



## Messing About In Boats

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

October 2022

Greetings fellow boat enthusiasts!

Boo! Did I scare you? I doubt it, but don't feel bad if I did. Many of us are easily frightened this time of year. In addition to ghosts and goblins, some of the specters that haunt me these days are: hurricanes, political ads, holiday calories and college football losses. All are inevitable, and maybe bring nightmares for you, too.

Never fear, though! We boat aficionados can always find a happy, fright-free place in our hobby. On the water or in the workshop, an October day with a boat is hard to beat for keeping the world's evils at bay. Sure, plenty can vex us, but boat problems are relatively benign all things considered.

Speaking of happy days with boats, be sure to plan on attending our boat show on October 22nd in New Bern. Don't let the pirate namesake fool you; Blackbeard Sailing Club is about the most jovial, carefree place you can go. No keel-hauling or plank walking for this lot. Instead, our show planners, Alan and Judy Hills, have a full day of pure enjoyment scheduled, all of which you can read about below.

In other news, I'll repeat what I mentioned last month - club elections are upcoming!

If and when you are nominated for a position, please consider serving. It's a non-scary job. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask any of the current officers or directors.

As always, thanks to everyone who helps make the club tick. Your efforts are appreciated!

Hope to see you at an event soon!

Cheers,

*Jeff*



## Saying Goodbye —to a Boat by Jeff Martinson

The old saw that “the two best days in a boat owner's life are the day he buys one and the day he sells it” has a ring of truth to it, especially when the boat is an antique or classic. Another saying explains part of the reason why, namely that BOAT stands for “Break Out Another Thousand.” Beyond the monetary investment there's also the time and effort spent restoring and maintaining our cherished possessions - a real labor of love. I've written elsewhere about how relaxing and restorative that work can be, but we all know it can be a burden, too. Maybe it's like jogging or biking - fun and ultimately good, but a workout nonetheless. The first best day is obvious - it's all about hope, optimism and the blank slate that the new purchase represents. The freshness of the first mile. Conversely, the second best day is when you hang up the shoes or the bike and get to rest full time. No more burdens.

I recently sold my Thompson Sea Lancer, the boat that is in the header of the newsletter. I named it “Wet Paint” because it was never quite done. By the time it was posted for sale, I'd burned through three motors, seen its gas tank stolen, almost burned it down with a shorted power sander and generally had constant “projects” with it. All that said, I never liked a boat more. It had the perfect layout for my family, rode well, was comely and - despite its many needs - was easy to work on. Perhaps most importantly, it had always been a “club boat”, getting worked on by members in workshops or

“living” with other boats at the unofficial club workshop, John Justice's “Pig” in Pittsboro. In fact, John had given the boat to me to restore after a friend had given it to him. So when it came time to prepare to say goodbye, I was not surprised to find myself a little sad.

It was then that I discovered a second meaning to the saying about the “two best days” that had escaped me previously. Just putting it on Craigslist, I had 10 offers on the first day, and the first one to come see the boat took it home. All had written with an appreciative comment about old boats like the Thompson, which assured me any of them would have been an excellent owner. I was jazzed that somebody else was going to have their own “first best day,” and it made my “second best day” more than just about relief. What I learned was that the optimism, hope and blank slate feelings can be shared from the new owner to the old.

A little sweetener I'd added to the boat listing probably amplified my ability to celebrate my new-found understanding of “best days.” Specifically, I offered the new owner a one-year membership to the club and chapter. I framed it as a separate, take-it-or-leave-it offer, unrelated to the price - just camaraderie and commiseration, if they wanted it. Happily, the new owner accepted. Best days indeed! May we all have lots yet to come!

## After 8 Years—Mike Triplett Successfully Launches His Boat

With assistance from John Justice, Mike was ecstatic when he took his boat for a test run at Jordan Lake in mid-September. He was grinning from ear to ear! We applaud Mike for his stick-to-

itiveness. Eight years is a very long time to work on a project—any project. So the next time you get discouraged about a timeline, just think of Mike..

