

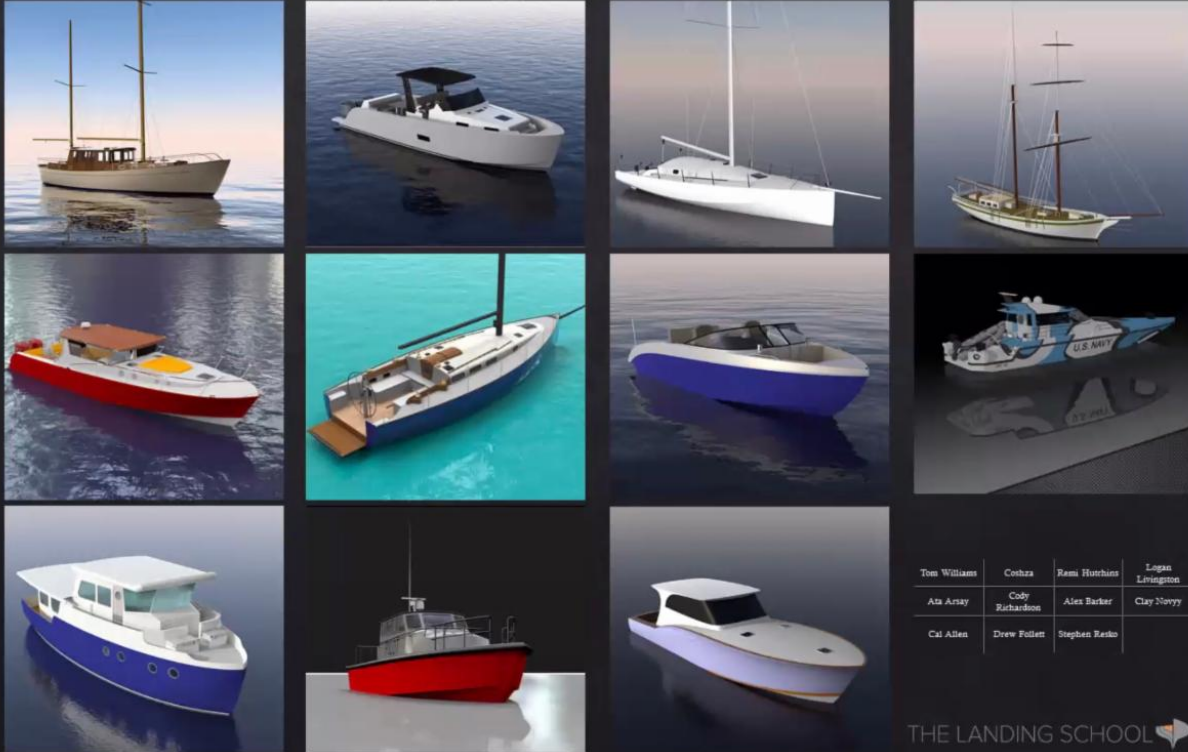
THE LANDING SCHOOL

Imagine. Design. Build. Maintain.



Highlights & Events

YACHT DESIGN – CLASS OF 2019-2020



Greetings!

We just wrapped up several more graduations at The Landing School. Despite the obstacles presented by COVID-19, our students are crossing that finish line. Both faculty and students have illustrated just how flexible and resilient they are by working off-site, online, and at home.

On May 15, we hosted our first online commencement ceremony for 11 Yacht Design students, some of whom received a diploma, with three receiving an Associate's Degree after completing other courses of study. On May 22, we saw seven Wooden Boatbuilding students graduate after a model review at the school. [More on those models, below.] Composite Boatbuilding and Marine Systems will see graduating students through the summer.

We have incurred some unanticipated costs due to the global pandemic and have been focused on the necessary measures to keep our teams whole while providing our students with the support they require. Our in-house financial team was diligent about applying for and securing available funding through the CARES Act, and specifically the Paycheck Protection Program.

The Landing School also applied for the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) in an effort to distribute funds to students for expenses incurred due to COVID-related disruption. Students submit their costs, such as gas to drive to Portland Yachts Services to fulfill graduation requirements [see story below], extra office supplies in order

to work from home rather than at the school, supplies to build their models, extended leases on housing, etc. In an act of solidarity, the Board of Directors unanimously approved to also provide this funding to international students, regardless of US citizenship. We want them to know they came to the right place!

We are whole today because of our team's quick action and vigilant work, and because of our generous community of supporters. You likely received a copy of our [Spring Appeal](#) letter last week. I hope you will consider supporting us with a contribution as we continue to train the future of the marine industry.

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In the News



Handing Out Diplomas, COVID-Style

On Thursday, May 14, a handful of administration and board members [drove around to visit local students](#) to offer encouragement as they approached their 2020 graduation dates. Richard Downs-Honey, Jamie Houtz, Brian McCauley, Susan Swanton, with a drop-in from David Millett, drove around with banners and foghorns, delivering diplomas from an LS-17 runabout and using an oar to maintain social distance.

