



## Messing About In Boats

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

December 2023

### Seasons greetings fellow boat enthusiasts!

I hope everyone's holiday season has gotten off to a successful start. Thanksgiving weekend was beautiful in my part of the state, but it also heralded much colder weather. That and the incredibly low water levels at the nearby lakes have meant boat sightings have been few and far between as I drive by them. That said, I can usually spot one or two out and about. How are things in your neck of the woods? Maybe you're even one of the brave souls who enjoys the water all year round, droughts and cold snaps be damned?

Many of our members have been out and about over the month of November, as you can read in the following pages. Looking ahead to this last month of the year, things quiet down a little, with just one event scheduled so far. But it's a good one: our annual Christmas Holiday Party! We're fortunate to have Sharon and Bill Conley hosting the club at their home in North Raleigh once again. If you haven't joined us for this occasion before, please consider it. Extensive information (including an FAQ) is included in this newsletter.

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their efforts on behalf of the chapter over this past year. We are only as successful as the combined contributions of the membership, and with that, you've made us a success again. I want to

give a special thanks to our officers and directors, the hosts of the various events - including the Blackbeard Sailing Club - and especially to Judy Hills, who writes this newsletter, maintains our website, and generally keeps the chapter shipshape. Bravo all y'all!

Hope to see you at an event soon!

Cheers,

*Jeff*



**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

## Blanchard Homestead Event 4 November 2023

Member Robert & Patsy Blanchard once again opened up their property to allow their friends to enjoy the unique old items and equipment that they have collected over the years. Friends also bring in displays and crafts and also provide entertainment such as “Festus” the comedian who told corny jokes after lunch and the group that rode in on stick horses and performed a skit.

Robert’s old things included two old boats: one a Chris Craft Sea Skiff sold to him several years ago by VP Alan Hills as well as a Chris Craft Constellation still undergoing improvements. Alan talked to a prospective member who was looking at the boats.

Those seen attending from our chapter included (of course in addition to Robert & Patsy): Alan and Judy Hills, Bill & Judy Baker, as well as Sharon & Bill Conley. We thank Robert and Patsy for inviting us to attend and for opening up their homestead to the visitors. Here are a few pictures from the event.



## Pictures from Blanchard's Homestead Event



## Duplin Winery Pop-Up Event

Wednesday November 29th was a cold, blustery day—actually the perfect day to visit Duplin Winery in Rose Hill. Alan and Judy Hills arrived at 11 AM and tour guide Dave (AKA Santa), took us on a tour of the production area. There was not a whole lot going on except for wine aging and settling in very large, shiny, metal tanks but we did learn a lot about the difficulties the Fussell brothers had in the early years trying to get the business going. Now they process 5,000 tons of grapes each season and have two other locations, one in Myrtle Beach, SC and another in Panama City, FL

The tour cost \$11 each and includes one bottle of wine to take home (choice of two being processed at the facility at the time of the tour). Then we did the \$15 each wine tasting. It includes a small pour of 12 different wines, a taste of their Muscadine pineapple habanero salsa mixed with cream cheese and served on their home-made crackers—very tasty! We also tasted a wine slushy and some really great mulled wine. A glass of our choice of wine was included with the tasting which we had with our delicious lunch at their Bistro.

Of course we could not pass up the gift shop. We left with some holiday wine, salsa, and mulled wine seasoning.

For those who could not make the outing, we highly recommend a trip to Duplin Winery during the holidays. It was fun way to spend the day.





# NC COASTAL & PIEDMONT CHAPTER

## CHRISTMAS PARTY & AWARDS DINNER

Saturday December 9th 6:00 PM



BILL & SHARON CONLEY'S  
9204 Ranworth Way Raleigh, NC 27615

BYOB & Your Mixer  
Relaxed Holiday Attire  
Adults Only. Please



RSVP to [bconley@nc.rr.com](mailto:bconley@nc.rr.com)

by Sunday December 3rd. please!

Provided: Fiesta Chicken & Rice. Baked Ziti. water. iced tea. coffee

Games. prizes. fun & fellowship!

Based on last names. we'd like for you to bring a serving for 6 of an appetizer. salad/side. or dessert. We'll let you know later!

Liquid Asset Dice Game

We ask each guest to please bring one wrapped \$10 liquid item

See FAQs for additional information.

## FAQs for the December 9th Chapter Christmas Party

We always get questions, so here is our attempt to preempt them.

I/we don't live nearby. Where can I/we get a room?

[Hampton Inn Raleigh—Capital Blvd—Towne Square 3612 Spring Forest Rd.](#)

[Hilton Garden Inn Raleigh Capital Blvd – Capital Blvd I-540 6412 Capital Blvd.](#)

[Home 2 Suites Hilton Raleigh N I-540—3951 Sumner Blvd.](#)

Come early and do some Christmas Shopping at the Raleigh [Triangle Town Center Mall!](#)

What should I/we wear?

