



NC C&P CHAPTER
Antique and Classic Boat Society, Inc.

Messaging About In Boats

Monthly newsletter

NC Coastal & Piedmont
Chapter of ACBS

April 2026



Hello Fellow members,

I can't believe it's April already! All the blooming trees and shrubs are nature's eye candy for me. It even looks like the pollen is in its last throes so I can start removing the yellow stuff on all my outdoor things and get the boats cleaned up.

We had a few things going on in March, chief among them was the workshop we had at Cape Fear Community College. There were 25 in attendance, including chapter members and CFCC students. We were honored to have Gary Lowell from Lowell Boats lead the workshop. We also got to meet Matthew Majewski, the new wooden boat building instructor at the college. And of course, our own John Olsen was key in making sure that the classrooms were set up as well as keeping us from running too far afield due to the road closures due to the St Patty's Day parade. Mike Loch organized the lunch arrangements and Judy Hills took care of the drinks and snacks. We were fortunate to have an old 13' Lyman available to practice the art of steam bending on. Gary talked us through the process, then we had lunch while the oak ribs were in the steam box. After lunch, Gary led a hands-on demonstration of getting the ribs out of the steam box and into the boat. While this was going on, Judy and Anne Marie Hartman went off on a Ladies Day adventure that saw them visit several of the many attractions in and

around Wilmington.

ACBS HQ sent out an affiliation agreement to all chapters for us to sign off on. Our chapter board took issue with several of the paragraphs in this document and after discussion, decided that we would not sign off on it as presented. We notified HQ of our intent based on what we felt were unfair rules for the chapter to follow. In the end, we were able to sign the agreement which included an addendum that aligned with our concerns.

Oh, I almost forgot! There was some kind of big deal boat show in Florida this week. From what I heard, Sunnyland chapter provided everyone with one fantastic show as well as St. Johns River cruises before and after the show. Our chapter had several members participate and they sent in a bunch of photos short reports. Unfortunately, there isn't space to include them in this issue of the newsletter so look for that next month.

In closing, I would hope that you can enjoy the warmer weather on your boat; either riding in it or working on it. Also, the NC Maritime Museum in Beaufort is having their show May 4th. Signup starts April 1st and I hope our members will support this long running show and plan to participate. [Click here.](#)

Yours in classic boating,

Alan Hills, President

Workshop at Cape Fear Community College

Let's start this in New Bern, where President Alan Hills and Secretary Judy Hills piled into their Chevy Equinox with members Leif Eriksson, Austin Lewis, and Treasurer John Dougherty. The three in the back seat were packed like sardines, but it made for intimate conversations! LOL! If you have to drive for two hours to get to a chapter workshop, you might as well have some fun doing so. That is why we encourage car-pooling.

We encountered a challenge getting to the Cape Fear Community College (CFCC) waterfront facility when we arrived in downtown Wilmington. Around the time we were to start the workshop, the city was also kicking off its St. Patrick's Day celebration with a big parade. There was a river of green outfits flowing down the sidewalks and a plethora of blocked streets. We had to worm our way off and on roads until we found an open street that took us where we wanted to go.

Gary Lowell of Lowell Boats in Greensboro was our workshop presenter. Most of you know Gary's reputation for restoring classic and antique boats. Gary is certified to survey these old boats. He is also an instructor at the Wooden Boat School in Maine. We were very fortunate that Gary was willing to collaborate with the staff at Cape Fear Community College to do this workshop.

CFCC Boat Building Program's facility was the perfect venue for this hands-on workshop on steam-bending and installing planks. We are grateful to our member John Olsen, who runs this program at CFCC, for allowing us to use the classroom and equipment.

Because the workshop was scheduled from 11 AM to 3 PM, the chapter covered the cost of lunch. Member Mike Loch picked up sandwiches from Jersey Mike's, and the Hills picked up the beverages, chips, and sweets.

We had 25 attendees, which included 13 chapter members and 12 students and prospective members. Chapter members attending included Alan Hills, Austin Lewis, John Dougherty, Leif Eriksson, John Olsen, Jim Dean, Jim Alexander, Jim Hartman, Jeff Martinson, John Justice, Mike Loch, Rich Morlock, and Stephen Weaver. This was an excellent turnout! We had two strong prospects for joining our chapter, one of whom is auditing a boat-building class at CFCC.

In case you were not aware, "North Carolina community colleges allow residents aged 65 and older to audit curriculum and continuing education courses for free on a space-available basis. This tuition/registration fee waiver applies to up to six credit hours per semester, provided the class is not full, and the instructor approves. Seniors must pay for materials, textbooks, and local fees."

