

“Canterbury-J Chin-Wag” Canterbury J-Class Owners Association (CJCOA)

27 April 2020 Day 33 of lockdown Edition#7

Hi J-Skippers

Another trip down memory lane. Inside the club rooms of CMYC (Christchurch Model Yacht Club). Roy Bickerstaffe is our on-the-spot live reporter.



Do you remember the willow tree that obstructs the sight of your boat? Well the good news is that it will have shed its leaves when we get back to Lake Victoria.



The salvage of J-218

Cedric Andrews features again with another boating mishap is reported by Bert Willemse, who writes about “the salvage of J-218”:



“This event happened in 2016, when unfortunately, Cedric Andrews sunk (accidentally!) his boat at lake Ferry. To the rescue were Bryan Pearce, Jim Patterson ,and Bert Willemse. We got stuck in with fishing rods. To our surprise, we did manage to hook up to something, but we didn’t know what it was. And the wind was too wild to do any more.

So we waited for a nice calm day, and followed the fishing line all the way out to the spot. Amazingly, one lucky scoop with the boat hook, and up she came, to reunite with its owner, Cedric Andrew J-218. Moreover, Cedric is still sailing this boat.”

Cheers, Bert



Fully restored J-218 and operational again – well done Cedric.



Cedric Andrews giving/getting nautical advice with Ron Whenham

Tom Arthur has been reminded of a Kayak misadventure, he writes:



“Having made the front page of this illustrious publication in a previous issue, it behoves me to further expand on that article. Seeing the photo of that kayak reminded me of yesteryear and when I first met Phil Winter. A fellow member of Pigeon Bay Boating Club, Ray Lloyd, was a long-time friend of Phil. Now Ray, a neighbour, used to go kayaking after work from Ray’s house on the river bank.

(My wandering memories force me to digress here, I pray your indulgence. One balmy Saturday evening, Ray and I had paddled down the Avon and out into the middle of the estuary, it was pitch black, the lights from the houses on Southshore and the surrounding hills, together with the causeway street lamps, were glittering in the night and reflecting across the black water, making a fairytale backdrop. In the still air we could clearly hear traffic on the causeway. All this compelled Ray to give utterance to a statement I never forgot. “Everybody in Christchurch should be made to come out here and experience this”).



Anyway, back to my original story. In those days Phil had a fiberglass business called Talfourd Fibreglass, the premises being on Talfourd St, so we asked Phil if he could make kayaks off a design we liked. Ray already had one, so Phil used it take a mould off. I think from memory mine was the first boat off the line, it was very smart with rich green decks and white hull, Phil named this design the ‘*Challenger*’. In those days (mid 1980’s) the Coast-to-Coast event was more affordable and the competitors less specialized. So Phil’s Challengers were very popular among multi-sporters that struggled in rapids on the pencil thin designs. The Challenger had good length for speed, and also enough width for stability in rough water, meaning you could race hard straight through the rapids.

Of course, as one gets more competitive, one wants lighter boats. Consequently, Phil built a very lightweight model, which was shown in the photograph. My original green Challenger, I converted to a sea kayak by putting in bulkheads and deck hatches. It turned out to be a very good sea boat in rough conditions.

A final footnote about Phil’s Challenger kayaks. Another yachtsman friend named, Gilbert Connor, also had a Challenger but did not have it adapted for sea kayaking. In the late 1980s Gilbert and 5 other experienced kayakers paddled from Akaroa to Lyttelton, all the others had proper sea kayaks. The first day they paddled from Akaroa, around the end of Banks Peninsula to a little bay on the northern flank. There they set up camp. During the night a southerly front came through. After

assessing the conditions in the morning, 3 of the party decided it was not safe to continue, so phoned spouses to come and collect them by car.

Now Gilbert was a man that didn't seem to know what fear is, so he, with the remaining two set off for Lyttelton. During a southerly, the northern side of Banks Peninsula is sheltered by the hills and cliffs close inshore, so one can be lulled into a false sense of security. When these three kayakers emerged from their sheltered bay, they encountered very rough seas. Before they could turn back, Gilbert capsized and his boat filled with water: without bulkheads it was impossible to do a sea rescue, so they salvaged Gilberts camera and his boat was abandoned. Gilbert had to cling to the transom of one of the kayaks and was, fortunately, towed back to shore. They all eventually, made it back safely to their former campsite. They too abandoned the trip!



Phil had built into all his kayaks, polystyrene flotation in the bow and stern, so they could not sink and I often wondered where Gilberts kayak ended up. Footnote to a footnote. Unfortunately, Gilbert died of a brain tumour not many years after this event.

Phil Winter



Tom with Cindy in his current Kayak. A sea dog

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Graeme Raxworthy (Rax)

Here is my 'Lockdown' project . Our Grandson Linkin wanted a miniature 'Fingerboard Skate Park', so this is the result!!

By the way, this does not float!



This is the 7th edition. Again, thanks for photos, words, and jokes. Keep them coming. Add your memories to these stories. Contributions are in the editorial pipeline from: Leon Blewett, Graeme Raxworthy, Tom Wilda, Ralph Biggs, John Kupiers, Wes Purvis and Bert Willamse. We will send their stories out over the next few weeks (and months).

Happy sailing, Rodney Ford, (Canterbury-J ChinWag editor)
On behalf of your Canterbury J Class Owners Association. CJCOA

Enjoy these quips





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