



The Smoke Signal



VOLUME 16 ISSUE 4

September/October 2010

Newsletter of the BLACKHAWK CHAPTER-ACBS

11th Annual Geneva Lakes Boat Show

by Kathy Moberg

The Geneva Lakes Show at the delightful Abbey Resort and Spa in Fontana WI broke all previous attendance records with a plethora of boats and a constant stream of spectators all day Saturday and Sunday, September 25 & 26. The Abbey Harbor was fully loaded with just over 100 beautiful, interesting, antique, classic, & contemporary boats of wood, fiberglass and even hybrid combinations. Represented were internationally known manufacturers such as Chris Craft, Century, Gar Wood and Riva, local companies including Streblow, Gage-Hacker and Blackfin/O'Neill Craft, and some more obscure as in Milo Craft, Greavette, Globe, and more.



This fun-filled weekend kicked off early on Friday morning as 150 of the captains and crew members gathered in the Harbor House for the lake tour aboard each of three well known Geneva Lake vessels, ("Polaris", a re-

(Continued on page 6)

2010 Chicago River Trip

By George Plamondon

This year's trip was the best yet! Boats from two of the Illinois boarders, boats of all descriptions and the weather to go with it. Just short of twenty "floating pieces of furniture", classic fiberglass and over sixty of us for lunch at the fabulous Columbia Yacht Club with the great city of Chicago as a backdrop. How's that for a quick summation? Well, it must have been a great day because this past week at our annual boat show people stopped me.

Launching our boats on Chicago's west side gives everybody the girth of the city as you approach downtown. You pass through concert, junk and container ship yards. The bridges are engineering marvels from a hundred years ago. All of a sudden you have passed through Chinatown, you are at the base of Willis (Sears) Tower entering a canyon and looking up on some of the finest architecture in the world. Breath taking!



(Continued on page 5)

BLACKHAWK CHAPTER-ACBS

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members and Friends,

Quite a year for The Blackhawk Chapter. A January boat show, spring dinner, river trip, summer/fall boat show and an upcoming fall dinner. Sounds like a normal chapter year, and I suppose it's just that. Lot's of time spent and a several dollars spent by our committees by those interested to keep our passion up and running. An estimated six thousand people attended The Geneva Lakes Show, maybe more, and were able to to see boats dating from a span of over a hundred years. About 100 boats participated. Over twenty vendors added to our boat show venue. Check out woodyboater.com for an amazing photo display of what The Blackhawk put together. Those pictures were available the day of the show.

Friday's events were spectacular,... except for the weather. Don't ever pass up a house walk on Lake Geneva! We could not take boats, for reasons of white caps. However, for those of us that don't see these spectacular estates on a regular basis, the bus trip around the lake show was a thrill. Our gracious hosts Ferro, and Anderson offered us an outstanding prelude to our annual boat show. A lunch at The Lake Geneva Country Club and dinner at the O'Neill's added to the day's enjoyment. Roger's presentation of O'Neill Craft was a demonstration of workmanship on the cutting edge. The Blackhawk drums keep rolling, only each year they get louder. I can only think of how privileged we all are to belong to this organization. We all have of a combined interest to keep our hobby floating.

This fall we will have the changing of the guard, a new president, new directors replacing those whose terms have expired, new blood at the helm of our chapter. I feel grateful to have been president over the past years. Thanks to all of you for making my presidency so rewarding.

Warm Regards,
George Plamondon

Fox Lake Boat Show

The 26th annual Antique & Classic In-Water Boat Show on the Chain O' Lakes was a great success. This year the show was held at Famous Freddie's on Fox Lake.



Heavy overnight thunderstorms flooded some areas of Chicago and the surrounding suburbs. This kept a few of our members busy dodging flooded viaducts and bailing basements rather than enjoying their boats. It ended up being a beautiful day and over 20 members presented their boats at the show.



