

Race Days - A celebration of sailboat racing

Annual races bring sails and sailors to Penobscot Bay

The annual races on Penobscot Bay begin with the **Castine Classic Yacht Race** on Thursday, August 5, when Classic and Spirit of Tradition yachts sail a 19.6 nautical mile course from Castine to Camden. The 11th annual race, hosted by the Castine Yacht Club, will set sail from the Castine Harbor bell at 11:45 a.m. Each yacht must tow a proper dinghy.

A fleet of 31 boats sailed the 2009 Castine Classic under clear skies with "light and fickle wind" that grew into a moderate southwesterly breeze, according to a press release. The race was won by *Zwerver*, a 57-foot sloop designed by Sparkman & Stephens and built in 1954. *Zwerver* was sailed by a crew that included Robert Brooks and Ben Rogers. The crew also included Jeff Grey and A.J. Evans of Sparkman & Stephens. The sloop's owner, Frans van Schaik of the Netherlands, was unable to make the race.

The next day, Friday, August 6, racers can sail in the 23rd annual **Camden Classic Yacht Race**, which follows a

course "over the top" of North Haven and through the Deer Island Thorofare. Again, yachts must tow a dinghy in this race, which is hosted by the Camden Yacht Club and the Eggemoggin Reach Regatta. This is the feeder race to the 24th annual Eggemoggin Reach Regatta on Saturday, August 7.

Last year, *Zwerver* also won the Camden feeder race, and took second in her class in the Eggemoggin Reach Regatta.

The **Eggemoggin Reach Regatta** is a 15-mile race in Eggemoggin Reach, sponsored by Brooklin Boatyard and Rockport Marine. The public is welcome to view the start at WoodenBoat in Brooklin.

In 2009, 76 boats registered for the race; four did not start, three were disqualified and one did not finish because it got tangled up with a lobster pot. Sixty-eight boats crossed the finish line.

In the Castine race, *Zwerver*, sailing in the Classic A class, beat *Joyant* by 15 seconds on the corrected time. *Joyant*, a

58-foot gaff-rigged 1912 sloop designed by N.G. Herreshoff, was sailed by Robert McNeil. A three-minute penalty for not towing a dinghy cost *Joyant* the top spot. *Siren*, a 45-foot Sparkman & Stephens-designed yacht, took third, less than two minutes behind the winner. *Siren*, built in 1936, is of a class known as a "New York 32" and was skippered by Peter Cassidy.

The Classic B class was led by *Palawan*, a 47-foot Sparkman & Stephens sloop built in 1953 and sailed by Scott Gazelle. *Palawan* edged out

Young Miss, a 47-foot gaff-rigged "Buzzard's Bay 30" designed by Herreshoff and built in 1912. *Bonnie*, a 48-foot Sparkman & Stephens yawl sailed by Albert Diran, took third.

In the Classic C class, *M29*, recently launched by Morris Yachts and sailed by Cuyler Morris, took honors. *Thora*, a "Little Harbor 36" skippered by Vince Todd, took second, followed by *Arabesque*, a 38-foot Sparkman & Stephens sloop sailed by Dan Gregorie.

See the accompanying box for places to view the races.



Zwerver, winner of the 2009 Castine Classic Yacht Race. Photo courtesy of Castine Yacht Club.

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Events at a glance

- Wednesday, August 4, noon to 3 p.m., public exhibition of the *Cangarda* at the Town Dock.
- Wednesday, August 4, 4 to 5 p.m., public exhibition of *Vela* and *Race Horse* at the Castine Yacht Club.
- Wednesday, August 4, 6 p.m., reception at Castine Yacht Club for Castine Classic Yacht Race.
- Thursday, August 5, Castine Classic Yacht Race—8:30 a.m., skippers' meeting at Castine Yacht Club; 11:45 a.m., race start.
- Friday, August 6, Camden Classic Yacht Race to Brooklin.
- Saturday, August 7, Eggemoggin Reach Regatta—8:30 a.m., skippers' meeting at WoodenBoat Publications; 11 a.m., race start; 8 p.m., awards ceremony and dancing to Creatures of Habit.

