



Cleveland
Amateur Boatbuilding
and Boating Society

the C·CLAMP

APRIL 2026

CABBS 2026 LEADERSHIP

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Paul Herrgesell and Tom Wagner

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Lou Brodnik and Jim O'Leary—Leads

EDUCATION

Paul Herrgesell—Lead

Dave Weglicki—Librarian

Ed Neal—Guest Speaker Coordinator

WORKSPACE

Vic Janezic—Lead

John Mikolich—Workspace Steward

Tony Tonus—Workspace Maintenance

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS

Jodi Carpenter

Tom Lix

Jim Weakley

Contact us at cabbs@gmail.com

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Celebrating Our 58th Year!

A Whiskey Plank on the Lyman Islander

The Lyman Islander hull is now closed up. The installation of the port side sheer plank section on Monday, March 23, 2026 completed the job. The crew enjoyed the achievement with a toast in the traditional way.

Truthfully, it had been a long hard climb from where we started in January 2025. We learned a lot installing 21 sections of $\frac{3}{8}$ " Philippine mahogany plywood planking, four in the stern area and 17 forward. A number of people came in and out of the planking repair over the past 15 months and they took away new skills and a better idea of what's involved in a planking repair. I want to thank each person who made a contribution to this effort. You know who you are and I thank you.

I particularly want to thank the regulars, those who showed up week-after-week, and patiently did the work. The work demanded persistence and patience, was often tedious and lacked the rewarding satisfaction of achieving a beautiful, craftsman-like fit. We dealt with old work and matched-in the best we could. We all learned a lot from that. The gap filling properties of epoxy and 3M's 5200 were our friends. The planking team is no longer daunted by the idea of a plank repair on a lapstrake hull. They just might not want to do it for a while.

Where to go from here? We will take a brief pause to reorganize the project so that a larger group of people can work at one time and enjoy the socializing that is so much a part of this effort.

—Ed Neal

For more on Islander, see the following page



THE START:

January 2025

Stem replacement
and planking
repair needed.

THE FINISH:

March 2026

(L to R)

Paul Herrgesell,
John Mikolich,
Carl Goodwin,
Paul Jira, Ed Neal

Here's What's Coming Next with the Lyman Islander

Starting in late April the Lyman Islander restoration project will have new opportunities to learn new skills while socializing with CABBS members. We will continue to meet on Monday evenings, 7–9 PM.

We are adding a completely new section: Engine mechanics led by member Dave Vincent. The Islander will be re-powered with a Graymarine 620 engine, identical to what originally was in it. The four cylinder, flat-head engine developed 60 horsepower and was noted for its durability. We have located two 620's that were salvaged from boats scraped over the years at Moes Marine in Vermilion. We plan to create one reliable engine from the two and use any appropriate parts of the engine that came with the Islander.

Engine work will go on simultaneously with work on the hull.

Next up on the hull is fairing the planking. This will involve filling all the fastener heads and imperfections and smoothing the planks for painting. We will fully paint the hull before flipping it. Then we will work on fabricating the bow and side decks.

Look for an e-mail later in April with more specifics on getting this new chapter in the Islander restoration underway. If you want to hold a place on the crew send a message to cabbsmail@gmail.com.

—Ed Neal

MATT DALEY

Fishing Charter Captain, Boat US Captain CABBS Meeting Presentation, April 11, 1:30 PM

Matt follows his passion for fishing by running a part-time six-pack fishing charter business out of Vermilion. He is also a part-time captain of a Boat US rescue boat operating on Lake Erie. He'll get into how he makes the fishing business work and how he finds fish. This captivating storyteller will throw in some colorful tales of rescuing stranded boaters on the Lake and tell what you might do to be a better boater.



CABBS Summer Boating Events

We have two multi-day outings planned for this summer that are open to CABBS members. See the descriptions below and if you have questions contact: Paul Herrgesell, call 216-272-3327 or email paul@pherrgesell.org

ALLEGHENY RIVER PADDLE TRIP—JUNE 25–28

This trip starts near Warren, PA and travels down the Allegheny River with three nights of camping on islands in the river. Suitable for canoe, kayak or scull it is almost all flat water with only two Class 1 rapids. We travel self-contained with food, water and camping gear. Registration opens May 1.

ERIE CANAL PADDLE—AUGUST 6–9

This trip starts in Lockport, NY and travels to Rochester including travel through some of the locks. We will camp alongside the canal and dinners will be at the towns we stop in. Open to canoe, kayak or sculls this is flat water paddling with no rapids but some boat traffic to maneuver around. We will have a planning meeting in May to discuss the trip details, so look for the next notice!



SUSAN TAFT-DESIGNER-BUILDER

I stitched and glued her name together with her titles, but Susan Taft, our featured speaker last month, works with cedar, epoxy, kevlar and fiberglass —*wonder works* is more apt.

