



PHIL BOLGER & FRIENDS, INC
BOAT DESIGNERS
PO BOX 1209
GLOUCESTER, MA 01930
FAX 978-282-1349

In the February issue this year (Vol 33 #10) I started a series of design sketches based on Design #540 drawn by Phil in 1988. "Chebacco" is named after Chebacco Parish, the village we now refer to as Essex, Massachusetts, with the largest of the lakes and ponds southwest of it still called Chebacco Lake. It was settled in 1634, nestled on a few higher spots along a small river, the Essex River, that quickly gets lost in the tidal Essex Bay estuary with lots of salt marsh, mud, sands, the surprising Choate Island rising some 160' above the high tide with evergreen stands and a few buildings and Essex Bay running out into Ipswich Bay on the southwest corner of the Gulf of Maine and into the northwest Atlantic.

Looking at a map, a chart or just Google Earth nowadays, the delights and traps of this fairly modest body of water are obvious, multiple, tempting with lots of little features

Phil Bolger & Friends on Design

Design Column #505 in *MAIB*
 Trailer Overnighter Cat Ketch
 Chebacco 20 Design #540

19'8"x7'5"x1'3/4"x11'3"x5hpx176sf

to explore by boat, quite apart from the clams awaiting digging. With between 8.5' and 12.5' tides (plus storm surges) this approximately 2x4nm area will teach vital lessons of sailing amongst significant tidal currents, shifting channels, often good fetches of wind, the mix of soft bottom and glacial erratics, i.e., big rocks dropped randomly by the retreating glacier that covered all this

some 10,000 years ago, and the ever changing visuals across the four seasons captured on film and canvas so often.

Only during late January through March, will icing conditions nix much of any watercraft movements. Still great to look at from fabulous angles if you carefully tread your path across the icy marsh with its natural and manmade ditches lurking underneath, with the explorer or artist surrounded by winter colors and harder edged contrasts drawing you further.

So Phil and Essex boat builder Brad Story thought that a shallow draft day sailer/overnighter, ready to casually be trailered and launched at will, would allow those without one of the limited moorings to their name to get out into these local waters. Or perhaps even around the corner through the scour of the Essex Bay water volume connecting to the ocean, then southeast towards Gloucester or northwest towards Plum Island Sound, connecting eventually with the Merrimack River and Newburyport, in both cases mostly inside.

Rockport to the east, however, would mean few beaches once Coffins and Wing-aersheek Beaches are left behind, with lots of stout granite shores to navigate along to find the small Rockport Basin. And more of that headed southwest until Eastern Point Light and the 0.4 mile breakwater that, for the last hundred years or so, defines Gloucester's outer harbor, thence inside again with fine anchorages, all within full cell phone reception.

To refresh some folks' memory, and to offer her to others as yet unfamiliar with the type, I present the original unballasted Chebacco 20 in her double chine hull geometry, picture her round bilge sister hull without the knuckles and otherwise the same rig, layout, six person cockpit and a fine outboard mount right on centerline.

To wrap up this series of studies, I'll add a sketch by Phil I knew was amongst the Chebacco plans. Drawn in pencil on a piece of vellum cut out of a discarded larger piece, this is just a profile of a trawler type cruiser concept, powered with all of her mighty 6hp. She'd have two berths aft for up to six day guests, plus two seats in that full headroom wheelhouse forward, likely minimal galley under the seats and a door forward into that minimal bow cockpit to tend to ground tackle and step dry footed onto that beach or just the trailer tongue.

Initially I thought I'd develop this further with the usual plan views and a few sections to make the concept clearer. And as I suggested last issue, it would indeed look rather cute. However, I decided to just share this little scrap of paper as is, this quick thought, laid down in little time but to scale. Pulling it out the stack of the much larger completed plans sheets, I found myself moved to hang it up for a few weeks. A greeting from the past and from far away, and yet so near. You know what he meant...





