

Messing About In Boats

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

June 2020

Hello Fellow Members,

Well, here we are another month into this mess. I sincerely hope that everyone is doing alright and carrying on in a safe manner. COVID-19 has had a ruinous effect on so much of our lifestyles and habits. Our hobby is no exception. All over the country (and world) we have seen one after another event cancelled or postponed. When you consider the fact that the entirety of professional sports has been shut down, our cancelled boat shows and workshops don't seem like much, but these

events play a major role in our organization. Hopefully we will be able to get back to doing what we so enjoy in the near future.

Holding that thought, we do have a tour of Hyco Lake and cook-out scheduled for Saturday, June 27th to be hosted by Lonnie and Carol Sieck. There is an article in the newsletter detailing this outing and I hope we get a nice turnout for this.

I would like to thank those who have submitted articles on your boat names. It's nice

to have a small backlog of articles to present. That said, we can still use some more, so why not take a few minutes and share your story with our members. And remember to send a photo of the boat, preferably with the name showing.

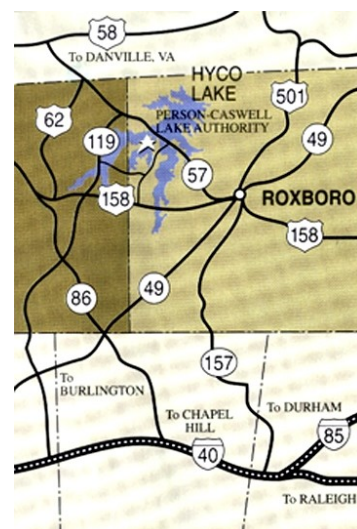
Alrighty then, y'all hang in there and I hope to see a bunch of you at Hyco Lake later this month.

Best regards,

Alan

HYCO LAKE "GET 'EM WET" EVENT June 27, 2020

Our next chapter activity will be a tour of Hyco Lake on June 27th hosted by Lonnie and Carol Sieck. Lonnie suggests we get an early start (9:00 AM) to avoid the crowd at the ramp. The plan is to launch our boats, tour the lake, pull the boats and then have a cookout. There are still a few details to be worked out yet and I will relay them to you as soon as they are in place. Please consider attending what will be our first on-water activity of the year. Personally, I always enjoy boating on a body of water I have not been on, so I am looking forward to that and seeing some faces (and boats!) that I haven't seen in a while. [Click here](#) to view info on the lake.



"Cure All" by Jon Homeister

.After Barnacle (see the May newsletter) I didn't own another boat for a bit over 10 years, just used the Whaler, my brother's Sea Ray, and then his fancy new, but un-named 22 foot Chris Craft Launch. I finally took the plunge in the early 2000s and purchased an 18ft 1960 Chris Craft Continental. It had been mostly restored, including a refinish, and the transom was bare. It was a boat that needed a name.

I thought about it for a while. We are all familiar with the expenses of boating. I was fresh out of residency, starting a new life with my new bride, two dogs and one (at the time) kid. Most of what used to be my savings was now in the boat, so I contemplated the name "Mahogany Wallet." It fit very well, but was long enough to be expensive in gold leaf. Besides, water and boats were comfort-

ing to me, I'd been around them all my life. That name created too much tension for me. Upon realizing this, and the comfort, relaxation, and joy that boating brings to me, the name for her became clear.

For me, heading out on the boat is the cure for all the ills of the day. Its name would be "Cure All." After settling on the name I realized it came with a bonus. Michelle and I are physicians. Neither of us claim we can cure all ailments, but the name is, secondarily, a play on our professions. The boat certainly lives up to her name. She affords some wonderful rejuvenating time with family, friends, and pets, away from the stressors of life.



A Series of Unfortunate Events (with apologies to Lemony Snicket) by Alan Hills

Alright gang, I'm putting this out here because I am sure there is a little-known rule in our by-laws that states the same guy CAN'T get the Broken Cable award two years running. Have you ever had a problem with your boat and it appeared to be something you thought would be a pretty easy fix and then it just took on a life of its own?

Hunky Dory, our classic 22' 1974 Chris Craft dory, has been for the most part pretty trouble-free since we did a major fix-up on her a few years back. I did start to notice a slight bit of coolant in the bilge but I never had to add any. Well, I decided to check on this and traced it back to the fresh water cooling heat exchanger. I made a couple of inquiries regarding how to fix this and didn't particularly like what I was hearing (big \$s) so I figured, why not try some radiator stop-leak—It's cheap and easy and a good first stab at fixing this.

I did a little research on line and bought a highly-rated product to throw in there. The instructions said to add the stuff, bring the engine up to operating temperature and run for a specified period of time. Easy-peasy. After starting the engine and watching the temp gauge slowly rise, I smelled gasoline. I quickly looked the engine over and discovered a little pool of gas on the intake mani-

fold. I shut her down immediately and found that the fuel inlet on the carburetor was the cause.

I tightened the fuel inlet up some and restarted the engine. Still leaking. Pulled the carb and found that the carb housing threads were stripped where the fuel line adapter goes in. Only way to fix that is to replace the housing. Luckily, John Justice had a "pile" of old carbs of the same type and gave me a donor. (Another member benefit!)

