

THE LANDING SCHOOL

Imagine. Design. Build. Maintain.



Highlights & Events



You may be receiving this newsletter for the first time as an alumnus of the school, a current student, a past donor, or this is business as usual for you as a regular subscriber. Welcome and hello.

If you want to support the school, we have an easy task for you. This email may have landed in your “spam” or “promotions” folder. If so, please do us a favor and put us in your inbox. Not only does that ensure you continue to receive our updates, but also with email algorithms being what they are, our newsletter will be more likely to land in other people's inboxes. One click or drag, and you've done us a world of good.

And we like to focus on the good. As we navigate these novel COVID-19 waters this year, we are developing new habits and exploring different strategies. When the wind is capricious or the current is strong, you adjust your sails and hang on for the ride. We are running with a secure hand on the tiller because we are ready for all conditions, good and bad.

This summer, to the surprise and delight to many of us, boat sales increased sharply with a major boon for Yamaha, according to the [Discover Boating](#) website. The National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA, and the organization behind Discover Boating) claims in their [Marine CEO Sentiment Report](#) 51% of surveyed marine manufacturers reported on par or increased sales in the second quarter (July), with 15% of them citing “substantial growth.”

In short, boat manufacturers and yards are, and will be, busy. This is good for the industry and good for marine trade schools. By adapting to current conditions, The Landing School is able to continue preparing the necessary workforce to design, build, and repair those boats, every day.

Because we have changed course as needed over the decades, The Landing School grew from a small wooden boat shop to a globally recognized leader in yacht design, wooden boat building, composites, and marine systems. With such leaders as internationally renowned composites expert Richard Downs-Honey and America's Cup designer Sean Fawcett at the helm directing a crew of industry veterans and school alumni mingled with the newly indoctrinated—all with the same level of passion and

enthusiasm for this school—we not only weather the tempests, we thrive in them.

In this newsletter, you will see evidence of new faces and new approaches coupled with traditional processes and tried-and-true methods, from onsite classes to online lectures, and from newly launched boats to restored hulls. We hope you will share our news with your friends and colleagues, and that you will continue to engage with and support us as we enter another school year.

Support Our Community

In the News



New Faculty Member

We are thrilled to welcome a new faculty member to our team. Justin Taylor has been onsite as our Composites Instructor since early September, and has already had a positive impact on our environment here.

A graduate of the Northwest School of Wooden Boat Building, Justin Taylor's employment background in lamination, infusion, and as a process engineer affords him the experience to train our students well in both the mechanics of the job and the project management side of it as well. Bonus track, his personable demeanor has quickly endeared him with not only his classes but also his colleagues.

Four Schools in Cahoots

We will leave our "News" section with a quick link over to a wonderful article in [*Professional BoatBuilder*](#) that showcases our ongoing discussions with three other marine trade schools: the North West School of Wooden Boat Building, Great Lakes Boat Building School, and the International Yacht Restoration School. As outlined in Dieter Loibner's piece, Richard Downs-Honey has been meeting with the three other schools on a regular basis since the COVID lockdown, and it has, to paraphrase Humphrey Bogart, begun a beautiful friendship. More here:

<https://www.proboat.com/2020/09/boatbuilding-schools-collaborate/>

If you don't subscribe to *Professional BoatBuilder*, you should give it a whirl. It's a great resource for those of us in the industry and we strongly recommend it for our students.

<https://www.proboat.com/subscribe/>

Notes from the Shop Floor

Town Class Launched!!

You may have seen some of these reports on social media a couple of weeks ago, but we would be remiss if we didn't talk about Launch Day for the Town Class.

Nick Tonello (WBB '20, owner, right) and Kate Slocum (WBB '20, christening the boat in the banner image) spent the summer building, which is the correct word for what they did, but isn't a strong enough word for how they approached this project. It was more than just a "build." We've written about the Town Class multiple times in [past newsletters](#), but we haven't touched upon the sense of grace and tradition surrounding the project.