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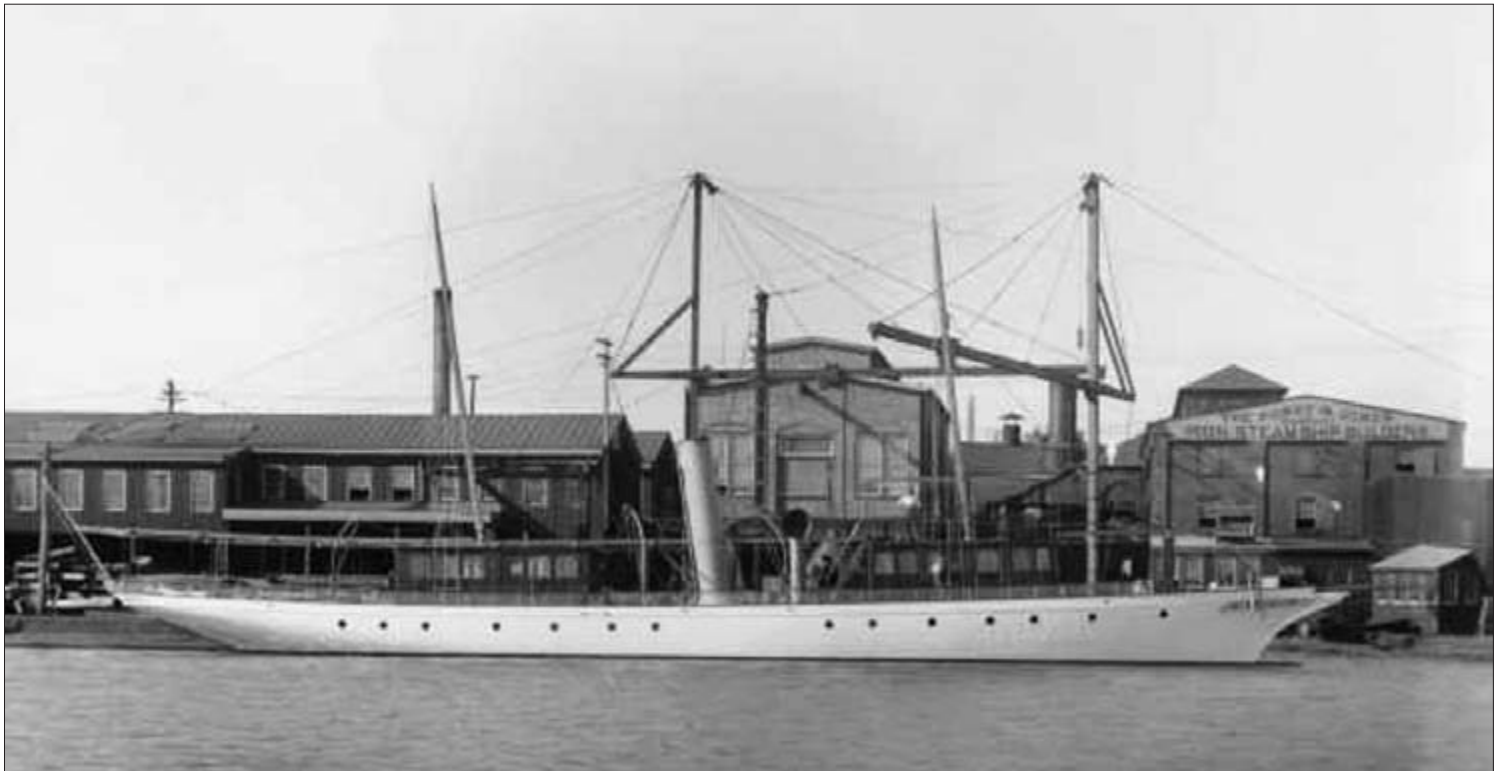
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Tradition meets innovation

On Wednesday, August 4, the Castine Yacht Club will host a public exhibition at the Castine Town Dock of the newly restored 136-foot steam yacht *Cangarda*. Visitors are welcome from noon to 3 p.m.

The *Cangarda*, built in 1901, is the last American-constructed Edwardian stem-powered yacht afloat today. She sank at a dock in Boston in 1999 and has undergone a five-year restoration in California. Captain Steve Cobb, a Maine Maritime Academy graduate, recently completed the voyage from California to Maine via the Panama Canal.

Also on Wednesday, from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m., the newly launched *Race Horse*, a "W-37" design, and its distant progenitor *Vela* will be on exhibition at the Castine Yacht Club float. Commentary on design similarities between the boats will follow.



The 1901 steam yacht *Cangarda*, in an early 20th century photo. Photo courtesy of Castine Yacht Club.

Most photogenic boat award

Boats participating in the Eggemoggin Reach Regatta will have a chance to win a "most photogenic boat" award from the company that publishes the Calendar of Wooden Boats—regardless of their racing records.

Photographer Benjamin Mendlowitz and marine historian Maynard Bray will single out a boat that stands out to them as "an ideal example of the aesthetics, design, fine craftsmanship and commit-

ment to maintenance that are the hallmarks of an exceptional wooden boat," according to a press release.

Mendlowitz is the owner of NOAH Publications, which publishes the annual calendar; Bray has provided the text for the calendar since its inception.

The winner will be announced at the awards dinner following the race on Saturday, August 7. The award will include an 11" x 14" Mendlowitz photo-

graphic print of the winning boat.

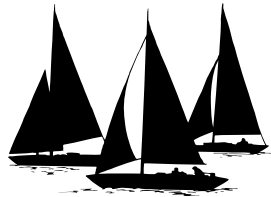
The 2009 winner was *Malabar II*, a schooner designed by John Alden. Past winners include three "Buzzards Bay 30" sloops (2008) originally designed by N.G. Herreshoff; *Vela* (2007), designed by Havilah H. Hawkins, Jr.; and *Dyon* (2006), designed by A.E. Luders and P.L. Smith.

Best viewing from land

- Thursday, August 5, Castine Classic Yacht Race—Castine waterfront at the start at 11:30 a.m.

- Friday, August 6, Camden Classic Yacht Race—mid-to-late afternoon along the Stonington waterfront for passage east through Deer Island Thorofare; Sunshine, Deer Isle as the boats round for Brooklin.

- Saturday, August 7, Eggemoggin Reach Regatta—for the start and the finish, Sunshine, Deer Isle; Naskeag Point and WoodenBoat complex, Brooklin



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Best of luck to all the racers!



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