

Messing About In Boats

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

September 2020

Hello Fellow Members,

There's no need for me to report that we are all still dealing with COVID-19. Hopefully you have been able to get to some of the things that bring you pleasure and perhaps a long put off chore that you now happily undertook to fend off the boredom.

Our chapter is still going strong membership-wise; we have been maintaining around 60 members for quite some time, in no small part thanks to our members who volunteer their time to keep us viable throughout the year. I was very pleased to see that we had two chapter members contribute to the latest issue of *The Rudder*. Kurt Doherty of Efland, NC, wrote a masterful piece of his father's long love affair with a seemingly un-attainable Donzi sweet 16 and his eventual ownership. The title of the article is "The Story of Donzi" (p. 28). Lonnie Sieck of Roxboro, NC, shared his experiences from childhood

to present praising the qualities of the "lowly Adirondack Guideboat" (his words!). They sure are beautiful to me. The article "The Art of Taking it Slow" by written by Amy Scanlin (p. 44)

We were able to hold a workshop and swap meet on August 22nd hosted by John and Pam Justice. We had a nice turnout and some goods that were brought went home with someone else. We have a fun run scheduled for Lake Gaston on September 26, hosted by Jim Alexander. Details will follow in an email later.

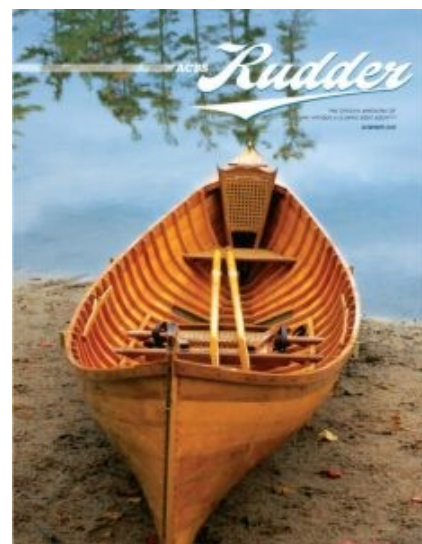
We still need content for upcoming newsletters and the website, so please find it within yourselves to help us out with this. Our chapter secretary position is still vacant; PLEASE somebody step forward to fill this slot. It is not difficult or time consuming. I'd really to see one of you who hasn't been that active give this a shot. The 'usual sus-

pects" have been carrying the chapter for a long time now and some new blood here would be a good thing. Ability to take notes at meetings and turn them into minutes using word processing software is about all that is needed.

Y'all stay safe and I hope to see you at Gaston!

Best regards,

Alan



[Click here to access this edition of the Rudder.](#)

Chapter Workshop at John Justice's Piglet

Our chapter held a summer workshop and swap meet on August 22nd that was hosted by John and Pam Justice at their home in Pittsboro. John wisely put out a marker so those who had not been there would know they were at the right place. As folks started to arrive, they gathered in John's woodshop to check out the project inside. He has been going pretty hard all summer on a 1928 Chris Craft 26' triple cockpit runabout that has been going by the name of "The Skeleton". I think she will be due for a name change before too long as she now has some skin on her bones.

Once we had everyone present, we went down the hill to John's other shop, known as "The Piglet" (more on the Piglet next month), where the workshop began in earnest. After introducing new member Dan Bixler to the group, we got down to business. The subject was winterizing an inboard engine, which seems a little soon to be talking about in August, but hey, this stuff sneaks up on you! Using a Pleasurecraft V8 to demonstrate, John went over all the points that were essential steps in the process and then a lot of "while you're at it" ideas were presented by John and some of the members. Very informative.

There were tables, crates and bins populating about one third of the building. The items ranged from running gear, deck hardware, safety equipment, tools, mechanical and electri-

cal components, engine parts, gauges and so on. It kind of looked like an old shipyard had been deep cleaned and all the stuff brought here. A bunch of stuff changed hands and a lot of visiting and catching up took place.

