



Messaging About In Boats

Monthly newsletter

NC Coastal & Piedmont
Chapter of ACBS

January 2026



Hello Fellow members,

I hope y'all had a wonderful holiday season shared with family and friends. The Hills family certainly did, although meals and desserts and football seemed a bit much.

I hope 2026 will be banner year for the chapter and you personally. 2025 was a year filled with events and activities for you to attend and we'll try to do the same this year but I do wish to see more of you attending. We put in a lot of effort to provide these activities and the biggest thanks we can get is seeing a goodly number of you attend. Please try to attend at least one chapter event/activity this year. End of rant!

Heading into 2026 our chapter is very healthy with regard to membership (73) and leadership. A big thanks to our board of directors, and to Jim Alexander, our "membership guy", for a job well done. We are working on the calendar and still have some holes to fill. If any of you have an idea or wish to host/facilitate an event, please let Judy know and let's make it happen!

As some of us are coming to realize, age is a great equalizer. It forces us to change up some of our plans and activities. Over here, the reality has struck home that we have too many boats! At an earlier time of life, that seemed like an absurd statement, but not

now. I'm sure I'm not the only one facing this dilemma. Although at this time the market is kind of soft, the club has resources to assist you. Check out the resources tab on our home webpage for ideas.

Yours in classic boating,
Alan Hills, President

PS: See the Fall 2025 Rudder for pictures of Loon (Jim Hartman's Boat), President Hills receiving the Broken Gunwale Trophy on behalf of our chapter, and notice that member John Coffman received a gold award for his classic utility preserved boat named "Made in the Shade."



2026 Tentative Calendar of Chapter Events

Month/day	Event	Place/Area
January		
10	Workshop	
15	Submit ACBS EOY Report & officers	
28	Chapter business meeting	Zoom
February		
8	Super Bowl Sunday Regional get together	N, S, E, W—Hosts needed!
March		
19 to 22	Sunnyland Chapter Boat Show	Tavares, FL
April		
11	Cape Fear Comm. College Boat Show	Wilmington, NC
10 to 12	Oriental In-water boat show	Oriental, NC
22	Chapter business meeting	Zoom
24 to 25	Lake Hartwell Rendezvous (Blue Ridge)	Hartwell, GA
25	SML Workshop	TBD
May		
2	NC Maritime Museum Boat Show	Beaufort, NC
15 to 16	Lake Greenwood	Blue Ridge Chapter
16	National River Cleanup Day	Regional event: Raleigh, New Bern, Wilmington
June		
6	Chapter workshop	New Bern
19 to 21	Chesapeake Bay ACBS Show	St. Michaels, MD
20	Lake Lure	Lake Lure NC
30	Submit nominations to ACBS	
July		
22	Picnic, run on the lake	???
22	Chapter Board meeting	In-person

HOSTS NEEDED FOR SUPER BOWL SUNDAY REGIONAL GET TOGETHERS
[Email President Alan Hills](#) to volunteer ASAP!

2026 Tentative Calendar of Chapter Events (Continued)

Month/day	Event	Place/Area
August		
15	International Vintage Boating Day. Marina Day in Wilmington	Wilmington
31	ACBS to send Pres Award	
September		
12	Reedville, VA Classic Boat Show	Reedville, VA
11 to 12	Smith Mountain Lake Boat Show	Moneta, VA
13 to 20	ACBS International Show	Port Huron, Michigan
26	Wings, Wheels, and Keels Show	Topping, VA
October		
10	Renew domain name	
16 to 18	Georgetown Show	Georgetown, SC
24	Roanoke Island Maritime Museum boat show at Manteo, NC	Manteo, NC
November		
7	Southport Boat Show	Southport, NC
14	SML Workshop	TBD
21	Chapter Annual Meeting & elections	TBD
December		
12	Chapter Christmas party	

The Board will be discussing this calendar at its January meeting. Rob Weller has submitted some suggestions and we hope if you have any thoughts on activities for the Chapter that you will as well. [Email your ideas](#) to President Alan Hills.



