



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

# Messing About In Boats

## Monthly newsletter

NC Coastal & Piedmont  
Chapter of ACBS

June 2026



Hello Fellow members,

June already? Where has the time gone?? It's been a very busy year in the Hills household. Several milestones are upon us with a granddaughter getting married, our first great grandchild due this month and our grandson finally over his football injuries and able to resume his place on the UNC Pembroke team. My Jersey Speed Skiff project is moving along slowly and I've kind of given up on setting a launch date. All I can say is it will be done when it's done. Enough of my personal news.

Due to the aforementioned wedding, I am writing this a bit earlier than I usually do so I can't report on the Cape Fear Community College show on the 30th, but our chapter was well represented at the NC Maritime museum show and we mostly had a great time in spite of the less-than-ideal weather; see article in the newsletter.

We are getting closer to receiving the funds for the Bill Baker Memorial Scholarship. Thanks to John Justice, Jim Alexander and Bill Conley for getting us to the point where we can start making the funds available to educational programs that are in line with Bill's wishes. Our chapter has also provided funding for a new drill press for the Maritime Museum with the monies taken in by the sale of Bill's tools. This item will bear a plaque honoring Bill's memory.



There will be several events you might consider attending, highlighted by the Chesapeake Bay chapter show in St. Michaels, MD. If you have never attended, I highly recommend going. Also, the newsletter may be a little late. Our editor has gotten a new computer and she has a software issue that involves her publishing program. We're hoping it gets resolved quickly.

That's all I have for now and I do hope y'all can do some fun boat activities in whatever form that it takes.

Yours in classic boating,

**Alan Hills, President**



## NC Maritime Museum 50th Wooden Boat Show at Beaufort

2026 marked the 50th year of the show and a grand celebration was planned. But sometimes the best laid plans of mice and men get thrown a curve. In this case, it was the weather. We had been watching the forecast with bated breath, hoping for a miraculous change, but it remained “windy and rainy” As a result, there were only 20 or so boats lining Front Street, and one in the water.

Despite the forecast, we were granted a misty morning and were able to set up and engage the public for a couple of hours before a steady rain set in. We were fortunate to have a space in the watercraft center for our table, out of the wind and rain. I was very pleased with our chapter’s attendance with seven boats in the show. John Peck, John Dougherty, Joe Peacos, Jim Hartman, Rob Weller, Julian Arrington and myself displaying. Also, Denny Cole had a fabulous toy outboard motor display in the museum exhibition hall. We also had the following members present: Leif Eriksson, Austin Lewis, Jim Dean, Steve Weaver, and Bill and Sharon Conley. Thanks to all that attended.

Many of us felt that the highlight of the show was the US Marine Corps Band from Air Station

Cherry Point. They put on a marvelous show in the watercraft center and segued the program to the awards ceremony and buffet. Speaking of awards, three of our members took home some hardware: Julian Arrington for best outboard power, Jim Hartman for best inboard power and Rob Weller for captain’s choice AND best inboard classic power.

After some great food and drink, we were blessed to have the rain halt long enough for us to hook up our trailers and head out. One other takeaway from the show had Rob Weller losing a wheel from his trailer on his way home due to loose lugs, so..... check yours before any long hauls. Rob hopes that the liberated wheel didn’t cause another motorist any harm!



More photos on next page

# Show Photos by Joe Pecos, Anne Marie Hartman,



## The Wooden Barbour Boat is Back in the NCMM at Beaufort

The North Carolina Maritime Museum (NCMM) in Beaufort officially reopened on February 21, 2026, following a yearlong closure for a \$1.8 million HVAC overhaul. The museum at 315 Front Street features refreshed galleries and two new exhibits.

**"North Carolina's Road to Revolution":** Highlights the state's role in maritime commerce and the American Revolution.

**Coastal Recreation Exhibit:** Explores the history and evolution of coastal leisure and tourism in North Carolina. "Swell Times," explores the history of recreation along the coast, specifically on the water.

**Refreshed Displays:** Returning favorites like the Harvey W. Smith Watercraft Center and items from the *Queen Anne's Revenge* have been reinstalled with updated interpretive materials.

And the Barbour Boat is back! Check it out!



