

SOUTHWEST

CHAPTER



Sou Wester

*The Southwest Chapter-Antique & Classic Boat Society
serving Arkansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.*

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A message from your Southwest Chapter President

Greetings Southwest Chapter Members,

With 2025 now behind us, we turn our attention to our planned activities for 2026. Many thanks to those who participated in the Lake LBJ Show and Rendezvous in October. We had about 12 boats and about 25 people participate. The weather was perfect for the lunch runs up to Kingsland on Thursday and Friday.

Lisa and I attended the International ACBS Show in Clayton, NY in September which was a great success. Several SW Chapter Members were there including Paul & Linda Merryman, Trey Bull & Chandler Thibodaux, and Bill Nalle & Judy Johnstone. Bill received the Hagerty Safety Award for his article on Trailer Brakes. The 2026 show will be September 13-20 in Port Huron, MI. If you need more information or have questions, give me a call.

The 30th Keels & Wheels Show will be April 25th & 26th. This year we will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of Century Boats, the 25th anniversary of the Riva Club of America, and offshore race boats. Registration is open on the website (Keels-Wheels.Com) I hope to see you-all there.

The early date of Keels & Wheels this year will likely push back the timing for the Lake Conroe Rendezvous, perhaps into June.

The LBJ Show will be in October as usual. The exact weekend hasn't been determined yet.

Lindy Robinson





Lake Conroe Rendezvous





Good food, good wine, and great friends. The host condos worked well, and we all had a great time. Several of us came as early as Wednesday for the event. The events were attended by boat, and foot, with a few attending by car. Only one attendee had a calamity....a gorgeous 60s Century Coronado lost its windshield while being trailered. I can't wait for Spring 2026.



A sad reminder that while towing, a windshield protector can pay for itself. Here, a curved, tinted, and laminated windshield was lost to a stray piece of gravel.





Conroe





To the right, the editor making his final 3am bilge check on the Arabian.

I bought this 1967 Century, my favorite ever, in the mid 1990s. I had carried the brochure around since my Jr. High days. After a joyful ownership, I used this rendezvous to make sure all was good. There were no surprises in its performance, just as I had anticipated. I then handed the keys to the new owner for him to take to Lake McQueeney, a constant level lake outside of San Antonio.

After 30 years its gone to a good home.