Award winner from left to right: Paula Bischoffer, Best Utility; Andrew Vogeler, Special Recognition; Steve Durbin, Best Run-about; Don Baur, Skippers Choice; Pete Cook, Best Outboard.



ACBS Blackhawk Chapter Fall Dinner & Elections

The 2010 ACBS Blackhawk Chapter Fall Dinner & Elections will be held at the **Fox River Valley Boat Co. Ringwood Showroom** on Saturday October 23rd. Tom & Marge Wagner have graciously offered the use of their Ringwood Showroom as the setting for our fall dinner and serve as our host and hostess for the fall gathering. This facility is unique in the Midwest and offers the ability to see a collection of over 50 boats for sale under one roof. In addition, Tom & Marge have given the building a look and feel of a 1950's era marina. We will dine among the boats as we recap a successful 2010 season and share plans for the 2011 year.



Location: Fox River Valley Boat Co. Ringwood Showroom
5103 Mann Drive Ringwood, IL
Date: Saturday October 23rd, 2010
Time: Cocktails 5:30 PM, Dinner 7:00 PM
Dinner: Buffet Dinner
Beef & Chicken Entrees, Rolls / Salads
Warm Vegetables, Assorted Desserts
Coffee and Condiments
Cost: \$25.00 Adults, \$10.00 Kids (12 & under)
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(Continued from page 1)

Architect Bill Bickford was on hand to tell us what we should look for along the way.

I have lived in and around this city my whole life and have never been in The Columbia Yacht Club until three months ago. A great discovery, thanks to member Bob Zakek. Tip- top lunch, one the best views of the Chicago skyline and even better, more dock space than we could possible use.

As many of you understood, we used this trip as a trial run for next year's pre-event for our ACBS annual meeting at The Abbey on Lake Geneva. I took a poll, it was decided to launch at Burnham Harbor, a little more pleasant way to show case the city for those from around country that have never been to Chicago.



How many boats will we sign up for September 20, 2011?Tons! It feels like a media blitz for antique and classic boats.

Thanks to everybody for coming and particularly to our Glacier Lakes friends for making the trip south of the border even though they are Packer fans.



PS. Maggie and Lee Palmer made the trip to Chicago Friday to check out The Ambassador East Hotel where ample rooms will be available. This is a stones throw from Butch Mc Guires, the site of Monday night's welcoming party before the Tuesday trip. Cindi and Andy Mc Cormack stopped by our abode as did the Palmers before dinner at Mario's, another cool bistro in the neighborhood. A full weekend, lots of laughs!

(Continued from page 1)

furbished 1898 73' boat; "Louise", a 1902 75' boat with a re-powered steam engine; and "Sea Lark" an 81' 2006 boat that incorporates design elements from the turn of the last century) to three destinations on the lake (ALTA VISTA, home of Michael & Jacky Ferro; GUDVALSIGNAT HEM, home of John and Linda Anderson, and the Lake Geneva Country Club).

Driving up to Fontana that morning I feared that these home and garden tours would be cancelled due to the incredibly high winds that would make boating not only unpleasant, but also dangerous. Indeed, Geneva Lake was roaring with not just white caps, but actual rolling waves which made boat travel for all of us impossible. But thanks to the magic of Larry Larkin, arrangements were made in short order for the tours to be done by bus.



He quickly crafted a "Plan B", revising and synchronizing the schedules, creating maps and directions for all the bus drivers; and for the tour group leaders, a distinct plot of arrival and departure times for each bus at each stop. It was amazing how it was then perfectly executed allowing the drop off of us old kids back at the Abbey in time for the busses to pick the young ones up after school.

The Ferros and Andersons graciously allowed us to tour their gardens and residences, which were elegantly grand and picturesque, perfect for entertaining while still maintaining the charm and coziness of a family home, accompanied by exquisite views of Geneva Lake. All this was true of the O'Neill's home, also, our dinner hosts Friday night.