## Funds for New Planer for Harvey W. Smith Watercraft Center

The NC Coastal & Piedmont Chapter of the Antique & Classic Boat Society, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, is happy to present the Friends of NCMM with \$1,000 designated to purchase a new drill press and associated attachments and supplies for the Harvey W. Smith Watercraft Center. This donation is in honor of one of our deceased members, Bill Baker. We ask that a plaque with his name on it, be placed on the equipment.

It is our distinct pleasure to collaborate with the Friends of NCMM/Beaufort on this and future endeavors.

Photo: President Alan Hills on Right presenting the check to Grant Carraway, NCMM Watercraft center manager.





## NCMM Wooden Boat Building Course by John Dougherty

John (our Treasurer) and Jim (John's brother) Dougherty recently got their feet wet learning the basics of wooden boat building. Jim traveled from homeport St. Augustine, FL and one other participant, formerly of RDU, came all the way from his current retirement home in Ecuador to attend May 9-10, 2026 course in Beaufort, NC.

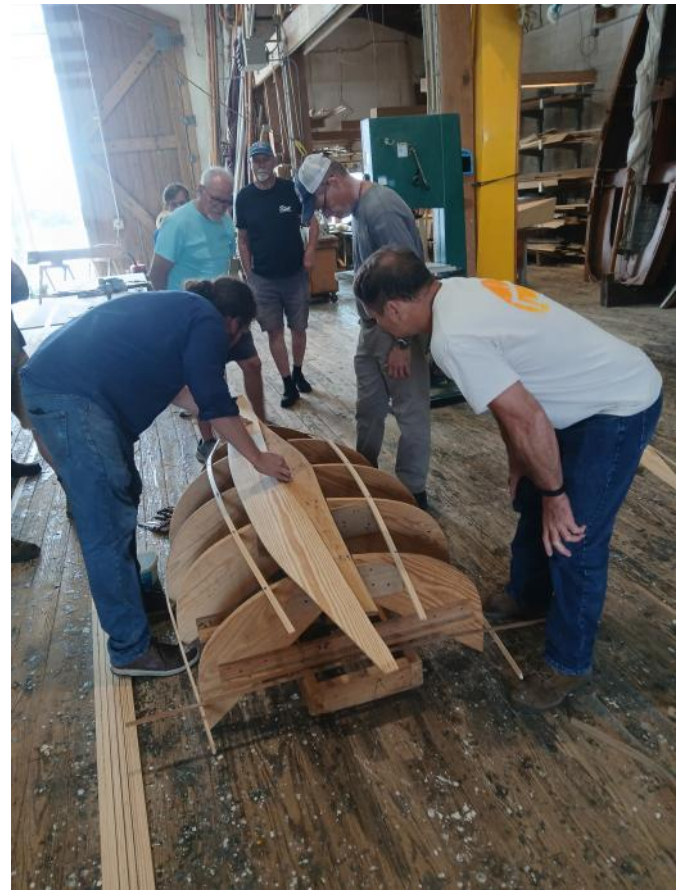
The course included a broad overview of historical vessel design and construction including rafts, dugouts, and skin on frame up to present planking methods. It is noteworthy that many of the methods used today were perfected well over 1,000 years ago (e.g., long sea voyages by the Vikings).

An overview of lofting, spiling and fitting planks to a temporary "mold" (also mould) was part of the curriculum. For the author, and even others, a temporary or even longer, sense of bewilderment was part of the charm of lofting and fitting the garboard plank. Definitely an art and science to gain proficiency in that department!

Day 2 included hands on construction of two small stitch and glue boats. A sense of accomplishment by the group was part of the fun. Instructor and boat builder Jeff O'Neill is on staff at NCMM and did a first rate job of sharing his expertise.

The waterfront setting provided an inspiring view of passing watercraft of every description from the shop floor. The watercraft center takes on a variety of restoration projects throughout the year. Volunteers of different skill levels are welcome. Some of our chapter members hope to be able to take part as volunteers in future.

In addition to the nearby seaside park and restaurant options during breaks, a number of participants absorbed local flavor by lunching at the salty but always entertaining Royal James Café and dive bar in beautiful downtown Beaufort.



