



Messing About In Boats

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

March 2021

Hello Fellow Members,

As the spring of the year approaches, we are starting to see rays of hope in the managing of the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of us have been vaccinated or will be soon and some of the restrictions have been eased. All of this news unfortunately is too little, too late, for the major shows that were forced to cancel this year; Sunnyland, Chesapeake Bay, NC Maritime Museum and Cape Fear CC to name a few. The good news is that the door for chapter activities has opened a bit wider and I'm hoping for higher turnouts this year.

A representative of the Thomasville Vintage Power show reached out to me recently and invited our club to attend their show in June. Our conversation went something like "old guys, old cars, old boats and old tractors have a commonality that appeals to folks who appreciate those sorts of things." I think this is a wonderful opportunity for us to display our boats in an environment where they

usually wouldn't be shown and give us a chance to promote the hobby and the ACBS. Details later in the newsletter.

Jim Alexander has been doing great work on the membership front. As some of you already know, Jim has been reaching out to new and renewing members. One very positive side effect of this is we are seeing some feedback from those he emails, which is another sign that this communication with members is helping to keep them engaged in club business. The story and photos from Keith Colonna were submitted as a direct result of Jim's effort.

Some of you may recall that a group of our chapter members volunteered to help repair the bath house at Blackbeard Sailing club in New Bern following Hurricane Florence in 2018. This bit of community service was much appreciated as that facility was faced with a monumental rebuilding task.

Another opportunity to be of service has been brought to my attention and maybe a few of you might find this a fun little project to work on in your shop. We have some Little Free Libraries here that are in need of replacement...badly. There is an article in the newsletter about this and the construction method outlined is not necessarily the only way to do it. What is important is that the little structures resist deterioration and keep the contents dry. I am going to build one and look forward to working on something different that MAKES a difference.

There is also a story about a road trip I took this month with Joe Peacos, resident Barbour boat aficionado, to check out a couple of North Carolina built boats a lady owned that her deceased husband had left behind. They

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are worthy candidates if you are looking for a manageable project and need new homes.

I noticed today on the ACBS weekly web watch that a new YouTube channel called "Mahogany and Chrome" was featured. I thought it was well done and I subscribed to it. Check it out.

Thanks to those chapter members who paid dues last month: Charles Mansfield, Jim Moores, NC Maritime Museum, Thomas Williams, Bradley Hedrick, Cindy Jordan, Thomas Tilley, and Jim McDonald.

Lastly, the response to my request for articles has fallen on deaf ears. The volunteer model

doesn't work. I appealed to VP Jeff Martinson to get the ball rolling here and he kindly submitted an interesting story. Soooo...I am going to be personally contacting a random member (NOT one of the usual suspects) to contribute something for the newsletter. I will answer any questions you might have and guide you if necessary. I hope y'all step up and help us out with this. Who knows, there may be a writer living there inside you just looking for an outlet!

Best regards,

Alan

Show Your Antique or Vintage Boat at a Tractor Show???

OK, we have not lost our minds. In 2020 we explored the possibility of displaying our boats at vintage car shows to give us some exposure and possibly gain some new members. Actually several of our members have old cars as well as old boats—and some even have old tractors. And believe it or not member Robert Blanchard even has a couple of Conestoga wagons. It makes sense that if you like one old thing, you might also like another.

Our chapter has been invited to participate in a Tractor Show in Thomasville, NC June 11-12. We thought some of you might be ready to get out of the house and do something besides just work on your boat. Even a boat that is not show-ready is a conversation starter. We encourage you to consider it. Contact Ben Rhoades for details—they even have accommodations for those needing them. (see below)

FARM COLLECTOR SHOW DIRECTORY



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3rd Annual Carolina Christian Academy T-Ville Vintage Power Show

June 11-12
Thomasville, NC

Directions/Event Address
Directions: Carolina Christian Academy, 367 Academy Dr., zip code 27360.

Contact:
Ben Rhoades
336-247-0936
Facebook: T-ville Vintage Power Show



The Road Trip to Evaluate a Find by Alan Hills

Judy and I have been members of Blackbeard Sailing Club here in New Bern for 10 years or so. This is no yacht club with uniforms and staff, but rather a “working man’s” club where most of the maintenance and repairs are done by the members. Over time, one gets to not only know everybody else, but you learn of the special talents they possess.

