



Messing About In Boats

Monthly newsletter

NC Coastal & Piedmont
Chapter of ACBS

April 2025



Ahoy Mateys,

Well, spring has finally sprung! The Sunnyland show has come and gone. We have azaleas and dogwoods in bloom, warmer temps, chirping birds and pollen. It's also time to get out there in your boats, or at least start getting them ready. We had great weather for our March workshop at Robert and Patsy Blanchard's place. Steve Filarsky (the gold leaf man) was to be our main presenter but he came down with Covid a couple of days before. However, the show still went on with a huge helping of Blanchard hospitality and a "dog and pony show" on lines and knots by yours truly. Thanks Robert and Patsy!

We had two boats and four members participate in the Sunnyland pre-show cruise this year. John Justice brought "Fins" with Neal Keeter as crew and Jim Hartman brought "Loon" with Jim Dean as crew. From all accounts, a good time was had by all, except for the careless tugboat wake that caused cosmetic damage to some of the boats.

With the coming of the warm, and not yet hot, weather, the month of April and beyond offer a bunch of opportunities for us to do what we do. April 12th is the Cape Fear Community College boat show in Wilmington.

Our chapter is one of the show's sponsors, as well as providing a scholarship to the boat-building program, so please do try to attend.

See poster in the newsletter. By the way, if you attend any shows or related events, please do submit any photos and reports to the newsletter editor. May 3rd is the NC Maritime Museum show, which we also help sponsor. Please support their efforts and plan to show your boat or at least attend.

Also coming up in May, Cindy Jordan has made **her family's vacation home available to us May 16-20**. Sign up for a fun time! Also that weekend, we will be assisting with the clean-up of the Tar-Pamlico River area from 10 AM to **noon...no heavy lifting, dodging snakes or alligators**. Just carrying the bags of trash to the dock. Lastly, John Justice has supplied two of our old boat show t-shirts to ACBS HQ which will become parts of quilts being made to commemorate the 50th anniversary, one of which will be raffled at the event. We have also been asked to provide five small items for the ACBS time capsule. If you have any creative ideas of what to include, send them to me.

One last note: I have had to abandon my email address because I could not send anything as that server is no longer being supported. You can reach me at pappyhills@gmail.com going forward.

Have fun and be safe!

Yours in classic boating,

Alan Hills, President

Chapter Organizes Cleanup of Tar-Pamlico River

All ACBS chapters that boat on rivers should help sustain the natural beauty of these rivers by participating in their clean up. Saturday May 17th is National River Cleanup Day. Since **we have an invitation to use Cindy' Jordan's** family home in Bath which is on a creek just off the Pamlico River, we decided that this would be an opportunity for us, as a chapter, to help clean up the river.

Judy Hills and Larry Lettick are leading the effort. Larry lives in Chocowinity and he runs the tour boat for the Estuarium, so we decided to select areas of the river near Washington that need cleanup. We identified potential partners and invited them to attend a Zoom meeting we held on Thursday March 27th.

The Estuarium will help get kayakers to participate and will provide one of the Estuarium's pontoon boats to help transport the bags of trash. The Riverkeeper will set up an online

signup for kayakers and will provide some supplies (gloves) on that day. Our Chapter will get the bags and provide some boats to help transport the trash.

This event is set for Saturday May 17th 10 to 12. **If the weather/river does not cooperate, we'll try 1 to 3 on the same day or move to Sunday 10 to 12 as an alternate.** We hope that those members who bring boats to Bath will help with this cleanup.



Chapter Members invited to Bath again—May 16-20

Member Cindy Jordan is once again inviting our members to stay at her family home in Bath. Several of us have been and we have nothing but great things to say about the accommodations, the food, and the comradery.

As we have done in the past, we are giving those **who have not yet experienced Bath the opportunity to sign up by April 15th.** Couples or singles may book. Arrive on Friday May 16th and depart on Tuesday May 20th. You can leave earlier. Cindy hopes all the rooms will be booked! She loves a crowd. **After April 15th, anyone may sign up. First come, first served!**

At this time we are still formulating the activities. We encourage you to bring a boat which can be launched from a nearby ramp and kept at the dock. We do plan to participate in a cleanup of the Tar-Pamlico river in the Washington area on Saturday May 17th 10 to 12. This will be an on-water event which is why we need boats.

[Click here](#) to confirm a room. Details to provide: name(s) of guest(s), dates of arrival and departure, and details on your boat if you plan to bring one. [Click here](#) and go to **p. 13 for the article on last spring's trip to Bath. DO COME!!!**

Antique Outboard Motor Club, Inc

AOMCI is organized similar to ACBS with a National organization and chapter throughout the United States, one of which serves North Carolina, South Carolina and parts of VA and GA. AOMCI is “Devoted to those with a passion for antique outboards.” The organization is 60 years old and has an interesting history. Click [here](#) to read it. AOMCI is one of several sister boating-related organizations noted on our chapter’s website. [Click here](#) for that page. We encourage you to check out the pages on our website, especially our Resource page as you can never tell what you might find that is of interest or that might help you find something to solve a problem.