Conroe



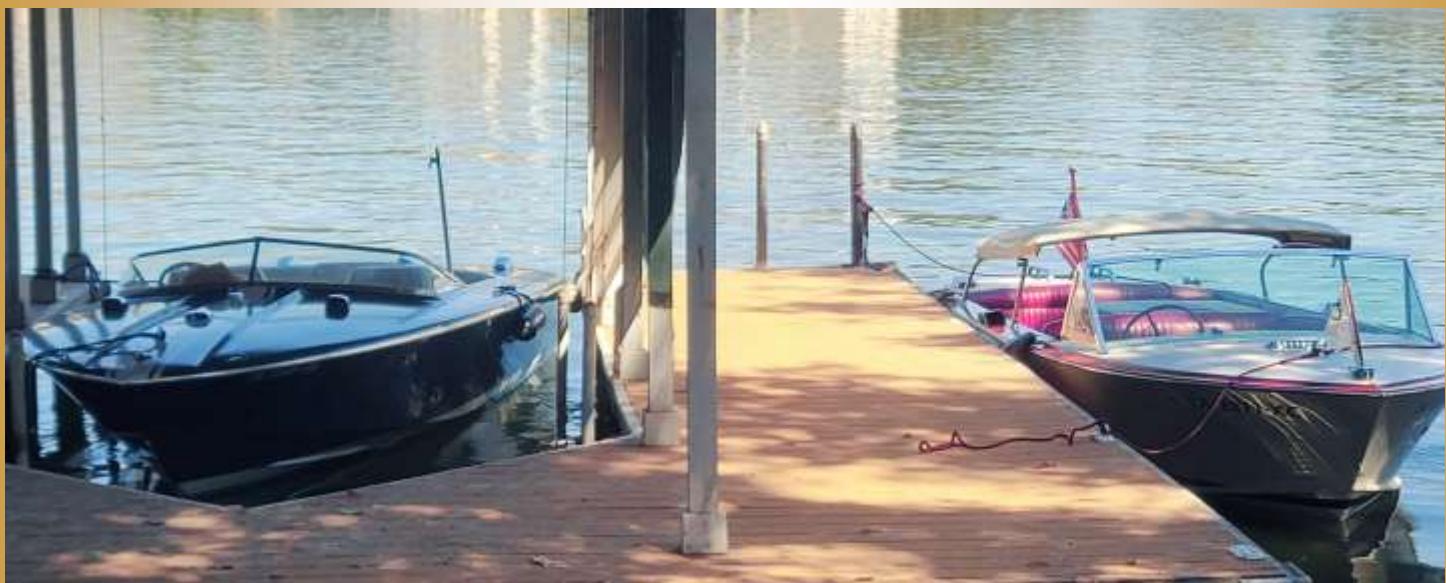


Conroe



Lake LBJ Rendezvous

What has become a five or six day event for many, the LBJ Rendezvous culminated on a beautiful October week this past fall. We toured Horseshoe Bay, Kingsland, and various places in between. As the constant level lake has a granite bottom, the waters were a greenish blue. There were a beautiful selection of boats in wood and fiberglass, representing inboards, outboards, and sterndrives.









Above, a stunning sixties Chris Craft SuperSport 17 at the show docks. Below, resting on a fellow ACBS member's deck with a refreshment....all the while watching the world go by.







