



Messing About In Boats

Monthly newsletter of the NC Coastal & Piedmont Chapter of the ACBS

April 2022

Greeting fellow boat enthusiasts!

Spring has sprung and so our thoughts turn (as if they needed any encouragement!) to getting back on the water with our boats. Many of them still need "TLC", though, and what better way to apply that than with friends? You can read an excellent article below about Jeff Gelm's Sweet Pea being lavished with carpentry love by a caring group of members gathered for that at John Justice's Piglet. Great work guys! (Now let's see if we can get them to come back for some hand sanding on those planks!) Not to be outdone, several of the chapter's gals did up the town of Pittsboro the same day. Their adventures are wonderfully chronicled by Judy Hills in another article below. I dare say it's an open question in my mind as to whether more was accomplished by the men or women!

Also herein you can read about the chapter experience at Cape Fear Community College annual boat show in Wilmington. In another instance of Mother Nature showing her spring penchant for "robust" weather, a good sized group of members toured the facilities, met scholarship recipients, and left with a number of boat show awards and applications for new memberships. Kudos to all! Like always, the event is accompanied by a detailed write-up (by Judy) and photos (by Joe Peacos and Judy.) I want to add my special thanks to the crews that staffed the chapter information table, which was itself set up by Alan and Judy Hills!

In addition, be sure to read about the membership forum held at the Sunnyland show, and which Judy and I attended via Zoom. The questions raised are ones we want to know the answer to ourselves, and basically boil down to: is the club doing what you want it to do? Thanks to the tireless efforts of many, but not least of all Alan and Judy, our particular chapter is in good stead; but let's not rest on our laurels! Let us know if you have ideas or suggestions for improvement, please.

Finally, if you want a laugh at my expense (I knew I was born for a reason!) read my article on my haunted boat. It's a silly story that actually has a serious take-home message about safety.

Otherwise, enjoy the newsletter and I'll hope to see you somewhere to talk about boats soon.

Cheers,

Jeff Martinson, President



Guys' Workshop at the Piglet 5 March 2022

It was the perfect day to be working at the Piglet, John Justice's workshop in Pittsboro. Just cool enough to be comfortable, but not cold. John had his shop in Bristol fashion—guess we all need a reason to spring-clean.

The guys measured, cut and prepped the planks for Jeff Gelm's Chris Craft, Sweet Pea. This saved Jeff a lot of time. He'll fit them to the hull at a later date.

The guys cooked hamburgers and sausage on the grill—no fire this time! But Alan Hills did give Jeff Gelm his belated award for bravery under fire from the last one—a fire extinguisher. Several were heard to say that those were the best sausages that they ever tasted.

While we had advised those attending to BYOB—beer, that is, not a boat, Dan Bixler did bring his Chris Craft for help de-winterizing it. He had a lot of consultants on the job and they eventually were able to help him.

Members who attended included John Justice, Alan Hills, Bill Baker, Dan Bixler, Ted Clark, Bill Conley, Jim Hartman, Leif Eriksson, Michael Triplett, Jim Alexander, Rob Weller, David Stowe and of course, Jeff Gelm.—who couldn't stop beaming (no pun intended). Several were lobbying to have their boats worked on next. We could all use a little help once in a while.

We want to acknowledge that Alan Frederick rode his motorcycle all the way down from Smith Mountain Lake to join in on the "fun." The SML ACBS Chapter is having a workshop on April 23rd and our chapter members are invited to the party. This is a good example of inter-chapter interaction and cooperation. He hopes our members will support the SML Boat Show at Moneta, VA September 16-17.

All-in-all a FUN day!



Guys' Workshop at the Piglet 5 March 2022—Photos by Alan Hills



Gals' Outing in Pittsboro 5 March 2022

While the guys did their thing at the Piglet, the “boat ladies” did their thing in Pittsboro. Sharon Conley, Marion Stowe, Kate Clark, Judy Hills and Judy & Alan’s daughter Stephanie Currier hopped in Sharon’s car and headed to Virlie’s Grill for coffee and to plan out the day. Next was a quick walk around the quaint downtown.

