

# WoodenBoat School

## *General Information*

**W**elcome to Brooklin and WoodenBoat School! Congratulations on finding your way here. You may be one of those souls who thought Routes 15 and 175 were never going to end. Well, you've made it, and now you can forget about highways, airline schedules, the office, and all that other stuff out there, and indulge in something a little different.

All of us here at WoodenBoat School are pleased to have you join us. We are here to help make this both a first-class learning experience and a great vacation. Please feel free to approach any of our staff if you have any needs or questions, and we'll do our very best to accommodate you.

I ask that you take the time to read through this pamphlet upon your arrival to become a bit more familiar with WoodenBoat School. Anyone with any last-minute registration responsibilities can take care of them with the School Director on Sunday between 4:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Dinner will be served at 5:30. A short orientation for all students and instructors will begin at 6:15 p.m. at the Mtn. Ash Student House. The orientation will cover some of the information enclosed in this pamphlet, but much of it we leave for you to digest on your own.

This pamphlet introduces you to all sorts of general information. Please note, there is a separate pamphlet describing our waterfront facilities which is mandatory reading if you wish to use any of our boats while you're here. Our waterfront orientation takes place every Monday down at the Boathouse at a time to be announced on Sunday evening.

We encourage you to use our entire facility during your time here at the School. Our shops, our waterfront, the Boathouse—practically all that you will find on our 64 acres is available with a minimum of guidelines, and we'll explain those to you.

Please make yourself comfortable and read through these pages after settling in. Use it for reference while you're here. We would also appreciate any ideas or suggestions you may have that you'd like to share with us. Suggestion boxes are located in our main Student House and in the shop. And know that I'll always have an open ear to listen to your comments.

Again, thanks for coming. Brooklin is a great little town, so make yourself at home.

Eric Stockinger  
Director



### **BROOKLIN & AREA HIGHLIGHTS**

WoodenBoat School and WoodenBoat Publications, Inc. are situated in the small coastal town of Brooklin, population approximately 750. The town is surrounded by water and rich in harbors, boats, and boatbuilders. It definitely deserves exploration by car, bike, foot, or boat.

Fishing and boatbuilding have been the town's traditions for generations, and these remain strong to this day. There are nine boatyards in Brooklin—practically all of them open to visitors, especially students from WoodenBoat School. Whether it's wood construction or fiberglass that interests you, there's usually something interesting going on at these yards. Ask any staff member, and we can give you simple directions.

Naskeag Harbor is the home of the town's fishing fleet. Going there via Naskeag Road makes a great bike ride or jog from the School.

Center Harbor is home port to several of the sweetest wooden yachts in the world and also where you'll find Brooklin Boat Yard.

Folks here take great pride in this town. It's a wonderful place to call home—clean, safe, and friendly. You'll probably find this out for yourself while you're here at the school. In June, July, and August, the population almost doubles with the arrival of "summer folk," many of whom have been summering in this area for years. Whether you get around by car, bike, or even walking, there's plenty to experience.

The Brooklin General Store is the local gathering point and is open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays, and 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Saturdays. Directly across the street is the town library. Author E.B. White and his wife, Katherine, devoted a lot of their energies to helping establish this incredible little library. It houses an astonishing number of books, so check it out if you get the chance.

Also in town are the post office, the Brooklin Inn, the Center Harbor Sail Loft, and a few shops.

There are also a large number of talented craftsmen and -women who live and work in this area and surrounding communities. Many have their shops in their own homes—you'll see their signs if you don't blink. Antique shops abound. There are also plenty of fine places to eat. Blue Hill, Deer Isle, Stonington, Castine, Ellsworth, Belfast, and Camden are just some of the interesting towns that are a short drive away (a half hour to an hour and a half). Acadia National Park, Bar Harbor, Southwest Harbor, and many other localities on Mount Desert Island are always worth exploring, although it can be a bit crowded in July and August. Again, ask, and we'll point you in the right direction.

## FACILITIES

WoodenBoat School has a "split" campus, so to speak, with the Mountain Ash Student House located in the center of town and the remainder of the school one mile farther down Naskeag Road on a former "saltwater farm" and estate. The Mountain Ash Student House contains rooms for both students and staff; our kitchen; and a dining room. This building was once the Mountain Ash Inn, a well-known guest house for summer visitors in the 1920s, '30s and '40s. Additional student rooms can be found on the main property in the Farmhouse, which once housed the estate's caretaker. We do not allow smoking in either of our student houses. Public WiFi is available in the Mountain Ash Student House, but is limited in the Farmhouse.

There is a campground in the field just south of the shop complex. Sites are marked with picnic tables/trash cans. We also have four new cabins located in the campground.

