

Gib Charles, an introduction -

My name is Gib Charles. I live in northern Colorado, and sail on a pond in our neighborhood, aptly named Long Pond. It's only 1/4 mile wide and 1 mile long. I keep 3 sailboats on the pond: a Laser and a Hobie 14 for the kids to play and learn on, and for me to sail on very windy solo days. My favorite, naturally, is my Mutineer. There are 2 other Mutineers on the pond, and we have some good informal racing a few times each summer. For me, the Mutineer is a racing boat. I sail in regional regattas, mostly in Denver in a Portsmouth fleet, and have sailed in the Mutineer North American Championship the past two summers.

Like most Mutineer owners, I got my first Mutineer, a 1974 Chrysler, almost for free, in 1994. I fixed it up, learned what I could about the boat, and continued to make improvements on it. In 1997 I saw a 1983 Wellcraft Mutineer for sale with many of the features I had become interested in that my '74 didn't have, like a spinnaker launching snout, a wire-luff furling jib, a stiff mast step, and a stiff hull that hadn't been poorly painted (like my '74). I bought it, swapped the parts between the boats to keep the new items I had bought for the '74, then sold the older boat for about what the '83 had cost me. Aren't these boats great values!

I joined the Mutineer and Buccaneer Yahoo groups in June of 2000 and tried to learn everything I could about this great little boat. I continued to make improvements to my Mutineer, and entered my first regional regatta in 2001. In 2002 I was jazzed to attend the first Mutineer Nationals in 20 years in Highland Park, IL. It was a fabulous experience, and I started looking forward to MNAC 2003 as soon as I got back home. That was a high point for me in my sailing season last year, and I'm already making plans for MNAC 2004 at the Fort Walton Beach Yacht Club on the Florida Panhandle.