

28 ft Catboat, built 1928, Blue Goose, has new curators.

She was advertised in the #162 bulletin last year, I found the ad in early Dec., 2013. But her story really started for me 57 years ago, in 1957.

LOD: 28 ft 0 in. Beam: 11 ft 8 in Minimum Draft: 4 ft 0 in Headroom: 6 ft 1 in
Engine Brand: BMW Model: 3-cylinder, 50 hp Fuel Type: Diesel

Back in the summer of 1957 I was running a boat rental business for a fellow in Stage Harbor, Chatham, MA. I didn't have a driver's license at the time, and the owner of the rental boats suggested I commute to work using one of the boats. I was living for the summer in my Grandfather's cottage in West Chatham, about 2 miles from Oyster River. I had a homemade motor scooter that I'd ride, overland, to the River, park it in a fishing shanty there, and get aboard a boat, which I'd anchored there each night, then go the 5 miles or so to Stage Harbor. I would often see a beautiful large catboat named Blue Goose, at mooring, in the harbor. Yes, this Blue Goose.



Stage Harbor, Chatham, ca 1960

Jump forward now, to 1998. My wife and I have moved to New Bern, NC, and in the Fall are "messing around" looking for boats on Radio Island in Morehead City. What do we see there, but the large transom of a boat "on the hard", and it said, "Blue Goose Chatham". I told Pat, my wife, a Cape Cod girl, "I know that boat, from Chatham". I guess stranger things happen. We didn't think much more about her then, or for another 5 years, when we were walking the docks in Beaufort, NC, and there she was, tied up at the fuel dock, and her owner was nearby. We struck up a conversation with him, and learned he was Tom Harper, who had lived on Cape Cod, graduated from Harwich High School, and had owned a house in West Chatham, about a quarter mile from my Grandfather's cottage. He was a retired Navy Captain, had moved to inland NC some 20 years earlier, and also had a house in Beaufort.

Forward again to Dec., 2013. I see, on the Catboat Assn. website, that the Blue Goose is for sale. I showed the listing, and the linked pix to Pat, and reminded her of our "history". Several days later we were having dinner on the waterfront in Beaufort. We both admitted to each other that we missed sailing, as we'd turned to power about 5 yrs earlier. I said, "we could remedy that by buying Blue Goose". I thought that maybe a night's sleep and the light of day would bring us to our senses, why should we buy an old wooden boat? Not to be, the next day I called the

number from the ad, talked with Tom, and he said he did remember our meeting almost 10 yrs earlier.

After a couple of outings on Blue Goose, and several dinners with Tom and Sandra, his wife, he “allowed” us to make an offer on Blue Goose. On Jan. 27, 2014, she was surveyed, in Beaufort. Due to a coming rotten weather forecast (snow), Tom and I moved her about 2 miles closer to home, and put her in a marina to await a better day to make the 5+ hour motor trip home to New Bern. 5 days later, Jill, our older daughter, and I brushed off the snow from her cover, moved away from the skim of ice between the slips, and made the trip home, overcast and about 50F temps.

A week or so later, Pat and I bent on her sail, and made plans for several upcoming projects. At this time a power windlass for raising the sail is partially installed, the installation of a waste holding tank is in planning stages, and more, we’re sure. Boating in NC is a year-round thing, we hope to get a sail in soon. We have rarely missed getting out on the water every month of the year. Feb. (cold) and August (heat and little wind) are the tough months. I hope to get articles together on the windlass installation, on the past ownership, and rebuild history of Blue Goose for future Bulletins. She underwent a major refit/rebuild in the early 1990’s. In the meantime, you can monitor progress on a webpage, <http://www.boatanchors.org/BlueGoose.htm>



A bone in her teeth, Beaufort, NC, ca 2013



Motoring out, Beaufort, NC, ca 2013

Al and Pat Parker
New Bern, NC
February 26, 2014