

VOLUME 15 ISSUE 2

March/April 2009

Newsletter of the **BLACKHAWK CHAPTER-ACBS**

SPOTLIGHT ON A MEMBER

This issue's spotlight is on one of our youngest members, Andrew Vogeler. Andrew is a young man that got interested in wooden boats and rebuilt a 1950 Milo Craft Valkryre. At last year's Geneva Lake Show 2008, his Valkryre won 1st place for the Best Outboard. During the weekend, he attended Friday nights' dinner at the Larkin's and fell in love with his next project boat. A 17' Century Resorter and thanks to the generous support of Larry



Larkin, is now the proud new owner.

After removing the dead raccoon, mice, misc. skulls, wasp nests, etc., Andrew has now begun restoration of the Century. As the project has begun, there was some concern over the engine. Another engine was located and Ted Cartner and Andy Ievins went on an exciting road trip to bring the engine back. Between the two engines, one complete engine has been assembled and awaits additional repair, paint, and installation.

The club as part of its Youth Development wishes Andrew lots of success in his new restoration project. May Andrew have good luck in finding lots of fresh mahogany, the patience to repair lots of loose screws, and have few sliv-

ers. Thanks go out again to Larry's, Ted's and Andy's support of the Youth Development of the Blackhawk Chapter.



Sunnyland Chapter Annual Boat Show

By Matt Byrne

As a Christmas gift this year, my wife surprised me and my dad with a trip to the Sunnyland Chapter's annual boat show on Mt Dora Lake, Florida. What a great surprise! Originally we were just going to fly down for the weekend to take in the sites. However, as the date approached, I thought to myself, "If I'm going all the way to Florida for a boat show it sure would be nice to take a boat!". I discussing this proposition with my dad he was all for it. So, in about the middle of March, I pulled my boat out of storage and prepared it for the long trip to Florida.

We pulled out of Aurora at 5:30 Thursday morning and pulled into the show around 2:30 on Friday afternoon after stopping south of Atlanta for the night. As we arrived at the show we were greeted by the friendly Sunnyland Chapter



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UPCOMING EVENTS...

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25th McHenry Boat Show Page 6

Muscatine Boat Show Page 7

BLACKHAWK CHAPTER-ACBS

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

For a long, long time I've had in the back of my mind I should get to the Mt. Dora/Travares Boat Show before time runs out. This was the year and I quickly learned the Florida folks really know how to put on a boat show. About 40,000 people showed up, almost 300 volunteers, about 250 boats and three nights of festivities. This show honored Riva and Chris Craft so it may been more special than most. Matt Byrne will be doing a full write-up in this issue, but don't miss a Sunnyland Show if you get a chance.

Boat flea markets are always most interesting. Just when you think you have everything, you spot another couple of must have items. Back Up Buddy is a hitch alignment system. Two fiber glass poles with magnets attached. Put one on the trailer hitch ball, the other on the hitch, align the two. No more wrecked bumpers. 352-688-7023. Now, I have always felt the chrome on my boat is among the very best at any show. I stop by one booth with the traditional salesman polishing stuff. I'm a hard sell, but I stand there taking it all in and there I go making another impulse purchase. The stuff is really good, no additives to mess up the surface. Plus you can buy the protector which makes the shine last even longer. You think you need this like I do? Liqui Tech 330-307-5271.

We already have a good group signed up for the Spring Dinner at Port of Blarney in Antioch on May 3rd. I had lunch there last fall and can attest to the fine food and ambiance. Bring a boat if you can, but sign up, good way to start off the season and exciting prizes, too.

Mark your calendar (June 13th) for the Chicago River Cruise

Cheers, George Plamondon

(Continued from page 1)

volunteers. I must say, this is a very well run show. I found out later in the weekend that they have over 200 volunteers that work at the show. No wonder it's such a success!

After we launched the boat we took a boat ride. It was recommended that we cruise through the Lake Dora canal to Eustis Lake. Wow, what a scenic ride. The canal is about a 20 minute ride through a wooded area with lots of wildlife. We didn't see any gators but we were told that they are around.