As morning turned into afternoon, John fired the grill and Jeff Gelm got busy with the cooking duties. Of course, there were burgers and dogs, but John had made a special run to Ray's Market in Moncure for some Polish sausage. These things were huge, every bit of 2" round and delicious. Jeff did a great job of keeping the food pipeline moving right along. After lunch, some more visiting went on and suddenly Jeff informed us all there was a "far" in the grill (Southern for fire), and it was truly impressive. All of those Ray's sausages apparently produced a goodly amount of fat that burned long and hard for about 15 minutes. Good thing the grill was outside!

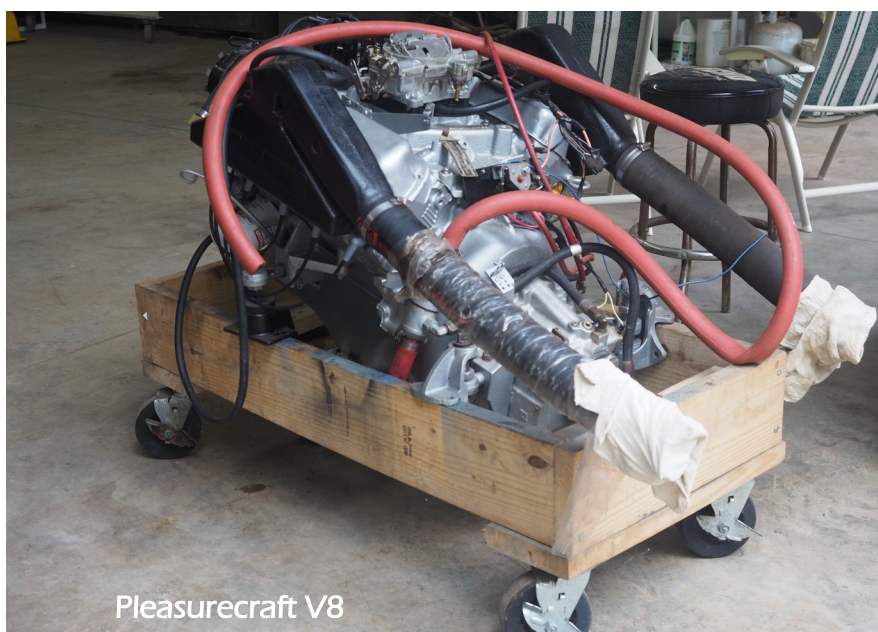
Things started to break up around 2PM, with cars and trucks loaded with their new (and old) items. The cliché "and a good time was had by all" certainly applied here and a great big thanks goes out to John and Pam, and to Joe Peacos and Judy Hills for their wonderful photographs. Sorry, we were so stunned by the fire that no one thought to take a picture of it!



Piglet Workshop—photos by Joe Peacos & Judy Hills



No need for a mail box number when you have an old boat to point the way to the workshop!



Pleasurecraft V8



Lonnie Sieck taking a COVID 19 measurement.



Jim Alexander checking out FINS



Alan Hills' Blackbeard Mask

Piglet Workshop—photos by Joe Peacos & Judy Hills



Above: a laying on of healing hands—or so John hopes!

Right: Joe Peacos inspecting the treasures

Below: Jim Hartman and new member Dan Bixler.



Piglet Workshop—photos by Joe Peacos & Judy Hills



Piglet Workshop—photos by Joe Peacos & Judy Hills



John at the grill
before the "fire"