One of fellows that I feel kinship with as far as our likes go is “Special Ed”. We both like hot rods and just about anything that uses gasoline, including outboard motors. We help each other out by either supplying parts, information or mechanical aid for our different projects.

Ed knows that I am involved in ACBS and came to me one day asking if I could help out a widow friend of a friend who was left with a warehouse full of her husband’s treasures, which included a 1951 16’ Simmons Sea Skiff and a 1961 Barbour Silver Clipper. As a part of the ACBS mission is to save or try to find new homes for old boats, I told him I would speak with her and see if I could help her sell them. After a pleasant conversation, I was told how her husband had spent considerable time and money (sound familiar?) on these craft and that they have been in warehouse storage in Kenly, NC, for the past 15 years. I agreed to look at the boats and use what resources I had available to help her but I would not act as a broker, salesman, go-between or any other such agent, which she understood.

A couple of weeks later Barbour boat expert Joe Peacos and I headed to Kenly to see what they had. We were met at the warehouse by a family friend of the owner and several members of the local fire department (which was right across the street). We were happy for the help because the boats were not readily viewable and they helped get them close to the door to let some light shine on them. The warehouse had no working lights so this was all we could do.

We checked out the Barbour first and found it to be in pretty fair condition. It sat on a vintage roller trailer that was properly adjusted. It appeared to have no hook in the bottom. All the hardware, minus the logos, appeared to be present. One factor that limited the ability to assess the true condition of this boat was the “protective” layer of dust that had accumulated on all of the horizontal surfaces, but I didn’t see any egregious defects. We didn’t see any of the cushions for the seats.

The Simmons sat on a galvanized trailer and looked pretty nice. It appeared to have benefitted from being covered because aside from a few leaves inside, it was relatively clean. It was built as a steering wheel forward model but the wheel was gone, hole patched, and set up for outboard motor with tiller steering. For those of you who are not familiar, these craft were, and still are, very popular in the Wilmington, NC area. The year of manufacture would indicate that this is most likely an original T. N. Simmons built boat but I personally cannot confirm that.

I feel that either of these boats would worthwhile projects for anyone interested, but one should arrange for their own evaluation. The owner is Susan Watson and she is looking for \$2,000 for the Barbour and \$3,500 for the Simmons. The Simmons is titled, the Barbour comes with bill of sale only. Neither boat has a motor. If you or anyone you know are interested in finding a new home for either of these worthy craft, you can reach Susan via email at sw55956@gmail.com

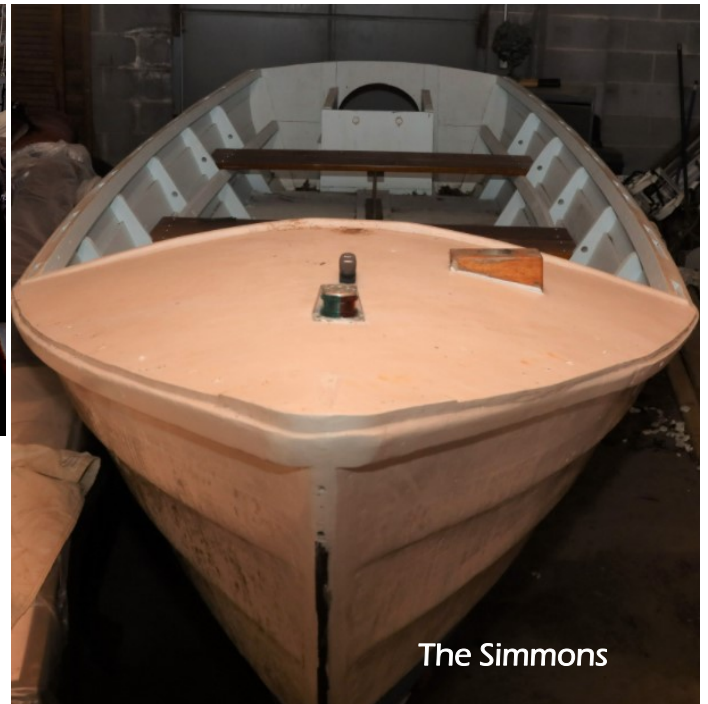
(Pictures by Joe Peacos pp. 4-5)