Another item of note: CFCC used to teach lofting, then boatbuilding. They now do boat building and then restoration. They have one old boat that they keep on the shop floor to work on. This is the boat to which they added the steam-bent ribs at the workshop. John Olsen thinks our chapter should consider hosting hands-on workshops where members can learn by working on various projects.

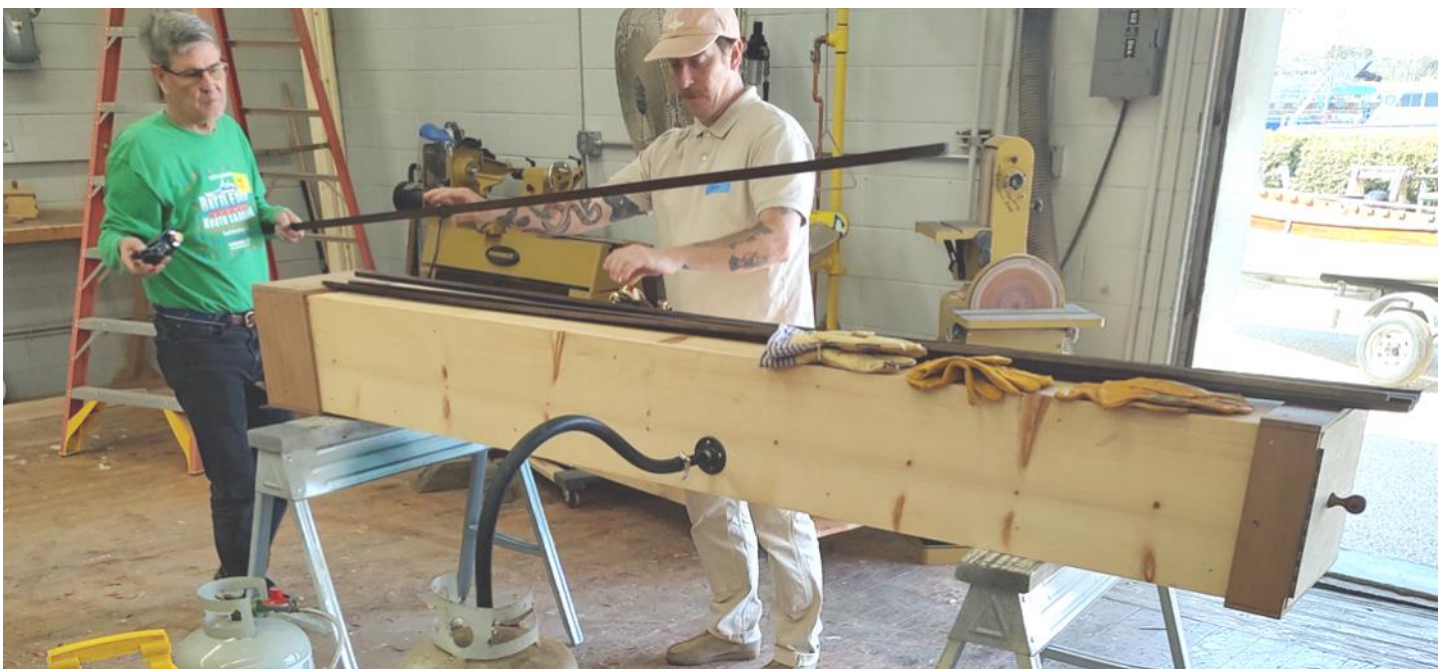
The facility has a large steam box. Wood needing to be bent is inserted, the box sealed, and the steam run. Wood needs to steam for one hour per inch of thickness. Since the project involved ribs, the wood was smaller. The pieces of oak had been soaked in the Cape Fear River for several days in preparation for steaming. Gary explained how the grains of different types of wood are affected by the steam.

