

## Lake George Sailboat Takes Restoration Award at Mystic Seaport

By Anthony F. Hall

'Ghost', a 29-foot Sound Interclub restored by a crew led by Reuben Smith for Assembly Point resident John Kelly, won Honorable Mention for Best Professionally Restored Boat in its category at the 22nd annual WoodenBoat Show at Mystic Seaport last weekend.

Last year, the Ghost's companion boat, 'Caprice,' was named "Best Restored Boat (Sail)" at the boat show.

"We were honored that 'Ghost' was recognized at Mystic Seaport; it's the largest gathering of wooden boat enthusiasts in New England," said Reuben Smith. "The work was begun at Hall's in Lake George, and the crew there deserves a lot of credit."

The restoration was completed at Smith's own Tumblehome Boatshop in Warrensburg.

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

According to Smith, the 'Ghost' was in even worse shape than 'Caprice' when it was acquired by Kelly.

"The boat was offered free to anyone who would take it away from a boat yard in Newport. It was a wreck," said Smith.

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' and documented the restoration with laser technology, which is accurate to a tenth of a millimeter.

That information enabled him to bring 'Ghost' back to life, he said.

Designed by Charles Mower in 1926, Sound Interclubs 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.

"Few people have seen a Sound

Interclub for thirty years, and these are the first to have been restored," said Smith. "For the past two years, they've attracted a lot of attention at the Mystic boat show."

Among those who visited 'Ghost' at Mystic was a former owner, who sailed the boat in Long Island Sound in the 1950s.

Both 'Caprice' and 'Ghost' are now back on Lake George.

"A Sound Interclub is 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."



Reuben Smith and crew were awarded 'Honorable Mention; Best Restoration' at this year's WoodenBoat Show at Mystic Seaport



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OPENING WEEKEND!

## Village Will Honor Firemen July 19

Lake George Village will inaugurate its new Walk of Honor, created to pay tribute to its volunteer firemen, with a ceremony on July 19 at 4 pm.

The plaques honoring the first group of volunteers will be displayed on a walkway leading to the fire station on Ottawa Street.

According to Mayor Bob Blais, the Village Board of Trustees created the Walk of Honor not only to recognize service to the fire department, but to the community.

"Today the volunteer fire service competes for energy and time with many other elements," the Mayor said. "These members who have chosen to serve for many years have still found time to contribute to our quality of life even as they belong to other organizations, deserve our thanks and recognition."

A reception hosted by the Lake George Volunteer Fire Company Auxiliary will follow the ceremony. The public is invited.

## Garden Tour to Benefit Chapman

The Chapman Museum's annual Garden Tour will take place this year on Saturday, July 13. Private gardens in Kattskill Bay and points south are included in this self-guided tour. Tickets are \$18 and may be purchased at the museum at 348 Glen Street, Glens Falls. Call 793-2826.