CFCC Boat Show

Located on the RiverWalk in Wilmington on the banks of the Cape Fear River, this is one show that our members need to support by displaying their boats.

Our chapter provides scholarships to students in their boat building and marine manufacturing programs. We also are sponsors of this show. [Click here](#) for information and [Click here](#) to exhibit your boat at this show.



CAPE FEAR COMMUNITY COLLEGE

⚓ 2025 ⚓ RIVERFRONT BOAT SHOW

SPONSORED BY CFCC BOAT BUILDING PROGRAMS

SATURDAY, APRIL 12TH, 2025
9:30 AM - 3:00 PM

CFCC RIVERFRONT • DOWNTOWN WILMINGTON, NC

910.362.7361 • CFCC.EDU/BOATSHOW



SAFE HARBOR

- PENINSULA YACHT CLUB -



**OLD & NEW
CAR SHOW**



**\$20 REGISTRATION
FREE FOR SPECTATORS
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Multiple Judging Categories
Trophies and Classes will be based on attendance . We will be featuring the 'Kids Choice Award'

Food concessions will be available for all!

Safe Harbor Peninsula Yacht Club
18501 Harbor Light Blvd.,
Cornelius, NC 28031
704-892-9858

AND CLASSIC BOAT SHOW

Saturday, April 26th

Rain date: April 27th

All Cars, Trucks, and Classic Boats Welcome

Space is limited, all entries need to pre-register before the event visit www.pycfleetcommittee.com

Arrival & Registration

8:00 am - 9:00 am

Judging

10:30 am - 12:00 pm

Announcements & Awards

12:00 pm

A PYC Fleet Committee Hosted Event

This is NOT an ACBS chapter sponsored show. It is hosted by the Peninsula Yacht Club which is on the east side of Lake Norman, N of Charlotte, slightly NW from Concord and W of Kannapolis. We encourage chapter member for whom this location is convenient to participate.. There will probably be members of both Blue Ridge and our chapter there so you could network.

NCMM Wooden Boat Show 2025—May 3rd 10 to 4



SHAD BOAT LEVEL

The 49th Annual Wooden Boat Show will be held May 3, 2025!

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. The show takes place annually at the North Carolina Maritime Museum in Beaufort on the first Saturday in May. It is the longest ongoing wooden boat show in the Southeast.

This free event celebrates the art of North Carolina boat building and the sport of boat racing. Dozens of hand-crafted wooden boats will be on display and activities are available for all ages. Registration opens 4/1/25.



Workshop at Blanchard Homestead

Saturday March 8th dawned bright and beautiful. A perfect day to be outdoors. 15 members of our chapter and 3 guests enjoyed poking around the Blanchard Homestead. Those who had never been before said the Homestead was all it was advertised to be and they were so glad that they **came**. **We've included a few contributed pictures** so you can see what you missed.

Steve Filarsky, The Gold Leaf Man, who was to be our main presenter, came down with COVID and was unable to attend, but Alan Hills did a knot, splicing, and tying demo. The group provided suggestions to those who had some specific situations for which they needed ideas to resolve. Another example of members helping members. The group spent a little time discussing ACBS Resto-Mod judging criteria.

Alan shared some handouts: most used nautical knots and ACBS judging criteria for Resto-Mod class. We also discussed upcoming chapter events to encourage attendance. Alan brought up the idea which we have discussed before, about a chapter burgee. We can use the burgee to show appreciation and for awards to chapter members. The ACBS headquarters has asked each chapter to send a burgee to be displayed in the office for the 50th anniversary event. **So we'll need one for that. Those present concurred** that the chapter should purchase 12 burgees. Members may purchase them as well. This will be brought to the Chapter Board at its next meeting April 23rd. We also discussed items that our chapter might contribute to the ACBS time capsule. Items are due to headquarters August 1st. Headquarters is also asking each chapter for one chapter boat show t-shirt that will be used to make a quilt which will be raffled off at the International Show.

John Justice discussed Bill Baker's legacy. He explained that Bill's major assets are being liquidated and the chapter will receive some of that money. We have no way of knowing the amount yet, but Bill intended for this to be used for scholarships. This generated a discussion as to how ACBS and the chapters might ensure the skilled craftsmen that will be needed in the future to help maintain antique and classic boats. Judy will contact ACBS VP Ed Andrews about the possibility of an ACBS Zoom Roundtable discussion on this topic.