Our boatbuilding shops/classrooms are found in a "state of the art" brick and slate barn built in the early '20s. While the basic structure remains unchanged, much has been added to this building by the School staff to create comfortable, safe work areas. Take notice of the original concrete beams and ceilings found throughout the barn, along with the steel fire doors. The original owner was definitely fire-conscious!

WoodenBoat Publications, Inc., home of *WoodenBoat* and *Professional BoatBuilder* magazines, is housed in the large white brick building on the property. This was the original family home that was built in 1917. Also found inside this building are WoodenBoat School's offices.

Down on our waterfront is our boathouse, which is both a house for staff and a classroom for many of our courses. The living room and basement are public areas, but other rooms are private staff quarters. The "Private Residence" signs on the exterior doors leading into the boathouse are not meant to keep out our students/guests; they help to fend off the many visitors that drop by in the summer months. If you do

enjoy the boathouse, please leave by 9 p.m., except when there are school functions occurring. Staff tend to turn in early around campus. A public toilet/washroom is attached to the back of the boathouse.

All students at the School, and their families, are encouraged to feel at home in all of our public places, whether they are staying with us, camping, or staying off-campus. In fact, we'd like you to feel so much at home that you help us out in keeping the place tidy and comfortable! You can help by closing windows when rain threatens, turning off lights at night, picking up, keeping the bathrooms clean, etc. Thank you.

We also encourage all of you to spend some time wandering around the entire campus. Wildlife abounds, and if you're in the right place at the right time, you may see black bear, moose, deer, seals, bald eagles, osprey, porpoise, porcupines, hawks, ducks, and all sorts of other critters. Visit the pond or walk the ocean shoreline. There is more to life around here than just boats!

## SCHOOL SCHEDULE—MEALS & CLASS TIMES

**SUNDAY:** Arriving students should please feel free to move into their rooms and look around the facilities. Room assignments are posted on the bulletin board as you enter through the side entrance and on the table inside the main dorm. Those camping can choose a site (first come, first served) and settle in. The School Director will be at the Mountain Ash Student House from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. to meet everyone. Dinner will be served from 5:30 p.m. through 6:15 p.m., followed by a general orientation at 6:15 p.m. Following this meeting, waterfront students will meet with their instructors to discuss the week ahead. All shop students will be required to attend a mandatory shop safety orientation meeting down in the shop immediately after the general orientation. Following the safety discussion, they will then meet with their instructors. This will not be a late evening.

**WEEKDAYS:** Breakfast is served buffet style from 6:30 a.m. to 7:45 a.m. in the dining room. Classes generally run from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. with an hour off for lunch at noon. Lunch will be brought to your class site. If you are a guest, you can let the kitchen staff know where you'd like to have lunch. Dinner is presented from 5:45–7:15 p.m. and is served buffet-style in our dining room each evening except Friday and Saturday. Friday's evening meal is our traditional lobster bake held down on our waterfront. You'll hear more about this meal (menu, cost, etc.) while you are here at the School, and, yes, with advance reservations, guests are very welcome. The evening is open, providing students with time to relax, use our waterfront, and/or explore the surrounding area. We ask everyone to do their best to keep noise down after 10 p.m. in our student houses and campground.

**WEEKENDS:** A light, “continental” breakfast is served on Saturday mornings. If you are taking part in a course that goes into Saturday afternoon, lunch will be brought down to the shop as usual. There is no need to sign up for lunch on Saturday. A variety of sandwiches, etc. are made for all students in the course. If you are not involved in a Saturday course, we ask you to be out of your room by 9 a.m. to allow our housekeeping staff to clean rooms, etc. for our new students. You’re welcome to stay and use our waterfront facility if it is open and you’ve been through our waterfront orientation (described in accompanying pamphlet). There are no regular meals served from Saturday lunch through Sunday lunch, but our kitchen staff keeps the student refrigerator in the dining room well-stocked for folks staying with us through the weekend. There are also a number of fine eateries in and around town.

**EVENING EVENTS:** Occasionally, we have slide shows or other special presentations down in our Boathouse. Our waterfront is usually open weekday evenings for students to enjoy our fleet of small boats from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

## MISCELLANEOUS

**GUESTS FOR MEALS:** We try our best to welcome students and guests who are not on our meal plan for meals, but we can’t always do so. The earlier you can sign up a guest (with the Kitchen Manager or Director), the better are your chances. The Kitchen Manager has the right to say no, depending on available space and food. Meal prices are posted in the dining room. Payments should go into the wooden cash box mounted on the wall in the dining room. Students/ guests who are not on our meal plan can make reservations and payments for the Friday evening lobster dinner with the School Director. Note: There is a vegetarian entree provided at each meal served at WoodenBoat School.