Chapter Christmas Party at the Leiners

Deck the Halls is a traditional Christmas Carol and deck the halls they did. Kevin and Jen's home could have been on the December cover of Better Homes & Gardens—it was that beautiful! And we were grateful to be able to experience it firsthand.

Guest began arriving around 2 PM on a chilly Saturday, December 13th. We munched on appetizers and sipped beverages while catching up on the events of the past year. There were 18 members and co-members that attended. Kevin's mom, Mary, also joined us.

We had a delicious ham dinner. The Leiners provided the main fare with the attendees providing accompanying side dishes and desserts.

At around 4 PM we started the games. The guys had their maritime-themed trivia and

Price Is Right games in one room while the gals played Christmas trivia and Price Is Right in another room. There was a lot of bantering and laughter. Then we gathered together for the Liquid Asset game. We each had brought a wrapped gift (under \$10) and rolled some dice to see what we finally ended up taking home. The liquids ranged from Fireball, to wine, to motor oil, to sweet tasting stuff. We mentioned that we were thinking or retiring this game, but all said they liked it and wanted to continue.

That brought us to the end of the evening with Alan's remarks and chapter awards (see p. 5).

Thanks again to the Leiners for hosting us in their lovely home!



Christmas Party Pictures by Kevin, Judy, and Cindy



Christmas Party Pictures



Christmas Party Pictures



TIME TO RENEW

Our chapter has 24 members with renewal dates in December and January. Please renew your ACBS and chapter membership **NOW!**

2025 Chapter Awards & President's Remarks

Thank you for electing me Chapter President for another two years.

I want to thank those board members who served in 2025: **Jeff Martinson, VP; John Dougherty, Treasurer; Judy, Secretary, Webmaster, and Newsletter Editor; Directors: John Justice, Bill Conley, John Dougherty, Jim Hartman, Kevin Leiner, and Jim Alexander**, who also does a fantastic job as our "membership guy."

I want to thank the current Board members for continuing their leadership positions. In November, we voted to change our bylaws to include two additional director positions. We welcome our two newest directors for 2026:

Jim Dean, whose term will expire on December 31, 2026 and **Rob Weller**, whose term will expire on December 31, 2027.

Tentative Chapter Events for the first quarter of 2026:

- Jan —We are working with John Olsen, who teaches in the boat building program at CFCC to again develop a program to which we plan to invite Sea Scouts.
- Jan 28—Chapter Board meeting via Zoom (to approve budget and 2026 calendar)
- Feb 8 Super Bowl Sunday-afternoon regional get-together (need hosts for North, South, East, and West)

We also want to encourage you to attend the following boat shows that occur in the first half of the year:

- Sunnyland—Tavares, FL March 19-22
- Cape Fear Comm. College—Apr 11th

(tentative)

- NCMM Boat Show in Beaufort—May 2nd
- Blue Ridge Chapter show at Lake Lure, NC—June 20th (tentative)
- Chesapeake Bay ACBS Boat Show—June 19-21 in St. Michaels, MD

Now for our Awards

2024 President's Award when to **Cindy Jordan**. Cindy was travelling last year, so we want to publicly present her with her award.

Honorable Mentions

A few honorable mentions for special service to the chapter go to:

- **Mike Loch**—for hosting the International Vintage Boating Day at the Wilmington Marine Center for the second year in a row.
- **Joe Peacos, Jim Alexander, Rob Weller, Sharon Conley, & Anne Marie Hartman**—for entering the newsletter contests, submitting photos, and writing articles—OK with some prodding.
- **"Hostess with the Mostess" awards to Patsy Blanchard**—for hosting our March workshop and feeding us a wonderful lunch. **Alice Dean**—for hosting a regional meeting at their beach house. **Molly Banta**—for hosting a regional meeting at their home in February. **Cindy Jordan**—for opening her family home in Bath to the chapter in May.

Special Recognitions

While there are a number of chapter members who contributed in many ways, including just showing up for events, we have a few who deserve special recognition.

