Messing About In Boats

Monthly newsletter

NC Coastal & Piedmont
Chapter of ACBS

November 2026

Hello Fellow members,

Well, I finally feel like it's the fall of the year; I'm wearing socks, jeans and long sleeves. I hope those of you who live in a place that provides fall colors get a good show. I can't say that about the coastal area, where it goes from green to brown. Anyway, there is usually some good boating to be had so I hope y'all take advantage of that.

With October also comes the Georgetown Wooden Boat show in South Carolina. We had several members displaying their boats there. Rob Weller had his 1938 Chris Craft, John Tinney had his 1930 Elco, and Jim Hartman had his 1955 Chris Craft. Both John and Rob received blue ribbons in their respective class. Jim Quinn and Alice and Jim Dean also attended.

Our chapter also held a workshop at Cape Fear Community College. Member Steve Weaver brought his steam launch "Iona" and gave a very comprehensive show and tell session, detailing the boat's construction and steam propulsion components. In all, about 25 members and guests attended.

Next month, the Southport NC Maritime Museum will be holding their show on November 7th. This is a nice show that features everything from rowboats to classic wooden yachts. On the same day, chapter members Robert and Patsy Blanchard will be hosting their homecoming day at their homestead. Info on this can be found in last month's newsletter. Either on of these events is certainly worth going to.



In closing, I'd like to pay homage to departed member Lonnie Sieck. He was a friend and mentor to all who knew him. I'll forever have in my mind the image of Lonnie plying the waters in "Symmetry" or his little Lyman outboard. Unfortunately, Lonnie leaves behind some vintage marine engines as well as some floating stock, that need to find new homes. More on this when the details are worked out.

I hope you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving and get out for a boat ride!

Yours in classic boating,
Alan Hills, President



Full Steam Ahead! a Steam Engine Workshop at CFCC

While the remains of Hurricane Isaias delivered rain and wind outside, our chapter workshop, held at Cape Fear Community College went off without a hitch and was well attended, albeit by the coastal region members and friends. We were extremely fortunate to have member Steve Weaver there to lead us on a deep dive into the workings of a steam powered vessel. Steve had his boat, the steam vessel "Iona", there to we could see the actual parts and their placement in the boat.

Steve started out with sharing his experience in steam propulsion. Seeming always enamored by steam power, Steve worked his way up to become a steam locomotive engineer and steam tugboat engineer. His resume is quite impressive. Equally impressive was "Iona", which Steve built himself. Working with designer Reuel Parker, Steve built the boat specifically for steam power, which requires a lot more consideration than a conventional power boat. She is also very pretty to look at. Steve did a masterful job in her wooden construction and engineering.

Steve's presentation was most interesting, we were all pretty much venturing into uncharted territory, so to see the components and have their functions explained was very enlightening. Richard Morlock, who has his steam qualification, was helpful in pointing out some additional facts to the group.

Iona's boiler is fired by wood. Steve was not able to "fire" her up because she needs to be in the water to run. Steve plans to replace the existing boiler over the winter with a lighter unit to help cut down on the weight of the boat. Good news for all is that Steve plans on attending the NC Maritime museum show next May and will have her in the water making steam!



Thanks Steve and John Olsen of Cape Fear Community College, for making this unique and informative workshop possible.



Steam Engine Workshop at CFCC —Photos





Steam Engine Workshop at CFCC —Photos







Pop Up Fall Run on Lake Norman October 23, 2026 by Rob Weller



On Friday, October 23, a group of Blue Ridge and North Carolina Coastal & Piedmont Chapter members got together for a fall foliage cruise on Lake Norman. The weather was sunny and a bit cool, and although the fall colors had not yet reached their peak, the scenery was still beautiful. We had 3 boats and 10 people participating, with Craig and Theresa McMullin bringing their stunning 1946 Chris Craft U-22 from South Carolina. Rob & Beth Weller, from Lake Norman, ran their 1963 21′ Lyman "runabout", and Jim Caudle, also from Lake Norman, ran his 1949 Hutchinson-design/Grew-built 26′ varnished lapstrake beauty. Other enthusiastic participants were Jim Alexander, Art Swanson, Terry Fiest, and Jim and Colleen Barrick.



