



# Messing About In Boats

## Monthly newsletter

NC Coastal & Piedmont  
Chapter of ACBS

March 2026



Hello Fellow members,

I hope everybody is doing well. If y'all are anything like me, you're ready to put cold, snow and no boating in the rear-view mirror. Hopefully the day that I feel comfortable de-winterizing the boats will soon be here and we can get back out on the water. In the meantime, the Jersey Speed Skiff I've had in my shop has been providing me with ample boat-related activity to satisfy that need and I think I have an MGB at Jim Hartman's place that's longing for the road once more. Bring it on!

Although February is a typically slow month as far as club events go, we did manage to have regional get-togethers in Wilmington, New Bern and the Charlotte area on Super Bowl weekend. Thanks to Jim and Alice Dean for hosting at their Wrightsville Beach beach house, Rob Weller in Charlotte and Jim Hartman here in New Bern. There was plenty food and drinks on hand along with a good bit of fellowship and catching up. I'd say a good time was had by all.

March is typically when things start to get rolling. On March 14th, 11:00 – 3:00, the chapter will be hosting a workshop on steam bending and installing ribs in a 16' Lyman and a presentation on boat surveying. This will be held at Cape Fear Community College in Wilmington and will be led by Gary Lowell, John Olsen and Matthew Majewski. We also have invited the Sea Scouts and CFCC students to join us. Lunch will be provided by the chapter, so PLEASE

RSVP to me by March 10th so we know how much food we need to order. See the flyer in the newsletter for full details.

Late member Bill Baker left a provision in his will that funds of the sale of his certain assets be given to the chapter to be used for education and training for those entering the boat restoration and boat building profession. The Bill Baker Memorial Scholarship fund was formed and a committee to oversee the distribution of these funds was convened. In keeping with Bill's wishes, it was decided that students at community colleges that offer boat repair and boat building courses would be the recipients of these funds. As of now, we are very close to entering into agreements with the Beaufort County Community College, and Carteret County Community College. We will be providing \$2000 per year to a student that meets criteria set by the chapter and the school, very similar to the agreement we have with Cape Fear Community College. Thanks to Bill's generosity, we will be able to aid students who may one day work on our boats.

One last thing. The Sunnyland Chapter show in Tavares, FL. is being held March 27th through 29th. This show un-officially kicks off the new season and is a must-see. I will be unable to attend this year, but if you've never been, get down there! If you are going again, have an awesome time and say hey to my friends.

Yours in classic boating,  
*Alan Hills, President*

## WORKSHOP AT CAPE FEAR COMMUNITY COLLEGE

It all started with a request from member Rob Weller. Rob asked the chapter to sponsor a workshop on steam bending and plank replacement. We immediately thought of Gary Lowell of Lowell Boat Works in Greensboro as the presenter. The facilities at Cape Fear Community College provides an excellent venue to hold the workshop and member John Olsen who is an instruction

there was more than helpful in making it happen. Gary will be assisted by CFCC instructor Matthew Majewski. **The workshop will be held on Saturday, March 14th 11 AM to 3 PM. Main campus 411 N Front St. in Wilmington. The Emmart & Burnett Buildings (W) are on the water. There is a parking lot there.**

In addition to our members, we have opened the workshop up to CFCC boat building program students and to the various Sea Scout ships in eastern NC. This gives us a good opportunity to interact with the next generation of antique and classic boats owners. You are welcome to bring prospective members. We strongly urge you to carpool with others from your area so you can “talk shop” on the way there and home. PLEASE REGISTER FOR THE WORKSHOP by [emailing Alan Hills](#) as the chapter will provide lunch for all.