2025 Chapter Awards (continued)

John Justice and Neal Keeter, who have worked so diligently on spreading deceased member Bill Baker's ashes—the selling of tools and equipment in Bill's workshop to benefit our chapter. Please come up, John and Neal.

Eileen Lettick—for her organizational skills in pulling off the Tar-Pamlico River clean-up when Judy fell ill. Please come up, Eileen.

Larry & Eileen Lettick—for organizing and hosting the Chapter Boat show at Cypress Landing Yacht Club. Please come up, Larry & Eileen.

John Olsen—for hosting the chapter workshop at CFCC in January and for organizing the youth judging at the boat show. He helped spark the interest of youth in antique & classic boats at both the CFCC workshop (Sea Scout Ship 244 Dawn Treader in Cary) and the Royal Rangers at the boat show.

ACBS Broken Gunwale Award

Next up is the ACBS Broken Gunwale Award to the Chapter for the misadventures on the poker run. (Hold up the trophy) In case you did not know, there is a perpetual ACBS Broken Gunwale Award trophy at ACBS Headquarters. Our chapter's name will be added to it. My name is already there for my Lake James misadventure several years ago. Additional names we added to this plaque include: Kevin Leiner, Larry Lettick, and Bill Conley—all of whom had issues and contributed to the story that won us this "prestigious" award. We'll ask John Justice to display this ACBS trophy at the Piglet.

Broken Cable

That goes to **Kevin Leiner**, for his poker run underwater entanglement resulting in significant damage to his boat's running gear.

A close second goes to Larry Lettick for that same event, but Larry's incident involved a trailer and tire—landside.

And another close second goes to Bill Conley, who once again had performance issues with Blue Tango.

And last, but certainly not least, we have the President's Award.

President's Award

Which I present to **Rob Weller**. Come on up, Rob. Rob...Initiated contact and took point with the Denver Sea Scout Ship, including boat rides on IVBD. Actively took the lead in organizing outings for ACBS members in the Lake Norman area. Actively participated in chapter events, given the long distance he has to drive from the Lake Norman area. Hosted a regional gathering at his home in November. And he offers ideas to help make our chapter even better.

Closing Remarks

In 2026, a committee comprised of John Justice, Bill Conley, Jim Alexander, and I will consider how our chapter might best fulfill Bill Baker's wishes for funds from his estate to be used to further the preservation of skills needed to work on antique and classic boats.

We thank the Leiners for hosting this year. Thanks for supporting the chapter and for showing up at the various events during the year.

Looking forward to having even more fun in 2026!

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: John Dahl (Cornelius, NC)

Renewed: Jim Alexander (Chapel Hill), Bob Banta (Raleigh), Alan Frederick (Wirtz, VA), Chuck Hill (Winnsboro, SC), Jon Homeister (Raleigh), John Peck (New Bern), David Stowe (Farmville).

Welcome!

Total Membership: 73

NCC&P Primary Chapter: 61

Not Primary Chapter: 12

**NC Coastal & Piedmont
Chapter of the ACBS**

<https://www.vintageboat.org/>

President:

Alan Hills (term ends 2027)

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President@vintageboat.org

Vice-President:

Jeff Martinson (term ends 2026)

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Vice-President@vintageboat.org

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Judy Hills (term ends 2027)

252-670-1913

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John Dougherty (Term ends 2026)

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Treasurer@vintageboat.org

2025 Directors:

[Jim Alexander](#) (2027)

[Bill Conley](#) (2027)

[Jim Hartman](#) (2026)

[John Justice](#) (2027)

Kevin Leiner (2026)

Jim Dean (2026)

Rob Weller (2027)

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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:

January

28 Chapter Board Zoom Meeting

February

8 Super Bowl Sunday Regional Get Together (need hosts)

March

19-22 Sunnyland Show in Tavares, FL

April

22 Chapter Board Zoom Meeting

24-25 Blue Ridge Chapter Lake Hartwell Rendezvous (tentative)

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](#).