



The Smoke Signal



VOLUME 16 ISSUE 1

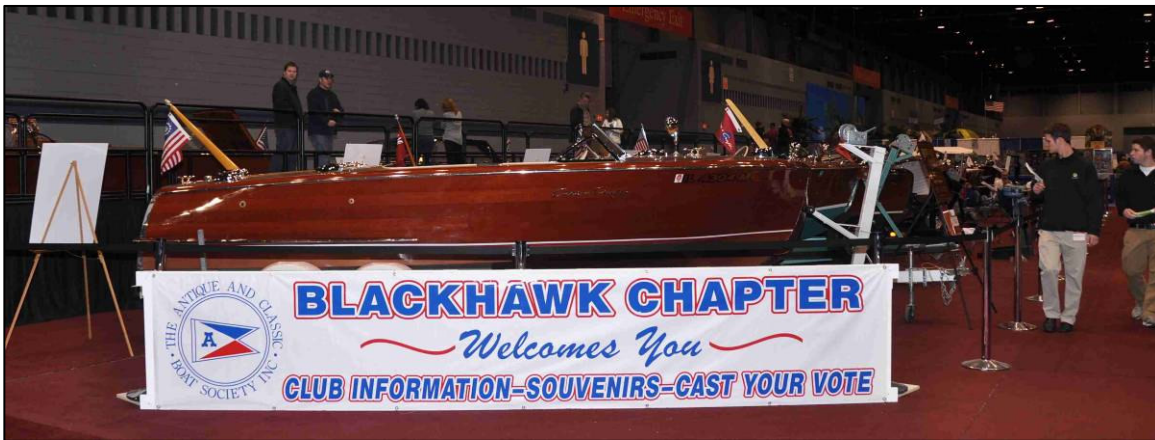
January/February 2010

Newsletter of the **BLACKHAWK CHAPTER-ACBS**

The 80th Annual Chicago Boat, RV & Outdoors Show Summary

By Mark Svoboda

The response to the Antique and Classic Boat Exhibit presented by the Antique and Classic Boat Society, Blackhawk Chapter was incredible. Every day of the event many attendees expressed to our team that the exhibit was the highlight of the Chicago show !



Entrance to the Antique and Classic Boat & Motor Exhibit

Along with our partner in this event, The Antique Outboard Motor Club, Motorheads of Illinois Chapter, we presented 21 boats representing 13 manufacturers including 14 runabouts, a hydroplane, a row-boat, an iceboat and 4 canoes. We also had 32 antique motors representing 13 manufacturers including inboards and outboards.

(Continued on page 4)

Riva Aquarama Auctioned Off for Record Price

On Saturday, January 30th at 3:50 pm, a 1966 Riva Super Aquarama Hull #125 was auctioned off in Kissimmee, Florida. At the Chicago Boat Show, we had a \$5.00 pool for what the sale amount might be. The total purchase price was \$852,500 (\$775,000 final bid + 10% Commission)

The winner, Gerry Vande Vusse, Water Wonderland Chapter, @ \$850,000. Gerry is boat show chairman for the 2010 annual meeting in Bay Harbor, MI. He dropped by the boat show while seeing his daughter in Chicago and won the \$50 dollar pot. Let's hear it for Gerry!

Pool entrants:

Jim Wilkin \$175,000

Al Bosworth \$222,888

Peter Muelun \$319,000

Ken Boeschen \$430,000

Moss Cartwright \$1,000,000

Mark Svoboda \$194,900

George Plamondon \$250,000

Paul Miller \$342,000

Jerry Vande Vusse \$850,000



Riva Super Aquarama Hull #125

BLACKHAWK CHAPTER-ACBS

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Visit the web site at
www.blackhawkacbs.com

Please send any info, comments or suggestions to:
mattbyrne@mrbtech.com

Or, contact Matt Byrne directly at :
630-236-7214(home) or 630-802-2698(mobile)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fellow members,

One the good things to learn about the electronic generation is to not leave incomplete letters in the computer too long because you will hit the wrong button and you will eliminate it from stored information. Then, you'll have to relay on your marvelous memory to remember the outstanding letter you spent some time composing.

How having said that, let's go back to the Blackhawk's first event of the year. A 9000 Sq. Ft. display of antique and classics boats, motors of various sorts, and even an ice boat is what was on the floor of the 2010 Chicago Boat and RV show. I suppose there is no way of knowing without standing there with a counter, but what I observed was thousands of people lingering and reading a descriptions of each of the 20 some odd boats on display. A constant follow of people for four days. If it wasn't the most popular exhibit, it was close to it. Just as impressive, was the display, great layout. Elevated walk ways allowed viewers to have a close up of these boats. From planning, to set up, to tear down, it was an event that proceeded without a hitch. Many thanks to Mark Svoboda, Al Bosworth and their committee for masterful work in coordinating a marvelous show. Check out the Blackhawk web site for TV coverage of the show.

