



Messing About In Boats

Monthly newsletter

NC Coastal & Piedmont
Chapter of ACBS

November 2025



Hello Fellow members,

I hope this finds you doing well and getting out to enjoy the fall weather. This is my favorite time of year.....cooler, dryer, and generally good boating weather. As you may or may not have heard, I underwent heart bypass surgery and pacemaker implant earlier this month and am happy to report that everything is progressing as expected. Thanks to those of you who reached out to offer support to Judy and I while I recover.

We had an opportunity to participate in the ACBS Port Captain program this month and I feel it served its intended purpose of providing local knowledge and fellowship to members of other chapters who are visiting your area. Full story is in the newsletter.

On November 8th, there will be a regional meeting in the Lake Norman area hosted by Rob Weller. All chapter members, prospective members and significant others are invited to attend. Please email Rob at rweller@triad.rr.com for details

In all organizations such as our chapter, strong leadership is a key element to success and longevity. We have been very fortunate to have officers and board members who steered us to where we are today and are grateful for their valuable contributions over the years. So, with the health of the chapter in mind, there comes a time when some of the leadership duties fall upon newer members who have exhibited the skill and desire to see us into the future. I think

it is important to continue to involve our long-term leaders who so ably provide sage advice, institutional knowledge and the history of our chapter. We have been considering various ways that we might accomplish both objectives and will be discussing them at our annual meeting. This meeting will have several important issues on the agenda and your attendance and input would be appreciated. By the way, I will bring chapter burgees and ball caps to the meeting if you need a Christmas present for someone.

We need participation in the newsletter contests. They are just for fun but it is no fun if the only contributor is the editor. If you are not contributing to the newsletter, this is a fun low-key way to do so. It only takes 5 or 10 minutes so give it a shot!

Lastly, here is the schedule of upcoming chapter events:

- 11/8 Regional meeting Lake Norman area
- 11/15 Annual chapter meeting at Duplin Winery, Rose Hill, NC
- 12/13 Chapter Holiday party. Note time changed from 1pm to 6pm at Leiner's home in Wake Forest, NC

I hope to see lots of you in attendance!

Have a safe and pleasant Thanksgiving!

Yours in classic boating,
Alan Hills, President

Historical “Funny” Oddities about the Mayflower & the Speedwell

(AI generated) While no definitive record exists for a purely “funny” nautical Thanksgiving, the journey of the Pilgrims was riddled with absurd and miserable mishaps. Their story, especially from the voyage on the Mayflower, is full of mishaps, inconveniences, and oddities that are prime for some comedic retelling.

The Pilgrims' journey was originally supposed to be on two ships: the Mayflower and its smaller companion, the Speedwell. The two vessels set sail together, but the Speedwell began to

leak almost immediately. They returned to port, made repairs, and tried again. A few weeks later, the Speedwell began leaking again, and they were forced to turn back for a second time. Giving up, they squeezed all the passengers and cargo onto the already crowded Mayflower.

The lesson? When your ride starts to sink twice, it might be a hint to postpone the trip.

[Click here](#) to read more.



December's Challenge: An AI Produced Nautical Holiday Card

Members had fun when we last invited you to create an [AI generated](#) nautical image. To save this editor from having to find nautical holiday messages or cards to run in the December newsletter, we invite you to use your AI skills to create one. Send it in an image format (jpeg or png) to jahnbnc@gmail.com. This way you can wish all your ACBS friends a Happy Holiday without incurring the cost of postage! LOL!!! (See example on right)



DATES TO PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR

Saturday, November 8 at 12-3 PM

Regional meeting hosted by Rob and Elizabeth Weller
5026 Kiser Island Rd. in Terrell, NC (Lake Norman area)

[Click here](#) to reserve as lunch will be served. Members and prospective members welcome.

Saturday, November 15 at 11 AM

Chapter Annual luncheon meeting at The Bistro at Duplin Winery
404 N. Sycamore St. in Rose Hill, NC

[Click here](#) for the menu—pay for your own lunch.

[Click here](#) to email your reservation to Judy.

They have a nice store on site—think holiday gifts!

Saturday December 13 at 6 PM

Chapter Annual Christmas Linner (lunch/dinner) at the Leiners
1505 Wildhurst Lane in Wake Forest

Chapter provides food and non-alcoholic beverages, BYOB

Smith Mountain Lake Show 12 September 2025 by Rob Weller

I was lucky enough to get my boat back together in time to take it to the SML show held again at the Crazy Horse Marina in Moneta, VA. Smith Mountain Lake is remarkably beautiful with green hills and mountains all around, and numerous islands dotting the lake itself. A number of boats were in the water by Friday afternoon, and I was fortunate to get an invitation to join John Coffman and his family leading the Lake tour with about 8-10 boats running down to the dam and back. There was a social event Friday evening with excellent food, drinks and comradery.