We cruised north from the Highway 150 bridge, through a number of long coves, deep into the State Park, and almost as far north as navigable for a couple hours and 15-20 miles. On our return, we stopped at a Lakefront restaurant "Toucan's" for drinks and lunch. Jim Barrick had arranged for nearby dock space and even golf cart transportation to the restaurant. The boats ran well and the camaraderie was great – a fun time was had by all! Although we had a concern for Friday afternoon traffic, I was told that traveling back was uneventful, and everyone got home safe. It was stirring to see a group of beautiful vintage wooden boats out on the Lake for a late-season run.



We appreciate Rob taking the initiative to organize this cruise for both the members of our chapter and the Blue Ridge Chapter. We invite any member to organize a cruise, workshop or other event for the chapter. Just provide details to President Alan Hills .

Pop Up Run on Lake Norman Photos by Rob Weller and Jim Alexander









Georgetown, SC Wooden Boat Show by Rob Weller

I was fortunate to be able to go to the 37th Annual Georgetown Wooden Boat Show over the weekend of October 17, and it was thoroughly enjoyable. Friday was warm and sunny, but the temperature dropped 20 degrees overnight for a cool rest of the weekend with some rain on Saturday, that might have contributed to a smaller crowd than normal. The Show is put on by the Harbor Historical Association, and all proceeds benefit the South Carolina Maritime Museum. There are wooden boats displayed on land and in the water, and events are scheduled every day to keep the spectators engaged. There is a wooden boat-building event wherein teams of 2 have 4 hours to construct their boats, which then must be rowed in competition on the river. The next day there is a "corrugated" boat-building event for younger folks, also requiring rowing on the river, and even small pond sailing competition for children who build a model sailboat. Boats on display are judged, and the Museum is open all weekend to browse the extensive displays of the Georgetown (and also Charleston) maritime history. The 140-foot Spirit of South Carolina wooden gaff-rigged schooner was on display for deck tours, and this ship was built as a large-scale replica of a pilot schooner used in the 1800's to get pilots out to merchant vessels coming into Harbor. It is now used to teach young folks how to sail such a vessel.

There were representatives from both the Blue Ridge and NCC&P Chapters at the show, with Jim Hartman bringing his 1955 20' Chris Craft Continental Loon. I brought my 1938 17' Chris Craft Utility and I was very pleased to win the "Classic Inboard/land" blue ribbon from the judges. Jim Dean also made the show, (although unfortunately was delayed by a double flat tire on the way there.) There were lots of sailing, rowing, kayaking, owner-designed, cruisers, outboard and inboard vessels on display. This is a great and long-standing show that really is organized to have "something for everyone."