The owner of the S&T Soda Shoppe gave us the history of the place and allowed us to take photos when she heard we were friends of John Justice. She described the Justices as “Pittsboro’s Founding Fathers.” The shop is packed with everything old that might have been found in a soda shop of the time. We had fun reminiscing.

Next door to S&Ts was The Woodwright’s School, proprietor Roy Underhill and former host of the PBS series, *The Woodwright’s Shop*. He had a class in session and we watched them chopping wood in front of the shop.

Then we took a short drive to the French Connections which has an eclectic variety of fabrics, table linens, art and crafts from France, Mexico and about 20 African countries. It was a colorful feast for the eyes! Everywhere we turned there was something interesting to see. It was hard to resist buying and Judy and Kate succumbed. Judy bought a piece of yard art—a rabbit reading a book. Very apropos since she is heavily involved with Friends of the Library. Kate picked up a new woven bread basket.

Next we headed to The Plant, which Bill Baker described as a “hippy haven.” On the website, the place is a collection of buildings that was once a flower farm and later a manufacturing plant, but it is now described as a 17-acre eco-industrial park that is home to “like-minded local economy focused small businesses.” Ones on the campus now include: tasting room for alcoholic beverages, a honey wine business, Copeland

Springs Farm & Kitchen which had an interesting menu, a brewery, a cider works, two hemp stores, an art gallery, and an axe throwing business.

We got the skinny on legal marijuana and sniffed (not smoked!) a few samples. We checked out the art gallery and brewery. The grounds were interesting—art was visible in abundance. We never found the axe throwing or we would have tried our hand at it! The restrooms were very unique!

We bought lunch from the Copeland Springs Kitchen which featured greens and grains bowls and other farm-fresh items. We experienced a delicious leek and parmesan quiche and broccoli fritters. Yummy! We never found bottled water or soft drinks, but there was an abundance of beer, wine and cider. We had to make-do!

And all too soon it was time to rejoin the guys at the Piglet. We had a lot of laughs. Ask Sharon Conley how she feels about the Chatham Park development! FUN was the operative word to describe our outing. We all agreed that we should do this again some time.



Gals' Outing in Pittsboro 5 March 2022



Cape Fear Community College Boat Show—Let the Good Times Roll!

Our Chapter provides scholarships to students in the Cape Fear Community College's Boat Building Program. We also encourage our members to support their annual boat show, which unfortunately they have not been able to hold for several years due to COVID. But Saturday March 25, 2022 was a beautiful day to be on the Wilmington, NC waterfront, albeit a windy one. We had 13 members in attendance: Joe and Beverly Peacos; Jim and Alice Dean; John Tinney and Tammy Lanier; new member Richard Reid; John Gray; John Dougherty, Jim Hartman and Ann Marie; and Judy and Alan Hills.

Five members entered six boats in the show. Joe Peacos showed his 15-foot Lyman Runabout and his 15-foot Barbour Vacationer; Alan Hills showed his 16-foot Barbour Silver Clipper; Jim Dean brought his Chris Craft; John Dougherty showed his 14-foot Wagemaker Wolverine; and John Tinney showed his 1930 45-foot Elco Flat Top Cruiser in the water.

There were about 20 boats in the show and there was a good stream of lookers during the day. Many brought their dogs and some brought their families. Families of chapter members dropped by as well: Jim and Alice Dean's daughter and grandchildren and Alan and Judy Hills' son, daughter-in-law and grandson. It was cute to see kids in the boats getting their pictures taken.

We toured the CFCC Marine Technology and Boat Building Program's facility and saw a number of projects underway. Two students that were present had won scholarships from ACBS—Jacob Caldwell and Micha Lessard.. Jacob said that without the scholarship that ACBS provided that he would have been forced to quit school to work until he could

save up enough money to return to the program. It was wonderful to see how much this money means to the lives of these two students.

