop's fishing career has given way to progress, but her charm will live forever.



We all said “Those are great ideas!!”

At our March dinner and Town Meeting we brainstormed many ideas to make GBH work better and be more fun. One idea that received support was for a major summer event in which all could participate. This idea was inspired by the Boston to Bermuda cruise some members took a decade ago. This is shorter, less expensive, closer, has great scenery, allows us to totally relax..... and needs no passport!



Maine Windjammer 3 Night Cruise

Wednesday June 24 to
Saturday June 27

I chose a 3 night cruise to keep the price as low as possible and to encourage participation by all. Power boaters get a taste of sailing and everyone gets to see Maine viewed from the water. If the weather is great you'll wish for more and if it isn't, well, it's only two days. Have another drink and grab a book!

Drive to Camden and board a historic wooden 2 mast schooner on Wednesday night. Thursday and Friday we sail beautiful Penobscot Bay, stopping in two different harbors. Saturday we return to Camden and depart the ship by noon. All meals are included as is a “modified open bar” - because the cruise is BYOB!!



By going in late June it will be warm and we qualify for pre-season rates and additional savings for a group of 10. A copy of the company's 16 page brochure is on our website abc-gbh.org. The cost is \$581.00 per person. This includes the 10 person discount, all taxes, meals and free parking. Tipping is optional.

I chose this company because they have been doing this since the 1930's, their rates were slightly lower than others, they offered group pricing, were nice on the phone, parking is free and all the other ships have bathrooms up on deck. These ships have them down below.....better for my 2AM visits.

Contact Joe Kelliher with questions Home 508 668 8149 Cell 508 446 7957 jrkell120@yahoo.com

Gatos del Mar

by Maya O'Conner, C (Cat)

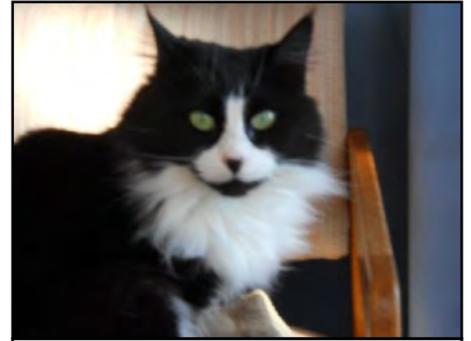
The dog days of summer seem to be in the rear view mirror yet dogs are not. The other day I awoke to nose paintings all over the slider and Benny the golden retriever asleep on my aft deck. My boat seems to be a dog magnet ... even puppies have my number,

The beast and crew are back in Charlestown. What a move it was. The merc crusaders humming nicely and I in my life jacket for the long 2,2 mile channel crossing. Then spitter sputter the beast does not roar. Cruising at 2200 rpms is not in my future. Oh no, a tow boat from Boat US rounding the bend and I go to the V berth in shame. Before calling BoatUS the XO dumped 50 gallons of fuel into the tank so we at least get to fuel dock. Wrong dead silence in the belly of the beast. On the other side I was greeted with concerned humans and the faithful maritime mechanic.

Hang your head in shame human - you were running off the starboard tank - and you put the fuel into the wrong tank. When the needle is on E it is empty not energized. Well, six hours to unclog the fuel lines and get the beast functional to winterize is an expensive lesson.

Wrap goes up on November 1st - raise the flag the feline will await ooohs from the children. I will litter the rails with my toys and jump over stowed fender Dogs will be sitting on the dock. My days of sun bathing up on the Captains chair await my arrival.

If you have a pet make certain to renew their microchip. Yes, pet finder will notify the human when lost car keys are found - but, that is another saga.



About the author - Maya is a seven year old tuxedo who lives year round on the waters of Boston Harbor and has many tales to tell.

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Mooring Ball - TaylorMade 24" Includes collar and short length of chain. Will deliver to anywhere in eastern MA. \$75 or best offer. George Kyte, 978-475-9432, gbkyte@verizon.net (9/17)

Cost of an Ad is \$15 for up to 40 words. No pictures. Include description, condition, price and contact info. Please send your Ads (with your check payable to "GBH Sail & Power Squadron") to the editor, Jeff Gardiner, 398 Central Ave., Needham, MA 02494.



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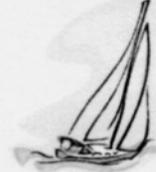
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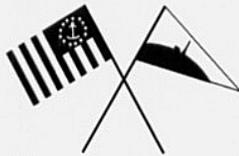


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