



SOUTHWESTER

The Southwest Chapter—Antique & Classic Boat Society newsletter serving Arkansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas

Early Spring
2014

The President's Message

As spring brings lots of changes in our weather, it has also brought us changes in our club.

Bob Van Guilder's term was up as president of our chapter, and I have been given the duties as president. I have some big shoes to fill. I feel I can speak for the club in wishing Bob the best. Along with this...we are now looking for a vice president. Contact Robert Black with nominees.

I'm writing this at the beginning of April, so those attending the inaugural Cajun Classic should be hitched and ready! We can't wait to hear of the glowing reports!

As we do every year the first weekend in May, we are also now gearing up for Keels and Wheels!! This year's show will be honoring the Classic Boats of the 40's and 50's.

Once our boats are safely secured in the confines of beautiful Lakewood Yacht Club, get ready for a Friday night WELCOME PARTY seafood buffet. Following on Saturday night there will be an OLDIES but GOODIES 50's evening. Ladies, be sure and pack that poodle skirt!

We are honored to welcome Terry Fiest as Chief Judge of the boat show. The Keels & Wheels 2014 Grand Marshal will be Wayne Carini, star of "Chasing Classic Cars." He will bring his film crew to Keels & Wheels to film an episode of his show. "Chasing Classic Cars" can be seen on the Velocity Channel.



We are still looking for more boats to display. Registration forms are available at www.keels-wheels.com. We also need volunteers- people to help place boats and install stands on Friday; help out on Saturday around the show and work the club booth and both reload boats on trailers participate in tear-down on Sunday afternoon. Please contact Robert Black, blackd@earthlink.net (713.974.7919) with a time block you can commit to.



We have lots of Great events planned this year and hope you can attend a few. Save the following dates for some good times with Fun and Fellowship.

This year starts off with the Cajun Classique River Cruise on April 7 thru the 13. I hope you've all made plans for this inaugural cruise.

Our key event - The Keels & Wheels Concours is May 2 thru 4 in Houston (Seabrook).

The North Texas WBA Ride-N-Show is September 26 thru 28 in Rockwall-Lake Ray Hubbard.

Our final organized Chapter event of the year is the relaxing Lake LBJ Classic Boating event October 17 thru 19

I look forward to seeing you-all at the events.

Brian Fielder



58th Houston Boat Show, January 3-12, 2014

Again, the Southwest Chapter of ACBS invited the Texas Chapter of AOMCI (Antique Outboard Motor Club International) to team-show our boats and motors at the annual Houston Boat Show held at the Reliant Center. This is a huge show - over 1100 new “for-sale” boats were there accompanied by all kinds of outdoor gear, campers and ‘what all’. The teaming of the clubs both increases interest in the display and spreads the manpower requirements out.

By popular acclaim, the most appealing and crowd pleasing boats (and motors) were our oldies....and we did wow the crowds as we were set up in the main lobby area of the Reliant Center where folks had to pass by us to enter the show. All our exhibitors had a chance to man the display booth during the 10-day show spanning two week-ends. During these sessions, we had every kind of boat and motor question imaginable asked of us making this experience a real fun part of the show. Folks are still coming up to us relating about storied treasures in their barns and garages. We seeked to help them and try to spread the opportunity to join us in on our respective hobby clubs.



This year's exhibit was organized by Di Johnson and Adam Finn. This is the 27th year that the antiques and classics have graced the Houston Show. In fact, we were pleased to again have on hand Mr. Wayne Myers who co-hosted the original oldies display in 1987. Two impeccable feature inboards anchored the front and center spots of our display:

- **Mike Friesel's 16' 1946 Chris Craft Special Runabout. "Current Affair" is always a popular boat at this show. All the restoration work was done by Mike and his brother Dennis showing excellent fruits of their labor.**
- **Dave Parker's 1947 16' Gar Wood Ensign. "My Fair Lady" is just that - the fairest of them all! The plank work on this boat is exquisite - just try and find a visible bung!**



SW Chapter members displaying outboard boat/motor rigs included:

- **Darryl Hurst's 1963 15 ft Proske w/1964 Johnson 60HP Super Sea Horse. The Proske is indeed a Houston-built wooden boat and Daryl did a beautiful job on the restoration.**
- **Bob Macaluso's durable 1957 15' Yellow Jacket Catalina w/ Mark 55. This is a runner you see at all of our wet meets.**
- **Di Johnson's 1957 aluminum Feathercraft Vagabond II w/ his 1958 Mercury MK 58E & his popular childhood outboard collection.**
- **Knut Bulow's impeccably restored 1957 15' CarVer Colonel Deluxe w/ 1958 Johnson 35HP Seahorse.**
- **Louis Rothermel's immaculate 1946 Evinrude 22.5 HP Speeditwin**