The weather was fantastic, and the show opened Saturday morning with about 35 beautiful boats on the docks and a few more on land, as well as an outboard motor association display. The show was very well-attended, and a healthy amount of money was raised by the club to be donated to local charities. There were a number of booths, plenty of club merchandise, a silent auction, and additional donations to take an Amphicar ride which ran throughout the day and was the hit of the show. There were members of the Blue Ridge Chapter and the NCC&P Chapter attending, and there were likely other Chapters represented with attendees coming from as far as Georgia.

The awards banquet was Saturday evening, again with an excellent dinner, drinks and fellowship. A 1940 Chris Craft 19' Custom Barrel-back took top honors, along with a 1937 Hacker named Resurrection for its complete restoration from what "before" pictures showed to appear barely salvageable. I cannot list all the many remarkable boats that took awards, but **I was surprised and happy that my 1938 17' CC Utility received the Judges' award for Best Chris-Craft, and the Captains' choice for Best Utility.**

The show was very well-organized, and there was plenty of help from SML Chapter Members getting boats in and out of the water and secured at the docks. With a great location on a beautiful lake, and plenty of dock space and public interest, this is a show worth putting on your list to attend for next year.



More photos on next page

SML Boat Show Photos by Rob Weller



Smith Mountain Lake ACBS Chapter Workshop November 15th

SML-ACBS 2025 FALL WORKSHOP

SAT., NOV. 15TH, 10AM – 1PM

1100 OAKSHIRE LANE, WIRTZ, VA

COST: \$10 USD (Incl. lunch)

Some SML homeowners and realtors are “flipping” their homes for a profit, whereas we in the club just enjoy flipping our boats (on land, not in the water) for fun. Come join us in the adventure plus learn a lot from a team of experts on the following topics:

Our first presenter will be club member Randy Cummins, who is an engineer that used to work with the US Navy on submarines and other vessels with all sorts of projects. He will explain what displacement, flotation, moment of inertia, and other cool stuff is all about so that you can then bring those topics up at any party you attend and others will think you’re really smart rather than toasted as you chug your 3rd beer.

Next presenter will be your current President and local TV personality, **Bill Caillet**, who will do a hands-on disassembly and assembly of an AC Delco fuel pump that was common for almost all the Hercules engines that were used by Chris Craft.

And finally, **Alan Frederick** will briefly talk about the joys of building a wooden boat. We will then be rolling over my 35 ft. torpedo stern boat, named “Double Dare Ya”, so I can begin installing the engine, deck beams, deck boards, wiring and countless other “stuff” in order to complete the project. And yes, I will be firing up the big Hall Scott engine (998 CI) for those of you that want to hear what a circa 1943 powerplant sounds like. It’s big and it’s cool!!

So, bring a friend along, as we will also have some libations available with lunch.

Spreading Bill Bakers’ Ashes

This is the term we have been using regarding the sale and distribution of the tools and equipment that deceased member Bill Baker willed to our chapter. A number of our members have worked very hard cleaning and organizing the sale to the members and to the public which was held on October 18th. The sale itself was very disappointing. John Justice and Neal Keeter have been pulling their hair out trying to think of organizations and individuals who might be interested in what remains, and there

is still a lot. It would be a real shame to have to take some of these classic tools to the dump, but we have to call it quits at some point.

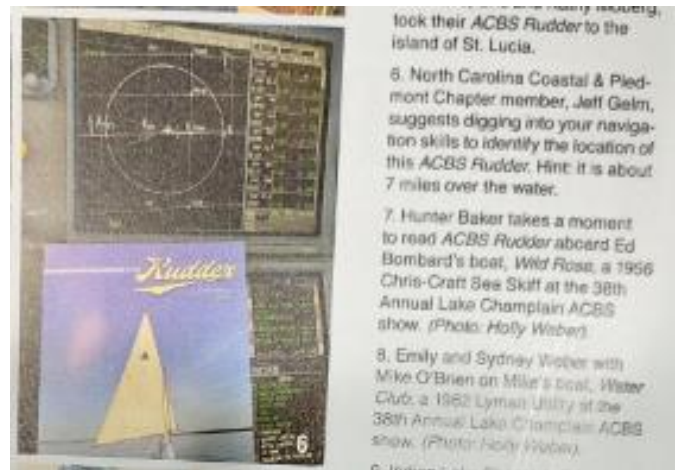
The last-ditch effort will be a professional auction. The details are still being worked out. As soon as we can, we will send you the notice. In the meantime, if you have any questions or want to make a bulk purchase, contact [John Justice](#). Do this ASAP.

We appreciate everyone’s help to date!

Chapter Mentioned in ACBS Publications

Did you happen to see the Summer 2025 edition of the Rudder? They printed a picture taken by **Jeff Gelm** of his Rudder in the cockpit of the aircraft that he flies.

