



Messing About In Boats

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

April 2023

Greeting Fellow Boating Enthusiasts!

With the solar equinox just behind us, let me also wish you a happy spring! I know that for some of you, the 22nd of March was spent in Florida for the Sunnyland chapter annual boat show. You can read below about the adventures and work of those members. (For the first time, I'm writing the into without seeing the rest of the newsletter; so here's hoping that what is written here matches what's written elsewhere!)

Our spring schedule is again chock full of interesting and informative events. Starting off the month, on April 1st, there is the Cape Fear Community College in Wilmington, NC. We have had a special relationship with that institution in no small part due to our scholarship for students there over the years. Oriental, NC hosts its In-Water Boat Show the weekend of April 14-16th. It bills itself as "one of the largest and most successful in-water shows between Annapolis and Savannah". And they're not fooling! Finally, there is the Trent River Run and lunch at Saltwater Grill in River Bend taking place in New Bern on April 22nd. More information on all of these events is listed below, including contact information for still further information.

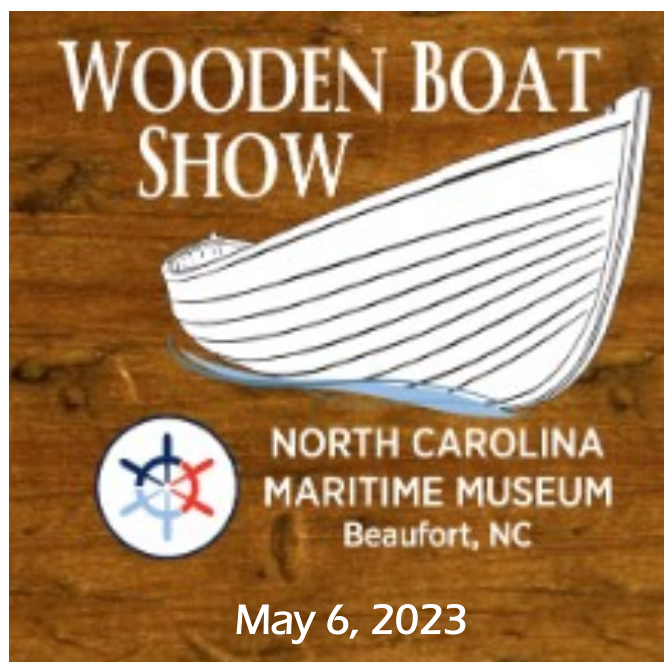
Lastly, my life wouldn't be the same without some form of misadventure. Most recently,

I've dived into the hobby of recreational submersibles (think mini-submarine). They come in various sizes and construction materials, but - of course - I had to get myself a wooden one. Another given is that it's in need of a little TLC, however, since it's human-powered, at least I won't have to fight that battle again! Read more about this latest addition to the chapter fleet (p.7)!

Hope to see you all at an event soon!

Cheers,

Jeff



Trent River Run

We have planned a river run and lunch at a restaurant on Saturday April 22nd. The Trent River is a winding, wild river—great for a leisurely ride. We plan to launch at the [Salt Water Grill](#)—1 Marina Drive in River Bend. The ramp is right next to the restaurant (River Bend Marina) which will make it very easy when we return—won't have to tie boats up—we can just pull them out. There is a small fee (honor system—\$5) to launch there, so be sure to have cash. We plan to meet and launch by 10 AM. We'll head down the main canal and into the Trent River which we will take upstream to Pollocksville where we will turn around and return to the marina. We'll pull the boats and then have lunch at the

Saltwater Grill—either on the deck or inside. Lunch is on your own. [Click here](#) for the SignUpGenius to RSVP. If you don't have a boat or don't want to bring a boat, sign up anyway and we'll get you on a boat. This should be a very enjoyable day. If the weather won't cooperate, we'll email you through SignUpGenius to re-schedule on another day. See you there!



Bridgeton BlueberryFest

The organizers of the BlueberryFest of Bridgeton, NC (near New Bern) has reached out to our chapter and asked if we would be able to provide a few boats to display there. The event will be held on June 17th from 9:00 – 4:00 at the site of the old elementary school. I attended their organizational meeting and we feel there will be room for up to 6 boats plus our

tent. If any members wish to participate, please contact me. I'm sure there will be plenty of blueberries there among other things!



March Chapter Outing

Friday March 10th was a dreary, rainy day—perfect for our planned indoor activities. Those attending included: Alan & Judy Hills, Jim Alexander, Leif Eriksson, Austin Lewis, Jim Dean, John Peck, Jim Hartman (and a guest), John Coffman (and a guest), and John Dougherty. John Coffman is the President of the Smith Mountain Lake ACBS Chapter. We appreciate their chapter's support of our events!

At 10:30 AM the 12 of us met at Phillips Plating in Bridgeton where owner Jerry showed us how he does chrome plating. Several of our members use Jerry and marvel over his ability to make metal shine.

To say Jerry's facility was rustic was probably an understatement. It was an accumulation of 50+ years of metal-working with the emphasis on "rust." We doubt you've seen anything like it! But Jerry was very accommodating and is really quite skilled in his craft. It was indeed an education.