At the end of the day, the CFCC culinary students prepared a delicious buffet, which we enjoyed immensely. The program participants judged the show and three of our five members who entered boats won awards: Jim Dean won the "Best Inboard", John Tinney won the "Best Powerboat over 30 feet" and Alan Hills won "Best Powerboat—Outboard." Jason Rogers, Department Chair and Mark Bayne, Program Director presented the awards. We were saddened to hear that this was Mark Bayne's last show as he was leaving the program after ten years to spend more time with his family.

While this show was not big in size, it was huge in terms of exposure. We handed out eight applications to what we consider to be serious potential chapter members. If half of those follow through, we will have done well. Fellowship, fun, food, boats and water—no better mix than that—a recipe for a top-notch spring day! [Click here](#) for more pictures. [Click here](#) for video from show.



CFCC Show Photos by Joe Peacos and Judy Hills



CFCC Show Photos by Joe Peacos and Judy Hills



CFCC Show Photos by Joe Peacos and Judy Hills



L to R: Jason Rogers, Department Chair; Jim Dean; John Tinney; Mark Bayne. Instructor; and Alan Hills

Editing Your ACBS Membership Information

We encourage all chapter members who have a spouse or significant other, to add that individual's name and email address as a Co-Member. Here is how you can do that: Log In on the ACBS web-site. Your profile will come up. In the "My Profile" section—go to "related links" and click on "Edit My Information." This takes you to the "Edit Membership Information" page. Below is a copy of Alan Hills' basic information and on the right is the Co-Member Information for his wife Judy.

We are asking you to do this so that your co-member can get his/her own copy of communications from ACBS. This includes information sent by our chapter to our chapter members. While we have been collecting names and email addresses for spouses, adding this information to your profile will cut out the middle man (or woman!). And while you are on your profile, make any needed changes to your personal data as well as boats and unmounted engines that you own.

Edit Membership Information

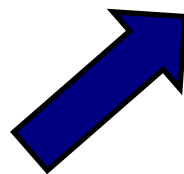
Basic information

Title	<input type="text"/>
First	<input type="text" value="Alan"/>
Middle	<input type="text"/>
Last	<input type="text" value="Hills"/>
Suffix	<input type="text"/>
Email	<input type="text" value="ahills@suddenlink.net"/>

Co-Member Information

Leave this section blank if you are not registering with a spouse/co-member.

Co-Member First	<input type="text" value="Judith"/>
Co-Member Last	<input type="text" value="Hills"/>
Co-Member Email	<input type="text" value="jahnbn@gmail.com"/>



My Haunted Boat by Jeff Martinson

Sometime last fall - around Halloween if I recall correctly - I had a run in with a ghost in my boat. It was the Thompson again (pictured in the newsletter banner on p. 1) which I'd been working on to get it spruced up for possible sale. Specifically, I was replacing the tops of the seat/cabinet structures with new mahogany plywood. The process called for trimming and finishing the new wood to match the old.

I worked on it over a few days, usually just an hour or so at a time, as my schedule allowed most often before dinner. When I was done each time, I'd cover it back up and leave. It sat on a trailer in my driveway, in between the garage and "boat shed/carport." Every other night it was some combination of cut, trim, fasten, finish, re-cover. All these details are pertinent, because the ghost who haunted my boat was most definitely taking advantage of my vulnerability to scare the bleep out of me with his mischief!

Like I said, this was a ghost, so I never saw it. However, I knew it had been there from several signs. First, when I opened the cover one night, hoping to do some more work, I smelled it. Apparently, ghosts smell acrid, like toasted sardines. Second, I saw a tangle of dock lines and shop rags massed in a rats nest of untidiness. Definitely not ship shape! Apparently, ghosts are messy. Finally, I found my orbital sander in the middle of that tangle, with the paper torn to bits, the edges of the lines frayed and some half-moon scars on the floorboard and the nearest ceiling board. **THAT DAMN GHOST HAD DONE SANDED MY BOAT!** He just went about it like a drunken mariner, not paying any attention to where he was sanding or how long. In fact, he'd been working so long, he tripped the breaker on the outlet the sander was plugged into and fried the tool so it doesn't work anymore. Let this be a warning to all: watch out for ghosts in your boat!

