



The Smoke Signal



VOLUME 15 ISSUE 1

January/February 2009

Newsletter of the **BLACKHAWK CHAPTER-ACBS**

Winter Tech Session

In spite of another winter storm, 21 people showed up for this February's Tech Session. There was a mix of theory and practical application of many of the electrical components as they are applied to the marine environment. Gary Braker discussed ohms law as well as the various types of marine batteries now available.



Ted Cartner talked about some of the considerations involved in a 6 to 12 volt conversion.



Thanks to Andy Ievins for transporting much of the hardware and complete Chris Craft K engine to the meeting, and a special thank you to Bill Nicholson for hosting the event in his spacious home garage

Spotlight on a Member

If you have been to a few Chapter events in the last couple of years, you may have noticed an older gentleman. Bill Struve has probably attended more of our functions than any other member, in fact I think he has not missed any of the boat shows, dinners, tech sessions, open houses, etc. in the last three years.



In his 87th year, he is still active not only in the Chapter but at home where he is still building boats. He says it all started at the age of 5 when he fell into the Fox River, he's been there ever since. Things were a lot quieter then around the Chain-O-Lakes. There wasn't the traffic as it is today. If you wanted to go through the Lock, the vertical gates were hoisted up and down by a hand winch. When he was 6 or 7 and strong enough to refuel the family outboard, which his Dad built, he started driving powered boats. Later in the Navy when he was stationed in the South Pacific near Leyte Island on a LCM (mechanized landing craft) in 1945, he was part of a crew of three who built a cabin on the LCM and lived in it for about a year.

Bill showed us around his yard and two garages where

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BLACKHAWK CHAPTER-ACBS

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www.blackhawkacbs.com

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Or, contact Matt Byrne directly at :

630-236-7214(home) or 630-802-2698(mobile)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

While this is the winter of weather and bail outs, it might just be the time to think about more pleasant parts of our lives, like boat shows and events for the coming year. I went to the Quarterly Board Meeting on the Carnival Cruise ship to start it off. About a hundred ACBS members were on board for a four day cruise from Cape Kennedy to Nassau and back. The subject of conversation was the upcoming annual meeting which will be in Muskoka, Canada. That weekend (September 25th, 26th and 27th) is the same as our Lake Geneva show, which is too bad, but our club is committed to a show the last weekend in September.

Next, will be this year's Sunnyland Show in Florida and I hope to see any Blackhawk members who plan to be there. This year will be the third year for the Muscatine Show, in the middle of May. As many of you know, Muscatine has been an enormous success in the past, and this year they will be honoring Century Boats.

As I mentioned before, we are doing our Father's Day Cruise one week early on Saturday, June 13th on the Chicago River, which will replace our Fox River trip. The City of Chicago completed a fabulous new ramp facility at 31st Street and Western Avenue. The trip to downtown Chicago should be about 30 minutes. We will select one of our better river restaurants for the lunch. Since this is the year of bailouts and economic summits, I think it should be a good time for our own Blackhawk chapter summit. I plan on arranging a featured speaker to talk to us during lunch, about the state of the economy and what to expect down the road. Should be an interesting day, with breath-taking views of the city just to ease the pain. So this is a heads up, circle the date, registration will be available in the spring newsletter.

Finally, the ACBS is always looking for members who would like to be more involved in club affairs by way of serving on the board. I've found it to be both interesting and rewarding. If you think you might have an interest, let me know and we can discuss it.

Happy Almost Spring,
George Plamondon

(Continued from page 1)

he still has 9 boats, 6 of which he built. His collection includes: a double paddle canoe, nutshell pram, Jose, Bolger design Nymph, Bolger design rowing Dory, and a Melges M16. There are also a few wood model boats in the rafters large enough that Bill powered them with weed whacker motors. If that isn't enough we noticed 2 or 3 model airplanes with about 4 foot wingspans.



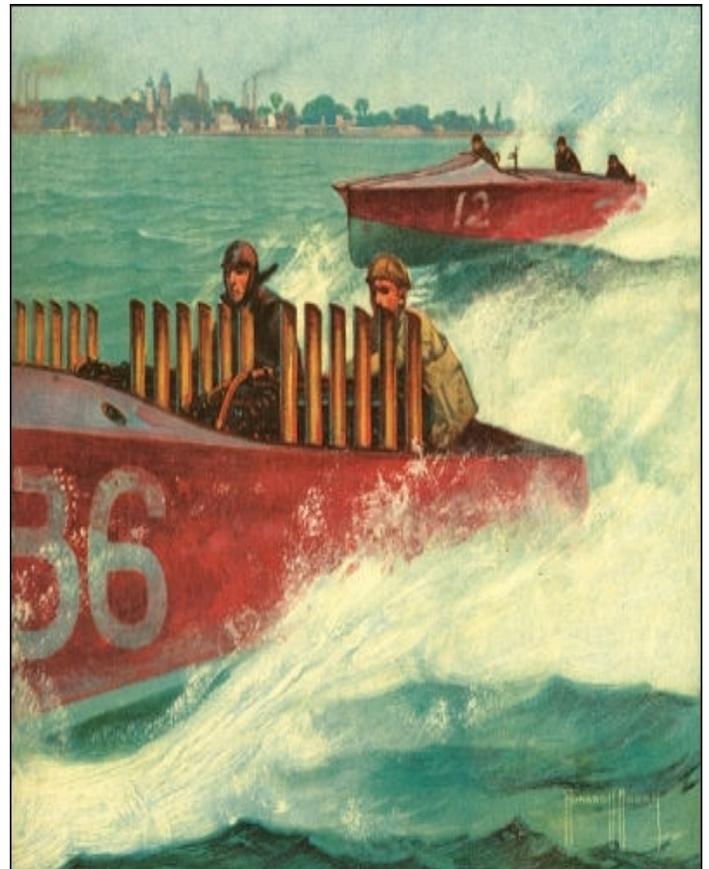
If anyone is interested in any of these boats, Bill will be donating them to the Chapter for sale, auction, or raffle fund raisers.