Jim A., Jim H., and Jeff



Beverly Peacos



Jeff Gelm perusing the merchandise

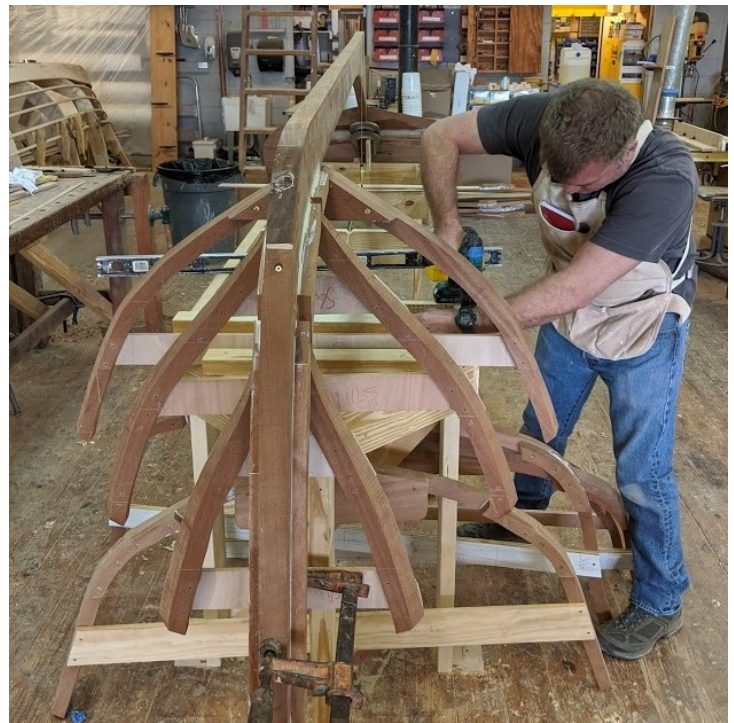


2020 Scholarship Awards Update by Chair Jim Alexander

Beginning in November 2015 the NC Coastal & Piedmont Chapter has given a scholarship to a student in the Cape Fear Community College (Wilmington) Boat Building Program. This is to help ensure a future workforce to help preserve and restore antique and classic boats. The Chapter has made a yearly donation of \$1,000 (increased to \$1,500 then to our current level of \$2,000) to the [Cape Fear Community College's Boat Building School](#) to provide financial assistance to a student enrolled there in the wooden boat building program. The money is managed by the CFCC Foundation which screens all applicants and evaluates their submission against our established criteria for scholarship award.

In 2020 we provided a \$1,000 scholarship to Shane Snow, a disabled veteran and father of three whose goals it is to start his own small business in wooden boat manufacture. The second recipient of a \$1,000 scholarship was Cody Murphy who looks forward to full-time employment in the boat building [Click here](#) to see the award letters and thank you notes.

Our point of contact for the program is Membership Chairman Jim Alexander. We thank Jim for his involvement in the program. If you have any questions or wish to make a separate donation to this worthy program, please contact [Jim](#).



Trailing Your Boat: “Be Prepared” Checklist by Jim Alexander

Along with your trailer, take...

- Spare
- Jack
- Lug wrench for locking nuts, if your trailer has them
- Couple of short pieces of 2 by 4 or 2 by 6 for soft dirt/ditch situations
- Warning triangle or flares
- Towel to lie on and clean up
- Owner's card/registration
- Blocks for trailer wheels
- Keys for trailer lock
- PVC or other boat guides to be mounted on your trailer
- Electrical adapter - flat four to round 7 plugs
- Fire extinguisher, flares, throw cushion, life preservers

Before you go...

- Check bunks, bunk bolts or retainers before you load: any loose or moved?
- Look at the winch stand: is it straight/tight? Paint on trailer tongue will show if movement has occurred
- Look at the winch rope. If it's worn, replace it. Oil the winch.
- After loading make sure each bunk is in contact with the hull. If a paint stick fits between the boat hull and bunk, do some adjustment.
- Air up your tires & spare. Are your tires too old/aged?
- Check the fluid in your trailer brakes, if it has them
- Check trailer lights.
- Shut off gas line at tank to eliminate slosh induced gas spill.
- Anchor, tow line, boat tools, dock lines, oil.
- Boat key

Things to remember...

- Load heavy things low in the boat to lower center of gravity.
- Tie/bungie loose things in the boat, especially if trailering without a boat cover.
- Cross safety chains to keep tongue off pavement if disconnect happens.
- Surge brake attaches to vehicle frame.
- Tongue weight: 8 - 10% of trailer's weight. Check with bathroom scale after the boat is loaded for towing. Gas filling enroute can significantly change tongue weight: 30 gallons of gas can weigh close to 250 pounds.
- Repack wheel bearings every 5 years
- Environmental considerations:
 1. Remove mud, plants, fish, etc.
 2. Eliminate water before leaving
 3. Clean trailer & boat before going to new or home lake

MAKING A LIST AND CHECKING IT TWICE REALLY IS GOOD ADVICE!