From there we headed to the Hills' home in New Bern for lunch. It was a salad driven menu, but the guys ate almost everything. Guess they were tired of the usual fare of burgers and dogs.

After lunch we visited Brian Connolly at SeaDek Mid-Atlantic located in the Craven County Industrial park. Brian was a very knowledgeable, congenial host. He gave us the history of the product and his involvement in it. The machinery was amazing as was the product. We got to see a boat that was almost finished. The product is not only a great protectant of surfaces, but it is durable as well as pretty. Now if only the ACBS judges saw it that way!

Judy even bought a fish ruler for their son, Scott who is a big fisherman in Florida.

Again, we had nothing but compliments on the program and on the lunch. It is great fun to get together with like-minded individuals and we even gained a member—a guest who came with Jim Dean from Wilmington. See photos below.



Photos from March 10, 2023 Outing



More Photos



Eating lunch and checking out the progress on Alan's speed boat. Other photos at SeaDek.



Bless his heart, Leif just can't pass up a scrap bin!



Product installed on a Key West boat



Sunnyland Boat Festival—the Start of the Boat Show Season

The Annual Sunnyland Boat Festival in Tavares, FL is heralded as the first boat show of the season. This year's show was as big and bold as ever. Our Chapter was represented by John Justice, Neal Keeter, Jim and Linda Alexander, and Judy and Alan Hills. John brought Fins, but did not register it for the show.

Judy and Alan attended the workshop on Thursday the 23rd led by Chapter Development Committee Chair Ed Andrews. Ed presented a brief overview of the recently completed Chapter EOY Survey and then held an open discussion. After that the ACBS Board held their 1st quarterly meeting. Two interesting items: ACBS is proceeding to develop guidelines for a "Resto-Mod" class and ACBS is exploring the option of small marque clubs to join ACBS as a Chapter without geographic boundaries.

On Thursday evening there was a welcome reception with great appetizers in the beautiful pavilion on the lake. Met some really nice people. We also attended a party hosted by the Chapter Development Committee for Chapter Presidents and Vice-Presidents. That was a nice affair—we met up with Alan and Jean Frederick from the SML chapter.

John and Neal went on the post-show cruise. Jim and Alan did not bring boats. We all enjoyed the cruise and picnic on Friday, March 24th and the show on Saturday March 25th. There were so many different kinds of boats and a bunch of aqua-cars as well as lots of vendors. I think we all came home with new Woody Boat-er items. Gotta' love those fun coffee cups!

As we have said before, the Sunnyland Boat Festival should be on your bucket list, if you have not already been to one.



Sunnyland Boat Festival Photos



“My New Boat: Admiral Zatonunvshaya Lodka” by Jeff Martinson

This story starts with my job teaching international politics at Meredith College. Due to current events, I've been in touch with several Russian scholars with all of us trying to make sense of things. (Read on! No political commentary follows!) In the course of that business I came to learn about the Russian (really Slavic) tradition of “byt' durakom”, which translates to “playing the flounder”. Ever since the 1400s people have been basically diving and submarining in homemade dive bells and submarines in the lands that are now Russia, Finland, Estonia, etc. As an old tradition whose origins have been lost in the mists of time, it's hard to know exactly why people started doing it, but my favorite version has a village idiot dropping his key in the lake, only to have a village hero make a “flounder”, dive to the bottom and retrieve the key. Thus the apocryphal saying, “Vodka for the fish who caught the idiot's key”.

In any case, one of my political science contacts knew I was into wooden boats and also that of friend of theirs was needing some cash due to hard times. Said friend had a “flounder” that needed a little work, and after a little convincing of the wife, it was mine! My sales pitch to her was to mention that: #1 it didn't have an engine for me to break; #2 it's whole point was to submerge, so sinking it wasn't a problem; and #3 while on the hard, it could serve as an in-law suite for when my mom visits for her quality inspection and life skills tutorial every June through August. I was a little worried that number 3 would seem less appealing when I disclosed that the boat doesn't have air conditioning, however, that was surprisingly a bo-

nus according to my wife. Regardless, I wasn't arguing!

As you can see from the attached photo, the boat – which is named after a famous Russian naval hero (hey, another Admiral in the club!!) – does need a little TLC. The construction is Alder, Beech, Birch and Willow, which means I can get the materials from the trees that grow in my yard, if necessary. Cosmetically, it rather lavishly appointed compared to traditional standards with both port and starboard



benches. There are two screen windows on either side of the hull (there's just one hull, not inner- and outer- like big submarine)s provide great views above and below the surface. (That said, the port one needs to be re-screened.) The oars that propel Admiral ZL are made of Willow,

which makes them a little bendy when trying to row them, but that's an art that can be perfected. Passengers sit on the benches on either side of the interior. Steering is made possible by alternating which side it being rowed - like a regular row boat - or by having my wife and I switch sides inside the boat. Similarly the angle (pitch) is controlled by sliding fore or aft along the benches. Ballast is decreased (surfacing) with a handpump that expels about 50 gph and is increased (diving) by just waiting.

