



## Messing About In Boats

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

September 2022

Greeting Fellow Boating Enthusiasts:!

Late summer and early fall brings with it lots of things for different people. School starts, college football, campaigns and elections are all harbingers of the season. Of course, the change is in the air, too, with the arrival of ever cooler weather, and - usually - the threat of tropical storms and hurricanes. Undaunted and hopeful, many of us head out to enjoy the water in the fall, relatively free of the summer crowds of July and August.

Fall is also "business" time for the club, or at least it has been more years than not. By that I mean it's the period during which we hold our annual business meeting, solicit candidates for the handful of officer and director positions, hold a big event with catering, awards, etc., conduct elections and begin to draft priorities and budgets for the forthcoming year. We've even just recently incorporated our chapter with the State of North Carolina as an official non-profit entity, a designation that offers many protections and benefits with few costs. Keeping in mind that I'm about to invite you who are reading this to participate in each of these undertakings - I want to emphasize that it's not hard work per se, but that it is a peak of activity for the club and its organizers. Think

of it like the "work" that goes into hosting a big party - not all that bad considering the good times that result from the effort. (This reminds me that my wife prefers I say I'm "hobbying" on my boats, rather than "working", as the latter clearly involves more drudgery than any boat project ever afforded.)

In any case, fun or not, here comes the invitation: we sure would welcome your help this fall!! As you see events that you'd be interested in assisting with, or calls to positions that you'd be able to serve in, please consider responding. Any of the current officers or directors listed would be happy to speak with you about what their jobs have entailed and answer any other questions you might have.

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## President's Column Continued

While self-nominations for upcoming terms are preferred, we also accept "rain check" nominations and nominations of others (but you better tell them they've been nominated before we tell them who did the nominating!)

In the meantime, I hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter. As always, it's full of excellent reportage on recent and upcoming events. I've penned a piece on my "strange looking" electric outboard. There's also a fun

challenge involving everybody's favorite mechanical cure-all - duct tape. Thanks, as always, to the editorial and photographic work of Judy Hills, without whom there would be no newsletter!

Hope to see you at an event soon!

Cheers,

*Jeff*

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## Electric Boat-a-Loo by Jeff Martinson

I'm not an early adopter when it comes to technology. *Antique & Classic* Boat Society just about says it all for me, not just in terms of boats, but stuff in general. On top of that, I'm shall we say, "frugal" with money. As a result, I tend to have lots of things that are "long-in-the-tooth" and/or of dubious provenance: clothes from the thrift store, furniture from craigslist, cars from the auction, etc. Granted, I prefer old stuff aesthetically and functionally, so a lot of what I like is just not available anymore, and these are among the only viable options available.

All this said, I also like my stuff to work, at least most of the time. An occasional "breakdown", whether it's a tear, scratch or crunch is okay, as there is joy in keeping the old things running - mended, refinished and rebuilt to be used for some time still. But if there's one thing I lack it's any luck or skill with engines, in particular the two-stroke variety. Chainsaws, lawn mowers, outboards and more all succumb to my Anti-Midas Touch. In the war with these mechanical demons I do win a few battles, repairing and rebuilding them to the point of run-

ning again, but never for long enough. And I've surrendered.

The biggest front was the boating one. But I've raised the white flag in my war with the two strokes. Enter the ePropulsion Spirit 1.0 Plus outboard motor! This little guy is the easiest, most trouble free motor I've ever had. (See above for the quality we were talking about here.) It was purchased for use on my trailer sailboats - lightweight MacGregor 22 swing keels, for which it is actually somewhat inadequate. This is because the motor only puts the equivalent to 3 HP. But it has a 1276 Wh battery (that floats) and super easy controls and user interface. It's equivalent in weight and dimensions to a similarly powerful gas outboard, and has a run time of about 1 hour at full throttle, 2 hours at half and up to double that when just puttering. The battery detaches from the motor, so you could get another for reserve if you wanted longer range or you can get special hull-mounted batteries for even longer running.