Walking into the shop and watching Nick and Kate work on the Town Class was like walking into a meditation studio. The level of attention and the knowledge of history they exhibited as they cared for the development of the hull itself was astonishing. It all shines in the final product, christened POMONA.



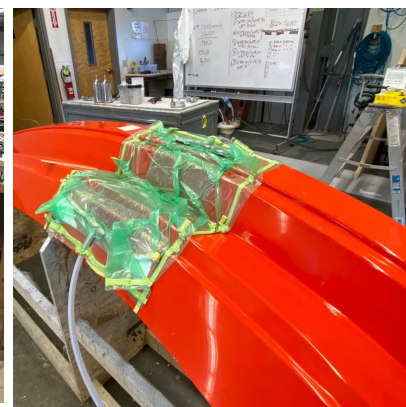
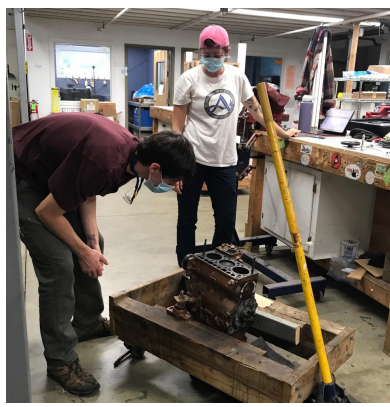
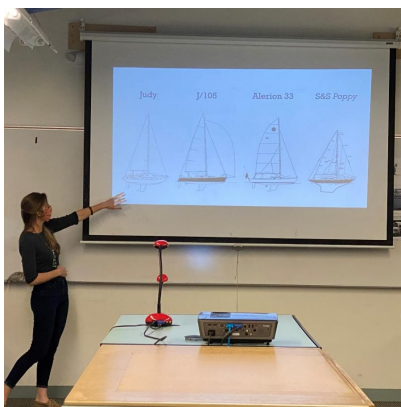
You can [read more about POMONA](#) in *WoodenBoat* magazine's "Boat Launchings" section.

Back to School

All summer, administration and faculty prepped the classrooms and shops for the first day of school. We dotted our I's and crossed our T's. We sent letters to confirm registrations and funding. We built our curriculum and reconfigured our classrooms to cope with COVID. The world kept spinning, time marched on, and the students arrived. We gave them their keycards to securely enter the buildings, took their temperatures, and brought them to their respective classes, all while maintaining social distance and following our protocols.



The [Yacht Design](#) students showcased a personal design at the end of the first day. [Marine Systems](#) is disassembling engines to learn about troubleshooting. [Composites Boat Building](#) is infusing. And [Wooden Boat Building](#) is working on woodworking skills in the shop. The moon is in the sky. The grass continues to grow. And, we are open, folks.



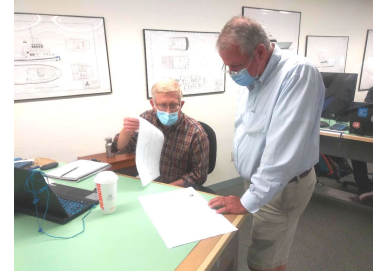
Online or In-Person, Guest Lectures Continue

We made a wonderful discovery this spring: We can host guest lecturers in person or online, easy peasy. This week,

the Yacht Design program hosted two guest lecturers but in two different ways.

First, alumnus Bruce Johnson (YD '89, right in photo) spoke with and reviewed work with students.

Johnson, the former lead designer and president of Sparkman & Stevens, has been a generous benefactor to the school, as well as one of our more well-known and accomplished alumni.



Seen here posing with the photo we keep in administration at the school, Johnson's career has spanned several decades. We could tout all his accomplishments and his entire background all day long, but here is a *Soundings Trade Only* piece that effectively articulates how one goes from selling cars to becoming one of the most famous designers in the world: <https://www.tradeonlytoday.com/industry-news/rewarding-change-selling-cars-designing-boats>

Martha Coolidge (upper left in photo to the right) from [Martha Coolidge Design](#) joined us this week as well, via Zoom. Her award-winning designs grace the interiors of some of the most beautiful classic yachts in the world. Employing pencil and paper, she quickly and effectively conceptualizes interiors, and relays that information to her clients and builders. She was gracious enough to share her methods with our students. As Yacht Design Instructor Duane Branch said, "It was an extremely good lecture and reinforced the sketching and interior GA [general arrangement] that the class is working on now."