Workshop at Cape Fear Community College (continued)

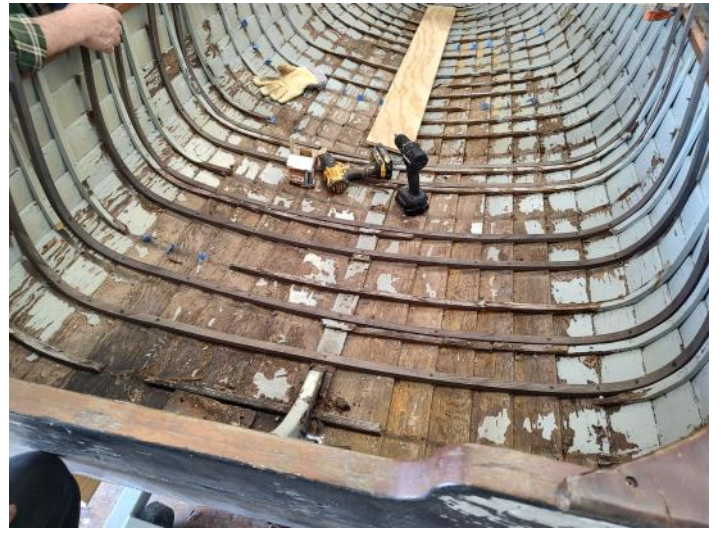
While the wood steamed, Gary talked about the process and about surveying old boats. Eventually, the wood was ready for removal, and several attendees helped install and fit new ribs in the old boat.

Students and members alike could not say

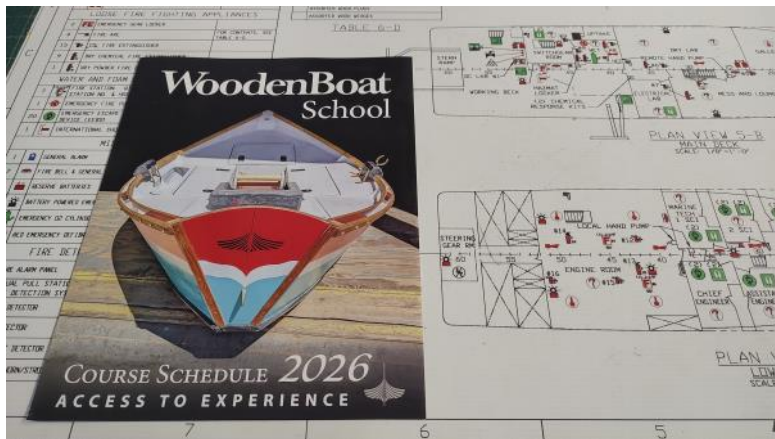
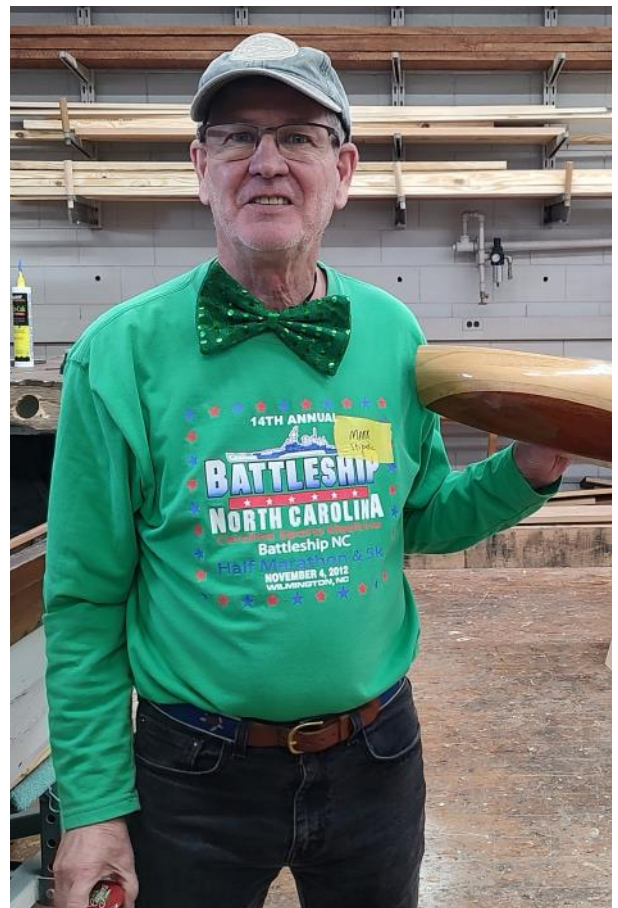
enough positive things about the workshop. Our “old” members got a chance to interact with the “young” students—future owners of antique and classic boats, we hope! We had a chance to share our hard-earned wisdom about working on old boats with the next generation. What’s not to love about this day!



Workshop at Cape Fear



Workshop at Cape Fear Community College Photos



Co-members' Day Out

Co-members just gotta' have fun! We get enough boat talk and get to watch plenty of old boats being worked on, so while we generally are supportive of our best mates, we sometimes just need a break from those topics.