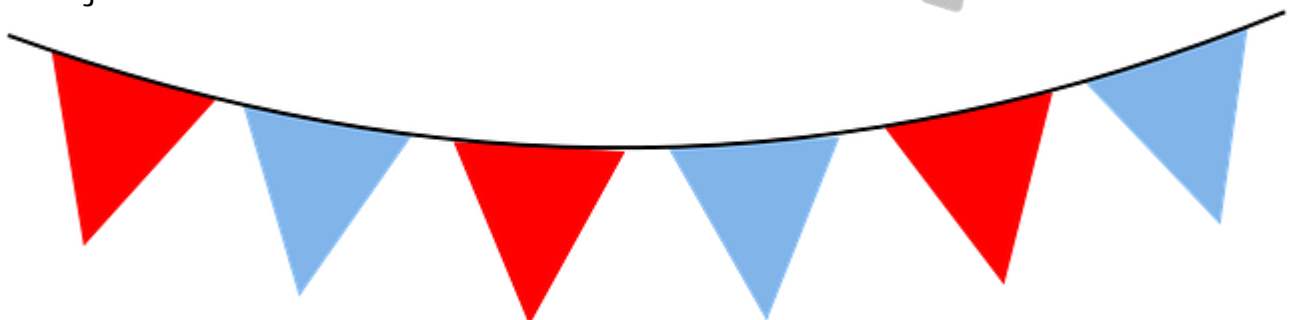
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## Electric Boat-a-Loo by Jeff Martinson (Continued)

As it is with the one detachable battery, it takes about 8 hours to recharge from empty on 120V. But what's best is what you don't notice - it's totally silent! I literally thought it wasn't working when I first used it because it just doesn't make a noise. The only thing one hears underway is the water against the hull. The main downside is that it's about twice the price of a new 3 HP gas outboard. It also doesn't have the same range, per "pound of power" - gas versus charged battery.

That said, it's perfect for sailing, where the wind does most of the powering and a main point is to get away from gas and oil, etc. But I decided to try it out on the Thompson Sea Lancer for our wet event on Jordan Lake. (Normally it would have a big gas outboard, but three of them have died on the back of that boat over the years - including once at the Jordan Lake wet event!) I'm selling the boat without a motor, but still wanted to document that the hull doesn't leak and have some fun with the gang, too. Like Judy states in her report on the event, it was a peculiar looking thing on the back of my boat. It certainly looks anachronistic. All anodized aluminum and plastic on a chrome, paint and varnish lapstrake. But it performed wonderfully! We motored across the lake to a little alcove where we did some swimming, then back again to haul out with the gang. (All It was especially nice having the throttle control you can only get from a little outboard in the docking situation; I can see why many people like a "kicker" for just that.

So, all-in-all, I'm very pleased with the electric outboard. I'd like to hear if other members have had good or bad experiences with this type of propulsion. Electric power for boats is far from new (we saw some antique launches at both Budsins and Lowell Boats at chapter events) but it's new for me! In closing, I'd like to correct one thing Judy said about the event on Jordan Lake that relates to the subject of this article: four boats returned to the dock without any problems, because one of them was doing the Electric Boat-a-loo..



## 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





## Jordan Lake Meet Up 18 August 2022

We know you must get tired of hearing this, but you missed another wonderful outing. Thursday August 18th was an absolutely beautiful day—it almost felt like fall. Meeting late in the day (4:30 PM) on a Thursday was a wise idea as the park was almost empty. The outing was organized by Chapter Director John Justice. Here's who else attended: President Jeff Martinson and two of his three teen daughters; VP Alan Hills and Secretary Judy Hills; Director Jim Alexander; Director Bill Conley and his wife Sharon; member Mike Triplett; and our newest members Neal and Denise Keeter.

Treasurer Kevin Leiner had planned to attend, but got COVID. Member Dan Bixler also planned to attend, but met with an accident—fell and hurt his leg.

Turns out that there was no charge to use the park. We had been expecting to pay \$7 per car. Everyone brought his/her own food and drinks which made it easy. We had a big picnic shelter right on the lake to ourselves. Lots of time to catch up on what's new in our lives. Alan gave each member attending a chapter burgee.

Mike brought his boat, which was in no condition for a ride, but he was very proud of the progress he has made on it and wanted us to see it.

John brought Fins and took Mike, Neal and Denise for a ride. Sharon and Bill rode in their boat, Blue Tango. Alan and Judy took Jim in Clippin' Along.

Jeff launched his boat, sans motor. He had removed the motor as it was not running

and had put an electric motor on the boat which ran off a ni-cad battery. He is planning to sell the boat and intends to offer the new owner a membership in ACBS as an incentive. The motor was very strange looking to say the least. He acknowledged that he was not going to be able to keep up with us. He planned to putter around a bit and then leave early—before we got back to the ramp.