Moving into the boating season, think about doing the Muscatine, Iowa show May14,15. Good way to open the season, charming city, Mississippi River and great food to go with it. Go to the ACBS web site and look it up. The spring dinner is being planned for May 23 in Kenosha, restaurant to be determined. Weather permitting, we might be able to fit in a little boating before dinner. That's a change from the May 2, hoping we get a little better weather later in the month. Further, we got such a nice invitation to see Kenosha, it's worth pushing the dinner back a little. Save the date. We are planning a Chicago River Trip, June 20. More info to follow, but save that date, also.

Stay warm and let's hope for an early spring.

Best Regards,
George Plamondon

RECYCLING A CRUISER

Mrs. Alan Orth recently approached us wanting to sell a 1955 27' Chris Craft Cruiser that had been neglected for many years. Sadly the boat was exposed to the elements for a time and was not a candidate for reasonable restoration.

Faced with the task of deposing the boat, she agreed to donate the boat to the Chapter in hope that some of the parts could be used for other restoration projects, any proceeds would benefit Chapter youth projects. The hull was stripped of its' hardware, sold, and shipped to a variety of diverse locations. Besides parts shipping within the US, the steering wheel went to Finland, deck vents to Norway, choke cable to France, and shaft log to Sweden.

A restaurant has even shown an interest in the hull. They plan to cut it in half length wise and mount the half hull on their roof as an attraction.

It's sad to see a once fine boat dismantled for parts, but a number of people were happy to find items to help in the preserving of at least a few other vessels.

Special thanks to Mrs. Orth for her donation to further antique and classic boating and to Ted Cartner for his untold hours of dismantling and marketing of the boat's parts. These funds will be applied to youth scholarship.





Traffic in the Antique and Classic Boat and Motor Exhibit was tremendous !

Most of the larger boats were viewed from an elevated platform that offered a view as if they were walking down a pier at almost any marina in the late 1960's. At each boat we had a large sign board with the boat and owner information as well as a brief paragraph that included interesting facts and history about the boat. The motors had smaller signs with a similar set of information and facts. This gave the display a bit of a museum feel that the show attendees enjoyed. In our adjoining section of the exhibit we had our smaller boats, motors, and canoes. We also had a booth in this area where information about the ACBS Blackhawk Chapter and the Motorheads of Illinois clubs was available. We included in the booth a large monitor with a rolling slide presentation of pictures from past Blackhawk events and a second monitor showing DVD's of antique and classic boating history. Both clubs were successful in signing up new members at the show.



Best Boat - Moss Cartwright - "No Golf Today"



Best Motor – Greg Bulat - 1928 Johnson KR-40

On Sunday afternoon we awarded the People's Choice awards for Best Boat and Best Motor. There were over 750 ballots cast for the awards. It was fun to watch, over the 5 day run of the show, how much time people spent studying the boats and motors to select their favorite in each category. The Best Boat award went to Moss Cartwright for his boat "No Golf Today", a 1947 19' Greavette Custom Runabout. The Best Motor award went to Greg Bulat for his 1928 restored Johnson KR-40 11.5 HP outboard.

A special thank you to all of the club members who helped make this event possible. With the help



"What Fun"



"Miss Mercury"

of over 50 Blackhawks and 10 Motorheads, we had great coverage of the exhibit for the duration of the show. The Chicago show committee would also like to thank the National Marine Manufacturers Association for working with us to help make this show possible. The NMMA team was a pleasure to work with and we look forward to partnering at future events.



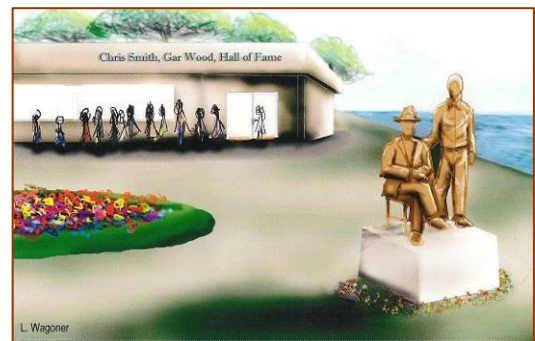
2010 exhibit crew members for the 80th Annual Chicago Boat, RV and Outdoors Show

Sincerely,
The Chicago Boat, RV & Outdoors Show Committee,
Mark Svoboda, Al Bosworth, Moss Cartwright, James D Brome, & George Haenisch

In the current issue of RUDDER, John Bergstrom mentioned the *Legends of Algonac* project honoring Chris Smith and Gar Wood. We would be highly honored if your chapter could send a representative to meet us for the unveiling at 1300 hours, June twenty-seventh. Can you join us?