What's next for Bill? We noticed the materials stacked up for a plywood catamaran.

Winter Quarterly Board Meeting

George Plamondon, Cindy, and Ted Cartner took time off from shoveling snow this January to attend the ACBS Winter Board Meeting. This year's winter meeting was a bit different than in the past as it was held aboard the cruise ship "Monarch of the Seas". Cruising to the Bahamas was certainly a nice winter break. About 100 other ACBS members also enjoyed the sail.



WOODEN BOAT LOVERS; COME TO THE CLAYTON AUCTION

For over four decades, the Antique Boat Museum has been recognized throughout the wooden boating community as putting on one of the best wooden Boat Shows in North America. The 45th Annual Boat Show will be held this year from July 31st to August 2nd, 2009. The highlight of the show each year is the Antique Boat Auction held this year on Saturday, August 1st at 1 p.m. The auction offers a full complement of collector boats for ALL budgets. Typically the Auction draws bidders from most of the 50 states and Canada. The Antique Boat Auction is a truly transparent way to buy boats and provides the best barometer for the state of the collector boat market for everyone.



The auction is conducted by Antique-BoatAmerica.com who has been recognized throughout the world as having the LARGEST collection of antique and classic boat their web site. They offer the finest selection of quality collector boats, outstanding professional service and unrivalled sales success. As such, the Antique Boat Auction always captures the true passion of wooden boat collectors and enthusiast throughout NorthAmerica.

A snapshot of the auction is very clear, says Peter Mellon, President of Antique Boat America. "Firstly we offer a perfect venue for fist time bidders and are encouraged by the new breed of buyers entering into the market looking for their first boat. Because of this, we always have a broad range of boats for entry level boaters to signature collector boats. Because of these new bidders and the economy, we expect even more excitement at the auction this year." "Our goal is to build an auction for everyone" noted Dennis Honeywell, General Manager of AntiqueBoatAmerica.com While original examples are still in demand; we also find that reproductions and classic boats are strong as well.

"Collector boats have prevailed in a struggling economy, proving to us that they can be treated as both a hobby and an investment and we believe that this year will offer a great opportunity to secure a quality wooden boat. The vision of a free fall in prices simply has not materialized. While we have seen a softening of prices in certain boats, we have also found that wooden boats with originality, provenance and overall strong condition are finding buyers at market correct prices. As well, bidder registration and interest have not waned in light of negative news from Wall Street.

The key to the Antique Boat Auction is the collection of boats and the fact that the Antique Boat Museum uses this event as a fund raiser for their many initiatives and operations. The Antique Boat Museum is the finest fresh water wooden boat museum in the Country, having an excellent collection of early launches, skiffs, runabouts, St Lawrence skiffs, outboard motors and utilities. The museum as a non-profit organization also accepts boats as donations as well as consignments and generates revenue based on the buyer's premium for each boat auctioned.

"With over 65 boats auctioned in 2008 and with over 200 bidders on site, we look forward to welcoming collectors and enthusiast from around the country to the beautiful Thousand Island region for what is shaping up to be another first class event" says Peter Mellon. "Of particular interest this year will be the focus on boats "Built in the Thousand Islands".

The Antique Boat Auction will commence promptly at 1pm on Saturday August 1st, 2009 at the Antique Boat Museum in Clayton, New York. Further information can be found by visiting www.antiqueboatamerica.com or by calling (800) 675-4089

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 2009**

Located on the beautiful Boardman River in downtown Traverse City, Michigan.

General information: Barb Woodrow barbw1948@charter.net 231 946 4832
Show registration: Donna Rudy donnarudy@gmail.com 616 257 0250
Traverse City info: www.VisitTraverseCity.com
Water Wonderland Chapter: www.wwcacbs.com

Following the show, Hagerty Marine Insurance invites participants to join them in celebrating their 25th anniversary.

Info: www.HagertyMarine.com

RSVP: email-- celebrate@hagerty.com



Miss America 9

Gar Wood, Orlin Johnson (mechanic, and Nap Lissee

Taken in Florida.

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presents



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LAUNCH / SET UP- TIME 7:00A.M -9.30 A.M

VIEWING 10:00A.M -2:00 P.M

TROPHIES 2:00 P.M

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY; _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ EMAIL _____

TELEPHONE: (day) _____ (eve) _____ fax _____

MFG OF BOAT _____ MFG OF ENGINE _____

HP _____ MODEL _____ YEAR _____ LENGTH _____ BEAM _____

- Yes, I wish to register my in water _____ Boat/Boats @ \$15.00 = \$ _____.
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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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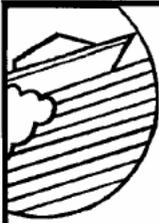
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BLACKHAWK CHAPTER-ACBS

The Smoke Signal

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Calendar of Events

May 15-17	Muscatine Boat Show
June 13	Chicago River Trip Details TBA
July 18	McHenry Boat Show
Sept 24-26	ACBS International Boat Show, Muskoka
Sept 25-27	Geneva Lakes Boat Show