

Crosby Meets Crosby: A Southern Crossing

By Doug McQuilken (Published in Catboat Association newsletter in 2016)

Robin Crosby Ayers, on a whim, decided to drop by the local Georgetown Wooden Boat Show to try her luck finding a Crosby catboat. She was not 50 feet into the exhibit area when she spotted *Valiant*, my Charles Crosby catboat. What are the odds that these two namesakes would cross paths in a small town in South Carolina? This year saw *Valiant* as the only catboat exhibit in the event of over 100 wooden boats and, of course, it is also her namesake.



Ms. Ayers is not your typical Crosby groupie, not that there are that many in SC to begin with. Rather, both her father and grandfather worked the Crosby boatyards in Cape Cod. She told us that she missed the smells & sounds of wooden boat building.

I asked her to take a look at the counter-stern design of *Valiant*. When I mentioned that it had been speculated that *Valiant* might be a collaborative design between Charles Crosby & Nathaniel Herreshoff because they were friends, she nodded in agreement (that they were friends, not to the boat design speculation)



One thing you can say about the show organizers - they are resilient! This year was flooding, courtesy of hurricane Matthew; last year was the 1,000 year SC flooding in SC; three years ago was the downtown fire. All of these events occurred just prior to the show - but their attitude was/is "the show must go on".



Once again, the weather was perfect. In addition, I had the delightful opportunity to chat with a few CBA members as well as many of the attendees – many, of which, were not familiar with the catboat.

Lots of other “opportunities” for my time this year but I was able to complete the coaming and the transom overlay both of which were the subject of previous CBA articles (depicted in the above photo).

Valiant placed first in her, admittedly, small class – but not bad for a work in progress!