Bill also has bequeathed the tools and equipment in his workshop to the chapter. John Justice will be selecting some for the Piglet. Then chapter members will be able to select from what remains for purchase. **Whatever's left will be sold or auctioned and the money given to the chapter.**

Patsy and Robert Blanchard, Robert's mother, and the Blanchard's friends Tammy and Bruce fixed lunch for us that included hot dogs, hamburgers, homemade baked beans, slaw, chili sauce, chips, cookies and banana pudding. Um, um, good! We are blessed to have generous members!

Those who attended included: Alan & Judy Hills, John Justice, Jim Alexander, Sharon & Bill Conley, Jim & Anne Marie Hartman, Neal Keeter, Eileen & Larry Lettick, Jim & Alice Dean, Robert & Patsy Blanchard, and **guests Tammy & Bruce and Robert's mom.**

All-in-all another fabulous outing!

Pictures from Workshop at Blanchard Homestead by Anne Marie



(L to R) Alan Hills, Larry Lettick, Alice Dean, Jim Hartman, Jim Dean, Judy Hills, Bill Conley, Bruce, Jim Alexander and Neal Keeter.

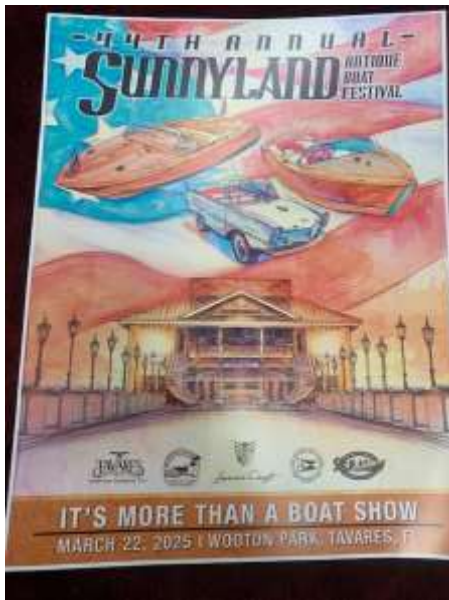


Pictures from Workshop at Blanchard Homestead by Judy



Pictures from the Sunnyland Boat Festival—Tavares, FL

Chapter members Jim Hartman, John Justice, Neal Keeter, and Jim Dean participated in the pre-show cruise. Jim Hartman brought his Chris Craft named Loon, John brought his Chris Craft named Fins. L to R in photo below: Jim Dean, Jim Hartman, John Justice, Alicia Boardman (ACBS Board member) and Neal Keeter on the pre-show cruise. Photos by Jim Dean



Pictures from the Sunnyland Boat Festival—Jim Dean



March Contest Entries

A Boy and a Girl Get a Boat By Anne Marie Hartman

Georgia and William were as close as a brother and sister could be, growing up in a small river town in the South. They loved their Great-grand dad Herbert, who always told them stories of his boating escapades when he was young. He always promised them that they, too, would have a boat one day to have their own adventures.

Unfortunately, by the time they came along, Grand dad was pretty weak and traveled mostly in a wheelchair, so they never got to share a boating adventure. Then came the sad day that Herbert passed away, and they were heart broken. Their family set to the task of cleaning out Great Granddads barn which had been pretty much off limits to the kids as **it was quite full of generations of "stuff"** (Classified as treasures) and deemed not particularly safe, for if one started moving things, who knew what might tumble down!

One afternoon they were sitting on the dock **at Herbert's while the adults tackled the barn**, they were feeling sad about missing their beloved great grandpa and idly skipping stones when they heard a shout behind them, and turned to see their dad backing something down the river bank. As he plopped it in the water and tied it to the dock they were so excited! He told them there was a little note with a rough sketch of the boat to be, that **said "for my first great grandchildren"**. Of course, that was Georgia and William.

They lovingly cleaned it up, and proudly sat **in it**. **They realized they probably couldn't go** anywhere in it for there were no oars, and no engine. BUT, there was a cute little cabin perfect for the little guys to camp out in, and



they spent many happy times doing so. Every now and then, some wise guy would make fun and tell them they had a boat to nowhere. This did not bother this brother and sister; they would smile (remembering **Great grandpa**), and say **"but we are already there! We're on a boat!!"**

The End

Caption by Judy Hills:

"This isn't exactly what I had in mind when you said you wanted us to spend a romantic weekend at the lake!"

Caption by Judy Hills:

"I hope that's a Baby Ruth candy bar I see floating over there."

Airbnb ad for this accommodation by Judy Hills:

"Beautiful waterfront views. Convenient location. One bedroom with en suite. Cozy. Nearby amenities. Let the sound of the waves lapping on the shore lull you to sleep."

Submitted by John Coffman:

Dave's dream of building a boat with as many sharp corners as possible was finally realized. He was truly delighted when the build was also sponsored by the Band Aid Company.