**GALS:** This is our opportunity to kick back and have some fun while the guys are in the workshop. Last year we all went to the Cotton Exchange across the street, but this year we’ll do something different. Here’s the plan: We’ll car pool to the Cameron Art Museum (tickets \$14), then do lunch at Jack Mackereels Island Grill in Kure Beach, then we’ll go see a bathing suit exhibit at Fort Fisher State Historic Site—the exhibit gallery is free. This is a Dutch treat event and there is no need to register—just show up. Please come as Judy does not want to be the only co-member to attend! And you can come alone, if you just want a girl’s day out. We’ll meet at CFCC parking lot.

### DRIVING DIRECTIONS TO CFCC

From the North (I-40): Follow I-40 to Wilmington and take a right on Martin Luther King Parkway. Follow the parkway for about 7 miles and take the downtown Wilmington exit to Third St. Turn right on Walnut St. Drive to Water St. and turn right. Parking is on the right. From the West (Brunswick County): Take Rt. 74/76 over the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge. After the bridge, turn left onto Third St. Drive approx. 1.5 miles until you get to Walnut St. Turn left on Walnut St. and drive to Water St. turn right. Parking is on the right.



From the South (Brunswick County and S.C.): Take Rt. 74/76 over the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge. After the bridge, turn left onto Third St. Drive approx. 1.5 miles until you get to Walnut St. Turn left on Walnut St. and drive to Water St. turn right. Parking is on the right.

## Regional Gathering in Wrightsville Beach



Thanks to Jim and Alice Dean for once again hosting the Wilmington-area regional gathering at their Wrightsville Beach guest house.

## Regional Gathering in New Bern

Jim Hartman kindly opened his home and his workshop for those members living within driving distance of New Bern. Anne Marie was unable to join us as she was recuperating from shoulder surgery. We had a total of 20 members and guests attend. Of course, President Alan Hills and Judy were there. Margaret Moores drove from Beaufort and brought a guest. Long-time Chapter members David and Marion Stowe came from Farmville. Denny Cole, John Dougherty, and Ted Clark joined the party. Larry and Eileen Lettick came in from

Chocowinity. Joe and Bev Peacos were there from Greenville. Austin and Amy Lewis came from Cove City. Locals included Shirley & Leif Eriksson and John & Barb Peck.

There were lots of snacks and party fare. Jim even baked a very moist blueberry bundt cake for us that was a crowd favorite. The guys checked out Jim's progress on Boo-Boo's interior while the gals either gabbed or played train dominoes. We all agreed this was the perfect thing to do on a very cold winter day. Here are some pictures of the gathering.



## Regional Gathering in Lake Norman area

Rob Weller reports that he, Jim Barrick, and a couple that are prospective members met up for breakfast. They discussed upcoming boating opportunities on Lake Norman.



## Another Future Antique and Classic Boat?

This hybrid RV, the Aquamper is a travel trailer on the road and a boat on the water. These originated in Europe and are built by a company in Poland. This premium product already has 500 happy buyers. Will you be next?



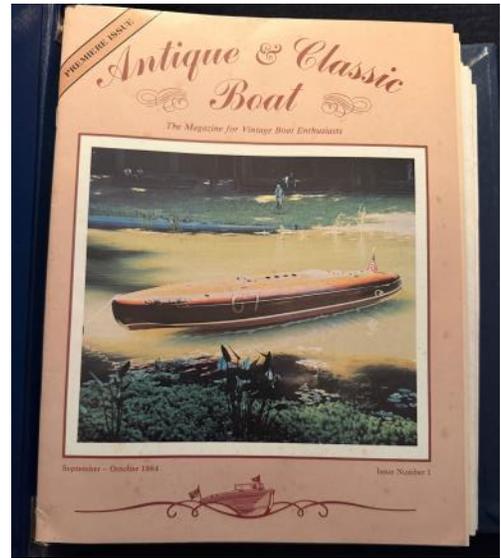
## The Hills featured in the W/W on February 14, 2026

While this article featured Alan & Judy, they both want to acknowledge that it takes a team and committed members to create a successful chapter. We encourage you to “read all about it!” [Click here.](#)

**New Contest for February: How many nautical books do you own?**



Above: Alan Hills—17



Above: Rob Weller—26

I'm a bit embarrassed I don't have more than a shelf-full, but thought I'd throw my hat in the ring. Can't find my Chapman's piloting, and there is a duplicate of "Building Chris Craft." If you look close there is also a book of freshwater fishes and an ACBS directory, so I only really have a legit 25 books.