Alta Vista is an Italian Renaissance-styled villa built in 1920, and restored to much of its original glory since the Ferros purchased it ten years ago. The columned garden room in the center section makes it possible to look through the house from the entrance to the lake, flanked by two expansive wings. An interesting feature of this home is the model railroad based on Lionel "O" gauge trains, both historic and modern, that fills the third floor. Many of the engines, cars and accessories were purchased from the Museum of Science and Industry and incorporated into Mr. Ferro's layout—it is an amazing collection that must be seen to be believed!



Gudvalsignat Hem, (God's blessed home in Swedish) is a Shingle-Style Victorian home built in 2000, a modern home that incorporates many design elements from classic turn-of-the-century lake homes. The home was designed so that the

magnificent view of the lake can be seen from almost every room, and has many well thought out features that certainly caught the attention of the mothers and grandmothers on the trip, such as the individual rooms specifically for family photos, gift wrapping, theatre, toys, games and singing at gatherings, along with plenty of guest bedrooms. There was also the unforgettable closet in the master bedroom. In addition to being an avid gardener, John is an accomplished sailor and in August won the Inland Lakes Yachting Association's "A" boat regatta.

We finished off the tour with a great buffet lunch of salads and luncheon meats at the beautiful Lake Geneva Country Club. It was wonderful that the group did not have to miss this trip due to the angry lake.

Friday evening, Roger and Darlene O'Neill treated us to a cocktail reception along the waterfront at their lovely home, followed by dinner in their spacious carriage house. It was a fabulous buffet that began with green salad with blue cheese crumbles, an array of vegetables and oven browned potatoes, and a delicious tenderloin filet carved to order. Roger O'Neill gave a very interesting presentation about O'Neill Craft boats as dessert was served.

Saturday morning was a flurry of activity as the rest of the boats arrived for the show, either launching or setting up along with the artists and vendors in the lot or on the lawn. A fascinating new display this year was Dan Basore's museum-quality collection of historical fishing lures. The upcoming Warner Collection auction in Winstead, Minnesota also generated much interest. As always, the start of the engines and boat parade at the end of the day was a definite crowd pleaser.

On Saturday evening, 170 guests gazed out at the boats on display from the harbor view room at the Abbey during the cocktail reception and awards banquet. We dined on a variety of salads, vegetables, chicken, beef and ribs prepared by the Abbey's award winning BBQ pit master. The Chapter presented gifts of appreciation to the Andersons, Ferros, and O'Neills as dessert was served. Our youngest active Blackhawk member and boat restorer, Drew Vogeler, 17, gave a presentation thanking all who have helped him with his first 2 boat restorations. Blackhawk President, George Plamondon presented the President's Cup, Oops Award, and showed the promotional film for the upcoming ACBS 36th Annual Meeting & 10th International Boat Show that the Blackhawk and Glacier Lakes Chapters will be co-hosting September 18-24, 2011 in Chicago, Illinois and Geneva Lake, Wisconsin. Mark your calendars now; you'll want to be there!

A very large array of prizes donated by some members and local businesses was given out by raffle drawing. The following show winners received their awards:

ACBS Most Original: Del VanEmmerik; 1959 16' Marine Plastic CarAqua
Peoples Choice: MATO - Dave Bortner; 1970 28' Riva Super Aquarama
Sharpest Arrow: Audrey III - Jim Altounian; 1954 24' Shepherd Runabout
Best Century: Miss Millie - Mark Svoboda; 1967 21' Century Coronado
Best Chris Craft: Effie - Tom Wahl; 1948 Chris Craft 25' Sportsman
Best Fiberglass Under 20': Lida Rose - John Gambill; 1957 19' Arena Craft
Best Classic Fiberglass 20' & Over: Greenlight - Roger O'Neill; 1983 28' Blackfin-O'Neill
Best OutBoard: Full Metal Jacket - Paul Miller; 1930 12' Old Town
Best Contemporary Salon Cruiser: Quananiche - Robert Clifford; 2001 40' Grand Craft
Best Contemporary: Untouchable - Dave Bortner; 1995 28' Hacker Triple
Best Classic Utility Under 21': Miss Kimmy - Bill Shultz; 1957 20' Chris Craft
Best Classic Utility 21' & Over: Wooden Nickols - Tom Nickols; 1940 22' Chris Craft
Best Classic Runabout Under 21: Stifazabord - David Diggle; 1940 19' Chris Craft Deluxe
Best Classic Runabout 21' & Over: Victory Rose - Joe Zeliaski; 1951 29' Chris Craft
Best Antique Runabout-What Fun: George Plamondon; 1937 17' Chris Craft