A retired engineer and business consultant, she designs and builds light but strong cedar strip canoes and kayaks and she brought along an example of each for CABBS members to admire.

Susan has raced in flat water marathons and whitewater, but her passion is canoe tripping. She has paddled and portaged in waters from Hudson Bay to the Everglades and dreamed of a “tripping” canoe that could safely carry she and her gear, float at a 4” waterline, and weigh less than 45 lbs. Rather than work from existing plans she set out to build an entirely custom-designed boat.

She designed the canoe using a simple CAD program, then generated full size patterns to cut out the molds. At the start of building Susan emphasized precise alignment of the molds on the strongback in order to ensure the perfect shape she envisioned. She opted to use $\frac{3}{16}$ ” strips rather than $\frac{1}{4}$ ” to save weight. Because her router bits were set for $\frac{1}{4}$ ” strips, she designed an angled jig that could route the smaller sized bead and cove. Trusting her strongback, she started the strips at the waterline and worked up and down from there, using Gorilla Glue to bond the strips to each other and staples to hold them to the molds. She used Kevlar cloth on the inside for stiffness and fiberglass cloth on the outside for durability with a little give.

Regarding tools, she emphasized scrapers for fairing to cut down on the sanding and the



resultant dust. We all know about dust. She also added a thin layer of white ash to the outside of the gunwale expecting it would better absorb bangs. She builds her boats to take the hits of the wilderness environment. The way she put it, “I don’t build furniture.”

Susan also brought a small whitewater kayak she built. It was beautiful and made in essentially two pieces: hull and deck. She explained how she crawled under the finished deck to apply wet fiberglass strips to the inside of the hull to bond the two together. When we saw the tight space we all marveled at the accomplishment, knowing she probably wore a respirator too. Susan was small but mighty, and *wonder worker* is no exaggeration.

—Lou Brodnik



APRIL WORKSHOP TRAILER MAINTENANCE

Instructor: Paul Jira

April 18, 9:00–11:30 AM

Spring is here and as we think about getting our boats ready for the water, don't forget about your trailer! Paul Jira will lead the group through the key maintenance checks to keep your trailer rolling and the lights on.



MARCH LEARNING WORKSHOP

We had a big turnout for the March 21 Learning Workshop—Basics of Sewing. Ernie Michaud led the class through the setup and capabilities of the CABBS Singer–Professional machine. We had some experienced sewers in attendance, so the group shared numerous tips and lessons learned. Several attendees tried their hand at using the machine with a few repairs being completed. The machine is available to all CABBS members so if you have a need, contact Ernie and he can get you started.



MAY WORKSHOP RIGGING THE SMALL BOAT

Instructor: Ron Abate

May 9, 9:00–11:30 AM

A returning class from last year covering sailing hardware and lines to optimize your sailboat performance.

JUNE WORKSHOP EPOXY 101 FOR BOATS

Instructor: Paul Herrgesell

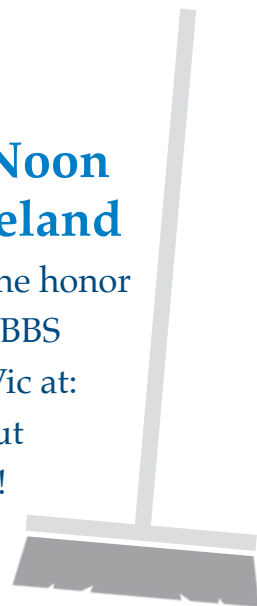
June 13, 9:00–11:30 AM

Learn the various applications of epoxy in boatbuilding, includes hands on work mixing and applying.

CABBS

Workshop Clean-up Day Saturday, April 25, 9:00 to Noon 3535 Perkins Avenue, Cleveland

Workspace Leader Vic Janezic requests the honor of your presence at the Semi-Annual CABBS Workspace Clean-up Day. Please email Vic at: vjanezic@cabbs.org to let him know about your participation. It's all hands on deck!



The Work Apron

Among the many things I enjoy about CABBS is the creative problem solving that always shows up. Plan A only takes you so far. Jeff Balazs saw the need for one of these, so he designed it and made it himself.

The apron is made of strong waxed canvas. It's reinforced where needed and the pockets can hold heavy tools. It has lots of pockets for lots of tools. Brushing up against wet paint or worse, epoxy, is always a problem



and this is the problem-solver. Unlike cotton or plain canvas nothing can saturate through. It's still pliable though and comfortable enough.

Sometimes you have to first build the tools to build the boat. Problem solved.

—Lou Brodnik

Aprons are available in the Shop on the CABBS website.