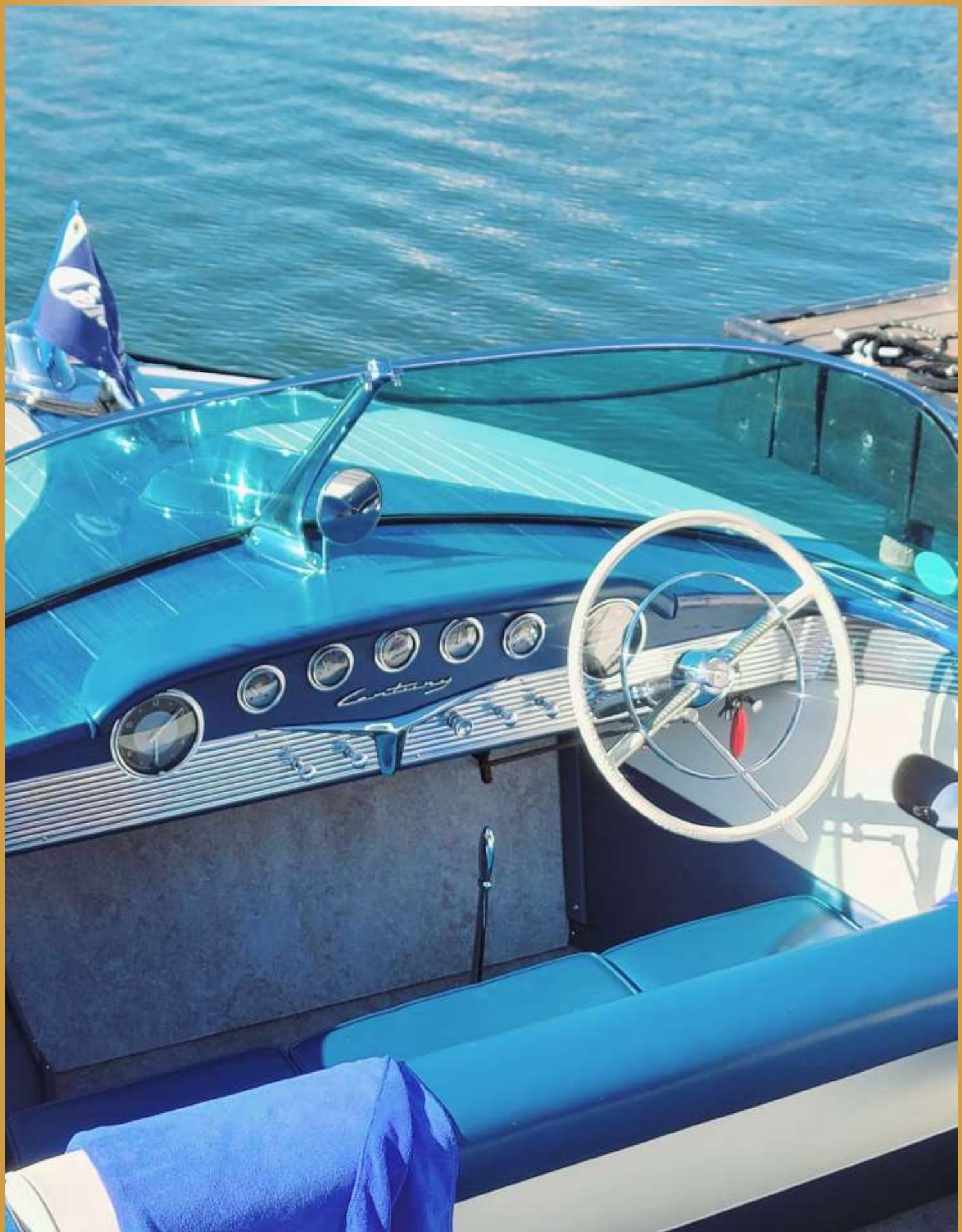


This is definitely an event not to miss.
Beautiful surroundings, Texas' most spectacular month of the year, and great camaraderie.

Next year promises a party at a member's **nearby waterfront home in addition** to the current agenda.

Stay in the resort. Stay in a waterfront VRBO. Stay in a nearby hotel. Multiple options.

An event not to miss!









Dave's mighty Merc purring along while the big block Century is conserving fuel.



Southwest's Safety Corner

The case for depth by Craig Stanfield

A short and sweet article this issue. Have you ever thought the value of a depth sounder, preferably one with a depth alert?

Yours truly took his Smallest Commander on the LBJ Rendezvous to see if the bugs were worked out. On day zero (of a 6 day event) - the arrival day, I found granite. 32 inches of draft in a sub 32 inch world. Prop, strut, shaft, various mechanical bitts related to the grounding. All caused at a dead idle.

I am currently on the lookout for a classy but simple (and CHEAP) digital depth sounder with an **audible warning. Any recommendations....send them my way.**



Upcoming Events

*March 26-29, 2026

Sunnyland Boat Festival

Tavares, FL

*April 23-26, 2026

Keels & Wheels

Seabrook, Texas

*May tbd 2026

Lake Conroe Rendezvous

Details to follow

Note: This event is currently fluid, with possible dates in April, May, or June.

*September 13-20, 2026

ACBS International Show

Port Huron, Michigan

*October tbd 2026

Lake LBJ Rendezvous

Details to follow

*As always, please confirm with a board member. These are tentative dates, especially those furthest away.

The Board:

President	Lindy Robinson
Vice President	Brian Fielder
Treasurer	Robert Macaluso
Secretary	Trey Bull
NewsLetter Ed	Craig Stanfield

Directors:

Ray Balsam
Trey Bull
David Kanally
Steve McCune
Dave Person
Clay Thompson

Data:

Members	
Current	75
fb members	1100+
ig followers	220

For individual contact information, go to

Southwest-acbs.org

For detailed information and vision of the Antique and Classic Boat Society, go to ACBS.org.

We're also on Facebook as

ACBS Southwest Chapter - Vintage Boating and Instagram as AcbsSouthwestChapter

Musings from the editor...



Roses are red,
violets blue
Jeez im late
Please don't form a coup.

Here's some pics
While its cold
To remember how boating
Is so bold.

I hope you enjoy
The pics of the escapades
That our ACBS board
This year arrayed.

But remember
The editor needs a story
Something to pass
Or use as an incipit

Craig