The Barbour



Alan Hills (L) & Joe Peacos (R)



NC Coastal & Piedmont Chapter of the Antique & Classic Boat Society
 Mr. Kevin Leiner
 1505 Wildhurst Ln
 Wake Forest, NC 27587-5884



Dear Mr. Leiner,

As we begin an exciting new year filled with possibility, we would like to take a moment to reflect on your generosity and share the impact you have had on our students. **Last year was one of the most challenging for CFCC's students, but our generous donor family stepped up, offering hope for a brighter day.** We thank you, but more importantly, our students thank you for your kindness last year...

*I work a part time job in order to support myself and my family members, alongside attending school. Despite working, I still rely on outside assistance in order to pay tuition and afford supplies. **Donors like you help me pursue my education with less stress about how I can continue to afford to attend.***

- Zoey Batson

*I have been diagnosed with a mental disability since 1993 which has caused a lot of challenges in my life. Despite these challenges I continue my goal to finish school. I am sure you can imagine the hardship of such a task. Your generous donation is coming at just the right time because it has allowed me to continue preserving on completing my degree. **Living with an income well below the poverty line and going to school is challenging but not impossible, thanks to you.***

- Lacy Jervay Tate

*Paying for college has proven to be very hard, as my family does not have enough money to pay. **Generous contributions such as the one you have provided are helping keep my education accessible, and inspiring my future.** Currently I plan on attending two years at CFCC and then transfer to NC State to pursue industrial design with a minor in finance. It is a long road, but your generosity has put my dreams in my reach! I cannot thank you enough for your kindness and support, and I will never forget your contribution to my education.*

- Collin E. Lawrence

There are hundreds of students, just like Zoe, Lacy, and Collin, whose lives were deeply impacted by incredible benefactors like you last year. Students who thought their college dreams were over now have a chance to work hard and dream big, thanks to your thoughtfulness and care.

Your CFCC Foundation is so grateful for your support last year, totaling \$1500.

We hope our words of gratitude bring some light to your day. You have certainly brought an abundance of light to the CFCC Foundation and to those students we serve, Mr. Leiner.

With admiration,

Shane Fernando
 Vice President of Advancement and the Arts
 910.362.7101

Logan Thompson
 Director of Philanthropy
 910.362.7866

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 \$0 in goods or services were received in exchange for your contributions in 2020, along with our most sincere gratitude.

President Hills and Treasurer Leiner Partner in Ensign Sailboat

One of the many benefits of ACBS and Chapter membership is the opportunity to connect with like-minded people. Chapter have many interests related to boating. It is not just all about classic and antique motorboats, it is also about sailboats. Alan and Kevin are kindred spirits when it comes to love of sailing.

Recently they got to talking about a joint venture. Alan had just sold his 26-foot Alberg-designed Pearson Commander was on the hunt for another boat. Kevin was also looking for a sailboat that he and his family could do short cruises on. To have a boat of that size would mean that a slip would be needed, so Alan introduced Kevin to Blackbeard Sailing Club (BSC)—a DIY member-only club with a very nice facility on Broad Creek, just off the Neuse River.

In the process they discovered that a BSC member was selling his Alberg-designed 22-foot Pearson Ensign sailboat and after doing their due diligence, Kevin and Alan purchased the boat and are now in the process of doing some needed maintenance and upgrades. The boat had been used for racing, so they are converting it to a cruiser.

We use this story to illustrate how it is possible to make really great friends and partners when you engage in the chapter activities. Those who do so truly get their money's worth!



An Ensign underway

**Throw off the bowlines,
Sail away from the safe harbor,
Catch the trade winds in your sails,
Explore. Dream. Discover.**

Mark Twain



Member Keith Colonna Loves Old Boats & Old Cars

I'm a member of four ACBS chapters (and 11 other special interest clubs).

At 68 years young, I'm still working, and enjoying my rental property (manage & maintain) business day job a lot less than I used to. My attention has turned to my car collection of nine Lincolns built between 1940 and 1998.