Our Chapter's Chocowinity Boat Show was featured in the Weekly Web Watch on Saturday October 25th. The article was entitled, "The Boat Show That Almost Wasn't." And on the ACBS Boating Safety resource page, there are two links to safety articles (and pictures) from our chapter: one on [boating in brackish and salt water](#) and another on [trailer maintenance](#).



If you have anything boating-related published, please let us know via [email](#).

The Boatshow that Almost Wasn't



The weather forecast leading up to the North Carolina Coastal & Piedmont's chapter show scheduled for Chocowinity, NC was ugly. Participants were calling, asking if we were going to call the show off. We decided to proceed—after all, boats are made to get wet.



New Chapter Member: Jim Barrick

Jim Barrick with his partner and co-member Colleen Pittner, have just moved to Denver, NC. Jim joined ACBS in 2017 and has risen to be a Director on the ACBS International Board. Jim had been a member of the Wine Country Chapter and he joined the Blue Ridge Chapter when he moved to NC. Chapter Secretary Judy Hills has known Jim from her work with ACBS committees and convinced him to also join our chapter. She asked Jim to tell us about his latest project involving old outboard motor parts. This is what Jim wrote:

Well, as a member of the ACBS, this organization has given me great exposure to boating history. I've been a history guy most of my life. I started boating when I was a lad. I was amazed at how great and dependable the Evinrude outboard motor was—never letting us down. If it were fishing, waterskiing, or just shore crawling, it was old reliable.

A handful of years ago, I restored my first outboard. As I began to show some of these restorations, I heard stories about wooden boats and realized that their engines had a place in history, too, just as important as the wooden boats. In the beginning, these outboards were used on wood fishing boats, tenders, military watercraft, canoes, and other craft. At one time, there were probably 50 different brands of outboards, while today there might be a half dozen manufacturers.

Not only did I develop a fascination for these old engines, but what also interested me was the advertisements of these motors. I have collected some of the old Rudder magazines from the 1920s. The ads and graphics were absolutely as cool as the motor itself.

So, after a few years of restoring these old engines, I had accumulated a lot of leftover motor parts. Throwing out these old parts was not an option, so I repurposed unique cowlings and gas tanks. The manufacturer's stylish decals were eye-catching.

I decided every workshop needs a clock, and why not one with a little history. My first clock was made from repurposed parts from a 1950s Chris



Craft Challenger, and my second clock was made from parts from a 1940s Johnson. The third came from a 1940s Wizard, which was really a Mercury. I just finished a sea mist green Johnson, and the Wizard is still a work in progress. The ACBS boating community has taken a real liking to these unique clocks.

It is my mission to salvage as many of these old engines as I can and repurpose them into functional works of art. I can't bear the thought of these old gals being tossed in the heap after all the fun they gave us when they were running. Every time I look at these clocks, it reminds me of the fun I had and am still having with antique outboards and wooden boats.



More pictures on next page

Pictures of Jim Barrick's Clock Creations



ACBS Port Captain Program

In our July 2024 Chapter Newsletter, Messing About in Boats, we featured an article on the ACBS Port Captain program. [Click here](#) to read that article. Basically this allows an ACBS member who wants to visit a place where there are ACBS members to connect. The hosts can provide a tour of the area, a boat ride, or just meet for a meal.

On October 21st we were contacted by **Bob Hamilton of the Chesapeake Chapter**. Bob and his wife Cristina took Alan and me on a ride in his boat when we attended the Chesapeake show in 2025. I guess we talked up New Bern so much that he felt compelled to visit. Unfortunately, Alan was still recuperating from heart surgery so we referred them to **Eileen and Larry Lettick** in Washington (since they wanted to see that area as well) and to **Jim Hartman** for a tour of New Bern.

*The following is an account of the Washington visit chronicled by **Eileen Lettick**.*

Showing off the Washington, NC Area

Under a beautiful autumn sky on October 24th, Larry and Eileen Lettick welcomed Cristina and Bob Hamilton to the Inner Banks. The Hamiltons were visiting from Maryland, anxious to take advantage of the newly formed Port Captain Program initiated by ACBS. The Hamiltons indicated that they were exploring Eastern North Carolina as a potential relocation site.

The Letticks picked up the Hamiltons at their hotel at 10 am, eager to chauffeur them and show off the town the Letticks have grown to love. They meandered down West Main Street past historic homes and old inns, restaurants, and shops, then turned into the beautiful harbor district and walked the boardwalk, admiring the variety of vessels moored at the town harbor. After a stroll down the boardwalk, the group hopped back into the car and continued past Moss Landing and up Market Street to view more of the varied architecture the town has to offer.