## The Need for Speed by Alan Hills

Ever since I can remember, I have been enamored with fast cars, boats, whatever. As a teen, hot rodding in the 60s, sticking a large General Motors V8 in an old Ford did the trick. On the water side of things, I hung a Evinrude Big Twin 25 on a 9' Skimmer (rated for 10hp max) and created a pretty fast and pretty dangerous little boat.....it didn't last too long, LOL! Later on, I inherited a 16' Starcraft that had a 33hp Johnson on it. I came across a 100hp Johnson Golden Meteor and couldn't resist modifying the Starcraft (rated 40hp max) to accept the motor. This one actually worked out pretty well...even took my kids out on it. After that, family size required something larger so it was cruisers from there on.

Having a family that eventually numbered seven children kind of put all this hot rod stuff on the very back burner. After I had joined ACBS and started attending shows, I saw opportunities to get rides in race boats. The first chance came at St. Michaels where there were a few Jersey speed skiffs offering rides. I was a little busy tending to my boat and by the time I got around to asking, they were no longer going out. Missed opportunity #1. The next time I had a shot was at Smith Mountain Lake. Charles Mistele was taking folks out on Miss America IX but this turned out to be an empty wish as there were just too many people wanting and not enough time.

This year, Judy and I attended the Blue Ridge chapter show in Lake Lure. We arrived for the Friday night social a little early and there was only one other person there. Naturally, we started talking and thereby met Jeff "Nemo" Buckley, owner of the Dodge Gold Cup replica racer "Nuisance" of the 1920s. After some friendly talk, I had to ask him if he would be taking people out. He says yes, I say I really want a ride. Well, next day I finally got my



fast boat ride. It was a crazy rush and I quickly realized that you really have to know what you're doing in order to safely pilot a raceboat at speed. Needless to say, that was the highlight of the show for me.

Fast forward to the Smith Mountain Lake show last month. We really enjoy the SML show for its beautiful lake and friendly hosts. We decided to spend a couple of extra days there so Judy rented us a condo with docks near the show venue. The view from our unit overlooked the lake with the docks in the foreground. On our first night there, I was looking out at the lake and saw the unmistakable profile of a Jersey speed skiff approaching. I figured it was probably there for the show and maybe I could meet the owner tomorrow.



## The Need for Speed (continued)

Next day came and the speed skiff was off early with its two occupants and gone all day. We launched our boat and went for a cruise on the lake and never saw them. We drove around in the truck for a bit and the skiff was back when we got home. It looked like there was some work going on so I went on down to introduce myself and offer any assistance. My first thought as I approached was "man, is that thing small!". She was painted orange and bore the name "Orange Crate". We said our hellos and immediately started talking boats. I had a lot of ques-

tions about his immaculate little boat. In the course of conversation, we came to find out that skiff owner Jason had once had a Chris Craft sea skiff, as did I. I mentioned that we had our Barbour there for the show but our go-to boat was a Chris Craft dory. Jason says

"We had a dory too!" so I'm starting to think that maybe we're kindred spirits here. I mean, what are the chances of this? So anyway, I get around to asking for a ride and it was agreed that we would go once the show wound down.

Well, my big moment finally arrived as the crowd started thinning out. I was instructed on how to get in the boat and was amazed at the fact that there was not much fluff in the cockpit, which is located at the very back of the boat. I sat in the seat, straddling the port side exhaust pipe, with footrests shaped like shoe bottoms, and a lone handle for my left hand to grip. The driver's side was equipped with a Nascar style steering wheel

that had to be removed for the driver to get in. After the preliminary checks, Jason fired her up and we were off. As we passed slowly through the no-wake zone, I was struck by how little you are isolated from what is going on, mostly sound, vibration, and the feel of water against hull. Once we cleared the buoys, Jason stepped on it...literally because the throttle is foot operated. Off we went like shot out of a cannon. The only thing I can equate to the sensations one experiences during a ride in one of these is that of being in a



racecar but on the water. Everything is very raw, visceral. I don't think Jason spared me much as far as getting the full experience. I was hootin' and hollerin' as we flew and bounced along.

