



## Messing About In Boats

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

March 2023

Greeting Fellow Boating Enthusiasts!

So, how are the home fires burning for y'all? Winter and early spring are the times to take stock of the condition of our boats and undertake maintenance and repair. It provides its own joys and rewards, with visions of a successful and timely completion foremost in everyone's minds. Here's to hoping it's so for all of us this season! As you can read in the articles herein, several of us have been engaged in "getting ready" over the past few months, and we could use some encouragement. Nevermind sayings like "Murphy's Law" or "the best laid plans of mice and men...", I'm going to leave my observations in optimistic mode!

A popular motivation for folk to prep their vessels is the annual Lake Dora Show of the Sunnyland Chapter in Florida. It takes place in late March. Many in the antique and classic boating community consider it the "start" of the boating season, with some enthusiastically counting down the days like a kid awaiting Christmas. (See: Woodyboat-er.com) If you're going or interested in going, please let us know! It's great to meet up when down there, and for those remaining behind, it's nice to hear about your fun times. And don't forget to take pics to share!

With that, I think it's time to wrap up this column, get back to my projects and let you get back to yours. You can read about mine (rebuilding a small block chevy for my 1962 Chris Craft Holiday in this edition), and I hope we can read about yours in an upcoming article. Just send a note with what you're doing and we'll be glad to include it! Regardless, may your dreams of project success come true!

Cheers,

*Jeff*



Did you know that co-member Jen Leiner has a very special talent—a Super Power? She has a knack for finding 4-leaf clovers.

## March Chapter Outing

For March we had planned a Chapter outing to Bridgeton Boat Works in New Bern, but we now have a new plan—still in the New Bern area. The outing is planned for **FRIDAY**, March 10th (had been for Saturday).

At 10:30 AM we'll meet at Phillips Plating 1617 US Hwy. 17 in Bridgeton and owner Jerry will show us how he does chrome plating. Several of our members use Jerry and marvel over his ability to make metal shine. Keep in mind that Jerry uses chemicals and it is a rustic workplace.

From there we'll head to the Hills' home 1307 Heritage Dr. in New Bern for a quick lunch. Food and drinks will be provided—compliments of our chapter.

After lunch we'll be visiting Brian Connolly at SeaDek Mid-Atlantic located in the Craven County Industrial park: 120 Corporate Lane. According to their website, "With SeaDek, you're not just buying flooring, you're choosing the marine industry's largest, most trusted supplier and installer of non-skid products backed by nearly four decades of R&D."

Granted, if you are preparing your boat to be judged by ACBS standards, this isn't the product for you, but it is a really great looking deck.

[Click here](#) to check out their story.

Brian has very sophisticated equipment that measures the boat and then cuts the product which his staff install. Members Jim Hartman, John Dougherty, and Alan Hills recently checked it out (a pop-up event) and were dually impressed and thought you would be as well.

Should be a very interesting day. [Click here](#) to sign up. PLEASE do so by March 7th so we'll have enough food on hand for lunch.





## How I Use Leftover Wood from My Boat Restoration Projects

Submitted by Bill Conley.

Since I spent 7 years restoring my 1952 Chris Craft, I have a lot of mahogany, white oak, and maple left over.

I have a 3 year old grandson named Conley Michael. For birthdays and Christmases he is a little hard to buy gifts for, so I decided I would give him some unique gifts – wooden toys made by his Paw. The first one I made was a dump truck. I found some plans for this at Woodcraft. Using the leftover mahogany and maple wood made it very attractive. Here is a picture of how it came out:



Conley Michael just loved it, so I decided to make a few similar toys for him. I made him a front loader:



Then I made him a road Grader:



For Christmas I made him a rocking horse. This is a picture of it before finishing:



And Conley in action on the rocking horse:



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## How I Use Leftover Wood from My Boat Restoration Projects (Cont'd)

I cut down a big box so that the rocking horse would just fit. It had two doors that were closed with Velcro, so that he could just open the doors and there would be his Christmas present. He had almost as much fun closing himself inside the box and then popping out again as he did playing on his new rocking horse.

I told him that the next project was going to be a bulldozer. He said "No, I want a cement mixer." So, guess what I am working on now.

It sure is fun to have a grandson who appreciates my favorite hobby!

## Chapter Workshop at Bill Conley's Boathouse 25 February 2023

Saturday was a wet, rainy day—great for hanging out and talking shop. And talk shop they did—at Bill Conley's Boathouse. Alan Hills, VP; Alan Frederick (also member of the Smith Mountain Lake ACBS Chapter who drove from VA); Bill Baker, John Justice, Neal Keeter, Jim Alexander, Bob Banta, and Jim Hartman were there.

Bill showed the guys the toys he was making for his grandson out of wood left over from his various projects. They discussed woodworking techniques that were applicable to refurbishing wooden boats. Of course they got off on other boat-related topics. Alan Hills reminded them of upcoming events including the boat show in October. They had a nice lunch provided by the chapter. Bill Conley grilled burgers,

brats and dogs. They reported that they all enjoyed the comradery, the woodworking tips and the food.

