

Sail Boat Restored on Lake George Takes First Prize at Mystic WoodenBoat Show

By Anthony F. Hall

Caprice, a 29-foot Sound Interclub restored by a crew led by Reuben Smith at Hall's Boat Corp for Assembly Point resident John Kelly, took first place in its category at the 21st annual WoodenBoat Show at Mystic Seaport earlier this month.

"We were honored that 'Caprice,' was named 'Best Restored Boat (Sail)' at the boat show at Mystic Seaport; it's the largest gathering of wooden boat enthusiasts in New England," said Reuben Smith. "Most of the work was done at Hall's, and the crew there deserves a lot of credit."

The restoration was completed at Smith's own Tumblehome Boatshop in Warrensburg, where Kelly's second Sound Interclub, "Ghost," is being restored.

'Ghost' was also taken to the WoodenBoat Show, where it was displayed on land.

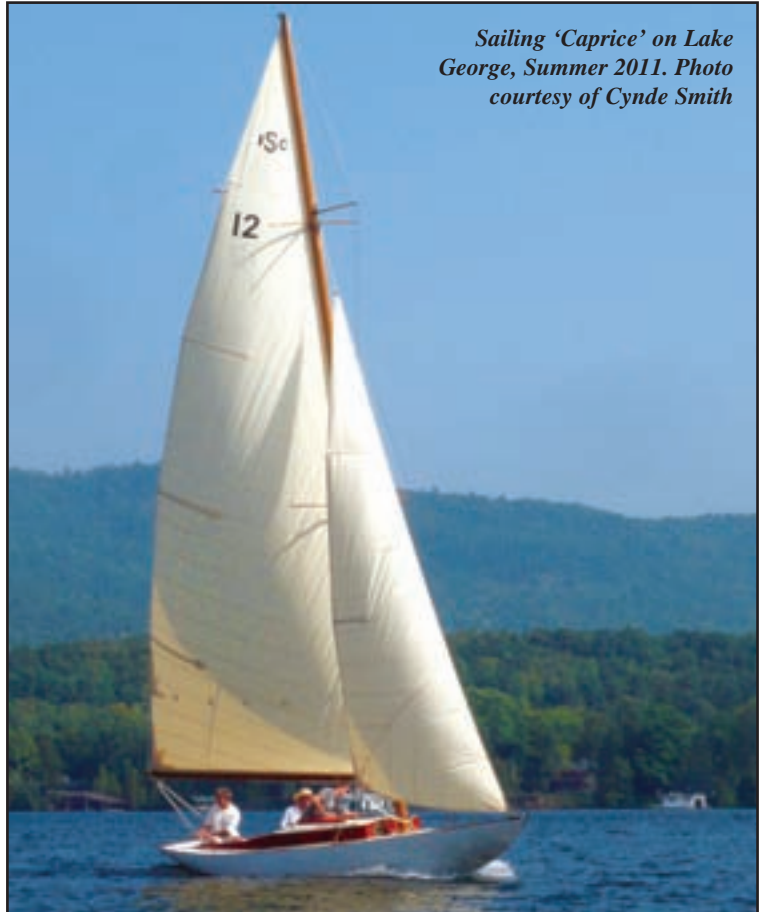
Kelly's Sound Interclubs are two of the five known to exist.

Designed by Charles Mower in 1926, the boats were famous in the 1930s as the fastest boats in the Westchester and Connecticut waters of Long Island Sound.

By 1935, however, the boats began to feel dated to the Long Island skippers, many of whom were America's Cup yachtsmen, and they replaced the boats with International One Designs.

Once the boats were no longer used for racing in Long Island Sound, they were brought to Lake George, where they were sailed until the Lake George Club replaced its racing fleet with Stars and Rainbows.

"We had a good show, and the boats attracted a lot of interest," said Smith. "No one has seen a Sound Interclub for thirty years,



Sailing 'Caprice' on Lake George, Summer 2011. Photo courtesy of Cynde Smith

and these are the first to have been restored."

Among those who sailed on Caprice during the show were Matt Murphy, a prominent editor of WoodenBoat magazine, and the grand daughter of designer Charles Mower.

"It's a nice boat to sail; you feel like you're a part of history," said Smith, adding, "It's a boat that is both forgiving and rewards sailing well. It seems to want you to tell it what to do."

The WoodenBoat show was also Smith's first opportunity to introduce his replicas of the Sound

Interclub, to be known as "the True ISC," to an audience of wooden boat experts.

Because the designer's original plans have disappeared (they may have been lost in a fire), Smith drafted a new set of plans as he restored 'Caprice.'

Moreover, the completed 'Caprice' was documented with laser technology, which is accurate to a tenth of a millimeter.

Smith now has the ability to build as exact a replica as possible of Caprice, which will cost between \$275,000 and \$300,000.

"Although we don't expect to make many of them, there was certainly interest in the project," said Smith.