Alas, it was time to head back. We were coming into the no wake area pretty "hot" so Jason quickly lifted the gas pedal and a loud "thunk" ensued immediately and the engine sounded like it was in neutral although it was still in gear. What the heck just happened and where is this water coming from? Jason shut down the engine and we quickly realized that the prop shaft had exited the coupling leaving no shaft to make a seal for the stuffing box. By the way, Orange Crate isn't equipped with a bilge pump! Jason quickly grabbed a towel that was nearby and stuffed it in the hole where the shaft had been. Leak stopped! We



## The Need for Speed (continued)

were only about a quarter mile from the marina so I called Alan Frederick of the SML chapter and he and George Blosser were quickly there to tow us in so we could haul out.

Fortunately, the rudder prevented the shaft from falling completely out and the prop got a little nicked up, but all else seemed ok. Knowing no

serious damage was done to humans or boat, we looked back and smiled. A really cool up-shot of the whole experience is that Judy and I became nicely acquainted with Jason and wife Jennifer and we are hopeful that they and "Orange Crate" will be able to attend our show here in October.



NC COASTAL & PIEDMONT CHAPTER / ACBS ANNUAL SHOW

# Antique & Classic BOAT SHOW

*Saturday, October 22nd 2022*  
**NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA**  
 BLACKBEARD SAILING CLUB, 1215 BARKENTINE DR.  
**FREE ADMISSION - 10AM TO 2PM**  
 For more Info visit: [vintageboat.org](http://vintageboat.org)

Blackbeard Sailing Club

## CHAPTER BOAT SHOW

We are a little late getting the specific information out on our show, but we have had the date out there for some time so we hope most of our members attend—preferably with a boat!

We have written a detailed Frequently Asked Questions document and a pdf fillable registration form,. Links are posted on the [home page of our website](#).

And click here for a pdf of the boat show poster, created by member Mike Triplett. Help us spread the word to your family, neighbors, friends and community through emails, social media, and placing the posters around.

Alan Hills is the chair of this event and he could use your help. [Email Alan](#) and let him know your availability.

We are excited to be back on track with a boat show this year and we appreciate Blackbeard Sailing Club allowing us the use of their facility. **SUPPORT YOUR CHAPTER BY ATTENDING!**

## Smith Mountain Lake ACBS Chapter Show

The weather on September 16th and 17th was lovely in Moneta, VA. The SML group held their show at a new venue—the Crazy Horse Marina. In years past they held the show at a resort, but it was under new management and the price to use the facility soared through the roof. The Crazy Horse was more intimate and had a lot more shade. There was a Mexican restaurant onsite which was convenient-as long as you liked Mexican food.

Chapter members Alan and Judy Hills and Dan Bixler brought boats to the show. Dan finally named his boat—Brown Sugar—but he had not had it painted on yet. Dan just stayed on Friday night and had to head home after the show. The Hardens from Hyco Lake also attended. Judy and Alan went up on Wednesday the 15th. They stayed at a resort a few minutes drive from the venue.

On Wednesday, Alan and Judy rode around the area taking in the sights and checking out the gift shops. They launched the boat in the afternoon and went for a short ride. Given the configuration of the lake, the drive by boat took about five times as long, but when the lake is flat and the temperature moderate—it makes for a fun run. They got lost trying to find the right cove, but spied a wooden boat that looked like it knew where it was going so they followed it. They ended up making a new friend in the process.

That night they left the Barbour in the water at a dock at the resort. The next morning Alan went to check it over only to discover that it had a dead battery. Fortunately he had an extra one in the truck which he uses for the winch for his Chris Craft. Unfortunately it was a little bit of an uphill hike for Alan to bring the battery to the truck and then take the other battery back down to the boat—but it all worked

out.

Alan drove the Barbour to the Crazy Horse while Judy drove the truck over. During the morning they hung around the marina. Alan helped others launch their boats and Judy took pictures and talked to the attendees. She was taking notes to share with the ACBS Chapter Development Committee.

One bit of drama: a guy who had spent 17 years (!!!) fixing up a Chris Craft Holiday was launching it for the very first time. Unfortunately in all that time he must not have driven a boat because about a dozen times he came very close to crashing it into docks and other boats—his wife was on the land screaming. We finally convinced her to go take a walk while the guys help him nestle the boat in the slip.

Around 2 PM, the hosts led a run on the lake and about eight boats participated. They ran from the marina to the dam and back. Got a little crazy when the Barbour got rocked in the heavy wake the lead boats were throwing. The scenery was beautiful. The only thing that might have made it better was if the foliage had started to turn.

