



## Messing About In Boats

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

January 2021

Dear Fellow Members,

You are receiving the newsletter a little earlier this month due to the editor's pending cataract surgery later this month.

We all have endured hardships of one sort or other this year. I know most, if not all of us are ready to send 2020 on its way and welcome the new year with hopes of a return to normalcy in many aspects of our lives.

In spite of these hardships, as a chapter, we were able to hold our own to some

degree. We did manage to hold a few events while maintaining COVID-19 protocols, we were recognized for chapter growth and member retention and had our newsletter in the running for recognition as well. Of course, none of this would have been possible without you, our members. The chapter has long been supported by a core group and I am pleased to see some new blood start to assume some of the duties and hopefully become your future leaders. This being said, we would

welcome more of you to get involved in all aspects of the chapter's activities, in front of or behind the scenes; workshops, on water tours, attending neighboring chapter boat shows, submissions for the newsletter, website content support, and so on.

In closing, I wish you all health and happiness for the holiday season and 2021!

Best regards,  
*Alan*



## 2020 President's Award Given to Judy Hills

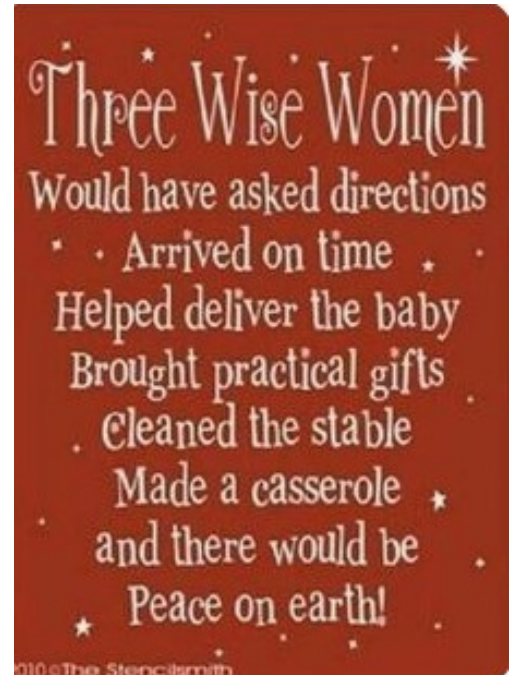
At the Chapter's Zoom Christmas party, I gave the president's award to Judy Hills (my wife). Although I am not concerned with anyone crying Nepotism! I thought I might mention specifically what she does for the chapter and why she was the logical choice, wife or not. Here goes:

Editor of our newsletter. She does all the layout, graphics, searches for and provides "filler" material to make things fit and be visually appealing, comes up with the contests and brain teasers, edits your submissions, maintains the calendar of events, and pretty much all you see each month. P.S. I do write my own column and anything else that is attributed to me LOL.

Webmaster. Judy adds new content and updates our website on a regular basis. This includes posting the newsletters, posting photos and stories about chapter activities, the trading dock, listing resources and generally preventing stagnation of content.



As you can see, Judy is the media engine that keeps us all connected and in the year of COVID-19, her efforts have been the only means of keeping up with the chapter goings on for many of you. Congratulations Judy on a job well done. You are certainly deserving of this award!





## CHAPTER'S VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY 12 DECEMBER 2020

While we were all wishing and hoping that we could convene in person at Sharon and Bill Conley's home as we have many times in the past, this year in light of COVID-19 we had to settle for a Zoom gathering. VP Jeff Martinson and Treasurer Kevin Leiner teamed up to organize the meeting and it did not disappoint, although truth be told, the attendance was a little light. Attendees included President Alan Hills, Secretary Judy Hills, Director Bill Conley and wife Sharon, Director John Justice and wife Pam, member Cindy Jordan, member Jim Dean and his wife Alice, Treasurer Kevin Leiner and VP Jeff Martinson and his wife Alice.