Herb Pocklington

As the founder, I want give you an update. Well-known artist/sculptor Sergei Mitrofanov is already at work developing preliminary scale models of what will be seven foot bronze statues - standing together again on the shore of the St. Clair River. He's working in the old Algonac Chris-Craft factory, beside Gar Wood's original Miss America X. Still at work of details of Chris Smith, the sculptor has permitted release of this photo of the bust of Gar Wood. Chris's is underway. The monument itself is a "work in progress."



ACBS VOTES SUPPORT FOR LEGENDS PROJECT

BY JOHN BERGSTROM, INTERNATIONAL FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

When you hear the name Algonac, Michigan, you immediately think of the pleasure boat building industry as well as of high speed racing on the St. Clair River.

Famous names that made history in Algonac were Christopher C. Smith and Garfield A. Wood. Both of these men are responsible for starting what we enjoy today: wooden boating. The Antique and Classic Boat Society is pleased to support the vision of Herb Pocklington, the oldest living Chris-Craft senior executive, and a man who personally knew both Chris Smith and Gar Wood.

Herb's vision is to


- Identify Algonac as the original home of pleasure-boating and boat racing.
- Create a memorial to C.C. Smith and Gar Wood with life-size bronze statues on the river.
- Create a facility for educational artifact display, provision for guests, meetings and shops.

Currently, fundraising is taking place across the US and Canada to bring this project to fruition. The goal is to have the bronze

statues erected by July 4, 2010, on the grounds of the existing Algonac City Historical Society Museum.

In keeping with our charge to promote, further and encourage a love and enjoyment of all aspects of historic, antique and classic boating and to be an integral part of such an important part of our heritage, the ACBS board has voted to become a \$5,000 diamond sponsor of this project.

Thanks to Mr. Pocklington and others who have spearheaded this project so that legends can be honored and artifacts of our hobby will be preserved to educate future generations.

Anyone who wishes to support this project individually can do so by making their checks payable to Legends of Algonac and mail to: Algonac/Clay Historical Society, PO Box 228, 1240 St. Clair River Drive, Algonac, MI 48001 

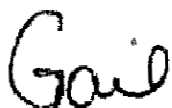
Dear Blackhawk Chapter,

On behalf of The Antique and Classic Boat Society, I'm pleased to accept your donation of \$500.00 which has been designated to the Scholarship Fund.

We truly appreciate your thoughtful gift. It is through these donations that we hope to expand the scholarship program and perpetuate the skills, interest in restoring, and maintaining the wooden boats that that we enjoy so much.

On behalf of the membership, thank you for your participation and continued support of the Scholarship Fund.

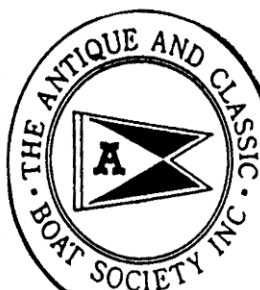
Sincerely,



Gail Turner, ACBS President

26th Annual Blackhawk Chapter Boat Show

The 26th. Annual Blackhawk Chapter, ACBS in water Boat Show will be held Saturday July 24th. 2010 at Famous Freddie's in Fox Lake IL. Free to spectators. For information or to register a boat contact Ron at 708-347-8951 or Ted at 847-395-8902.



**BLACKHAWK
CHAPTER**

"SPEEDY GONZALES"

Blackhawk Name Badges

Blackhawk Chapter name badges are again available.

These tasteful badges are a great way to let other members know who you are at our outings, and to show your affiliation at non-Blackhawk events. Simply send your name as you would like it to appear, along with a check for \$10.00 made out to the Blackhawk Chapter to:

Blackhawk Chapter

c/o Ted Cartner

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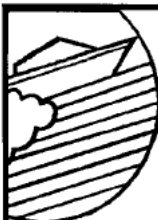
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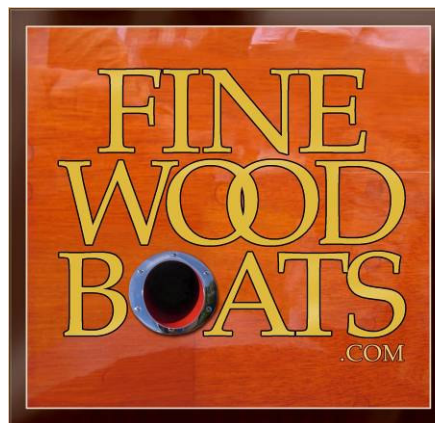
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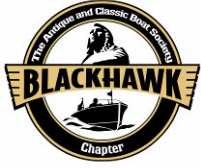
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BLACKHAWK CHAPTER-ACBS

The Smoke Signal

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Calendar of Events

May 14-15 Muscatine Boat Show

May 23 Spring dinner

July 24 Fox Lake Boat Show

August 6-7 Ottawa Venetian night

September 24-26 Geneva Lake Show