(I'd love to get credit, though, for a nearly complete collection of "Classic Boating," formerly "Antique & Classic Boat" since 1984. I'm only missing Volume 1, No's 5&6 which are unavailable anywhere!) **Let Rob know if you know where he can find those missing issues.**



## Disappearing Teak & Mahogany

While not so much used in antique and classic boats, teak is one wood that is vanishing from the yachting industry. Once a staple, teak is a dense and heavy tropical hardwood prized because of its properties of being rot and salt resistant. Old-growth trees in Myanmar produce the highest quality teak. These trees are being cut down and sold with little regard for sustainability which resulted in 2021 trade sanctions and heavy fines for violations, when found.

Thermally-modified wood products are making inroads into the market to fill the teak void. One such product is Tesumo. Produced in Germany, it starts with a fast-growing undisclosed African hardwood which is heat-treated and then further processed including resin impregnation. According to one source, "The problem for the alternatives is there is nothing quite like real teak."

Philippine Mahogany was made popular for boating building by Chris Craft boats between the 1930s and the 1960s. The once popular wood is no longer available. What's called Philippine Mahogany today is an entirely different species, but it is a better grade and more sustainably managed lumber for boat building. It goes by several names: Meranti, Nemesu, or Red Seraya. Heavier African wood options include Sapele, Utile, and African Mahogany. African Mahogany lumber is getting harder to get as the cost of production is high and the return on profit low, thus the shortage. Suppliers are pushing buyers toward Plantation Genuine Mahogany, Utile, and Sapele.

The Steinway, 2022 Coeur Custom Steinway 340 HT was featured in the 2024 Coeur D'Alene Antique & Classic Boat Festival. "...designed by master craftsman Jim Brown



and crafted by Coeur Custom. Spanning 34 feet in length, a 9' 6" beam, 430 HP and a double-planked hull. This distinguished boat is built with **sapele** wood and features an endless list of incredible features and amenities. This spectacular beauty redefines boating forever." (below)

So, those needing beautiful wood to replace what has been lost due to rot and damage, have a lot to think about when selecting wood. Choose wisely!



## 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: None

Renewed: Cindy Jordan (Hillsborough, NC), Charles McCotter (Trent Woods, NC), Friends of NC Maritime Museum (Beaufort, NC), Austin Lewis (Cove City, NC), Kevin McGurgan (Greensboro, NC), Robert Blanchard (New Hill, NC), Ken Colonna (Norfolk, VA).

*Welcome!*

Total Membership: 67

NCC&P Primary Chapter: 55

Not Primary Chapter: 12

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[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:

### March

3/14 CFCC workshop at campus in Wilmington. 11 to 3 Lunch provided by chapter. To register [email Alan Hills](#)

27-29 Sunnyland Show in Tavares, FL [Click here](#)

### April

10-12 Oriental in-water boat show and nautical flea market, Oriental NC [Click here](#)

17-18 Blue Ridge Chapter Lake Hartwell Rendezvous at Harbor Light Marina [Click here](#)

25 Lake Norman car & boat show Peninsula Yacht Club. [Click here](#)

25 Smith Mountain Lake Workshop

### May

1 to 3 Atlanta Motoring Festival Concours d'Elegance. Lake Lanier Islands [click here](#)

2 NC Maritime Museum Boat Show 50th annual! [Click here](#)

9 [Lake Rabun Wooden Boat Show](#)

16 National River Cleanup Day

30 Cape Fear Comm College Boat Show [click here](#)

### 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](#).