That afternoon they had a social on-site with a country band. Food, drinks, fun and friends!

The day of the show—Saturday—dawned bright and sunny, but not too hot. They had 50 boats in the show with about eight land displays. Miss America IX was a land display, but did one crowd-pleasing run. They had a handful of vendors. The crowds were steady throughout the day—much more than they ever had at the old location. Saturday night they had a tasty meal and handed out the awards. There



## SML Show (continued)

were so many great looking boats—it must have been hard to choose winners. Most of the awards were Captains' Choice and People's Choice—no best of show.

Alan and Judy headed back to New Bern on Sunday after they pulled the Barbour out at the marina.

The SML Chapter did a really wonderful job on the show—setting a new standard of excellence and hospitality! Kudos! They have already booked Crazy Horse Marina for next year—same weekend—Saturday September 16, 2023—so mark your calendars. We highly recommend this show!

[Click here](#) to see more photos of the show.



Dan Bixler arriving with his boat



Alan Hills giving Dan directions



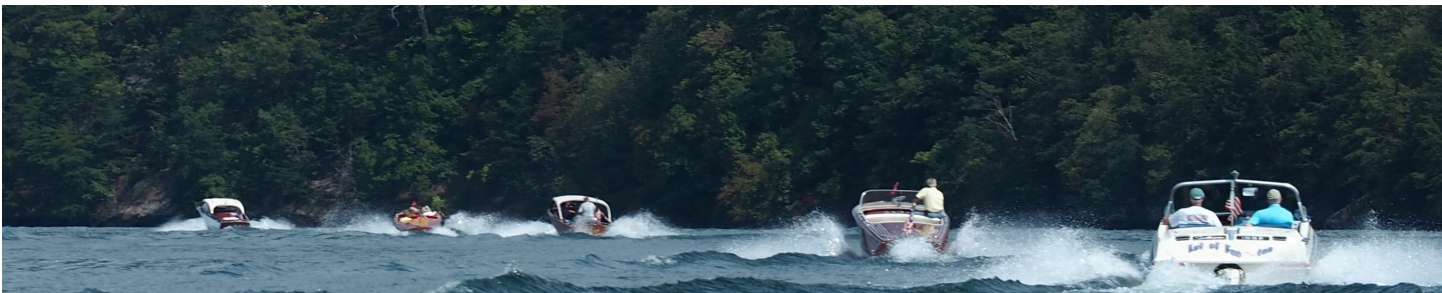
Dan Bixler launching



Alan in the Barbour



SML Show Photos





## ACBS International Show

Chapter Director Jim Alexander was able to attend the International Show in Burlington, Vermont and took a few pictures of the more unusual boats. It was beautiful weather and there were 150 boats in the show. All good! Hull, props & rudders are all quite unusual on the Meralco—a 1917 30-ft. Hickman Sea Sled—below top right.





# Skaneateles Show submitted by Ann Marie and Jim Hartman

In August, Ann Marie and Jim Hartman attended the Skaneateles Show. Here are some photos.





## ACBS Roundtable from the International Show 8 September 2022

This was just an “open mic” kind of meeting where those that attended threw out ideas and concerns. I’ll just cover a few of them.

- A common issue—getting members to engage, to attend events, to serve on the Board.
- ACBS will be using Survey Monkey to capture the data on the required End-of-Year chapter report.
- Struggling chapters need assistance. Chapter Development Committee is working with several.
- Discuss accepting credit card payments for boat show registrations.
- Lots of discussion about judging:  
Pros and cons

judging standards,

judging criteria,

Judging classifications

judging expertise/training

Issues associated with cost of meeting  
ACBS “original factory condition”  
standard

Discussed options for doing boat show awards at chapter shows.

Reminder that we are stewards of antique and classic boats. We should gather historical data on our boats.

Ed Andrews, Chair of the Chapter Development Committee, discussed the committee’s role and the series of roundtable discussions via Zoom that the CDC holds monthly.

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## Boat Show Etiquette

In talking with the SML show organizers and in casual conversation with those attending this show, it became apparent that not everyone shares the same standard of etiquette. Here are a few recommendations for those who bring boats to a show.