Alumni Profile

From Homebuilding to Boat Building

How a career change led a native of Massachusetts north

Editor's Note: We've taken up a lot of real estate discussing the Town Class builds at the school, and [we've written about Kate Slocum](#) who was a co-builder for POMONA. We'd like to take a moment to discuss the boat's owner, Nick Tonello.

After 15 years in construction and owning his own business, Nick Tonello was looking for a change.

A native of Massachusetts, Tonello grew up on Cape Cod and spent time boating with friends and exploring Martha's Vineyard. It was during a conversation with one of those friends that the idea of entering the boat building field first came up. While he was familiar with trade schools, he didn't know boat building schools even existed until that conversation.

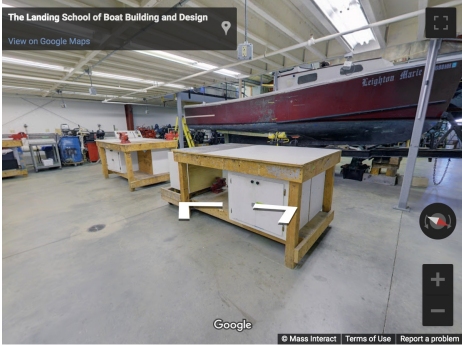


After attending an open house at The Landing School, Tonello made the move to Maine. He started in the Wooden Boat Building program in September 2019 and took advantage of taking extra classes at night to gain his Associate's degree.

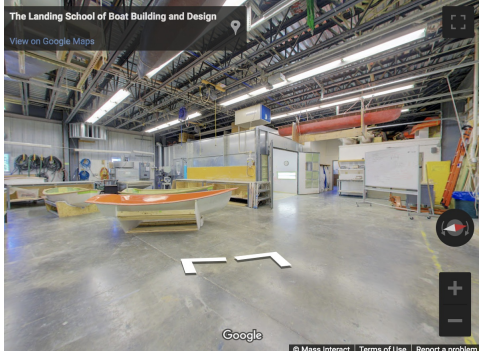
"I was wrapping up a few builds in Massachusetts, taking as many classes as I could and driving back and forth," said Tonello. "It was worth it because I knew The Landing School was where I wanted to be."

Take a Tour from Your Desk

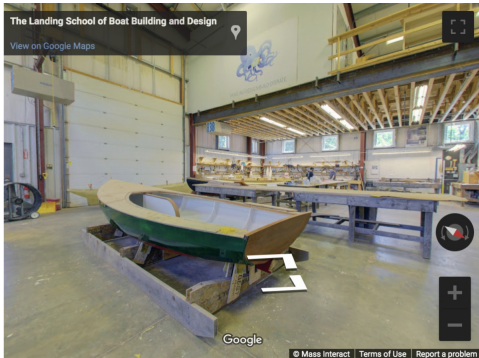
For those who express interest in coming to The Landing School or are simply curious about what our facilities look like, we have created a [Virtual Tour](#) of some of the shops and classroom, as well as the library. Take a tour today, from the comfort of your living room.



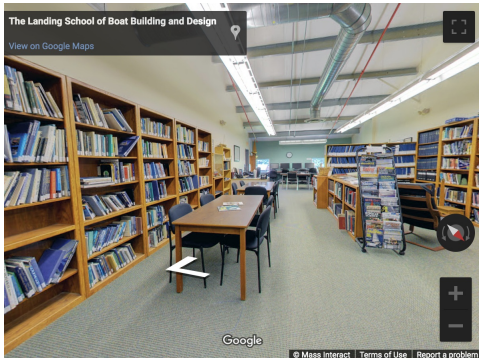
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