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easternerfoundation.org / us18.org

## Fall/Winter Newsletter

December 17, 2019

In January, it will be two years since I bought Easterner and began to bring her back. I am happy to report that US-18 is in strong shape, sailing safely and with style both summers. There is more work to be done, but we are well on our way. In August she relocated to Annapolis which warmly embraced our iconic 12-meter. Last Friday I motored Easterner to Cambridge MD on the Chesapeake's Eastern Shore where she was hauled out for the winter. I can relax a bit now and send out the first newsletter to our growing group of supporters.

*Visit our new website at [us18.org](http://us18.org) or [easternerfoundation.org](http://easternerfoundation.org) to see information on the history of Easterner, the 2020 sailing schedule, a photo gallery, and donation information. We also have a Facebook page at [Easterner Foundation](https://www.facebook.com/EasternerFoundation), please post items and comments.*

**2018 Snapshot:** After the purchase, another survey, shrink-wrap, and a master project list.... winter turned to spring and my daughter Kristin and several of her friends from college (JWU) helped me rework the bottom, sand/varnish the hull, and patch the deck. The boatyard and contractors installed a new engine, reinstalled the deck gear, stepped the mast, and set up the rig. We got her back in the water on June 26<sup>th</sup> (her 60<sup>th</sup> birthday) and re-christened her with the help of the Hovey clan.... with Nancy doing the honors, just as she did when she was 8 years old and her grandfather held her ankles as she stood on a ladder to crack the champagne bottle. US-18 initially docked at Naval Station Newport's marina, then at New England Boatworks for more rigging work, and then docked/moored across the bay in Jamestown as she conducted sea trials and tested sails locally in August and early September. Thank you to Columbia and American Eagle for donating several jibs and spinnakers. Easterner returned to the racing line in late September for the North American Championships and was last in all six races, but it was a blast and the fleet loved that she was there.... everyone who took the helm commented on how well Easterner sails. In early November I contracted to have her delivered from Newport to Annapolis but she only made it to Bridgeport... while motor-sailing down Long Island Sound a negligent captain allowed a line to drag over the port side and become entangled in the prop, nearly pulling the shaft out. Easterner was towed into port and hauled out at a local boatyard that happened to have indoor storage available, and by early December US-18 was in the barn surrounded by special bow-to stern scaffolding that allowed us to do a deck replacement as the main part of the winter maintenance period. December also brought another 12-Metre for the winter – Heritage (US-23), which was really nice.... the two varnished 12's were together. Please see the new website's photo gallery for pictures.

**2019 Snapshot:** The winter maintenance period hit high gear in January as the deck was removed and equipment/sails were sent out for cleaning and repair. I gave a presentation on Easterner's history and restoration to the NY City Island Yacht Club and gained IRS approval for the non-profit 501c3 status of the Easterner Foundation whose mission is the restoration and operation of historical/vintage boats (power and sail), so we can do a lot of great work for

Easterner and beyond (Easterner was donated to the Foundation in June). By late spring the prop shaft was fixed, new electronics were installed (wind, depth, and speed) and the deck work finished in mid-June with more than a dozen of the fifty-four beams being replaced and two layers of marine ply being installed. A shipwright replaced several hull planks the backstay chain plate mounts, and the stern block. Re-installation of the deck and gear took until late June when she was moved outside for the mast to be re-stepped and I did a bottom job, which took until early July. I didn't want Easterner to be a no-show for the July World Championships and the NYYC 175<sup>th</sup> Regatta (which she had already been entered in), so I had her motored to Newport just before the start of the Worlds but she was damaged dockside at the Jamestown (Connanicut) Marina during heavy winds that yanked out two cleats, a running block, and twisted the traveler. I withdrew US-18 from the races but did motor her in the post-regatta parade of nearly two dozen 12-Metres. It was very disappointing for me and a dozen experienced sailors from the local area and the west coast. Repairs were made by local contractors and in early August I motored Easterner from Newport to Bridgeport, then NYC, then Barnegat NJ from where a delivery captain motored her the rest of the way to Annapolis, arriving August 3<sup>rd</sup> to a warm local welcome. During August and September US-18 was sailed locally almost every weekend with groups that ranged from the Wounded Warriors, Naval Academy alumni, city youth programs, and local sailors. I sailed her with as few as four and as many as fifteen crew.... lots of fun for all – and always safely and with style. In September she sailed in the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Annapolis Wooden Sailboat Regatta, finishing with the fastest elapsed time. She was docked downtown until the fall Boat Show and then moved to the Severn Sailing Association where I now have year-round dockage at a highly visible location. After trying unsuccessfully to find deep water haul-out locally in November I motored her to Oxford for a few weeks and then to Cambridge on the Chesapeake's eastern shore. During the final transit I managed to ground her on a sand bar near the destination and in reversing hard on the engine it threw a rod. Easterner was towed the final quarter mile to the boatyard (Yacht Maintenance Company) and she came out of the water late last week... phew! This year's winter/spring maintenance will begin in early January and will include a bottom job, hull re-varnishing, deck strengthening, engine replacement, and new lifeline stanchions. She is already the talk of Annapolis and Cambridge – photos are on the website.

So, as you can see it has been a busy (exhausting) two years for me and Easterner, but as mentioned, her condition continues to improve each month and with some additional funding support US-18 may be able to reach true racing trim this summer. I have not yet flown the spinnaker or had an experienced crew come together and put her through the paces... let's do that together this coming year! Thanks to all of you for your good wishes, advice, and support.

*Scott Bernard*

Scott Bernard  
Managing Director, Easterner Foundation

*Please consider making an end-of-year tax-deductible donation to the Easterner Foundation. Just click on the "Donate Here" button on the us18.org website and it will take you to a PayPal link, which will ask for some info and then take you to where you can make a credit card donation (Mastercard, Visa, Discover, Amex). Thank you – your financial support is greatly needed to keep Easterner going.*