There were very few boats on the lake so launching, riding and retrieving were a breeze. The lake was like glass in some places so it was neat to see the bows cutting through the water.

Member Jeff Gelm flew over the lake in the Citation corporate jet he was piloting and waved his wings at us—we waved back.

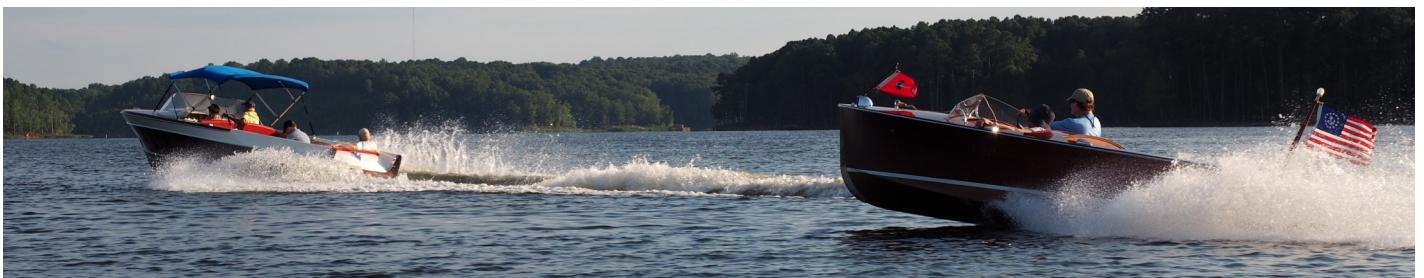
At one point we saw a bald eagle. John told us that he had come down to the lake yesterday and tied the eagle to the tree—just for us! A tall tale if ever there was one!

Member Robert Blanchard was not able to attend due to work, but he arrived in time to help us pull the boats. We were amazed and pleased that the three boats ran perfectly—nobody had any issues.

One other thing we would mention is that Fins really has fins and John had rigged them so that when he braked, not only did the trailer lights come on but so did the fins on the boat! How cool is that!



## Jordan Lake Pictures





Jordan Lake Pictures





# Jordan Lake Pictures





Jordan Lake Pictures



Bald Eagle



Jeff Gelm





## ACBS Roundtable on Member Web Portal — August 11, 2022

We were a little disappointed in that there were only 12 people who attended this Zoom training, and over half were associated with the ACBS (Board, Staff, Committee Members). This was an introduction to the myacbs.org member portal. There are a few things that we would share:

- If you forget your ACBS password, plug in your email address and the system will send you a message.
- If a co-member would like his/her own password, call the office and they will help
- On the portal page there is link at the top to a pdf for help with myACBS.org—"getting started." Download and save or print it.
- Chapter leadership can edit a member's profile for him or her.
- ACBS just added the ability for a co-member to add his/her mobile number.
- Remember that your member number started with the letters AN. Sometimes you will be able to just use the numbers.
- You can now renew for 1 or for 3 years.
- You can review your payment history if you want to check on a payment.
- Headquarters is asking every member with a boat listed on the site to post one or more pictures of it on the member's profile. (small to medium file size)
- Headquarter is also asking for a short history of the boat to be posted as well.

All roundtable discussions are posted on the ACBS Resource Page—Chapter Development.

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## New Chapter Members

Some of you will recognize **Neal and Denise Keeter** when you see them. They are friends of John Justice and have been hanging around with us for a while. Neal said he finally decided that he and Denise should just join since they were having so much fun with Chapter members. Neal and Denise live in Cary. According to their ACBS profile, they do not have any boats or any engines. So if you have one for sale, they might be likely buyers.

**Colin and Michelle Fegeley** live in Durham. Ours is their primary chapter, but they are also members of the Thousand Is-

lands chapter (NY and Ontario). They own three boats: a 1947 18-foot Chris-Craft Deluxe Utility (U-18); a 1928 16-foot Old Town Fishing Boat; and a 1961 18-foot Penn Yan Magellan. We have not yet met Colin and Michelle, but we hope to see them at a chapter event soon.

We are excited to have new members join our vibrant chapter and hope that they take full advantage of their membership. Welcome aboard Neal, Denise, Colin and Michelle!



Labor Day



## BoatUS Photo Contest

**2023 BoatUS Magazine Photo contest runs 12 am ET, June 25, 2022 to 11:59 pm ET, October 23, 2022.**

Entries will be judged on originality, technical excellence, composition, overall impact, artistic merit, and subject matter relevance.