Patrick S. Parker Community Sailing Center Update

Tom Wagner, Ed Neal and I met with the Foundry leadership recently regarding CABBS providing classes for the Sailing Center curriculum. You will hear more about that in the future, but the construction of the facility is progressing and a ribbon cutting opening is expected on June 23 and you will hear more about that as well.

During our discussions, the Foundry leadership expressed a need for volunteers for specific positions. They are still in the planning stages and these jobs do require Safe Sport training and a background check, but they advised that if CABBS members have interest, they can arrange initial tryouts (ride-a-longs) to see if there is a fit before going through the certification process.

If you have interest in learning about these, contact Paul Herrgesell, 216-272-3327 or paul@pherrgesell.org.

Driver/Coaching Assistants

In this position you would drive a van with middle or high school students to an activity, help the coach with that activity, and then return the students. There are a wide range of activities available but many sailing related.

Crew

The Sailing Center will operate three boats for training and special events that need crew to operate. These include *Canim*, a motor cruiser that many CABBS members have toured; *Providence* a wooden sailing ship; and *Encore* a Sparkman & Stephens 72' sailing sloop.

—Paul Herrgesell



A Horse for the Paddlemaking Class

by Ed Neal

*The horses seem
durable enough to last
through many classes.
They are off and running!
We'll see how far
they go!*

The Oar and Paddlemaking Classes have been a popular event for CABBS but they had a big problem. There was no good way to clamp the oar or paddle to a tabletop surface for shaping. Much time was spent in class using wedges and other arrangements to secure the workpiece. When, the workpiece had to be inverted or flipped, the inefficient process had to be repeated resulting in lots of wasted time.

So for the current winter class, I came up with a support I am calling a Paddlemaking Horse. It is a device for clamping the workpiece easily and securely as the piece changes shape. In the class students learn the use of planes, spokeshaves and other hand tools to sculpt wood. If the workpiece is firmly mounted, the student can work with greater confidence, less frustration, and quality improves. Paul Jira and I made four horses for our current class.



To use it, the horse is first clamped to a tabletop which lifts the work so woodworking tools can be used without obstructions.

The oar or paddle workpiece is clamped securely near its ends leaving most of the shaft open and easily worked.

The blade area has moveable supports to account for the taper of the blade both longitudinally and cross wise. The supports lock into place with the turn of a ½" hex nut. Here is what current paddlemaking class users think of it. (*Article continues on the following page.*)

John built oars at a Wooden Boat class in Maine. He is currently reproducing a vintage canoe paddle: "It's much easier. Much easier to shift the work".



Rick is making a Greenland kayak paddle to enable rolling his craft: "I really like it. I get good leverage on the blade, there's no twisting. I can really push on it."

Chris is making 8½' oars for the CLC kit boat he will build "Clamping to a table I would have struggled with the planes and spokeshave. This, it's solid."



CABBS Miscellaneous and Etcetera

FREE TO A YOUNG SAILOR!

Susan Murnane built a Chesapeake Light Craft Jimmy Skiff to introduce her family to sailing and now it is time to pass it on. The boat is 13' x 50", weighs under 120 lbs, and comes with a sail. It is in good condition and can be cartopped. The boat is an excellent youth sail trainer. Susan wants to pass it on to someone who will use it with kids.

Contact Susan at 440-541-3304.

[Link to the CLC web page for the Jimmy Skiff](#)



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Lost & Found

Tom Wagner informs us that this very nice like-new Carhartt Rain Defender jacket, size XL, has been at the CABBS workspace for at least six months (by Tom's memory. If this belongs to you please claim it soon ... or it may be auctioned off at our next membership meeting.



BOATBUILDING WOOD

Mark Donkin who at one time ran a boatbuilding and repair shop with his dad has a supply of boatbuilding woods for sale: Mahogany, teak, and white oak. Here's a sample of what he has. Contact Mark for details.

HONDURAS MAHOGANY

103 x 14 x 2"		20 bd ft @ \$15	= \$300
103 x 16 x 7/8"		7.5 bd ft @ \$15	= \$112
118 x 8 x 1"		6.5 bd ft @ \$15	= \$97
120 x 2.35 x 2"		3.9 bd ft @ \$12	= \$46
156 x 14 x 1 3/8"		20 bd ft @ \$18	= \$260

OLD GROWTH TEAK

1 108 x 9 x 1 1/2"		10 bd ft @ \$25	= \$250
1 108 x 8 x 1		5.9 bd ft @ \$25	= \$225

There's a lot more—ash shorts, some white oak, some 1/8' mahogany veneer and some white cedar 1/8" veneer.

Contact Mark at mdonkin66@icloud.com or call 216-291-5334



50+50=\$200

Make sure you track down CABBS treasurer Kevin Hoy at the next CABBS membership meeting, 1:30 on April 11 and buy an "arm load" of 50/50 raffle tickets. Kevin reports that CABBS took in \$200 at our March meeting.