Best Streblow-Rodan: Ken Rodeck; 2009 26' Streblow Sport Utility
Skippers Choice: Gary Rechcygl - Double Trouble; 1956 26' Chris Craft Continental



2010 Award Winners

Sunday was another glorious fall day, the Abbey Harbor filled with boat-loving people sharing stories, the spectators oohing and aahing over all the boats. The People's Choice Award was presented to Dave Bortner for his beautiful 1970 Riva at the conclusion of the show, and winners were chosen in the second raffle prize drawing for the umbrella/dock box and the garden consultation.

The Blackhawk Chapter is grateful to the committee, all the volunteers and the participants of this year's show for making this an amazing weekend. Anyone interested in joining in on the fun of being involved in putting the 2011 show on, please email glbs@blackhawkacbs.com.





Members enjoying the Friday estate tour at the Andersen's (left) and Ferro's (right)

Madison Boat Show



Several Blackhawk members attended this year Madison boat show hosted by the Glacier Lakes Chapter. In the photo includes Ted and Cindy Cartner, Eric and Kathy Moberg, Don Taylor, Wil Vidal, Andy Ievins and George Plamondon.

More Geneva Lakes Boat Show Pictures







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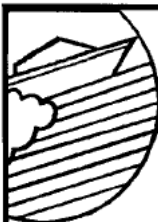
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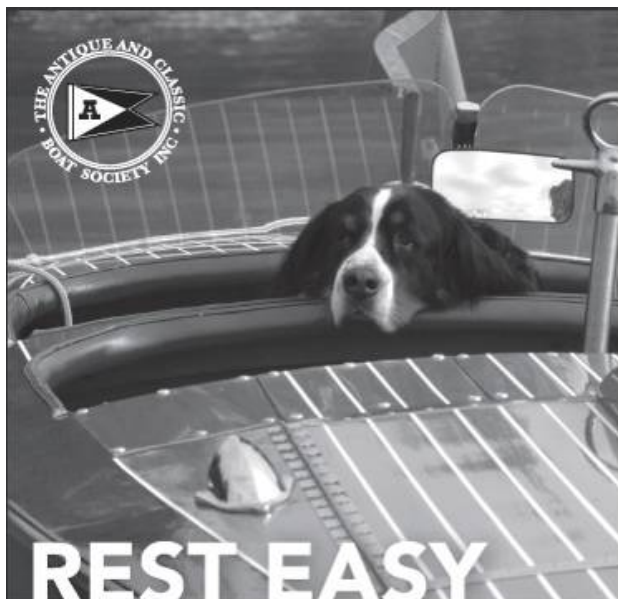

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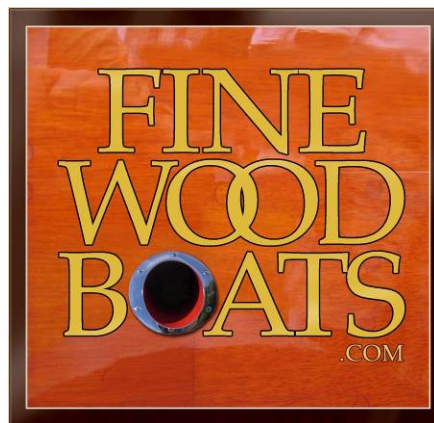
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BLACKHAWK CHAPTER-ACBS

The Smoke Signal

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Calendar of Events

October 16 The Warner Collection Auction

October 23 Fall Dinner