We began by reminiscing about Chapter Christmas parties in other years. We could almost taste the chicken tetrazzini and the luscious desserts. John asked for seconds!

We discussed challenges faced by our members and ourselves this past year and our hopes for 2021.

Kevin was going to do a slide show of photos from our three outings this year (tour of Budsins Boats, the Piglet workshop and the ride

and picnic on Hyco Lake), but was tripped up by technology. Jeff jumped in with some games. First we had three word scramble challenges (holiday, boating terms and boat manufacturers), next we had to decipher a few pictograms and lastly we were shown a small portion of a photo that appears on our chapter's website and had to identify who, when, and what. The gang enthusiastically participated.

Lastly we told stories. Jeff had some tales about far-flung offers for engine items he was selling. We heard from the Conleys about the challenges of building their new structure. Alan told a wild story from his youth about the engine that walked on water. Cindy talked about dusting off the Admiral Alexander (garage queen?).

Alan closed the gathering by presenting Judy with the President's award for service to the chapter in 2020.

All-in-all we had a really fun evening. We felt bad for those who missed this opportunity to share the camaraderie and the joy of the season with other members. We hope that next year we will be able to once again celebrate in person.



## KEEPING YOUR INFORMATION UP-TO-DATE

The new year is a good time to take a look at your ACBS profile. Some things to check:

- Do you list your spouse as a co-member? If you do and if you include their email address they can get their own copy of all notices and the newsletter. To check this, click on the related link "edit my information."
- Is your address correct?
- Is your boat information current?
- Have you listed any unmounted engines that you own?

- There is also an opportunity to opt out of certain contacts as well as being able to list your communication preferences.

Please take the time and review and modify (if necessary) your ACBS info.

And in case you were not aware, on October 24, 2020, the ACBS Board of Directors agreed to increase the price of the printed membership directory from \$10 to \$20 as the actual cost to print the 2021 membership directory is \$16.85 each.

## SUNNYLAND ACBS CHAPTER CANCELS 2021 SHOW & CRUISE

It's with mixed emotions that I inform you that we have cancelled the **Sunnyland Antique Boat Festival and St. Johns River Cruise** for 2021. The Christmas Party we planned for December 15<sup>th</sup> has also been cancelled. Last night The Sunnyland Chapter convened a special meeting to discuss all the parameters of the event. The decision to cancel was based on the rise of COVID-19 and the gathering of large crowds. We wanted to make the decision before we opened registration.

As most of you know, the new Marina is scheduled for completion this summer and we



will plan a Sunnyland Event when the City has the "Grand Opening"—A tentative plan is being formulated and we will keep everyone advised so you can participate.

We will keep the Boat Show Committee in place and we will have a major grand opening show in 2022. I really appreciate everyone's support and what you have done to make our show what it is. Hopefully we can all come together and make 2022 a Historical Event.

Terry—Boat Festival Chairman

## WELCOME NEW CHAPTER MEMBERS

On occasion we have tried with limited success to get information on new chapter members. This year we are going to make more of an effort to acknowledge our new friends and to engage them. While we hope they'll provide some personal information, if they don't, we'll at least alert you to what's on their ACBS profile.

In October Mark and Chris McKeehan joined our chapter. They live in Texas and their primary Chapter is Southwest (in TX). They own a

1958 Chris-Craft Kit boat—a 14-foot Barracuda.

In December James and Brenda Carroll of Cary joined. They own a 1974 Burger Boat Co motor yacht named Freeplay. Love their email address: mvfreeplay@gmail.com.

We hope to get to know the McKeehans and the Carrolls better in 2021.

## MEMBER JIM DEAN'S COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS

That was a fun party on December 12th! We were all zooming! I mostly just listened in but I do want to propose a cruise in the Wilmington area.