PREPARING FOR THE INEVITABLE

Those who have been bitten by the antique and classic boat bug probably have one or more boats and trailers; lots of parts and accessories; and many tools. 99% of the time the male in the relationship is the one who does the accumulating with the wife or significant other admiring the handiwork and enjoying the beauty of the boats, the boating events and the camaraderie of the ACBS community.

There comes a time in life when the ACBS member must reassess his lifestyle, including hobbies and possessions. Sometimes it is forced by circumstances and sometimes it is a conscious choice. As we grow older and less able to participate in hobbies, we begin to realize the need to divest ourselves of the things related to it.

Some signs that we may be approaching that juncture include:

- Loss of strength needed for launching and retrieving the boat;
- Inability to adequately maintain the boat to the prior standard of care;
- Unable to perform routine mechanical work on the boat;
- Pretty much stop using the boat;
- Easily tired;
- Loss of interest;
- Inability to concentrate on needed tasks;
- Unable to easily climb on, off and around the boat;
- Forgetfulness resulting in an incident; and
- Health issues affecting your safety and possibly that of others.

Giving up that which we love is hard, but recognizing that we are to that point is even harder, because we have to own up to the fact that we need to let go and then we have to take action to do so. In many cases the decision gets put off until someone else is left to deal with it—generally the wife, significant other or family. With some rare exceptions, these individuals are not equipped to

take the needed action which includes assessing the value of the boats, tools and other items. Once a value is determined, buyers must be found and the items sold or given away. Just imagine if you were the wife left with three boats in various stages of repair and a shed or garage filled with tools, parts and material because your husband had a major stroke or worse.

While we can't control for the unknown, if we are getting up in age, we can make a plan and begin to work the plan. Such a plan might include:

Go through your "stuff" and begin to get rid of items you no longer need (parts for a prior project or one you will never finish);

Decide what maintenance or repairs you are capable of and still interested in performing and then get rid of all tools and materials that are not needed;

Decide which boat or boats you will keep and make a plan to sell them in the future;

When you sell the boat(s), keep up with your hobby by continuing to be a member of ACBS and your local chapter. Attend boat shows. Enjoy your hobby passively or virtually.

Remember, as hard as it will be to step back, it is going to be a lot harder for those who may have to deal with the stuff you have accumulated if something happens to you. We urge you to give the points in this article some thought. If you are having difficulty making these decisions, ask fellow ACBS members for help. That's what we are here for.



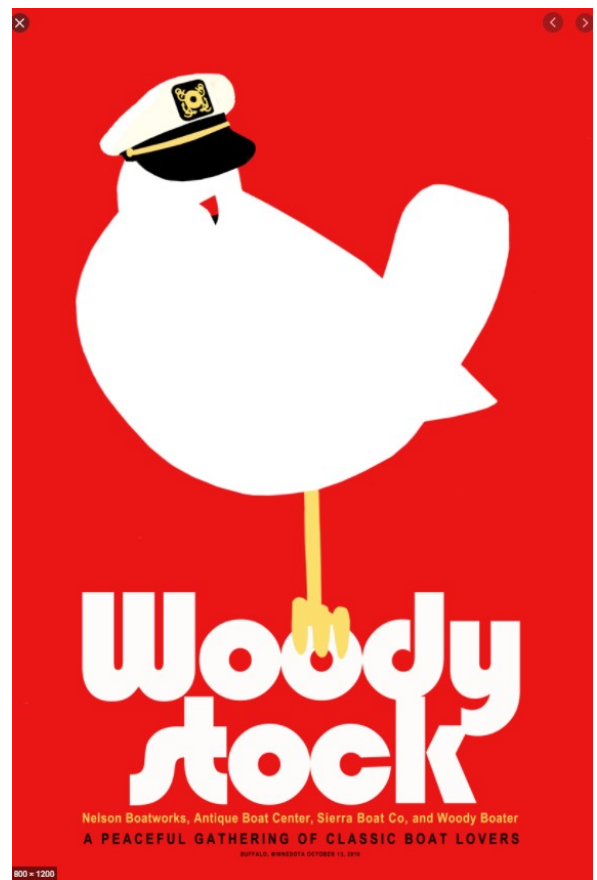
Chapter Event Makes Cover of Hyco Lake Magazine

