

SUSPECT (MARVEL/ELAINE)

Summer August 2024 Update

SUSPECT's First Full Season of Racing



Figure 1: SUSPECT (MARVEL/ELAINE) Racing off Padanaram, Massachusetts, July 2024

Thanks to your continuing support, SUSPECT has been able to enjoy her first uninterrupted sailing season. As this comes to an end, we thought you would enjoy this brief update. A more comprehensive version that includes non-race, adventuresome day cruises with SUSPECT's supporters will follow in the Fall.

SUSPECT was able to participate in three of the races organized and scheduled by the Catboat Association/CBA. (www.catboats.com) These included rendezvous' in Edgartown on Marth's Vineyard, in Padanaram in South Dartmouth, MA and on Cuttyhunk Island in Buzzard's Bay. Races scheduled for Wickford, RI and Bass River on Cape Cod were cancelled due to poor weather. **SUSPECT** was unable to attend the Arey's Pond, Chatham, MA regatta also due to weather conditions that prevented her from journeying there.

Edgartown

The race in Edgartown coincided with the 70th anniversary of The Old Sculpin Gallery whose members acted as event hosts. The building now housing the gallery was owned by Manuel Swartz Roberts, a well-known, colorful local character who operated it as a boatbuilding workshop from 1900 to 1954. He specialized in building and repairing *catboats*. (*sic*) For more on this remarkable organization follow this link.

[Seventy years from boatshop to catboats at Old Sculpin - The Martha's Vineyard Times \(mvtimes.com\)](http://mvtimes.com)

To attend the race, **SUSPECT** cruised to Edgartown from Westport with an overnight stop in Vinyard Haven under the command of racing sailor Ben DeLong (**Figure 2**). The boat experienced rough sea conditions along

the way, and these created a bit of a challenge. However, she managed to arrive in time for the race without further incident. More on this journey in the Fall update.



Figure 2: Racing skipper Ben DeLong (L) and John Conway (R) head to Edgartown

The Gallery pulled out all the stops for the race beginning with a catboat Parade of Sail (**Figure 3**) serenaded by a motor-boat-based brass band that musically wove in and out of the catboat fleet as the parade progressed. At the conclusion of the race the Gallery provided drinks and dinner for all of the participating catboats. (!)

The race itself started off under excellent sailing conditions. Unfortunately, as it progressed the wind and sea state increased to **small craft advisory** conditions. As a result, only a few of the more modern catboats were able to finish and **SUSPECT** had to return to the harbor and accept a DNF (Did Not Finish) tag. Disappointing as this was, the Edgartown race was the first that **SUSPECT** participated in in over 30 years and constituted a significant milestone for the Old Girl.



Figure 3: A portion of the Edgartown Catboat Parade of Sail (TIGRESS flying the Stars and Stripes)

Padanaram

Following the Edgartown race, **SUSPECT** headed back west to the Marshall Marine catboat facility in Padanaram to participate in the race there. She once again experienced a rough sail that opened a few seams in her bow and centerboard truck. This necessitated an unplanned haul-out that, thanks to Geoff Marshall and his crew, went without a hitch. (Figure 4)



Figure 4: SUSPECT's open seams recaulking required a haul-out at the Marshall Marine yard.

With her open seams recaulked **SUSPECT** was once again ready to race this time under Tim Lund's skilled command. Sea conditions were perfect for the race, but the Padanaram winds were lighter than expected. Nevertheless, the race proceeded as planned. For the first time in over 100 years, I'm happy to report that **SUSPECT** finished first in the wooden boat category of this historic race. (Figure 5)



Figure 5 : SUSPECT crossing the finish line and her converted 1st Place wood boat half-hull award

And in yet another rare, historic catboat race event, **SUSPECT** also finished *last* among wooden boats in the Padaarm race (!)

How so?

You see, SUSPECT was the was the only wooden boat entered in the Padanaram race this year!

But a win is a win, and she will proudly display the victor's half hull trophy for the upcoming year at her home base with her name forever placed in brass amongst the other victorious wooden boats listed on the plaque.

Cuttyhunk

SUSPECT's final race of the 2024 season took place off of Cuttyhunk, the last island in the Elisabeth Island chain south of Woods Hole on Cape Cod. Race skipper Ben DeLong once again took the helm. For a change, the trip from Westport to Cuttyhunk was uneventful, with both sea and weather conditions ideal. Once on the island **SUSPECT** rafted up with **KATHLEEN**, a recently constructed catboat built to plans drawn by C.C Hanley, long considered the architect of the fastest catboats. **KATHLEEN** and her nemesis **SILENT MAID** are the fastest catboats currently afloat. She has won virtually every race that she has participated in. Graciously, **KATHLEEN's** owners, Karen and Tim Fallon decided to have **KATHLEEN** serve as the race Committee Boat and took her out of the Cuttyhunk competition as a result. This left only two wooden boats in the competition: **SUSPECT** and **MARGARET**. The race took place on Saturday with a skipper's choice of route on the racecourse around Penekese Island to the north of Cuttyhunk. **MARGARET's** skipper, Bob Luckraft chose the eastern route, **SUSPECT** chose the western circumnavigation. Sad to say, **MARGARET** found more favorable conditions and beat **SUSPECT** to the finish line. Defeated **SUSPECT** headed back to her home port of Westport Point a bit disappointed but pleased to have successfully completed the CBA 2024 racing calendar.

Not Quite Finished

While **SUSPECT's** racing season may have concluded, her ability to host patrons on day sails has not. After some additional minor repairs, **SUSPECT** will be available for short cruises from Westport Point from September 6th to the 14th. If interested, please reach out to John Conway to schedule a cruise, weather-permitting of course. eMail: Jeconway3@gmail.com or Mobile: 617-821-7890.

We also learned quite a lot about **SUSPECT** this season; how she handled and what needs to be improved in order to enhance her ability to compete. Modifications will be made throughout the late fall and winter so that she will be in fighting trim come spring. More on this in our Fall Update.

Your Continuing Support Greatly Appreciated.

The season's end will unfortunately initiate a new round of expenses including storage fees and insurance. So once again I'm reaching out for your financial support. Your contribution seriously matters!

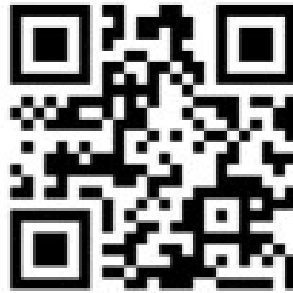
Here's how you can participate.

1. **Donate:** Monies raised will fund the ongoing storage and maintenance of **SUSPECT**. Your tax-deductible donation ensures that her legacy endures for generations to come. Donations can be sent by credit card or check as below:

Credit Card:

www.GoGetFunding.com/catboat-preservation-group/

(Or use this QR Code)



Check: Mail to...

Catboat Project, P.O. Box 467, Westport Point, MA 02791

Supporters will receive the pin-on button shown below. This will serve as an admission badge that gives the holder first rights to sail aboard **SUSPECT** as crew or as a passenger during next year's CBA Rendezvous'.



2. **Spread the Word:** Share our cause with fellow sailors, history buffs, and anyone who appreciates the magic of wooden boats. Let's continue to build a community of **SUSPECT** supporters!

We are thrilled to share with you the continuing journey of this **1892 historic Crosby racing catboat**. With her sleek lines, graceful curves **and your support**, **SUSPECT** will continue to embody the spirit of a bygone era.

Please look out for our more comprehensive Seasonal Update later this fall.

-John Conway President, The Catboat Preservation Group