After the boat ride we took a look at the many boats and vendors. We didn't get to the all of them but we had to save something for the rest of the weekend. Friday evening there was a cocktail dinner and hors d'oeuvre at the Lake Side Inn in Mt Dora.

The weather on Saturday was warm but it was very windy - so windy that very few boats left the dock. We spent most of the day wandering around looking at all the boat and vendor displays. We saw antique outboard motors, kit boats, amphicars, canoes, antique cars, and race boats. To give the show a modern touch, some of the show organizers were tooling around on Segways. I was not the only Blackhawk member attending the show. I ran into George Plamondon, Jim Wilkins, Ron and Mary Kamin and Jim Stiab. Chris Smith, grandson of the founder of Chris Craft, attended the show with his Chris Craft Rocket and had a nice covered trailer to tow it in.



This year's featured boat was the Riva, so there were several Riva boats present and all were crowd pleasers. On Saturday evening's dinner the Sunnyland Chapter presented Riva Historical Society with a painting. The guys from Riva Historical Society came all the way from Italy for the show and some of them didn't speak English so a translator was necessary. It's funny how a silly wooden boat will cause a person to travel half way around the globe just to share his passion. The one event I did miss was the Riva/Chris Craft reception on Thursday evening sponsored by the Chris Craft Club. The reception was held as a "celebration of friendship between its members and those of the Riva Histori-



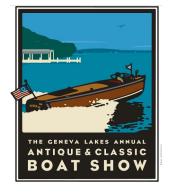
(Continued from page 3) cal Society". Over 500 people attended.

The weather on Sunday was not good. It rained on and off until 10:00 am. We took one more quick boat ride before taking the boat out of the water and starting our trip home. As luck would have it, the sun came out as soon as we left and it was a perfect day. The trip home was uneventful except for one flat tire on the trailer, but we were prepared so it didn't set us back too much.

All and all, it was a great weekend. If you ever get a chance, I would strongly suggest visiting this show. It is well organized and well attended. Next year's featured boat is the Century Boat Company. If you would like to see all the pictures I took, visit the web site and look under the photo gallery.



2009 Geneva Lakes Boat Show



The GLBS committee is hard at work planning this year's Geneva Lakes Boat Show. The show will return to a two day show with some type of boating activity on Friday (to be announced, but sure to impress). The show will again be held at The Abbey Resort in Fontana, WI. Mark you calendar for September 25-27 and look for details and a registration form in the next issue of the Smoke Signal. Or, visit our website at www.GenevaLakesBoatShow.com.

CHICAGO RIVER CRUISE

SATURDAY JUNE 13 at 10:30

This year we thought we would try something a bit different from our traditional Fathers Day Cruise. We are going to cruise the Chicago River through beautiful downtown Chicago. The launch ramp is at 31st. & Western Ave. Launch fee and parking is \$22. We would like to get underway by 10:30 so get there in time to launch and park your trailers and be ready by 10:30. We will be stopping at a restaurant (to be announced later) to order lunch off the menu. Make sure your boat is fueled up for the day as you might want to explore downtown by water for the rest of the day.

Directions: From the Eisenhower Expressway, exit Western Ave southbound, turn Right (west) off of Western at 33rd St., go back north two blocks to 31st. St.