April Contest

What funny names do you have for your tools? [Email the editor](#) a picture of the tool and the name you have for it. Here are a few examples to get your creative juices flowing.



Russell Crow



Sponge Bob



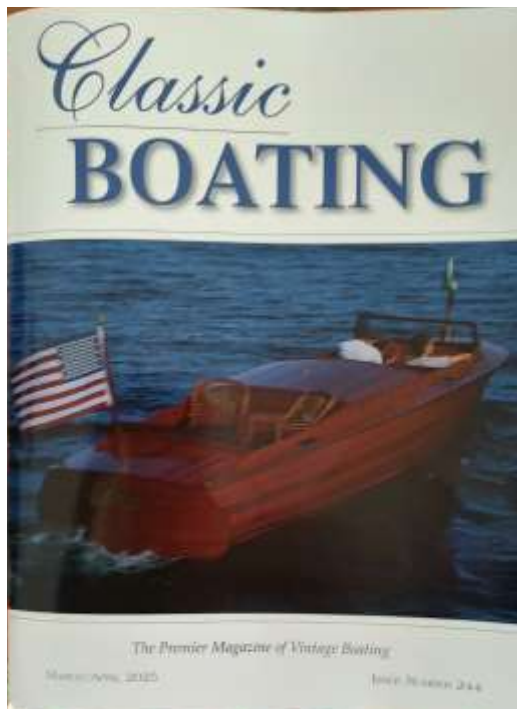
Hairy Stick



LEARN HOW TO USE THE ACBS MEMBERS ONLY SECTION AND ACBS DATABASE

Most of you have never actually received an orientation to the ACBS website or its database. We can tell based on questions we receive. [Click here](#) for detailed instructions.

Member Larry Lettick Has Article Published in Classic Boating





EMBROIDERED CHAPTER LOGO 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. You pick the shirt or other item.

[Contact](#) Alan Hills if interested.



Name Tags—**Don't have one? The First One is Free!**

Please remember to wear your name tags at chapter events so we can get to know you. If you have never received a name tag—the first one is free to those who hold primary membership in our chapter. The chapter pays and will have it shipped directly to you—you just need to ask for it. You may request additional name tags or a name tag for a co-member. [Click here](#) to read information on how to order. **We also have chapter logo ball caps for \$30.** [Email Alan Hills](#) if you want one.

Members who joined or renewed this past month include:

New: Michael St. John (Spotsylvania, VA)

Renewed: Stuart Benson (Wilmington, NC), David Printy (New London, NC)

Welcome!

Total Membership: 71 NCC&P Primary Chapter: 60 Not Primary Chapter: 11

NC Coastal & Piedmont
Chapter of the ACBS
<https://www.vintageboat.org/>

President:

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252-514-8525
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Judy Hills (term ends 2025)
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Treasurer@vintageboat.org

2025 Directors:

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[Bill Conley](#) (2025)
[Jim Hartman](#) (2026)
[John Justice](#) (2025)
Kevin Leiner (2026)

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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, and times listed for events may change. Watch your email for updates or check the [home page](#) of our website. **Newsletter deadline is the 25th of each month.** Please mark these dates on your calendar:

- 4/12 [Cape Fear Community College Boat Show](#) in Wilmington
- 4/23 Chapter Board Zoom Meeting—all members invited. [Click here](#) for link to meeting.
- 4/25-26 [Lake Hartwell, GA Rendezvous](#)—Blue Ridge Chapter
- 4/26 Safe Harbor Car & Boat Show in Cornelius, NC (Lake Norman)
- 5/3 [NCMM Boat Show](#) in Beaufort, NC
- 5/16-20 Bath mini-vacation courtesy of Cindy Jordan
- 5/17 National Cleanup the Rivers Day
- 6/7 Chapter Workshop in New Bern area
- 6/20-22 [Chesapeake Bay ACBS Boat Show](#) in St. Michaels, MD
- 6/21 [Lake Lure Trailer Classic Boat](#) & Auto Show (proposed, but not finalized—Blue Ridge Chapter)
- 7/23 Picnic, Chapter Board Meeting, and run (Lake TBD)
- 8/16 International Vintage Boating Day & Marine Day at Wilmington Marine Center
- 9/12-13 [Smith Mountain Lake ACBS Boat Show](#)
- 9/15-21 [ACBS International 50th Anniversary](#) Clayton, NY

What are the ACBS Definitions of Antique or Classic Boat?

Historic: Any boat built up to and including 1918

Antique: Any boat built between 1919 and 1942

Classic: Any boat built between 1943 and 1975

Late Classic: Any 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, Restored or Resto-Mod

Resto-Mod: Any historic, antique, classic or late classic boat that has been restored and modified with non-original parts and technology.

For more information [click here](#).