Alice & I have access to a family beach house on Wrightsville beach and would like to invite anyone visiting the area to come stay there. It has 4 bedrooms & 4 baths and can be configured to sleep from 1 up to 12 people. We have a daily and weekly rental rate that is very reasonable. The address is 128 Waynick Blvd , Wrightsville Beach

There is a dock on Banks Channel with a fleet of classic boats . My big boat is a 42' 69 Chris Craft Commander Sport Cruiser. I also presently have a 1968 wooden Dickerson 38' sloop and a 72 Typhoon Weekender that are actively for sale. There is also a Cape Dory Typhoon Daysailor ready to sail and a 18' Scout for sightseeing under power. If the weather is good any or all of these boats would be available .

If there turns out to be a boat show at CF Community College this year this would be a convenient location for club members to stay. We could have a fresh water cruise on the Cape Fear River or a saltwater cruise on the waterway before or after the show! There are lots of options to consider and we hope something could work!

If interested call ,text , or email Jim Dean 910-232-1655 [Captjim4@gmail.com](mailto:Captjim4@gmail.com)

Alice & I wish every one a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

(P.S., Alan and I have stayed at the Dean's beach house and we can verify that it is a really nice place. It even has an elevator! Jim and Alice are very accommodating hosts.)

## 2021 MEMBER CONTRIBUTION THEME: "TALL TALES"

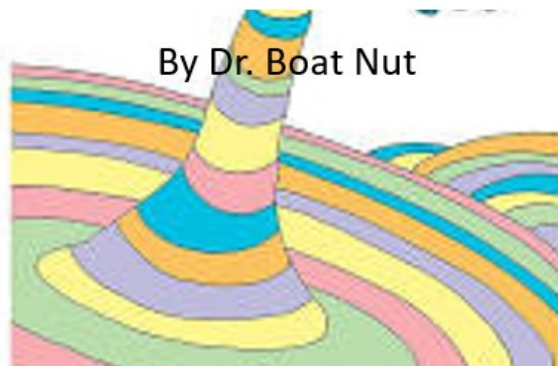
Last month we made this announcement. In case you missed it, here it is again. Well, not exactly a competition, just an opportunity for members to help add content to the newsletter each month. For 2021, you are invited to contribute your best "tall tale" of your adventures in boating. Don't have one, make one up! We just want to be entertained and we don't "fact check" submissions. The only criteria is that it has to somehow involve a boat. Send in your tall tale before the end of each month to [me](#).

We wanted to add a few offshoots to this theme. To get your creative juices flowing we've included a few examples here and on the next page submitted by our members. The

take-off on the Dr. Seuss book below was submitted by Jeff Martinson. Let's just have some fun this year to shake off the cares and woes of 2020! Anything goes—just keep it clean!

### "Oh the Places Your Boats Will Go!"

By Dr. Boat Nut





## MY SHADOW

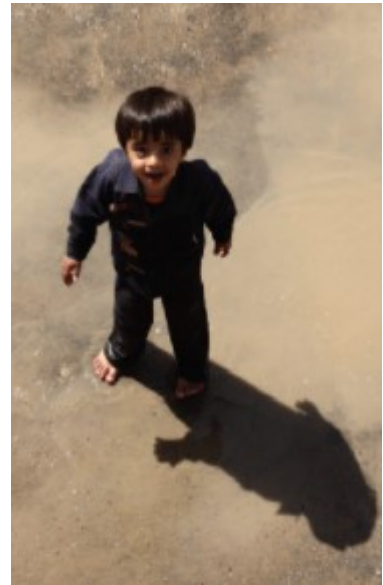
By Robert Louis Stevenson

I have a little shadow that goes in and out with me,  
And what can be the use of him is more than I can see.  
He is very, very like me from the heels up to the head;  
And I see him jump before me, when I jump into my bed.

The funniest thing about him is the way he likes to grow —  
Not at all like proper children, which is always very slow;  
For he sometimes shoots up taller like an india-rubber ball,  
And he sometimes goes so little that there's none of him at all.