The CFCC hands-on workshop on steam-bending was one of those times when we felt the need to beg off. So, a Wilmington adventure day was organized by Secretary Judy Hills. The plan was to visit the Cameron Art Museum to see the Living Waters exhibit that explores the essential and unifying role of water, have lunch at oceanside Jack Mackerels Island Grill in Kure Beach, and then visit Fort Fisher Museum and Historic site, also in Kure Beach.

While all co-members were invited on this outing, only two actually took advantage of it: Judy Hills and Anne Marie Hartman. It is said that humans plan and God laughs. So he had a chuckle when we arrived at the Cameron Museum only to be told that it was closed due to a bathroom problem. Oh pool!

But we soldiered on and decided that it was close enough to lunchtime anyway. It was a beautiful day for the 30-minute drive to Kure Beach. Jack Mackerel's Island Grill was like being in the inside of an old schooner. It had a curved, varnished wood slat ceiling with nautical décor. A perfect venue for two sea witches (or was that wenches—LOL!) to imbibe and eat lunch.

After lunch we wanted to stroll on the Kure Beach fishing pier, but it was not yet open for the season. (God chuckling again!) We

took a short stroll on the boardwalk and took a few pictures of the pier and the beach.

Next up was the short drive to the Fort Fisher State Historic site. The visitor center just opened in 2024. The new exhibit, "Through their Eyes" covers the site's history from pre-colonial times through WWII. Fort Fisher, unlike Fort Macon, is an earthen structure that was built by African Americans (slaves & free), indigenous Indians (treated like slaves), and Confederate soldiers.

At the fort we not only had a history lesson about its origins, but we also learned about the history of bathing suits at Carolina beaches. Did you know that they rented bathing suits? We saw one male suit that had "SAM" stenciled across the chest. Apparently that wasn't the guy's name, but were the initials of the retail establishment that rented it. LOL! It was a lot of fun to imagine how it must have been to go the beach in those early days.

Finally, it was time to say good bye to the ocean and head back to the Cape Fear River and CFCC. We caught up with the guys as the workshop was concluding. Some were still picking Gary's brain, but the majority had left. Everyone said what a super job John Olsen and Gary had done and how much they learned. They were already discussing next steps. Prospective new member Mark Stipetic, who is auditing one of the courses, assured us he plans to join.

So we ended our eventful day on a positive note.



Co-members' Day Out Photos



April Contest: A Joke or Story

On the two-hour drive to and from Wilmington we brainstormed some newsletter contest ideas. For April, we ask members to create a funny short story or joke (real or imagined or AI generated) that includes a man, a tool, and an antique or classic boat. The crazier, the better, as far as we're concerned. Email your entry to [editor Judy Hills](#) by April 25th. No prizes—just some fun and bragging rights! Extra points for a graphic or a picture.



REMINDER

ACBS needs your input! Please complete the Judging Survey developed by the ACBS Judging Committee. The information and link were posted in the WWW on 3/21/26.

[ACBS Judging Survey](#)

Chapter Burgees

We have three chapter burgees available for sale at \$35 each (\$40 if mailed).

They are 12x18, laser etched, double sided (logo correct on both sides) and made of a durable material. See photo at right for style and colors. If we sell out the first order, we'll place a second order so that we have some on-hand.

Contact Alan Hills to buy a burgee.



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: None

Renewed: John Gray (Wilmington, NC), Margaret Moores (Beaufort, NC)

Total Membership: 69

NCC&P Primary Chapter: 56

Not Primary Chapter: 13

Welcome!

NC Coastal & Piedmont
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[Jim Hartman](#) (2026)
[John Justice](#) (2027)
Kevin Leiner (2026)
Jim Dean (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. On August 24, 2022, our Chapter was incorporated as a nonprofit in the State of NC. On May 23, 2025, the IRS designated our chapter a 501c3 nonprofit .

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.

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:

April

10-12 Oriental in-water boat show and nautical flea market, Oriental NC [Click here](#)

17-18 Blue Ridge Chapter Lake Hartwell Rendezvous at Harbor Light Marina [Click here](#)

23 Chapter Board meeting via Zoom. All members invited. [Email Secretary Judy Hills](#) for link.

25 Lake Norman car & boat show Peninsula Yacht Club. [Click here](#)

25 Smith Mountain Lake Workshop

May

1 to 3 Atlanta Motoring Festival Concours d'Elegance. Lake Lanier Islands [click here](#)

2 NC Maritime Museum Boat Show 50th annual! [Click here](#)

9 [Lake Rabun Wooden Boat Show](#)

16 National River Cleanup Day

30 Cape Fear Comm College Boat Show [click here](#)

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](#).