

SUSPECT (MARVEL) Restoration Project: Re-Launch Update

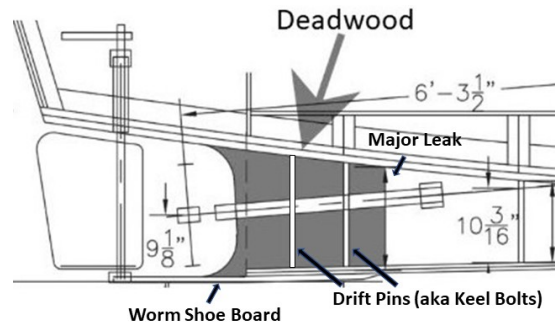
Now scheduled for the week of July 17th

We thought that all of you would be pleased to finally see SUSPECT (MARVEL) afloat in her natural element. This shot was captured by Tom Slaight. She sits against Barbara and Tom Slaight's dock in Westport Point, MA.. Needless to say, we are incredibly grateful to the Slaight's for their multiple levels of support.



While the photo depicts serenity, the second launch was not without its traumatic moments. We had spent the days after the ill-fated first launch caulking the suspected openings in her deadwood. These had let seawater gush into the boat's bilge. When we launched her for a second time on July 12th the new caulking had slowed the gushing to a steady flow. The flow seemed slow enough for an attempt to move her to the Slaight's dock for her soak-up and swelling. During the run from the boatyard to the dock the boat's two bilge pumps soon proved inadequate. To prevent her sinking, we were forced to beach SUSPECT adjacent to the dock on the soft mud of the Westport River. Once aground we installed an AC-powered salvage pump and, together with the boat's internal pumps, the boat was kept afloat.

As I write, five days have passed and all leaks have abated... save for the major one in the deadwood. We now believe that water is entering through the shafts for the drift pins... iron rods internal to the deadwood that give the timbers stability and strength. (See **Illustration**).



Repair will unfortunately require us to once again haul SUSPECT out of the water. It will involve removal of a portion of her worm shoe to expose the ends of the drifts. Once the drifts are visible we will be able to (hopefully) caulk and seal both them and the shoe. We can then arrange for a “third time’s the charm” relaunch.

If this new repair has stopped or greatly reduced the leak we should be able to quickly step her mast, add her spars and bend on her sail.

If all goes well, she could be back under sail around the end of July. Prayers would be appreciated. ;>)

Again, please share our restoration adventure with those in your network. Multiple launchings are cutting into our budget and any and all new funds would be appreciated.

As before donations welcomed via our GoGetFunding web site:

<https://gogetfunding.com/marvel-an-historic-boat-restoration-project>

... or directly by check to Conway c/o MARVEL to Box 46, Westport Point, MA 02791

-John Conway