More pictures on next page

# Pictures by John Dougherty—NCMM Boat Building Course



## Showing Off at the Great Trent River Raft Race in New Bern

VP Jeff Martinson suggested using existing on-water events for boats in our chapter to see and be seen. Here is an opportunity in New Bern for Saturday, June 6th. This is the annual Great Trent River Raft Race. Vessels entering the race (NOT OUR BOATS) will launch from Union Point Park (downtown at confluence of the Trent and Neuse Rivers) with four races being held between 11 AM and 2 PM.

If you would like to dunk your boat, take a run on the river, watch some of the race, and eat a nice lunch at a waterfront restaurant, do join us! We plan to launch at 10 AM at River Bend Marina (next to the Saltwater Grill at 1 Marina Drive). There is a \$5 cash launch fee. We chose this location to avoid boat ramp traffic. We'll ride up to the race site, cruise around there for a while, and then head back around 12 or 12:30 PM for lunch at the Saltwater Grill.

This should be a relaxing, fun, day!



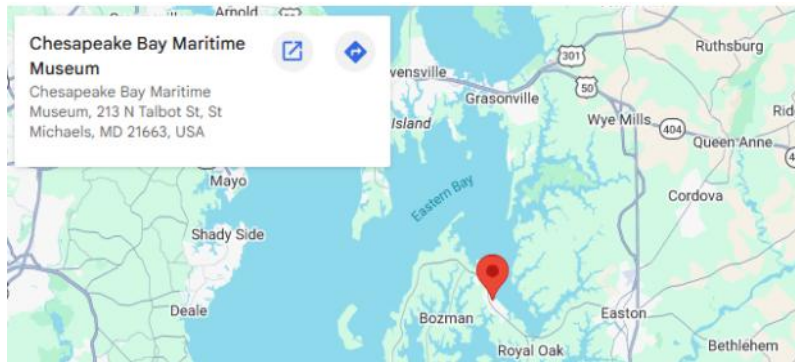
## SCUTTLEBUTT

*noun* \ˈskə-tər-l-,bət-\

Rumor or informal talk, especially about the private affairs of others; gossip.

# 38th Annual Antique & Classic Boat Festival & Coastal Arts Fair St. Michaels, MD June 19 to 21, 2026

[Click here](#) for details and to buy tickets to attend. [Click here](#) to register a boat.



## June Contest—What is This? Don't Know, Make Something Up!

Hint: This might have come off a ship similar to the Quen Anne's Revenge and it was likely that only the senior crew were allowed to use it. Email your guess to [editor Judy Hills](mailto:editor@judyhills.com).



## ACBS REMINDERS

### New 2026 Judging Standards.

The ACBS Judging Committee has just posted the 2026 Judging Handbook and Judging Score Sheet Instructions. If you are entering your boat to be judged in any ACBS Chapter Show, be sure to reference these new standards. They are good information when restoring a boat as well.

Details & pictures are needed for your online profile of your boats & motors.

This information can come in handy should a co-member need to sell because the member is unable to do so. It is also useful to other members seeking assistance with their project boats as well as to its next owner. **CHECK YOUR LISTING NOW** and add the missing photos and information. And remember to update as the information or ownership changes.

## 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:

Renewed: Julian Arrington (Beaufort, NC), Stuart Benson (Wilmington, NC), Bill Conley (Raleigh, NC), Jim Dean (Wilmington, NC), Colin Fegeley (Durham, NC), Franklin Harden (Semora, NC), Alan Hills (New Bern, NC), Jared Smith (Hampstead, NC)

*Welcome!*

Total Membership: 70

NCC&P Primary Chapter: 56

Not Primary Chapter: 14

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[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:

### June

6 Great Trent River Raft Race—New Bern—Put in at River Bend, cruise around Union Point Park during race, then late lunch at Saltwater Grill, and pull out there.

11-13 8th annual T-Ville Vintage Power Show. Free admission. Donation accepted. 367 Academy Dr. Thomasville, NC anything antique with a motor! Lots to see especially for kids of all ages.  
<https://www.facebook.com/tvillevintagepowershow/>

19-21 [Chesapeake Bay ACBS Show](#) at St. Michaels, MD

### July

22 Picnic, Chapter Board meeting, run on Jordan Lake

### August

15 International Vintage Boating Day—get out there on the water!

### September

13-20 ACBS Vintage Boat Week in Port Huron, MI

#### 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.](#)