In all seriousness, most if not all of you can figure out what happened – the acrid smell was a dead giveaway – electrical malfunction leading to overload and overheating. Do you leave your tools plugged in,



too? I'll tell you I don't anymore. My sander had turned itself on at some point and started sanding! The only reason it stopped was because the breaker tripped. I was really lucky because the tool was connected via an extension cord. Since (panel) breakers are meant to primarily react to overloads on the wiring within the house, that cord and the tool itself were liable to get really hot before the circuit tripped. Indeed, that's what happened, and my sander motor burned out. It also ruined a dock line and scratched my floor and a ceiling board. **LESSON LEARNED:** I now unplug my power tools after finishing for the day, especially if they're of the (ahem) "cheaper" variety, such as Harbor Freight brands. Had that thing caught fire, it would have been just a matter of time before it spread to my garage and boat shed/carport, making the simple preventative step of unplugging the thing all the more sensible given the potential loss. Fire loves our wooden boats. Your results may vary, but as for me: I'm a changed man. The whole thing scared me like I'd seen a ghost!

Strengthen each other and make boating more enjoyable, economical and safe!

SML-ACBS SPRING WORKSHOP

APRIL 23RD, 2022, 10 AM – 1 PM

1100 Oakshire Lane, Wirtz, VA 24184

Spring has finally arrived, the birds and the bees are doing their thing and the water is getting warmer, so it's time to get those boats ready for another season of cruising SML. There's no better way to do that than to attend your club's workshops and learn about "stuff" which is always a good thing! Remember, you don't have to be a member to attend so everyone's invited, young and old.

Brian Kieb – is a Marine Coatings Consultant for the Pettit Paint Co. He is going to go over the products that his company offers for the marine industry and how to use them on our classic boats. That includes varnishes (interior and exterior), paints (topside and bottom), sealers, stains, solvents, (turpentine, paint thinners, mineral spirits, reducers, brushing thinners, spraying thinners) and lots of other items that we all will eventually use on our boats, so bring lots of questions. The Pettit Paint Co. has been in business since 1861 so obviously they know a lot about paints.

John Justice – a member of the NC Coastal and Piedmont Chapter - ACBS will do a hands-on demo on what to look for in rebuilding or maintaining a Borg-Warner Velvet Drive transmission that came as standard equipment on many boats after the earlier Paragon units were phased out.

Bill Caillet – a local SML member, will continue his series of talks on woodworking machines, not only on how to use them but also on how to use them safely! Today he will focus on table saws, circular saws, and jig saws. From years of managing a Wood Crafters store in the Chesapeake area, I'm sure he's heard all the horror stories of how NOT to use these tools so listen up and learn how to avoid these hazards.

Note the new start time of **10 AM** for the workshop which will make it easier for more out of town people to attend. Cost will be our usual \$5.00 USD which will include coffee and donuts in the morning and lunch in the afternoon after the presentations at 1 PM. Doors open at 9:30 AM and the workshop will promptly start at 10 AM.



RICHARD (DICK) FONTAINE (1929-2022)

We just want to acknowledge the passing of member Dick Fontaine. Dick was a long-time friend of Alan Hills, but only a chapter member for a short time. Dick lived in New Bern, but lived the last few years of his life in a care facility in Ohio. Dick generously gave \$1,000 to our scholarship fund in 2021 and in his obituary it said that memorial donations may be made to NC Coastal & Piedmont Chapter of the ACBS Scholarship Fund.

Within a week of his passing, Dick checked one last item off his bucket list—to attend a car show. If you'd like to see the uplifting news coverage of that event, [click here](#). We'll miss Dick's smiling face!

ACBS—What's Happening?

The ACBS Board of Directors held their meeting at the Sunnyland Boat Show in Tavares, FL on March 24, 2022. From 9 and to 11 AM, they held a Chapter Roundtable session. The topic of discussion was member recruitment. The new Chapter Development Committee was responsible for creating a PowerPoint Presentation to help generate discussion and ideas. Chapter presidents, chapter officers and directors could attend either in-person or via Zoom. NC C&P Chapter president Jeff Martinson and Secretary Judy Hills attended via Zoom.