One winner in each of the five categories will receive:

[ACR Survival Kit](#) (Value: \$399.95)

One-year [BoatUS Unlimited Saltwater Towing Membership](#) (Value: \$165)

BoatUS logo swag (Value: \$25)

Each submission must fall into one of the following judging categories:

- **Scenic Boating Shots** (boats as part of a landscape or of a landscape taken from a boat)
- **Boating Lifestyle** (people in & around boats, including portraits)
- **Action/Watersports** (depicting action happening on or around boats)

## Chapter Caption Contest

OK, so apparently last month's contest (interesting use of duct tape) did not excite you enough to enter. How about this contest: Look at the cartoon to the right. Give it a funny caption. Funniest caption gets bragging rights and name in next month's newsletter. No peeking online! Email your entry to editor [Judy Hills](#).

- **Art Photography** (image may be manipulated)
- **Cover Photo** (images must be photographed or cropped vertically; may include manipulated/multiple images)
- **Photo entries in all categories EXCEPT Cover Photo must be a minimum of 5x7 inches at 300 dpi (print resolution).** Cover Photo entries must be photographed or cropped in vertical orientation and be a minimum of 9x12 inches at 300 dpi.
- **Entries are limited to two (2) photos per photographer in each judging category, up to a maximum of ten (10) photos total.** Photos may not be entered in more than one category, with the exception of Cover Photo, provided it meets the criteria above. Each photo must be submitted separately. [See full contest rules here](#).
- Winners will be notified no later than November 30, 2022, and the winning photos along with those of finalists will appear in the February/March 2023 issue of *BoatUS Magazine*. [Click here](#) to submit entry.



## Restoring my 1952 Chris Craft by Bill Conley

Over many years I had developed some wood-working skills, which I used to build several pieces of furniture. In 2005, we purchased a condo in Beaufort, NC, and began spending several weekends a month there. I started volunteering at the NC Maritime Museum Watercraft center, learning the special woodworking skills needed to build and restore boats. On boats, there are no straight lines or right-angle corners. Every frame and plank have compound curves.

In Late 2007, I took a 9-day class at the watercraft center and started building a 14-foot Penobscot sailboat, which I launched in April of 2008. Then in late 2009, I started building two strip planked kayaks, which I finished in early 2010. I still sail the Penobscot in Beaufort but have sold the kayaks. They are being enjoyed on a lake in northern Wisconsin now.

In late 2011, I decided I wanted to restore an old wooden boat, instead of building new. I found a 1952 Chris Craft Special Runabout for sale in the November/December WoodenBoat magazine for \$4000. It was located in St. Petersburg, FL. I was spending Christmas in Boca Raton with family, so my son, William and I drove over to St. Petersburg to get a look at the Chris Craft. I loved what I saw and made a deposit on it. We came back to Raleigh on January 2nd, 2012, with the Chris Craft in tow.

A restoration had been started 5 or 6 years before I bought it, but the restorer gave up and sold it to the person I bought it from. He stored it for 4 years without doing anything to it, and then sold it to me. Here is a picture of what I bought.



Somewhere between January 2012 and December 2012 I connect with our ACBS chapter. Bill Baker, John Justice, and several other members helped me turn the boat over in Bill's shop and return it to my garage on a flatbed trailer. That allowed me to start work on the bottom. Unfortunately, I didn't realize that both layers of the bottom needed to be completely replaced, so I did a partial restoration job on the bottom then.



After the partial bottom repair, we turned the boat back over and replaced all of the deck and transom structure, the deck planking, and transom planking. I had the instruments rebuilt, rechromed all of the hardware, rebuilt all of the external engine parts, rebuilt the seats with new upholstery and thought it was time to launch. Splash in one was in 2016, only 4 years after restoration started.



## Restoring my 1952 Chris Craft by Bill Conley (continued)



I found a new block at Lowell's boat shop, and had the engine rebuilt completely at Bo's Machine Shop in Greensboro. Having the engine out gave me the perfect opportunity to turn the boat over and do a complete 5200 bottom replacement. It had become clear that the bottom partial restoration was not going to hold up. While doing the bottom replacement, I replaced the stem and some other structure.



Now the boat looked really good, and only leaked a little, but I just could not get the engine timing right. John Justice went out with me one day in early 2018 to try and set the timing. We were running at top speed when all of a sudden, the block cracked.