**CAMPING:** The WoodenBoat School campground is situated around the perimeter of an open meadow with a view toward Eggemoggin Reach. During the summer months this meadow and surrounding fields provide habitat for wildflowers and an abundance of wildlife. Each campsite location is identified by a picnic table and garbage can. We have tried to place sites far enough apart to allow for some space and privacy for neighboring campers.

In consideration of our environment and with an appreciation for the quiet of this location, we offer the following guidelines for the balanced use of this camping space:

- You are welcome to drive your vehicle to your campsite and leave it parked there while you’re staying with us. One road serves as an entrance and exit to the campground. Please drive slowly and do not drive across adjoining fields so as to minimize erosion.

- There are showers and toilets for those camping. Please be responsible for helping to keep this facility clean. Please clean up after yourself and remove personal items when you are finished, as others also need the space.

- Food scraps and garbage left out and exposed are an invitation to attract wild critters that like to munch at night. Keep all food in your tent, camper, or vehicle. Before heading home, please be sure to leave your bagged garbage in the dumpster located by the campground entrance.

- There is enough space between campsites to prevent crowding your neighbor. Please dim your headlights as you approach your site at night. Keep in mind that noise and bright camp lanterns can be a nuisance to your neighbors, who may want to retire early. We are all fortunate to be guests at this wonderful location. Let’s be aware of our sensitive habitat and give these grounds and our fellow campers the respect they deserve.

**LAUNDROMAT:** A coin-operated washer and dryer are found on the first floor of the Mtn. Ash Student House, and also in the basement of the Farmhouse. Please avoid using these machines before 7:30 a.m. and after 9:00 p.m. so as not to disturb students living nearby.

**SMOKING:** We do not allow smoking in any of our buildings nor in our boats.

**ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES:** It is fine to bring drinks into the dorms and to dinner. There are refrigerators in the dining room and in the Farmhouse for student use. Please note that Maine is a returnable bottle/can state. You’ll find boxes close by for these returnables. Also keep in mind that alcohol is not permitted during class time or in our boats. If you do find yourself enjoying alcohol with your evening meal, please do NOT return to the shop to work or head out in our boats.

**PETS:** Experience has shown that pets and the resulting problems that inevitably arise force us to ask that you either leave your pets at home or find a local kennel to care for them. We can supply you with phone numbers.

**COURSE EVALUATIONS:** At the end of the week, you will receive a course evaluation asking for your opinions on your course and the School. We really appreciate your taking a little time to give us your honest appraisal. You can return course evaluations to your instructor, to a staff member, or drop them in the suggestion boxes.

## SHOP INFORMATION/SHOP SAFETY

There is always a lot of activity going on around our shops, and we have a number of guidelines to keep everything running smoothly and safely:

- Please park all vehicles in the field marked “School Parking” even if you reside in the Farmhouse. It is important to keep all of the areas around the shops free of congestion. If you are taking a seamanship course, please park in the lower field down by the waterfront.
- No smoking is allowed inside the shops. Alcohol is also off-limits during class hours and any other time when tools are being used. Also be wary of using prescription drugs that might possibly induce drowsiness.
- Bathrooms are located at the west end of the shops. Kindly do your part in keeping them clean, as they get heavy use.
- Working during evenings and over weekends is OK. However, use of all stationary power tools (tablesaws, planers, joiners, bandsaws, etc.) and certain hand power tools (routers, circular saws, power planers, etc.) is only permissible with the presence of an instructor or shop staff member. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**
- Safety will be emphasized during your entire stay with us. Please heed the advice of our shop staff and all the instructors about your shop habits. All shop spaces and work areas are equipped with first aid kits, safety glasses,

face shields, ear protection, dust masks, etc. They are to be used. Please be careful at all times, respect the equipment, and focus on what you are doing.

- A clean shop is a safe shop.

## **MAGAZINE OFFICES**

The old estate’s great house now accommodates offices for *WoodenBoat* and *Professional BoatBuilder* magazines, and the offices for WoodenBoat School. The building is not open to the general public, but the School office and WoodenBoat Store are staffed.

## **THE WOODENBOAT STORE**

While you are a student at WoodenBoat School, you will receive a 10% discount on most items that The WoodenBoat Store sells. You will also receive a coupon for 25% off one item. Take advantage of these great deals while you’re here!

Keep in mind that the store is not open on Sunday.

The Woodenboat Store is open Monday– Friday from 7:30am to 6pm and 9am to 5pm on Saturdays.