Thanks to the diligence of chapter member and photographer Joe Peacos, our photos were in Volume Three 2020 edition of the Hyco Lake Magazine. We even made the front cover. The story, on pages 22-25, was written by Brandon Patrick with photos provided by Joe Peacos. The article gave some background on ACBS as well as our chapter. "If you want to connect with a group of down-to-earth people who have a passion for handmade pieces of history, look no further."

This kind of great press is a real boon for our hobby and for our chapter. We hope that it will generate interest in the chapter and perhaps garner a few new members. Thanks, Joe! [Click here](#) to read the article and view the great pictures.



Funny Stuff from Woody Boater



Jeff Gelm's 1955 Chris Craft 17' Sportsman, SWEET PEA

There is no great fanfare in the naming of our Sportsman. It all started "way back when" when the boat was acquired by me. I am the 3rd owner/custodian of this particular boat. Sweet Pea was originally delivered to a marina on Deep Creek, Maryland. Reported by the second owner, the first owner was a "Little Old Lady" whom used the boat to motor around the lake with her girlfriends at tea time. The second owner purchased the boat in the 60's and sold it to me around 1999. He was in his early 80's when I bought Sweet Pea. He didn't want to leave the boat to his son, in his words, the son was a "derelict" and would destroy the craft. So, the boat arrived in my driveway. And sat. I had the highest intentions of restoring the boat right away, but life usually gets in the way. I meet my wife around this time. She was teaching Kindergarten at this time and always referred to her kids, and everyone else for that matter, as sweet pea. I found a Dumas model of a 16' Chris Utility that I could modify easily to look just like my version. As I was digging through the instructions for the model, lo and behold was a decal for "Sweet Pea Tahoe." Fate sealed, the boat had a name.



Just for Fun in 2020: How Did Your Boat Get Its Name?

ACBS Chapter members' inquiring minds want to know! How did the boat get its name? It does not have to be a boat you currently own. It can also be a boat your family once owned. Every boat name has a back story. Submit yours by the 25th of each month.

Here is what we are hoping you'll provide: 1) Name of the boat; 2) Owned by; 3) Boat description; 4) Boat history; 5) How the boat got its name; and 6) Photo of the boat. Can't wait to see what you submit!



Last month's submission "Last Nickel"
John Justice

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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 with the exception of the business meeting dates, the places, dates and times listed for events are tentative. Watch your email for updates. Please add these dates to your calendar and participate as much as you can! Support the boat shows listed and others. Chapter-sponsored events are in bold.

NOTE: Many events have either been cancelled or rescheduled due to the coronavirus.

9/18-19 Smith Mountain Lake Boat Show **Cancelled**

9/14-19 ACBS International Show Coeur d'Alene, ID **Cancelled**

9/25-27 Oriental Boat Show & Nautical Flea Market **Cancelled**

9/26 Fun Run at Lake Gaston organized by Jim Alexander

10/17 NCMM Wooden Boat Show in Beaufort, NC at Gallants Channel location **Cancelled**

10/17-18 Georgetown SC Wooden Boat Show **Cancelled**

Due to the circumstances and continued uncertainty surrounding COVID-19, the North Carolina Maritime Museum in Beaufort has cancelled the **Wooden Boat Show** scheduled for Oct. 17, 2020. This is in the best interest of the health and safety of our participants, volunteers, and staff. We will focus our energies on preparing for our next Wooden Boat Show in 2021.

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.

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