The objectives for the roundtable were listed: understand the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats experienced by ACBS and its chapters in recruiting new members; help chapter leadership understand the respective roles of the ACBS parent organization and the chapter in recruitment; provide ideas on recruitment previously submitted by members; and get additional ideas and suggestions from attendees.

CDC chair Ed Andrews led the attendees through the PowerPoint (i.e., Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Challenges) to help chapters determine how they can capitalize on the strengths of their chapter and opportunities in the environment as well as eliminating or minimizing their chapter weaknesses and possibly minimizing the external challenges.

Next, there was a discussion about the target demographic—who is a likely candidate for

ACBS membership? How might the chapter utilize this information?

Then the group discussed the role of ACBS parent organization in recruiting as well as the role of the chapters. The PPT included ideas from the 9/19/19 roundtable discussion and attendees supplemented those with additional thoughts.

The presentation concluded with some last thoughts:

- Your chapter needs to be the kind of an organization that people WANT to join and be associated with
- There is no silver bullet—what might work for one chapter, may not work for another—many variables
- The Chapter Development Committee is developing a plan of work. Recruitment and retention fall under their purview. They welcome input.
- The CDC will be posting resources on the Members' Only Resource Section of the ACBS website on the "chapter resources" page.

It was a very productive session. Look for more "products" from the Chapter Development Committee on the ACBS website.

Members who joined or renewed in February included:

New: Richard Reid of Wilmington

Renewed: Wayne Kish, Cindy Jordan, and Dave Mahoney

Welcome!

**NC Coastal & Piedmont
Chapter of the ACBS**

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The Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill Triangle Chapter of the Antique and Classic Boat Society, Inc. was officially formed on January 15, 2005 to provide a means through which individuals sharing a common interest in antique and classic boats can meet, share experiences and information, exchange ideas, and generate enthusiasm for all aspects of these unique boats. On March 21, 2019, the chapter officially changed its name to NC Coastal & Piedmont Chapter.

We promote and sponsor classic boating events, as well as educate our membership and the general public about these great craft. We partner with other clubs and organizations to promote awareness and appreciation for the history, research, repair, and restoration of these grand old boats to preserve them for future generations.

Calendar of Events & Meetings

Please note that with the exception of the business meeting dates, the places, dates and times listed for events are tentative. Watch your email for updates. Chapter-sponsored or chapter-hosted events are in bold. We encourage you to support/attend these events! [Click here for full calendar](#)

- 4/8-10 [Oriental in-water boat show](#)
- 4/16 ~~Trent River Run & Lunch—New Bern~~ **CANCELLED**
- 4/23 SML Chapter Workshop in Wirtz, VA 10 AM to 1 PM
- 4/27 **Chapter Business Meeting 7 PM**
- 5/6 **2 PM Tour of Jarrett Bay Marine Park** [Click here](#) to sign up
- 5/6 **5 to 7 PM Party for members attending NCMM Boat Show** [Click here](#) to sign up
- 5/7 [NCMM Boat Show](#) in Beaufort
- 5/20 to 21 [Lake Lure Classic Boat & Auto Show](#)—Blude Ridge ACBS Chapter

New Forum on Facebook for ACBS Members

Have a question about your project? Not sure how to fix an engine issue? Join the ACBS Members Group on Facebook! [Click Here.](#)



Request to Join

What are the ACBS Definitions of Antique or Classic Boat?

Historic: A boat built up to and including 1918

Antique: A boat built between 1919 and 1942, inclusive

Classic: A boat built between 1943 and 1975, (any material)

Late Classic: A boat built 1976 to 25 years prior to the current year.

Contemporary: Any wooden boat built within the last 25 years.

Boats classified as Historic up through Late Classic will be judged separately as Preserved or Restored boats. For more information [click here.](#)