I've advertised some of my "project" collector boats for sale ([click here](#) to view listings) and have sold at least one. It would be nice for someone to adopt them!

Below is a photo of my flagship, the 1955 42' Chris Craft Corvette....I only get it out perhaps six times a year, just to burn up 225 gals of fuel before it goes bad.

This keeps me busy.

I got my first convertible just three years ago and it's still under restoration. Photo below. And my favorite 1956 red Continental Mark II also pictured below.

Comment by Jim Alexander: I'm also finding that I'm not enjoying some things as much as I use to. Best to move toward what still works. The Lincolns sound like fun. I'm in love with the cars of the 50's. Dad has all the classic Chevys '55, '56, '57, '58, '60, '61. Took me seven years to talk my mother into a convertible... Good luck with transitioning to cars - maybe keep a boat or two for summertime.



WE NEED YOUR HELP

This community project does not involve a boat or an engine, but it does require carpentry and glassing skills which we know most of you have. Several years ago, Shop Class in New Bern built three Little Free Libraries (LFL) which are currently located in parks in the New Bern area. The material and labor were all donated. Judy Hills is with the Friends of the New Bern Library and the Friends keep the LFLs stocked with donated books.

Since the initial installation the weather has taken its toll on the LFLs—both on the paint and on the wood. The cute scenes and characters painted on them by local artists are flaking off. During the last sustained rain event, many books got wet and had to be discarded because of doors that do not seal properly due to design and warping. There have been a number of issues which Alan Hills has aptly managed up to now, but they have reached the point where they need to be replaced with ones constructed out of marine plywood, sealed with epoxy and glassed for durability before being painted.

Alan and Judy are asking for the following assistance:

- Donations of marine plywood (or comparable), epoxy, fiberglass and exterior paint
- Individuals with carpentry skills
- Individuals with glassing skills
- Individuals with painting skills.

Pictured to the right are two LFLs that are most in need of replacement. These pictures were taken when they were new. These LFLs are heavily used by the community and we would love to have your help to be able to continue to offer this service. [Email](#) Alan if you can assist in some way. Thanks for considering this request!



A Brawler, a Breakdown, and Best Boat Trip Ever—A Tall Tale by Jeff Martinson

One hot, muggy weekday afternoon not too long ago, I decided to take my three daughters out for a quick trip to the lake for a cruise and cool off. At that point we were making similar trips about every other week or so, and the process was reasonably worked out to get us all going without too much drama. Mostly that involved my kids (probably 8, 8, and 10 at the time) putting their own bathing suits on and me doing everything else. Back in those days, if nobody cried, threw a punch or curled into fetal position the exercise was considered a success – adults included.

So we arrived at Falls Lake without a great deal of difficulty and launched our 1958 Thompson Sea Lancer for what “we thought” would be a short, wet hour or two of high speed thrills and chills. We had our inflatable tow behind – called “the brawler”, our swim gear, a little water and lots of enthusiasm for what lay ahead. Everything starting off fine, the 1960’s Mercury 700 FGS outboard put us at our max speed of about 30 mph without a hiccup and we twisted our way through the fun channels and did donuts in the little alcoves that make Falls Lake so much fun. I usually like to “wring it out” at first – isn’t that therapy for engines, just floor it and “clear the junk out”? – well, mostly because it’s fun, but also to get the kids and myself used to the sounds and feels of the boat before we start “doing something” like using the brawler.

About 10 minutes into that process, and thoroughly removed from the ramp area the engine sputtered and quit. Now, this story isn’t about engine problems, but anybody who knows me knows I’m not a mechanic. I did have enough sense to check the gas (been there, done that) and a few other things I could think of or had the ability to do while underway, but long

story short we were dead in the water. Thankfully, we weren’t off a reef or an inlet, it wasn’t busy on the lake, and we had some water and a phone, so we we’re going to die or be lost forever. But – and worst of all – remember the crying, thrown punches and fetal positions I mentioned earlier? – I did have the emotional well-being of the four souls aboard to consider. What would the kids do? How would we cool off? And what would my WIFE say? And, finally, since it wasn’t busy – how were we going get home? (Insert ad for BoatUS here.) Well, I didn’t have tow insurance, so there was no choice but to start paddling back to the ramp, about two miles away.