Georgetown, SC Wooden Boat Show Photos by Rob Weller







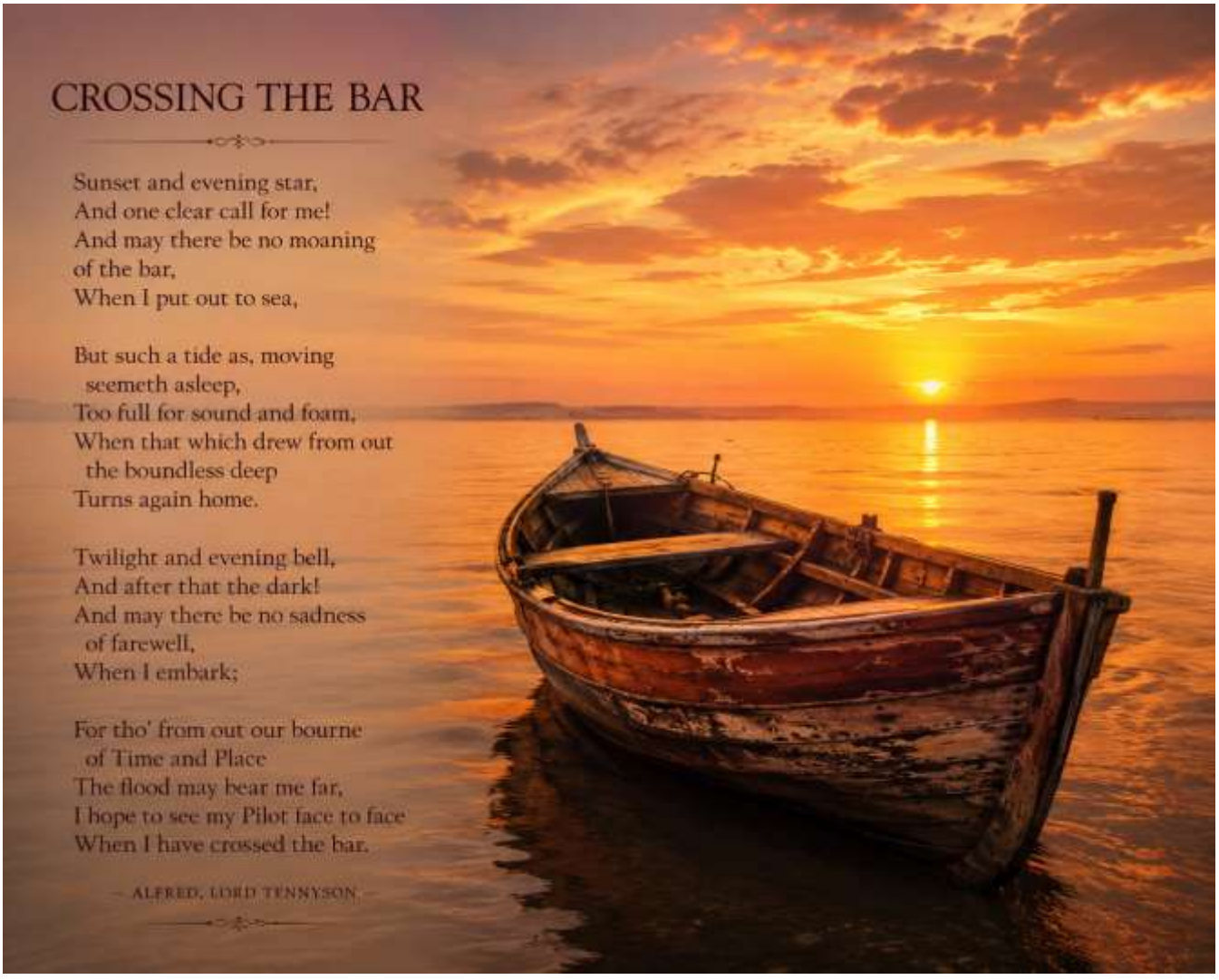






Long-time, Beloved Member Lonnie Sieck Crosses the Bar

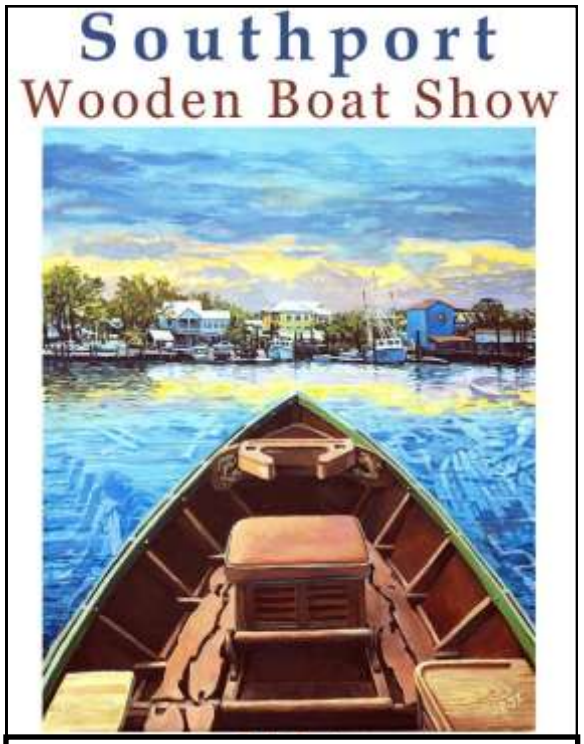




For Sale

Larry & Eileen Lettick are putting "Sweetie Pie", their fully restored 1946 Chris-Craft 20' Custom runabout, up for sale.

Any of our chapter members who may be interested in obtaining details before advertising to the public may contact Larry at letticklaw@yahoo.com, or (252) 623-1975. See photo below.



We encourage you to support the Southport, NC show November 7th.



Lake Lure Show by Rob Weller

Lake Lure (ACBS Blue Ridge Chapter) Boat Parade and Show

The Centennial celebration of the completion of the Lake Lure Dam was held on September 30, 2026, and featured remarks from town leaders, historians and engineers as well as an antique boat parade from the celebration site down to the Dam and back. The event was even more special in showcasing the remarkable recovery effort after the historic, catastrophic destruction wrought by Hurricane Helene on this area 2 years ago. For the Centennial, the weather was sunny and warm, and about 15 boats participated in the parade. The boats stayed on the docks through the rest of the week, offering public viewing and rides to those who stopped by.