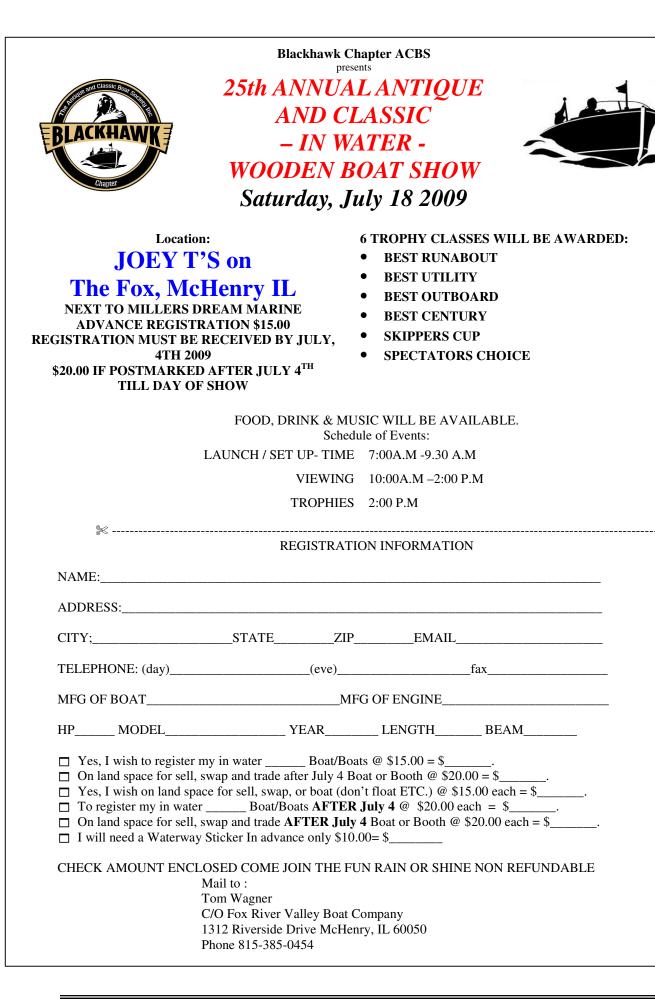
Pay your launch fee and lunch bill directly to the Ramp people and restaurant.

Please let us know if you are bringing a boat and how many people so we can arrange for the restaurant.

For more information:

George Plamondon at 312-505-5455 Email georgeplamondon@hotmail.com

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Muscatine Boat Show

The 3rd annual "That was then This is Now" Muscatine boat show is coming up on may 12-17.

Visit www.muscatineboatshow.com for event details, registration information, gallery of boats to attend, reduced room rates for all participants, maps, etc. Registration is free!

This year the National Century Boat Club will have their 2009 National Century "Round-Up" Annual Boat Show as part of this event.

If you have any questions contact Dave Moritz at 563-260-1970 or e-mail him at moritzdavid@stanleygroup.com



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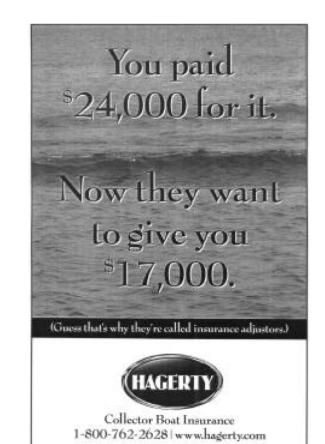
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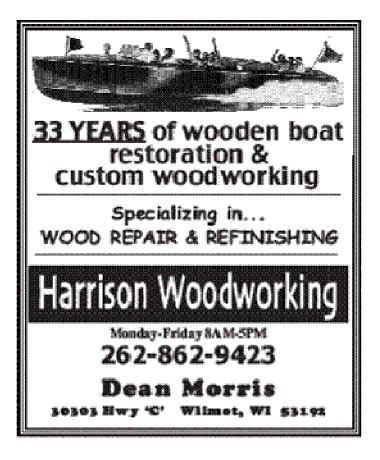
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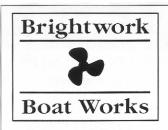
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Commercial advertisements will be run in each issue published during the course of the year unless prior arrangements are made. Six issues per year are published. The following rates apply for commercial advertising, on a per year basis. Contact your editor for more information:

	Business card sized advertisements	Quarter page	Full Page
Members	\$30.00	\$60.00	\$150.00
Non-Members	\$45.00	\$75.00	\$150.00

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BLACKHAWK CHAPTER-ACBS

The Smoke Signal 2201 E Lakeshore Dr..

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Calendar of Events

- May 16 Muscatine Boat Show
- June 13 Chicago River Trip
- July 18 McHenry Boat Show
- Sept 24-26 ACBS International Boat Show, Muskoka
- Sept 25-27 Geneva Lakes Boat Show