Now the boat not only looks good, but also runs really well. Only 6 years of hard labor and lots of support from great friends for a full restoration! Here she is today. (photo below)



### Addendum to Bill's article, comments from his wife, Sharon:

Bill agreed to buy this boat without suggesting that I see it first. When we picked it up in St. Petersburg, it was shrink-wrapped in plastic, ready for the road, the owner probably breathing a sigh of relief when it finally left his premises. When he unveiled it in Raleigh, I was speechless. I probably said something like 'You paid \$4,000 for THIS!' I've since gotten over the shock. This boat has been a delightful challenge for Bill. Along the way, he has made some wonderful friends and both of us are quite proud of this classic beauty.

## 30th Annual SML ACBS Show



Open to the public from 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM on  
Sat, Sep 17, 2022

Open to boat show participants on both Fri,  
Sep 16 and Sat, Sep 17, 2022

### [Crazy Horse Marina](#)

Crazy Horse Marina  
400 Crazy Horse Dr.  
Moneta, Va. 24121

Our 30th Annual Antique and Classic Boat Show at beautiful Smith Mountain Lake, promises to be a fun-filled opportunity to cruise the lake, display your boat, and chat with other antique boat enthusiasts.

### [2022 Boat Registration Form](#)

### [2022 Vendor Registration Form](#)

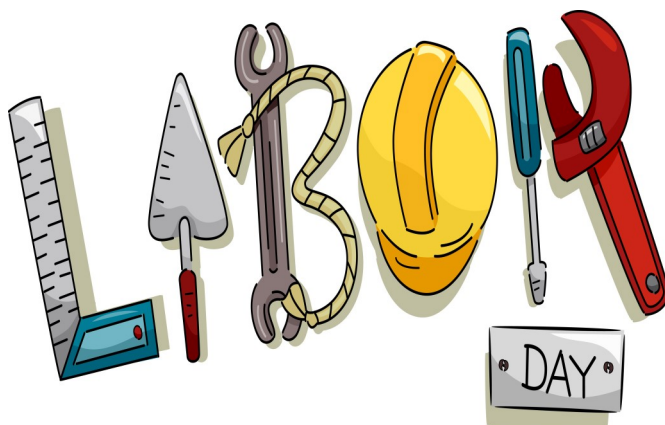
Future SML Boat Shows

2023 September 15 - 16

[Click Here](#) to go to a page where you can view pictures from the 2019 and 2018 Boat Shows.



It is quite fitting that Alan and Judy Hills' youngest grandson's first hair cut should be done in a classic boat!



Members who joined or renewed recently included:

New: Neal and Denise Keeter (Cary), Colin and Michelle Fegeley (Durham)

Renewed: John Dougherty, Samuel Stowe, and John Tinney

*Welcome!*



**NC Coastal & Piedmont  
Chapter of the ACBS**

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

**President:**

Jeff Martinson (term ends 2022)  
919-760-2349

[President@vintageboat.org](mailto:President@vintageboat.org)

**Vice-President:**

Alan Hills (term ends 2022)  
252-514-8525

[Vice-President@vintageboat.org](mailto:Vice-President@vintageboat.org)

**Secretary:**

Judy Hills (term ends 2022)  
252-670-1913

[Secretary@vintageboat.org](mailto:Secretary@vintageboat.org)

**Treasurer:**

Kevin Leiner (Term ends 2022)  
919-368-3412

[Treasurer@vintageboat.org](mailto:Treasurer@vintageboat.org)

**2020 Directors:**

[Jim Alexander](#) (2023)

[Bob Banta](#) (2022)

[Bill Conley](#) (2023)

[John Justice](#) (2023)

[Lonnie Sieck](#) (2022)

**Membership Chair:**

Jim Alexander  
919-960-0838

[DirectorJim@vintageboat.org](mailto:DirectorJim@vintageboat.org)

**Scholarship Chair:**

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[Editor@vintageboat.org](mailto:Editor@vintageboat.org)



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!

9/5 to 9/10 [ACBS International Show at Lake Champlain](#)

9/16-17 [Smith Mountain Lake ACBS Chapter Boat show](#) in Monteta, VA at Crazy Horse Marina

9/24 [Wings, Wheels and Keels](#) show in Topping, VA

9/25 Sunday. [Infamous Belt Sander Race at Shop Class](#) in New Bern. Gates open at noon. \$5. Food trucks and beer available.

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

10/26 Wed 6 PM Chapter Annual meeting & elections. Will be an in-person meeting. Place TBD.

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



### 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.](#)