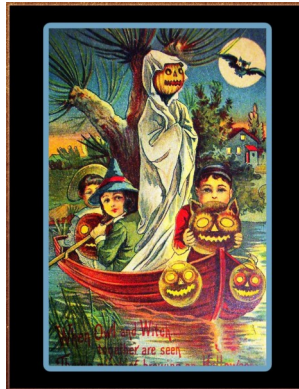
- Late registrations or those who just show up on the day of the show cause heartburn for the show organizers. It throws off all their paperwork and plans when newcomers have to be accommodated. Book early and then be a no-show—it would be more courteous. Don’t begrudge the chapter your fees—consider it a donation to a hobby you love.
- If you have a legitimate gripe—make it to the right person and don’t vent in public.
- Show up on time—when requested—and DO NOT LEAVE (your slip or your place on the hard) until the time that the show officially ends. The public expects that if the show is over at 4 PM, that they should be able to see all the boats until 4 PM. Leaving early (except in an emergency or really bad weather) is poor form and disruptive.
- Don’t argue about the outcome of the judging. Co-members tell us that they hate attending shows where their boat will be judged due the potential for arguments.
- Be mindful of other boats. Even the smallest ding or scratch can mar something that may have taken untold hours to achieve.
- Help others to launch, dock, and retrieve.
- Be friendly and open to all!

Members who joined or renewed recently included:

New:

Renewed: Jeff Martinson,

*Welcome!*



## Chapter Cartoon Caption Contest

What in the world do we have to do to get you all to engage? There was only one entry to this contest—hubby Alan Hills, who offered this caption *"I always heard the saying about a boat being a hole in the water that one throws money in. I guess this just proves it!"* The original caption said, "This drought is taking all the fun out of our boating trips." Unfortunately those words are only too true for some lakes around the country.



We'll try this one more time. To the right is a cartoon. You come up with the caption that best fits. Send your entry to editor [Judy Hills](#) by 10/25.

## Fall Fun Run at Lake Gaston Saturday November 12, 2022

11:00 AM Splash in: Southpointe (formerly Morningstar) Marina, Eaton Ferry

Review the Lake Gaston map, identify obstacles, points of interest & landmarks Exchange phone numbers

Note: \$5 fee for using the ramp, now \$25 to park. Pay in the office trailer on the parking lot level.

(ethanol free gas available here)

11:30 Depart

Head WNW toward I-85, cruise south shore

Head past mile marker 17, enter Great Creek on starboard side

Pass Americamps on port

Arrive at Holly Grove Marina on rt 903

Return to mile marker 14, turn to port, up Poplar Creek

Proceed up the creek, under rt 903 to the Shady Shack Grill. (ethanol-free gas available here)

12:30 Lunch until about 2:00

2:00 Return toward Southpointe Marina

Cruise north shore

Arrive at marina (between mile marker 8 & 9) & pull the boats.

3:00 "Tall Tails" gathering at The Pointe at Lake Gaston Restaurant

POC: Jim Alexander [pennajim@gmail.com](mailto:pennajim@gmail.com)  
919-616-0412

Marina address: 1865 Eaton Ferry Road,  
Littleton, NC 27850





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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!

10/15-16 Georgetown Wooden Boat Show. [Click here.](#)

10/21 Fri Chapter Boat Show meet up and run on the Neuse River with social and refreshments at Blackbeard Sailing Club at 5 PM. See [Chapter website](#) for links to FAQs and Registration form

10/22 Sat Chapter Boat Show at Blackbeard Sailing Club in New Bern. 10 to 2. Questions? [Email Alan Hills.](#)

10/26 Wed 6 PM Chapter Annual meeting & elections. Will be an in-person meeting at Mannings Restaurant 406 E. Main St. Clayton, NC 27520. All members and co-members are invited to attend. [Click here](#) for the menu. Make it a date night!

10/29 Roanoke Island Maritime Museum (Manteo) 10th Annual Wooden Boat Show. [Click here](#) for information and form.

11/5 Southport Wooden Boat Show. [Click here](#) for information.

11/12 Fall Foliage Fun Run on Lake Gaston with lunch at a restaurant. Questions? [Email Jim Alexander](#)

12/10 Chapter Christmas party at Sharon & Bill Conleys home in Raleigh

### 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.](#)