Well, I replaced the carb housing and cranked her up in the driveway and no more leak. Yea! We had some family visiting from Clayton and they wanted a boat ride, which means swimming, tubing and kneeboarding. After running around a bit, we anchored in the Broad Creek off the Neuse River for a swim.

When it was time to go, I noticed that the engine didn't crank up as quickly as usual. We cruised to the inner harbor off of Northwest Creek to see how the Hurricane Florence recovery was doing in Fairfield Harbor and idled around for about 30 minutes. Heading back to the landing, I found that we were not able to get over 2000 RPM. This was starting to get really weird!

After we got the boat back on the trailer, my brain was trying to process the

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A Series of Unfortunate Events (with apologies to Lemony Snicket)

cause of these symptoms. The fuel filter was a couple of years old so I changed it and I decided to check the batteries.

Now, I haven't really paid much attention to them; they came with the boat and always worked fine. I took the lids off of the boxes and checked the date thingy on them—they were from 2013 seven-years old. Boom, there's my problem!

I put in new batteries (to the tune of \$220) and she cranked up just like old times. We had other family members visit right after that and they also wanted boat ride. We launched the boat and took a 25-mile trip up the Neuse River and back. We had no problem getting up to full throttle, so that was a relief.

During the run, I saw that the volt gauge wasn't pointing in its usual position. I found it kind of hard to read that gauge because it only has the numbers 8, 13, and 18 on it with a bunch of oddly spaced lines in between that are diffi-

cult to quantify, but it was hanging around 13 or so. I remembered that the GPS gives a voltage readout and it showed 12.4 volts when running. Not charging.

When we got back, I checked the voltage at the alternator and it was also 12.4. So, the next working day, it was down to Harker's Island to Basic Power Marine for a new alternator (another \$130). Got home, painted it up and installed it. Started the engine up and had all kinds of volts...I still can't tell exactly how much, but it was way over 13.

Epilogue: My seven-year-old batteries probably could have gotten me by a little longer had I checked the alternator first, but they were, as they say, due. We'll see what happens next time out. So after spending a total of \$380 and countless hours...I still have the #%&* coolant leak!



BOATING FUNNIES

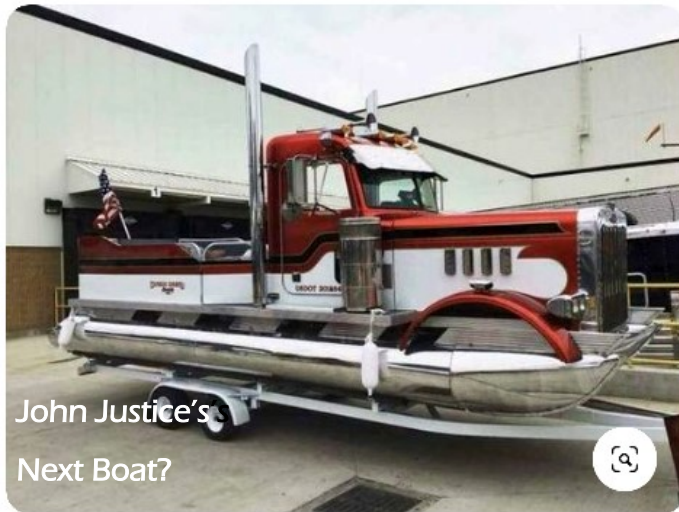
Oh I must go down to the sea again
To sail o'er the wind and the surf
Though I'm not all that keen
If you see what I mean
But I must get my money's worth.
(Des Sleightholme)

"To the question, "When were your spirits
at their loest ebb?"

the obvious answer seemed to be.

"When the gin gave out.

(Sir Francis Chichester)



John Justice's
Next Boat?

What's the difference
between a lawyer and a
dock line?

- One should be whipped at both ends:
- The other keeps your boat tied to the dock.



Just for Fun in 2020: How Did Your Boat Get Its Name?

ACBS Chapter members' inquiring minds want to know! How did the boat get its name? It does not have to be a boat you currently own. It can also be a boat your family once owned. Every boat name has a back story. Submit yours by the 25th of each month.

Here is what we are hoping you'll provide: 1) Name of the boat; 2) Owned by; 3) Boat description; 4) Boat history; 5) How the boat got its name; and 6) Photo of the boat. Can't wait to see what you submit!



Last month's submission from Jon Homeister

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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: Many events have either been cancelled or rescheduled due to the coronavirus.

6/19-20 St. Michaels, MD boat show **CANCELLED**

6/27 "Let's Get'em Wet" at Hyko Lake in Roxboro

7/29 Chapter Business Meeting at Trali in Morrisville at 6:30 PM

8/22 Workshop at Piglet (John Justice's place) in Pittsboro

9/18-19 Smith Mountain Lake Boat Show **Cancelled for 2020**

9/14-19 ACBS International Show Coeur d'Alene, ID

9/25-27 Oriental Boat Show & Nautical Flea Market

9/26 Poker Fun Run at Lake Gaston

10/17 NCMM Wooden Boat Show in Beaufort, NC at Gallants Channel location

Our Chapter Secretary Garfield Karpiak has dropped his membership as he is moving to the mountains. We need someone to fill this position. If you can help, contact President Alan Hills. Thanks for considering this opportunity to be of service.

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](#).