He hasn't got a notion of how children ought to play,  
And can only make a fool of me in every sort of way.  
He stays so close behind me, he's a coward you can see;  
I'd think shame to stick to nursie as that shadow sticks to me!

One morning, very early, before the sun was up,  
I rose and found the shining dew on every buttercup;  
But my lazy little shadow, like an arrant sleepy-head,  
Had stayed at home behind me and was fast asleep in bed.



## MY SHADOW—A PARODY

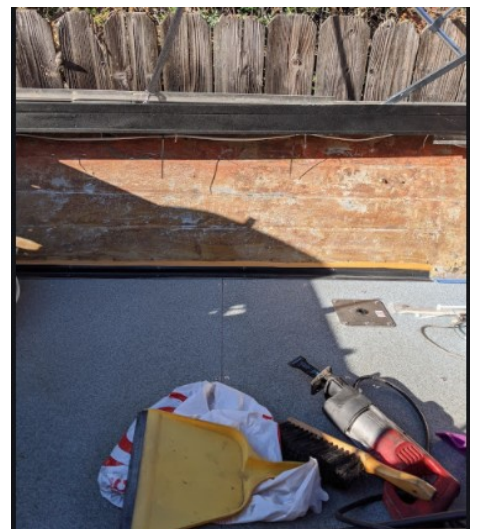
By Sharon Conley

I have a wooden vintage skiff that sails and carries me,  
And what can be the use of it is more than I can see.  
It's very old and often leaks from bow to stern and more,  
And when I take it for a spin, I hope to land safely back on shore.

The amazing thing about this skiff is that it's very rough,  
No matter how much money's spent, it's never quite enough.  
It sometimes leaks and sometimes stops without a warning at all,  
Thank goodness there is Sea Tow help whose number I can call.

It hasn't got a notion of how boats are meant to sail,  
I often have to hold on tight or get thrown across the rail.  
I sometimes race far into the lake, no land is anywhere,  
And there the engine starts to smoke, it gives me quite a scare.

One morning very early, before the sun was up,  
I rose and found a 'For Sale' sign right near my coffee cup.  
I think my wife has had enough and wants a change for me,  
This boat might find a brand new home, while Europe we will see!



**Our thanks to Sharon for her contribution. We hope this inspires members to get creative and submit something in 2021!**

## Jim Alexander's "Coincidence" Article on the ACBS Website

Our chapter is blessed with a number of members who periodically contribute to ACBS (blog, website, publications). In mid-December Jim Alexander submitted an article he entitled, "Coincidence" and photos of his 1941 Chris Craft Barrelback. The story was about an attempt to travel back in time and while he was unable to achieve his dream as conceived, he was able to partially fulfill it. We don't want to give away the story as we hope you will read it for yourself. [Click here](#) to access the article.



## A Proper Prop? By Alan Hills

At our chapter workshop and swap meet at John Justice's Piglet, there was a trailer with an old Chris Craft U-22 sitting on it that he wanted gone. I knew New Bern member Leif Eriksson needed a trailer about that size so he and I came back and picked it up. After we got it to Leif's place, we started looking through all the miscellaneous parts and pieces strewn about inside the boat (or what was left of it) and among the stuff there was a prop shaft with a prop on it. It just so happened that I had been looking for a shaft to replace the one in Hunky Dory (1974 22-foot Chris-Craft Dory) and this had possibilities. I took the prop off and cleaned up the shaft and it looked ok. The prop, meanwhile, sat on my workbench for a while. By and by, I got tired of moving it around so I figured I'd clean it up and put it on the shelf until someone had a need for it. After cleaning, the Chris Craft part number revealed itself so I looked it up on [Jim Staib's](#)



[website](#), (Fine Wood Boats—"your CC antique wood boat and vintage inboard engine parts source") to determine the size. Turned out to be a 12x14 super cup, not in bad shape at all.