The following TX AOMCI members displayed outboard powered boats:

- **Edward Bachman's 1957 Yellow Jacket Fury Deluxe w/ 1958 Johnson Golden Javelin 35 HP. This was the model Roy Rogers chased the bad guys in during that famous lake scene back on his old TV show.**
- **Ed Slominski's 15' 1956 Lyman w/ Mercury Mark 58. This is an excellently preserved lapstrake boat, and another beautiful example of Ed's skillful ability to make his wood boats gleam.**
- **Darrell Beaulier's 1964 Power Cat 15 Ft catamaran type hull w/ twin 1960 Mercury Mark 700's at 70 HP each. This was a real head turner as Darrell had just finished a 4 month restoration.**
- **Bruce Miller's 1963 15' Thompson Sea Mate w/ 2000 Johnson 40 HP. This boat is marvelously preserved having been carefully stored in Wisconsin.**

We had fewer free-standing outboards on display this year. Di Johnson had his three childhood motors on display; Elgin 2½, Johnson 5hp (TD-20) and Mercury KE-7 complete with his dad's photos of him using each motor. Also drawing attention was Louis Rothermel's pristine 1946 Evinrude 22.5 hp Speeditwin.



Kids Build a Boat at the Houston Boat Show January 3-12, 2014

This is the 6th year of “Kids Build a Boat”, an increasingly popular feature at Houston area boat shows. This free-to-the-public event, and the brainchild of John Platou, of Crosby, TX began with the Keels and Wheels Concours Show every May and continues at the huge annual Houston Boat Show each January. These events are co-sponsored by Southwest Chapter of the Antique and Classic Boat Society and the Texas Chapter of the Antique Outboard Motor Club.

This year ace carpenter Jeff Workman prebuilt the 8’ wooden dinghy which he initially assembled with minimum hardware. The finished boat construction is ¼” marine plywood over a combination oak/pine frame with joints sealed with construction adhesive.

We hauled the little craft to the show where we disassembled it and it was ‘built’ by any and every willing kid attending the show. Each kid builder drilled and countersunk holes and no kid went away without putting at least 2 screws in the boat.



As you can imagine, the installed “hardware” becomes extreme over-kill as screws get placed down to every inch available. Over the two weekends of the recent Houston show, we had over 350 kids help build this boat. This dinghy normally calls for about 150 total screws. A cry went out on the final Sunday for more #8 3/4” screws as we had gone through 800 and needed some 300 more. This is truly the shotgun approach to boat building, as can be seen in the photo of the transom with over 220 screws in it!

We carefully and firmly held the drill and only let kids pull the trigger. Our coaches maintained complete control of the drill and screw gun. If the kid looked like they had never used a power tool, we would hold the tool firmly and have the child test-pull the trigger away from the boat before drilling or screwing.



Our lead building coaches included John Platou and Alan Bischoff. Jeff Workman (recovering this year from foot surgery) normally is the lead coach spending max time on his knees with these kids. John's grandsons Jack Toole and Ty Bayless, both 7 years old, were the top recruiters to invite kids into the booth and help. Both boys are building 8' prams of their own. Ty's 8' pram was on display, along with his 1960 Johnson 3hp and Jack's 1959 Evinrude 3hp. Assistant Gabriel Radvansky, as well as Jennifer and Phil Himes also helped coach the kid builders.

As serendipity, our booth was directly across from the Lake Houston Marine Police display and the patrol members allowed us to let some of our kid builders have pictures taken on the police jet skis, yep - with the blue enforcement strobe lights flashing away!



Kids Build A Boat



Fun Facts! Our builders were 60 to 70% girls. Ages were from 18 months to about 12 years of age. Youngest was John Platou's grandson at age 2 ½ months! Most kids were 3 to 7 or 8 years old. This has held constant through the years. Girls far outnumber boys in terms of excitement!

Although this is a free event, we issue raffle style tickets to each participating kid. At the conclusion of the show, we drew a winning ticket and delivered the boat to the lucky winner. This year's Houston Boat Show winner was George Williams, age 9, from Spring, TX. We invited George and his family to John Platou's swimming pool where we launched the craft and grabbed some photos of the happy skipper paddling his pram. We then delivered the boat to George's home.

This is the very first time most of these kids ever held or operated a power tool. It sure makes a different noise than a Game Boy or iPad, huh? We were encouraged to see many sparks of interest as these kids tried their hands at our hobby. Our big kid coaches came away nursing some sore knees, but it was all worth it to see kids get a whiff of fresh-cut mahogany, handle some hardware and guide pieces and parts into a creation of a floating craft. We will welcome any and all kids back to our booth at Keels and Wheels in Seabrook, TX May 3&4, 2014.