Then it was time to check out boat ramps and the local boatyard, McCotter's Marina, which is adjacent to the gorgeous Washington Yacht and Country Club. From there, the foursome headed back into the town proper and crossed the bridge. After a brief drive through Whichard's Beach, birthplace of Fountain Boats and home to Iconic, Pro-Line and Baja boats, it was on to the little town of Chocowinity for a tour of picturesque Cypress Landing where the Letticks reside.

Stomachs started to growl, so the group turned back into Washington for a delicious lunch at the Mulberry House, where the Hamilton's generously picked up the tab. Conversation about boating, former careers, children, and grandchildren provided easy topics of conversation. A quick visit to the Historic Turnage Theatre and the Harbor District Marketplace brought the tour to an end. Pictures were taken, and emails and hugs were exchanged with the promise of future get-togethers and invitations to continue the friendship.



L to R: Cristina, Larry, Eileen, and Bob

Continued on the next page

ACBS Port Captain Program (continued)



L and R: shopping in Washington, NC
Center: Cypress Landing Yacht Club



L TO R: Judy Hills, Alan Hills, Jim
Hartman, Bob Hamilton, and Cristina
Hamilton

On Saturday, October 25th, the Hamiltons met Jim Hartman at his home in New Bern. Jim took them for a boat ride on the Trent River. They met Alan and Judy Hills at a waterfront restaurant in River Bend. It was a beautiful fall day to eat on the deck and enjoy the view.

Alan was recuperating from surgery so he was happy to be out in the sun and enjoy-

ing friends from the ACBS boating community. We all exchanged the history of how we ended up living where we did. Of course, we talked about ACBS, our chapters, and boats.

This is but one successful example of how the Port Captain Program works to the benefit of both the local Chapter and the visiting ACBS members.

Georgetown, South Carolina Boat Show by Anne Marie Hartman

The following chapter members attended the Georgetown Wooden Boat Show: **Jim & Anne Marie Hartman, Jim Dean, Jim Quinn, John Tinney, Scott Tinney, and Dave & Beth Frederich.**

We don't know if any of their boats won awards, but they are all winners in our opinion. It is wonderful the way our members support the various boat shows by either entering a boat or just attending.



GEORGETOWN
SOUTH CAROLINA

OCTOBER 18 & 19, 2025
ON THE WATERFRONT
AT FRONT AND BROAD STREETS



Georgetown, South Carolina Boat Show by Anne Marie Hartman



November's Contest: How Did "Ming Toy" Get Her Name?

The "Ming Toy" was in the ABM warehouse in Clayton, NY. What's the story behind her name? We invited you to make one up. We did not have any entries, so here are some possible explanations.

According to the Google AI, "Ming Toy" could be a famous Chow Chow dog, a character in a book series, a daylily plant, a restaurant, or an actress.

Ming Toy, the dog, was an international celebrity and received a gold medal of honor in 1932 for her bravery, as documented on [ChowTales](#)—an interesting read for dog lovers. Might the owner have had a favorite Chow by that name?

Ming Toy was a character in the Left Behind series of novels, who is a believer and holds a position of authority. Could the owner have admired this character?

Ming Toy is a Chinese restaurant located in Waukegan, IL. Could the boat have been named for the owner's favorite eatery?

Ming Toy is also a type of reblooming daylily with bright orange-red flowers and a golden-yellow throat. Might the color of the wood have reminded the owner of this plant? Compare the two pictures.

There was an actress named Ming Toy who appeared in films and TV shows in the 1970s and 1980s. Could the owner have had an infatuation or liaison with this actress? Maybe he was married to her and named the boat after her? Ya think?

Any one of these, or none of these, might have been the owner's inspiration for naming this boat, "Ming Toy." The font might give us a hint, but we'll never know for sure.



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: Jim Barrick (Denver, NC—primary chapter is Blue Ridge),

Renewed: Scott Tinney (Rocky Point, NC), Lonnie Sick (Roxboro, NC), Jeff Evans (Raleigh), John Coffman (Huddleston, VA)

Welcome!

Total Membership: 76

NCC&P Primary Chapter: 63

Not Primary Chapter: 13

<https://www.vintageboat.org/>

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President@vintageboat.org

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Jeff Martinson (term ends 2026)
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Treasurer:

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Treasurer@vintageboat.org

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Bill Conley (2025)

Jim Hartman (2026)

John Justice (2025)

Kevin Leiner (2026)

Membership Chair:

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919-960-0838

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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 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:

11/1 Southport, NC Wooden Boat Show

11/8 Regional meeting at Lake Norman hosted by Rob Weller
12-3 PM with lunch included.

**11/15 Chapter Annual Meeting & Lunch at The Bistro at Duplin
winery in Rose Hill 11 AM booked. Order off menu.**

12/13 Chapter Christmas Party (6 PM) at the Leiners in Wake Forest



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](#).