The gals always ask this question. This year we suggest relaxed holiday attire. No need for a coat & tie or fancy outfits—just something nice that makes you smile.

Can I/we bring our teenagers, other family, or friends?

Members may bring a spouse, significant other, or one guest. We have limited seating for dinner and ask that you do not bring others, HOWEVER, we have been known to make exceptions if there is room, so please talk personally with Sharon (919.602.0440). We understand that there may be extenuating circumstances.

Can I/we just show up or do we have to RSVP?

Because so much preparation is required for this party, we sincerely hope you will RSVP to Bill by Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. We would like the names of those attending so we can make name tags, have the right number of copies needed for the games, and ensure we have appetizers, sides, salads, and desserts to complement the main dishes.

Where do I/we park?

In the driveway of our house or on the circle, just please do not block any neighbor's driveway.

May I/we bring wine or spirits to share?

Certainly! We just can't plan for every person's taste, that is why we ask guests to bring their own bottle and any mixer they require.

Can I/we bring a dish to share?

Based on your last name, guests are requested to bring a serving for 6 of one of the following: appetizer, dessert, or a side or a salad to compliment the main dishes. We can't make these assignments until we know who is attending which is another reason for the RSVP. ***As soon as we have the reservations, we'll make the list and email you to let you know what to bring.***



Continued on next page

## FAQ for Christmas Party continued...

### Will there be games?

You bet! Game on! As we have for the last several years, the guys will play certain games while the gals are playing their games in another area of the house. There will be prizes for the winners. The Liquid Asset Dice Game is played by all attendees and so we ask each person to bring one wrapped liquid item worth up to \$10. Need a liquid asset hint? Think, wine, oil, alcohol. We are giving you a lot of latitude here to use your imagination and your creativity! You won't go home empty-handed.

### What else?

We will have an area set up for photos. This is always a nice occasion for a picture.

We won't have a business meeting, but outgoing President Jeff Martinson will give a short speech and hand out a few awards at the end of the evening.

## 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—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.

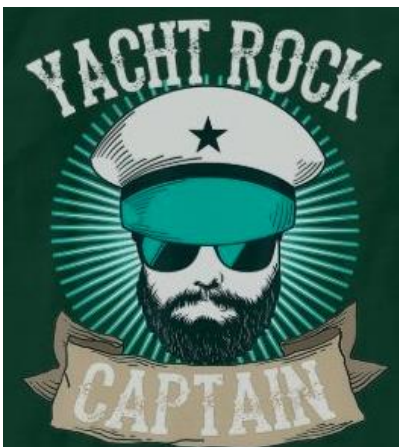
### Members who joined or renewed recently include:

**New:** Charles McCotter (Trent Woods).

**Renewed:** Bob Banta (Raleigh), Richard Booth (Littleton), Alan Frederick (Wirtz, VA), Kevin Leiner (Wake Forest), NC Maritime Museum (Beaufort), David Stowe (Farmville), Robert Vogel (Cornelius), Robert Weller (Terrell)

**Total Membership:** 57 **NCC&P Primary Chapter:** 46 **NC C&P Not Primary Chapter:** 11

*Welcome!*



## Christmas at Sea

(Editors note: I was looking for something nautical that had a Christmas theme when I found this.)

Robert Louis Stevenson wrote a poem called "Christmas at Sea." In June 1888, Stevenson set out for the Pacific Islands of the South Sea, an excursion that would only end six years later with his death. The descriptions of nautical life that appear in "Christmas at Sea" were drawn from some of his own experience as he made the journey. [Click here](#) to read the poem.

That research led me to a YouTube video of Sting's arrangement of a song based on this poem. He wrote the music in collaboration with harpist Mary Macmaster who leads the chorus in Gaelic. The song tells the story of a sailor battling the elements aboard a ship in sight of the town where he was born—close



enough to see snow on the roofs and smoke from the chimneys, even the smell of the meals as they prepared for Christmas.

[Click here](#) to read more and to see the YouTube performance of Christmas at Sea by Sting.



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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 dates, the places, dates and times listed for events may change. Watch your email for updates. **Newsletter deadline is the 25th of each month.**

### December

9 Chapter Christmas party Raleigh Bill & Sharon Conley

**We are in the process of developing the 2024 calendar of events. Here are a few dates worth marking on your calendar:**

Jan 13th—tentative date to visit Gary Lowell's Boat Shop in Greensboro

Jan 30th — Chapter business meeting

March 21-24 Sunnyland Boat Festival in Tavares, FL

May 4th—NC Maritime Museum Boat show in Beaufort

June 14-16—Chesapeake Bay ACBS Boat Show at St. Michael's, MD

Aug 17—International Vintage Boating Day

Sept 9-15 ACBS International Show at Gull Lake in Brainerd, MN

### 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.

**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](#).