The boats ranged from a 1917 Truskett Launch to a 1986 Century, (although a 2007 APBA wooden racing hydroplane was also displayed!) Other makes included Chris-Craft, Lyman, Crestliner, Aristocraft, Greavette, Grew-Hutchinson, Hacker, and Dorsett. Jim Barrick also brought a number of antique outboard motors to display. The People's Choice Award went to Bryan Wheeler's 1937 19' Hacker, and the Captain's Choice Award was given for Jim & Myrna Caudle's 1949 26' Grew-Hutchinson.

The Boat Show was scheduled for Saturday October 3rd on the docks, but because of threatening weather it was decided to pull the boats and display on trailers in the large parking area in front of the Lake Lure 1927 Inn & Spa. The rain held off until afternoon and a good number of people were able to visit the show, view the boats, and talk to the boat owners. The hydroplane's 750hp engine was fired up to entertain the crowd – you could feel it from over 50' away, and the sound echoed off the mountains!

Steve Dewire (BRC President) did an outstanding job organizing, helping with launch and retrieval, manning the registration and information booth, scheduling meals and music, and keeping everything running smoothly. The Town of Lake Lure was extremely appreciative to Steve and the Blue Ridge Chapter for hosting the show and supporting the celebration and the Lake and Town's dramatic recovery.



Lake Lure Show Photos by Rob Weller









Chapter Christmas Party — Make it a Weekend Trip to New Bern

Places to stay:

- **B&Bs downtown:** Aerie, Benjamin Ellis House, Hanna House, Meadows Inn, The Harvey, The Jarvis
- **Hotels downtown:** Courtyard by Marriott, Double Tree by Hilton, Bridge Pointe (older), Tryon Riverfront Inn Tapestry Collection by Hilton (boutique).
- **Hotels nearby in New Bern:** Candlewood Suites, Clarion Pointe, Comfort Suites, Hampton Inn, Holiday Inn Express, Springhill Suites

Things to do:

Friday December 11th

- Farmer's Market 8 to 2 PM 421 Front St.
- Bear Plaza on Middle Street (Visit Santa and get your photo taken!)
- Tryon Palace and New Bern History Center
- Bank of the Arts
- Shops in downtown
- 3 PM The Fairfield Harbour Chorus 38th Annual Holiday Concert at St. Andrew Lutheran Church 1605 Neuse Blvd.
- Once on this Island—Rivertowne Players 514 Hancock St.
- Ghosts of New Bern evening tour
- Live window displays on Middle St. 6 to 8 PM
- Canterbury Lights (drive through Canterbury Rd in Trent Woods)
- Bridgeton Christmas Lights 101 New Vision Ct. in Bridgeton
- Christmas Express Tour (233 Middle Street—rear of the O. Marks Bldg.) 6 to 8 PM (New Bern tours—trolley)
- Baxter's 1892 Aaron Davenport vocalist & guitarist—acoustic favorites from the 70s, 80s, and 90s 7 to 10 PM

Saturday December 12th

- Farmers' Market 8 AM to 1 PM
- Cars & Coffee New Bern-3134 MLK Blvd. New Bern Mall
- The Holly and Ivy Holiday Homes Tour 10 to 4 PM by New Bern Women's Club
- **Chapter Christmas Party Linner: Fairfield Harbour Community Center 1 to 4 PM. Details in December newsletter.**
- Candlelight Christmas Celebration at Tryon Place 4:30 to 9:30 (tickets go fast)
- Bank of the Arts
- Shops in downtown

Sunday December 13th

Brunch at: The Compass Rose—Tryon Riverfront Inn , Baxters, The Chelsea, Persimmons (Suggest reservations for all)

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: John Coffman (Huddleston, VA)

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

NC Coastal & Piedmont Chapter of the ACBS
https://www.vintageboat.org/

President:
Alan Hills (term ends 2027)
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John Dougherty (Term ends 2026)
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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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DirectorJim@vintageboat.org

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Jim Alexander
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Web Master:
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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:

November

7 Southport Boat Show

7 Homecoming Days at the Blanchard Homestead (Robert & Patsy) In New Hill, NC 677 Poole Rd.

14 SML Workshop

December

12 Chapter Christmas Party, Annual Meting, and elections. To be held at the Fairfield Harbour Community Center —the Harbour Club.1100 Pelican Dr. 1 to 4 PM



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.