



For Immediate Release
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Contact: Jane Wellehan
President, Maine Built Boats
207-899-7570
jane@mainebuiltboats.com

Simultaneous Launch of Three Historic Yachts

~Built in 1902, the Herreshoff Buzzard Bay 30s are three of only five in the world ~

BELFAST, Maine – On June 22, three of the world’s remaining Buzzard Bay 30s will set sail and start a summer of racing for the first time in perhaps 100 years. Nathanael Herreshoff, famed American yacht designer from Bristol, R.I., originally crafted fourteen Buzzard Bay 30s in 1902 for the Beverly Yacht Club and raced as a class. Today, French & Webb has four of the remaining five, three of which have been carefully, painstakingly restored to their original beauty.

“We have systematically replaced every single piece of wood on these boats,” said Todd French, co-owner of French & Webb, a member of Maine Built Boats. “Each boat required over 10,000 man hours to look like they do today.”

The boats, *Young Miss*, *Lady M* and *Quakeress II*, will spend the summer racing along the Maine coast; from Castine to Camden, and from Camden to Brooklin where they will participate in the Eggemoggin Reach Regatta. They will race for the first time in perhaps a hundred years.

“Boat restoration is an amazing process,” said Jane Wellehan, president of Maine Built Boats. “The hulls were gutted and then piece by piece, French & Webb’s crew brought them back to life. A key point in restoration is that throughout the process, the boats have to look like boats. Now they have their structural integrity restored. Truly, they are a piece of history.”

At the launch, the three owners of the Buzzard Bays will swing their champagne bottles in unison and simultaneously launch their boats. The launch is open to the public at Belfast’s landing at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, June 22, and is not to be missed. Hundreds of people from the Belfast community will be gathered to participate in their town’s involvement with this piece of history.

Maine’s launches celebrate the completion of top quality vessels, and are events where the some of the world’s finest craftsmanship is on display. Boat launches also provide an opportunity for communities up and down Maine’s coast to come out and celebrate Maine’s 400 year-old boat building heritage and the economic impact boatyards have on the coastal communities.

For more information regarding Maine Built Boat members’ launches and event schedules, please visit www.mainebuiltboats.com.

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