Recruitment Efforts Resume

We are ramping up our recruitment efforts to highlight the benefits of an education at The Landing School, including high teacher-to-student ratios, excellent post-graduate job placement, the eclectic demographic of the student body, and the overall positive aspects of living in Maine. Director of Recruitment, Brian McCauley, reports that inquiries and applications are coming in as Governor Mills has outlined a phased approach to opening the State of Maine. Now is the time to actively recruit potential students and we are working toward doing just that. If you know of someone, or perhaps yourself, who would benefit from attending The Landing School, [reach out to Brian](#) or [submit an inquiry form](#). We'd love to hear from you, your friends, your family. Who knows? This time next year, you could be walking down a path toward a rewarding career in the marine industry.

Four School Coalition

In an effort to further the mission of marine-industry training schools as conditions with COVID-19 evolve, Sean Koomen at [NorthWest School of Wooden BoatBuilding](#) reached out to members of the community, including Richard Downs-Honey, Jay Coogen of [IYRS](#), and Nikki Storey at [Great Lakes Boat Building School](#). The people involved in the alignment of the four schools have been considering various ways to continue providing necessary industry training, specifically hands-on training, in this new environment. As part of the collaboration, The Landing School is sharing approaches to online learning, guidelines on health and safety, tips on how to secure financing through the CARES Act and how to use that funding effectively. Through regular Zoom meetings and shared Google Documents, we will support each other in the following ways:

- *Safety and Health Resources*: safety protocols for having faculty, students, administration on site.
- *Physical Plant Preparation*: shops, classrooms, rooms for eating, parking
- *General COVID-19 Planning*: the administrative side of running a business during the pandemic such as official posters and badges, control plans
- *Student Services*: orientation, activities, student support
- *Staff Training*: technology for working from home, software for online lecture, the COVID protocols listed in Health and Safety
- *Educational Programming*: changes to delivery, online platforms, content revisions, scheduling
- *Communications*: shared press releases and potential marketing efforts.

These efforts will raise the level of education we can offer students as well as build a stronger foundation for all four schools to carry on as they work together to consider

responses to any future obstacles.

Ken Rusineck Retires

After many decades working with The Landing School, Ken Rusineck, pictured at this year's Zoom graduation, is hanging up his work apron. Ken's voice, his "dad" jokes, and his whip-cracking attitude will be missed at the school and in the staff meetings. Ken first came to the school as a Design Program Manager from 1992 to 1995. He returned in 2002 as a Systems Instructor, the Director of the Center for Continuing Education, the Composites Program Manager, Director of Education, and ended his stint as a Yacht Design Instructor. Away from the school his career has taken him to Pearson Yachts, Regal Yachts and Sabre Yachts. He has worked on various projects within his own personal practice, and he was a technical editor for *Soundings*. There will be a perfectly sized Ken-shaped hole in the room when he leaves.



Landing School Merchandise Available Now!

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Feature Article

From New York to Norway:

A Student Boatwright Gets Her Start in the Finger Lakes

by Kate Slocum

Wooden Boatbuilding Class of 2020, pictured right at graduation

Some of us are late bloomers and that's okay. I was approaching age 40 when I began to notice the shape of boats—especially wooden boats. While both of my parents had been self-taught handy people, I had just assumed that I didn't get the gene. When I began to find the outlines of handmade wooden small craft not just interesting but arresting, I was surprised to say the least.



I had recently returned to the Finger Lakes where I spent my undergraduate years. I searched the region for ways to explore my newfound and somewhat perplexing fascination with wooden boats. An online inquiry revealed that Hammondspport's [Finger Lakes Boating Museum](#) would be hosting a woman boatwright that August. She was going to lead two courses in woodworking with exclusively female students. I wanted to know if I merely liked the aesthetics of wooden boats or if I might enjoy the work of building them as well. With excitement and trepidation, I registered for both courses....click below to read more.

[This article was originally published for Finger Lakes Boating Museum]

[READ MORE](#)

Notes from the Shop Floor



Remote Hands-on Training: Making Models Part II

As promised in the last newsletter, here is an update on the Wooden Boatbuilding class model-making efforts. Each student received a model kit, for 11 kits in all including faculty members Rick and Jake. The students (and faculty) put in 10–12 hours per day into these projects, and the results are stunning. These models led to a very successful graduation on May 22. You can see more on Instagram at [@studentbuiltboats](https://www.instagram.com/studentbuiltboats).

RDH Shares his Knowledge for ABYC Seminar

The Landing School's president, Richard Downs-Honey, teamed up with Jeff Wright at Gougeon Brothers Inc. in Michigan to present an online seminar "Common Mistakes in Fiberglass Repair." This hour-long presentation is part of the American Boat & Yacht Council's (ABYC's) efforts to continue engaging and training the marine industry as we adhere to various social distancing guidelines. The webinars are free, cover a range of topics and are a valuable primer and refresher for those entering or are already part of the marine industry. [To view this free webinar, please go here.](#)

Student Work at Portland Yacht Services

In an effort to provide more hands-on training to some of the Marine Systems students who remained in the area during the COVID-19 disruption, The Landing School partnered with [Portland Yacht Services](#) to bring those students to the classroom, so to speak. Jacob Bastarache, Zach Fitts, Rob Blocker, Shane Davis, and Matt Thomas fulfilled some of their practical work graduation requirements by working at PYS, an establishment that maintains various commercial vessels and thereby falls under the "essential business" moniker. Matt Thomas, pictured to the right, is now working at Portland Yacht Services and plans to return to The Landing School to study Yacht Design.