Paddling back was slow and since had only one paddle, left nothing for the kids to do. Their patience up to that point had been monumental, but it was starting to wear thin and understandably so. It was still hot and the thrills and chills of motor boating were just a fleeting memory. I don’t know why it didn’t occur to me earlier, but I belatedly told them to jump in the lake. They did so, but still a little put off that it wasn’t going to be part of the high speed experience we normally have. I was already feeling like a failure, but now it was starting to hurt. The peanut gallery was getting to me. Then it hit: I got that lucky inspiration, the kind that boaters and parents have been using to get out of jams for time immemorial – improvisation! Hey kids, I know we’re not moving fast, but, we are *moving* - how about I pull you on the towable while paddling? Do you think I can get you to fall off? Can you hang ten for XX amount

A Brawler, a Breakdown, and Best Boat Trip Ever—Continued

Time? Do a handstand? And then my ultimate weapon, who can do it BEST?

Thankfully the kids didn't see through my ruse, or if they did, they acted like they didn't care. Within minutes they had gone far beyond my suggestions to think of games and challenges that I couldn't remember if I tried. Now the kids were making as much noise as if they were being towed, getting as wet and smiling maybe even more. It was magical and miraculous. I certainly know it doesn't always happen like that. But their joy is not a tall tale, it was the real deal, and even thinking about it serves as a restorative to whatever else about boating causes me anxiety to this day. Eventually, a good Samaritan came by and asked if he could help. I asked the kids to get in the boat so we could get towed back. Normally, I'm a pretty dictatorial dad. The reason I give my kids for why I've told them to do something is always the same: "because I said so."

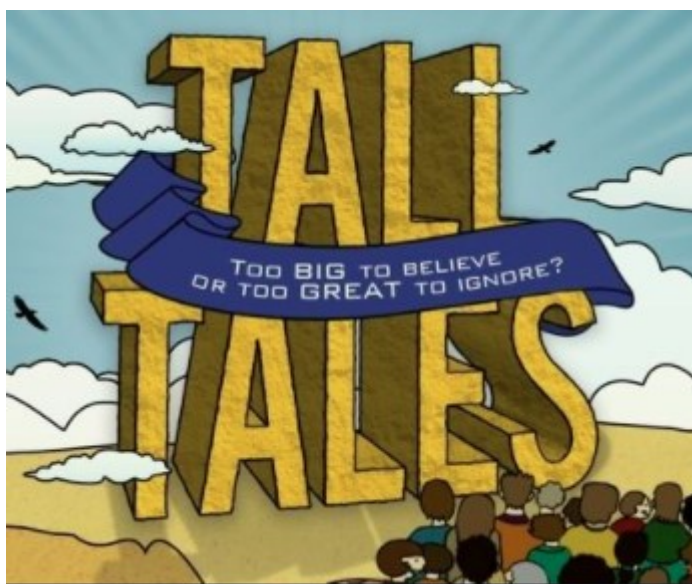
However, on this day, at this time, I let them have their way when they said: "No dad, we want to keep playing such-and-such-game." The would-be good Samaritan smiled and said, "It looks like you've got everything in hand."

Indeed we did. I don't remember exactly how long we were out there, but I know my wife called just as we were pulling up to the ramp (oops, I forgot to tell her our status!) As the after work crowds launched, more and more offered to help, but I politely declined. I'm sure we looked especially pitiful paddling up to the dock. But my crew and I knew success had been achieved. The misadventure has kind of gone down in family lore, and that night and ever since, my kids call that the Best Boat Trip Ever.

2021 MEMBER CONTRIBUTION THEME: "TALL TALES"

In December 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. Parodies and other funny material also come under this heading. 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](#).

Thanks, Jeff!!! I think your story fits this graphic perfectly!



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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.**

3/27	Cape Fear Community College Riverfront Boat Show CANCELLED
4/28	Chapter business meeting—Zoom
5/1	NCMM Beaufort Boat Show CANCELLED
5/14-15	Lake Lure Classic Boat & Auto Show
6/11-12	Thomasville, NC Vintage Power Show
6/18-20	St. Michael's MD Boat Show CANCELLED
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.](#)