While the guys hung out, the gals—Judy Hills, Sharon Conley and Jean Frederick took off on an adventure to the shops and stalls at the State Farmers' Market. After a few strategic purchases were made they headed to the nearby Farmers' Market Restaurant where they had a nice lunch with a side of flaky biscuits. From there they drove to the NC Museum of the Arts, but only had time to experience a fraction of the exhibits. It was a very enjoyable outing.

Workshop photos by Jim Alexander.





Workshop & Gals' Outing



Jean, Judy & Sharon





## More Motor Misadventures by Jeff Martinson

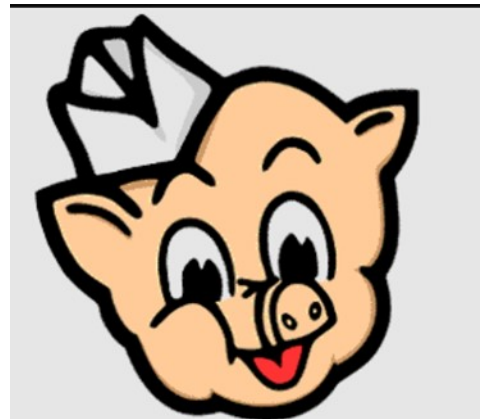
As I've written in previous editions of this newsletter, my luck with boat motors ranges from atrocious to awful. To be fair, there's been a fair amount of operator error, but I'd still not want to go to Marine Engine Las Vegas with my record.

The most recent saga has involved the small block Chevy from my 1962 Chris Craft Holiday. Originally powered by a 283, it was replaced with a 350 at some point prior to my ownership. After several years of campaigning the boat with much success, it slowly started to develop problems at high rpms. Subtly it would lose power. A number of remedies were attempted including checking the points, replacing the mechanical fuel pump, adding an electric fuel pump, then back to trying pointless ignition. None of these resolved the worsening power loss problems.

Whatever the source of those issues, it all came to a climax when I tried to driveway-start the motor prior to its use last summer. Stuck! And, when I removed the sparkplugs, water! Ugh! Taking the heads off, I realized that the damage was long-term and extensive. Double ugh!



The next stop was John Justice's place, the Piglet, where he, Bill Conley and I disassembled the engine and visually inspected it. It was clear that water had entered all the cylinders, but it was not clear how. Also, we realized that the motor had been rebuilt previously, having an .040 over-bore. After that, it was off to the Raleigh NAPA machine shop, which had been recommended by Kevin Leiner. There, they cleaned and magnafluxed the block. When it looked good, they milled the least-bad of the cylinders to see if they could remove the rust scars. Alas, no luck! Triple ugh!



It was clear I would need a new engine, however, the question was: what route to take? There were used engines, "factory" rebuilt engines, "locally" rebuilt engines, etc. Believe me, I pursued each of these thoroughly, but in the end, the best route seemed to be a used engine that John remembered Gary Lowell had in a boat behind his shop. Unfortunately, when it came time to finally acquire it and inspect (with borescope borrowed from Jeff Gelm) everyone was surprised to find some of the same problems as my original

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## More Motor Misadventures by Jeff Martinson (Continued)

engine. Quadruple ugh!

By now, almost a year had passed since I first realized my engine was stuck. Unbeknownst to me, since disassembling the engine at the Piglet, John had proceeded to take the remaining “good” parts and match them up to another bare block that he’d sourced. With the engine from Greensboro off the table, John let me know he had done that, and said “here’s another option.” Suffice to say, I was overjoyed! Finally, this month, we hooked up my exhaust logs and the alternator and fired her up. It started immediately, John adjusted the rockers and timing and had it purring like a (big) cat. Huzzah!

BUT... all was not purrfect, as we noticed the oil emulsifying with the water. Ugh times five! So, the saga continues. The next step is to check the exhaust logs for leaks, as they are notorious for letting water into the cylinders. After that, we’ll check the heads. And on and on it goes.



As disappointing as the experience has been, it’s also been very educational and interesting. Everyone who’s been a part of the process has been incredibly professional and considerate. Overall, it is what I call a “First World problem” to have a broken pleasure boat engine. I do hope to be able to report a final victory here in these pages in the near future. Until then, I’ll dream of project success along the way!

## Chapter 2022 Annual Report Now Available on Our Website

Annual Reports are used to highlight the chapter’s accomplishments and impacts for the past year. When posted on our website, outsiders can click on the link and readily see just how active our chapter is—it is a marketing tool. It is also an opportunity to be candid and transparent regarding our chapter’s mission, progress, outcomes and finances. We hope you take the time to pursue our 2022 Annual Report and to share with a prospective member. [Click here](#) to view.



## 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

### Message from Chapter President Jeff Martinson

#### Greetings friends!

This past year has been an excellent one for the Antique and Classic Boat Society NC Coastal & Piedmont Chapter. We’ve held numerous on- and off-the-water events, have strengthened our organizational structure, and have grown our membership. These accomplishments are due to the work of our dedicated members and chapter leaders whose contributions make them happen. In particular, we have been led by an outstanding group of officers and directors who have taken the chapter in new directions in terms of event locations and

themes, outside group partnerships and marketing and media. All of this to say: we’re open to new ideas and your, the reader’s, suggestions, too!

