

**Mantoloking Yacht Club will be the site of duckboat race with \$5,000 awarded for each Bristol quality boat.**

By Keith Grace

When the Ducabot Worlds 2000 gets underway on Aug. 25 at the Mantoloking Yacht Club, it will be a competition of two sorts. Thanks to the offered donation of race sponsor and Mantoloking resident, Peter Kellogg, it should be interesting in more ways than one.

The event will require both a skill for sailing, as well as some elbow grease, esthetic touch, a dedication to perfection and a passion for a watercraft once thought to be dead and gone — the doryboat.

Come next Friday at the Mantoloking Yacht Club, the duckboat will have its day in this dual competition of sorts, thanks in part to Kellogg, a lung time sailor himself out of Bay Head Yacht Club and stock broker.

In the first stage of the Duckboat Worlds 2000 in Mantoloking, potential duckboat racers must satisfy a three-man panel of meticulous judges, who will evaluate the work of the individuals' refurbishing job of their craft. Bristol quality crafts, impeccable for that matter will be acceptable to race in the event's latter, the actual Duckboat Worlds 2000.

To raise the bar on the event, Kellogg has pledged to donate \$5,000 to any boat determined to be in Bristol Quality by the judges and raced in the Worlds. The money will be earmarked to each winner's favorite charity.

"I just care about wooden boats and everyone had these snuck in the back of their garages and I thought if they had a little incentive they might get them all out," said Kellogg. "I thought it was a way of giving to a charitable event, which I care about and supporting junior sailing programs which I care about, and a way to get people to sail duckboats once or twice a year."

Duckboats that sailed in the 1999 Worlds and are judged to be in British condition are also welcome in the event. Their award will be \$1,000.

Kellogg has already provided duckboats to refurbish to area yacht clubs including Lavallette Yacht Club and others along the Barnegat Bay. Both Bay Head and Mantoloking Yacht Clubs are also expected to enter crafts in the event.

"It should be fun," said Kallings of the upcoming event.

The duckboat was and still is considered comical looking to the eyes of those accustomed to thinking of a sleek sailing vessel. It has been regarded as an innocent misdeed upon seeing its approach in the water. The craft, which is not used at all on local sail race circuits including the popular Barnegat Bay Yacht Racing Association, is spoon shaped at the bottom and evolves into a spoon shaped bow and a broad beam, thus appearing girly from the head on view.

With these features, the duck-boat moves over the water, rather than through it, at a swift pace. The broad beam provides a stiffness so firm that two sailors may stand up right without fear of caving the vessel. These all being factors in the safety of its passengers.

As result, the duckboard offers a strong, stiff, dry and safe soil in whatever kind of wind or weather one may choose to take on. It is said to offer its finest performance in fact when beaded into the wind and is less than a spectacular performer when facing a strong head sea.

The duckboat is also light enough to be pulled onto low shore lands by a single person and is relatively easy to transport from one body of water to another.

It does not offer a monopoly to any builder, however. Interestingly enough, top yacht builders of-



**BEFORE AND AFTER** — The duckboat, a craft virtually extinct on Boreang Bay Yacht Racing Association summer racing series and elsewhere has grown in interest recently with the coming of the Duckboat Worlds 2000 to be held Aug. 25 at Mantoloking Yacht Club. There's even more incentive now to refurbish one, which could start looking like this [above] and end up like this [below] with Peter Kellogg's offer for the event.



Yet, individuals thought of as second rate mechanics who could not possibly build a yacht were known to craft perfect duckboats.

The first duckboat was built by Hazen Sutton at West Creek, on Barnegat Bay in 1836. He was

described as a boat builder and an expert shooter of wild life.

The duckboat became part of the category of boats capable of sneaking up on fowl. Thus, the category was named *sneakboats* for obvious reasons. It became a vital vessel for customers, fishes,

men and wild bird shooters

The choice building material for the boat was white cedar, plentiful in the forests and swamps along the Jersey Shore. The wood is soft and fine grained.

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and very light. It is known for its durability and is capable of resisting the effects of change from wet to dry conditions, as well as being practically leak proof.

When the 19th century was welcomed by the Jersey Shore, the duckboat was embraced by many. With the birth of the New Jersey Southern Railroad and connecting branches penetrating the Jersey Shore, amateur sportsmen from all over were attracted. These new people quickly envisioned sporting and recreational activities for the duckboat.

An individual named Phil Clark became near famous at the Jersey Shore for building duckboats primarily for sailing and racing. His products were viewed by many as virtual racing machines. As the duckboat racing phenomena grew, Clark's expertise was also in growing demand. As well, David Beaton & Sons built scores of excellent boats, most of which survive today.

By the 1920s people like Hank Rose with his sister, Hildegard, as crew racing, were frequent participants in the "Duckie" racing on the Barnegat Bay.

As the years rolled on they were joined by the likes of many Barnegat Bay area sailors including Phil Van Duyne, Larry DeCamp, Bobbie Duval, Bobby Orchard, Johnny Gray, Kellogg, Jim Dunn, Jim Dye, Tris Johnson, BuddyMerrick, Jake Thatcher, the Fortenbaugh brothers, Billie Studiford, Jim Uner, Peter Gesel and Ed King among others. On the distaff side there were Kate Cutler, Zoe Wells, Judy O'Neil, Babs Smith and Nancy Taylor.

These days things have changed for the classic wooden sailing boat. The duckboat, used by most kids as a starter boat for the better part of the last century is for all purposes extinct, with the Opti now being the boat of record. The duckboat will never compete in the Barnegat Bay Yacht Racing Association summer series. Many are withering away in garages along the Jersey Shore.

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