Well, this bit of information got me to thinking about Hunky. She originally came with a 307Q Chris Craft engine that made 200 horsepower. She was repowered around 2009 with 351 Ford engine that makes about 240 horse. The original prop that came with the boat was still on there, a 12X12 super cup. Doing a little "country boy" figuring, it stood to reason to me that with 20% more horsepower, 2 inches additional pitch on the prop just might be a good match. So, I swapped it out and did a sea trial. Results: 3 knots faster and still turns 4,100 RPM at wide open throttle. Cheapest and easiest 3 knots I ever got! Another benefit of chapter membership!



## Falls Lake Foliage Run by Kevin Leiner

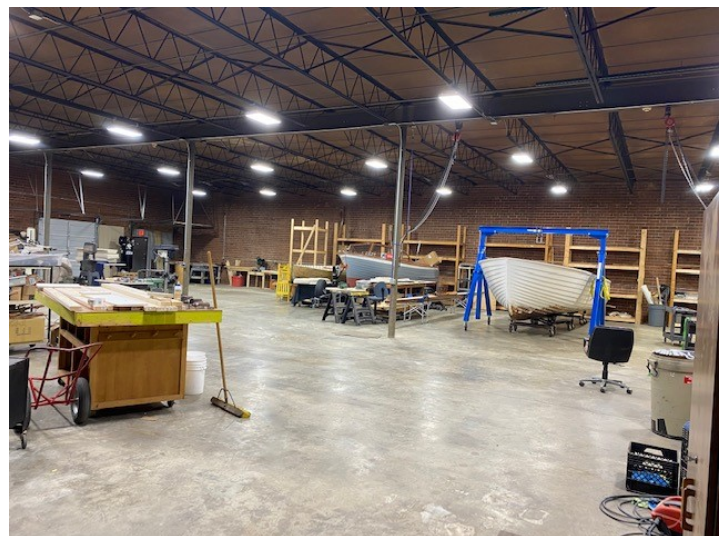
In early November, we took advantage of an unseasonable warm day for a final cruise on Falls Lake before winterizing our boat. We launched at Barton's Creek as usual and took in some of our favorite places along the winding way toward Holly Point. While we missed peak fall colors, we still saw a lot of great color and had a really nice day. This was a fantastic end to the season and has me looking forward to an early spring launch in 2021, with a windshield! Photos by Kevin. (editor's note: Kevin's missing windshield has been a standing chapter joke for a very long time.)





## Gary Lowell's New Shop

Some, if not most, of our chapter members are familiar with Lowell Boats Inc. in Greensboro owned by Gary Lowell. A few years ago we had an outing to his old facility. Director Jim Alexander took his boat to Gary's new shop for some cosmetic work that he didn't have the room to perform. Jim said the new shop is three times the space Gary had before. Gary has just moved in and is still setting it up. The new shop is at 127 Blue Bell Rd. in Greensboro, just a few block from I-40. Here are a few shots that Jim took while he was there. For those of you that don't know, Gary and his staff are skilled boatwrights and craftsmen. Quite a few of boats owned by our members have been worked on by Gary's shop. [Click here](#) to view their website.



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We must build dikes of courage to hold back the flood of fear.  
~Martin Luther King, Jr.~

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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 with the exception of the business meeting dates, the places, dates and times listed for events are tentative. Watch your email for updates. Please add these dates to your calendar and participate as much as you can! Support the boat shows listed and others. Chapter-sponsored events are in bold.

**NOTE: COVID-19 is still impacting plans. These events are tentative—confirm before traveling.**

1/27	Chapter business meeting—Zoom
3/27	Cape Fear Community College Riverfront Boat Show
4/9-11	Oriental In-Water Boat Show
4/28	Chapter business meeting—Zoom
5/1	NCMM Beaufort Boat Show
6/18-20	St. Michael's MD Boat Show
7/28	Chapter business meeting

## 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.

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