So, in conclusion, if you’re a member of the chapter, I hope you enjoy this recap of our achievements this past year. Or, if you’re a visitor, I hope you’re inspired to investigate us further, participating in one or more of our activities, and considering joining yourself.

Cheers,

Jeff





## Wooden Pontoon Boats—Next new ACBS Classification?

We have heard numerous jokes about the ever-popular river/lake pontoon boats. Even heard some ACBS members say they wouldn't be caught dead in one. A little extreme perhaps, but it bespeaks of the loathing some ACBS members have for the craft. That same group may even have the same feelings toward fiberglass or steel boats. But like them or not, it is entirely possible



that this craft may meet ACBS qualifications for antique and/or classic boats in the future. We thought this wooden version might sway some opinions.

[Click here](#) to tell us what you think of

pontoon boats in general and this one specifically. [Click here](#) to view the Bailey Custom Boats website.

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## The 2023 Oriental In-Water Boat Show April 14-16

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Springtime, a historic boating village, a great array of exhibitors, and visitors from ten states all make for a great Oriental In-Water Boat Show.

Oriental's annual In-water Boat Show has grown exponentially since its beginnings in 2009. The most recent show drew over 100 exhibitors from as far away Hampton, Virginia, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and Bryson City, NC. In addition to nautical goods and services, dealers and brokers brought in boats on land and in the slips at Oriental Harbor Marina, many of which were available for in-water sea trials.

Based on the combination of number of vendors, number of boats, sales attributed and number of attendees, the Oriental show has become one of the largest and most successful in-water shows between Annapolis and Savannah. **We look forward to seeing you April 14-16, 2023.**



If you are a vendor and are interested in the 2023 show, contact show organizer Sam Myers 252-249-0228 or via email, [director@orientalboatshow.com](mailto:director@orientalboatshow.com).

### 2023 Boat Show Registration

>> [The 2023 Oriental Boat Show Exhibitor contract can now be completed online.](#) <<

Old school? The 2023 [Oriental Boat Show Exhibitor contract can be downloaded at this link.](#)



Members who joined or renewed recently included:

New: Christian Foushee Green (Durham)

Renewed: Robert Blanchard, John Gray, Charles Mansfield, Kevin McGurgan, Jim Moores, and Michael Triplett

Total Membership: 65 NCC&P Primary Chapter: 53 NC C&P Not Primary Chapter: 12

*Welcome!*

## EMBROIDERED 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. The long-sleeved, light-weight fishing shirts to the right (men's and women's) are available at Academy Sports for \$25. Contact [Alan Hills](#) if interested. Get 'em before the boat show season begins!



## CFCC 2023 Riverfront Boat Show April 1st —Enter now!

### SHOW HIGHLIGHTS

- Dock space on the Cape Fear River (Trailer spaces also available)
- Ten judging categories plus special Simmons Sea Skiff awards
- Knot-tying challenge

### BOAT/VENDOR EXHIBITOR INFORMATION

Location: CFCC Wilmington Campus on the riverfront on Water St. (between the Hilton and Coastline Convention Center). Free parking in the CFCC Parking Deck on Nutt St.

Hours: 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Judging and Awards: Ten judged classes including special Simmons Sea Skiff awards.

Entry Fees: There is a \$35 charge for amateur boats and a \$100 for a commercial manufactured vessel or vendor. All amateur boat exhibitors and

commercial sponsors get a free t-shirt and two tickets to the dinner after the show.

Sponsorships: Sponsorships are available at \$250 for businesses featured on the 20th Anniversary T-shirt. Sponsors receive a text link on the official CFCC Boat Show website, two dinner tickets, and recognition at the awards ceremony. All sponsorships benefit CFCC boat-building student scholarships. If your business is interested in sponsoring the show, please contact John Olsen at [jolsen@cfcc.edu](mailto:jolsen@cfcc.edu) or call 910-362-7361.

Sign up to be an exhibitor, vendor, or sponsor. [Click here.](#)



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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 dates, the places, dates and times listed for events may change. Watch your email for updates. We encourage you to support/attend these events! **Newsletter deadline is the 25th of each month.**

3/10 **Friday.** Chapter Workshop—Phillips Plating in Bridgeton , lunch at Alan Hills' home, then visit to SeaDek—marine flooring (New Bern) coordinated by Alan Hills. [Click here](#) to sign up by 3/7. 10:30 AM to 3:00 PM

3/23-27 Sunnyland ACBS Boat Festival in Tavares, FL. [Click here](#) for show site.

4/1 Cape Fear Community College Boat Show in Wilmington. [Click here](#) for show web page. Chapter entries coordinated by Jim Dean.

4/14-16 Oriental in-water boat show with wooden boat exhibit. [Click here](#) for info.

4/22 New Bern—Trent River Run & Lunch at Saltwater Grill in River Bend. Coordinated by Alan Hills. [Click here](#) to sign up by 4/20. 10 AM to 3 PM

4/26 Chapter Business Meeting via Zoom at 7:00 PM

### 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.

**Contemporary:** Any wooden boat built within the last 25 years.

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