Thus the misadventure begins! I truly look forward to getting to know this boat and having the chance to share it with the chapter at an event in the near future!

Regarding Pontoon Boats

Last month we ran a picture of a wooden pontoon boat and asked for comments. This just in:

Robert Blanchard: "Well I've had pontoon boats in my family for about 30 or 35 years. A friend of mine said pontoon boats are "the mini van of the boating industry"! I think the new wooden model is pretty cool. Not real sure how it would fit into the antique or classic division unless its old."

NCMM Wooden Boat Show

THE 2023 WOODEN BOAT SHOW WILL BE HELD MAY 6, 2023! [REGISTRATION](#) IS NOW OPEN FOR EXHIBITORS.

Whether you're a boating enthusiast or prefer to keep your feet on dry land, the Annual Wooden Boat Show has activities for all ages. This free event, held each year on the first Saturday in May, celebrates the art of North Carolina traditional wooden boatbuilding and the sport of boat racing. The annual Wooden Boat Show has received top honors from the Southeast Tourism Society as a "Top 20 Event for the Southeast" four consecutive years.

The 2023 Oriental In-Water Boat Show April 14-16

Springtime, a historic boating village, a great array of exhibitors, and visitors from ten states all make for a great Oriental In-Water Boat Show.

Oriental's annual In-water Boat Show has grown exponentially since its beginnings in 2009. The most recent show drew over 100 exhibitors from as far away Hampton, Virginia, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and Bryson City, NC. In addition to nautical goods and services, dealers and brokers brought in boats on land and in the slips at Oriental Harbor Marina, many of which were available for in-water sea trials.

Based on the combination of number of vendors, number of boats, sales attributed and number of attendees, the Oriental show has become one of the largest and most successful in-water shows between Annapolis and Savannah. **We look forward to seeing you April 14-16, 2023.**



If you are a vendor and are interested in the 2023 show, contact show organizer Sam Myers 252-249-0228 or via email, director@orientalboatshow.com.

2023 Boat Show Registration

>> [The 2023 Oriental Boat Show Exhibitor contract can now be completed online.](#) <<

Old school? The 2023 [Oriental Boat Show Exhibitor contract can be downloaded at this link.](#)

Members who joined or renewed recently included:

New:

Renewed:

Total Membership: 65 NCC&P Primary Chapter: 53 NC C&P Not Primary Chapter: 12

Welcome!

EMBROIDERED SHIRTS

Now available. We have our logo with an embroidery company in New Bern. For \$8 each we can get almost any cloth item embroidered. The long-sleeved, light-weight fishing shirts to the right (men's and women's) are available at Academy Sports for \$25. Contact [Alan Hills](#) if interested. Get 'em before the boat show season begins!



CFCC 2023 Riverfront Boat Show April 1st —Enter now!

SHOW HIGHLIGHTS

- Dock space on the Cape Fear River (Trailer spaces also available)
- Ten judging categories plus special Simmons Sea Skiff awards
- Knot-tying challenge

BOAT/VENDOR EXHIBITOR INFORMATION

Location: CFCC Wilmington Campus on the riverfront on Water St. (between the Hilton and Coastline Convention Center). Free parking in the CFCC Parking Deck on Nutt St.

Hours: 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Judging and Awards: Ten judged classes including special Simmons Sea Skiff awards.

Entry Fees: There is a \$35 charge for amateur boats and a \$100 for a commercial manufactured vessel or vendor. All amateur boat exhibitors and

commercial sponsors get a free t-shirt and two tickets to the dinner after the show.

Sponsorships: Sponsorships are available at \$250 for businesses featured on the 20th Anniversary T-shirt. Sponsors receive a text link on the official CFCC Boat Show website, two dinner tickets, and recognition at the awards ceremony. All sponsorships benefit CFCC boat-building student scholarships. If your business is interested in sponsoring the show, please contact John Olsen at jolsen@cfcc.edu or call 910-362-7361.

Sign up to be an exhibitor, vendor, or sponsor. [Click here.](#)



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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 dates, the places, dates and times listed for events may change. Watch your email for updates. We encourage you to support/attend these events! **Newsletter deadline is the 25th of each month.**

4/1 Cape Fear Community College Boat Show in Wilmington. [Click here](#) for show web page. Chapter entries coordinated by Jim Dean.

4/14-16 Oriental in-water boat show with wooden boat exhibit. [Click here](#) for info.

4/22 New Bern—Trent River Run & Lunch at Saltwater Grill in River Bend. Coordinated by Alan Hills. [Click here](#) to sign up by 4/20. 10 AM to 3 PM

4/26 Chapter Business Meeting via Zoom at 7:00 PM ZOOM <https://meredith.zoom.us/j/99035793794> All are welcome!

5/5 Tentative Pre-Show event—Beaufort—NCMM Annual Boat Show

5/6 NCMM Boat Show in Beaufort. [Click here](#) to register

5/18-20 Lake Lure Classic Boat & Auto Show—Blue Ridge ACBS [Click here](#) for more information.

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](#).