



# SMOKE SIGNAL

VOLUME 28 ISSUE 1

SPRING 2024





# Blackhawk Chapter

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## Presidents Message

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<b>Photos by:</b>	<b>Gunnar Larsson, Kathy &amp; Eric Moberg, Terry Dickson, Paul Miller, Mark Svoboda</b>

Hello fellow Blackhawk Members.

This winter seemed longer than most, but Spring is upon us and the boating season will be here in no time.



I spent the winter months getting my 1958 Mercury Mark 78 finished and it is currently ready to be installed on my 12 ft cedar strip utility, "Overkill". I am looking forward to seeing all of the work you all put in on your boats over the winter.

The chapter's board members had a productive meeting in early March to discuss the upcoming year and many exciting events have been scheduled which are outlined in this issue of The Smoke Signal. We would like your feedback regarding the events planned for this year and would appreciate any suggestions you may have to make this club more enjoyable for all involved.

On a sad note, two long-time members, Dennis Downes, and past president Bob O'Day, passed away recently. Bob lived on the Fox River for many years and as a tribute to him, the club will be holding a memorial cruise and luncheon on the Fox River on Sunday, June 9th. Please join us to honor Bob and his love of boating and contributions to the club over the past years.

I hope to see you at the upcoming Blackhawk events this year.

Michael Furibondo - President, Blackhawk Chapter ACBS





## SHARE OUR STORIES

### Attention Blackhawk members!

The newsletter belongs to you and you can make it better. It is all about our stories. Whether hanging out at the docks during a show or dining together as a group, we all share our stories...the restoration project, bringing an engine back to life, a boating event, the maiden voyage, the mishaps as well as the glorious days when all goes well.

To keep the newsletter fresh, exciting and providing new viewpoints to the readers, we need your stories... the funny, the interesting, the informative. We have hundreds of members and I invite all of you to share your stories of a day, a boat, or a lifetime of your experience.

Please send your stories and pictures to [stmfittr@aol.com](mailto:stmfittr@aol.com)

Thanks, Terry Dickson, Smoke Signal Editor

## "WELCOME ABOARD"



### Blackhawk Chapter's Newest Members

Membership chairperson Jan Vogeler  
reports Blackhawk  
membership at nearly 200 members



James Burke, Richmond IL

Gary & Darlene Millpointer, Oconomowoc WI

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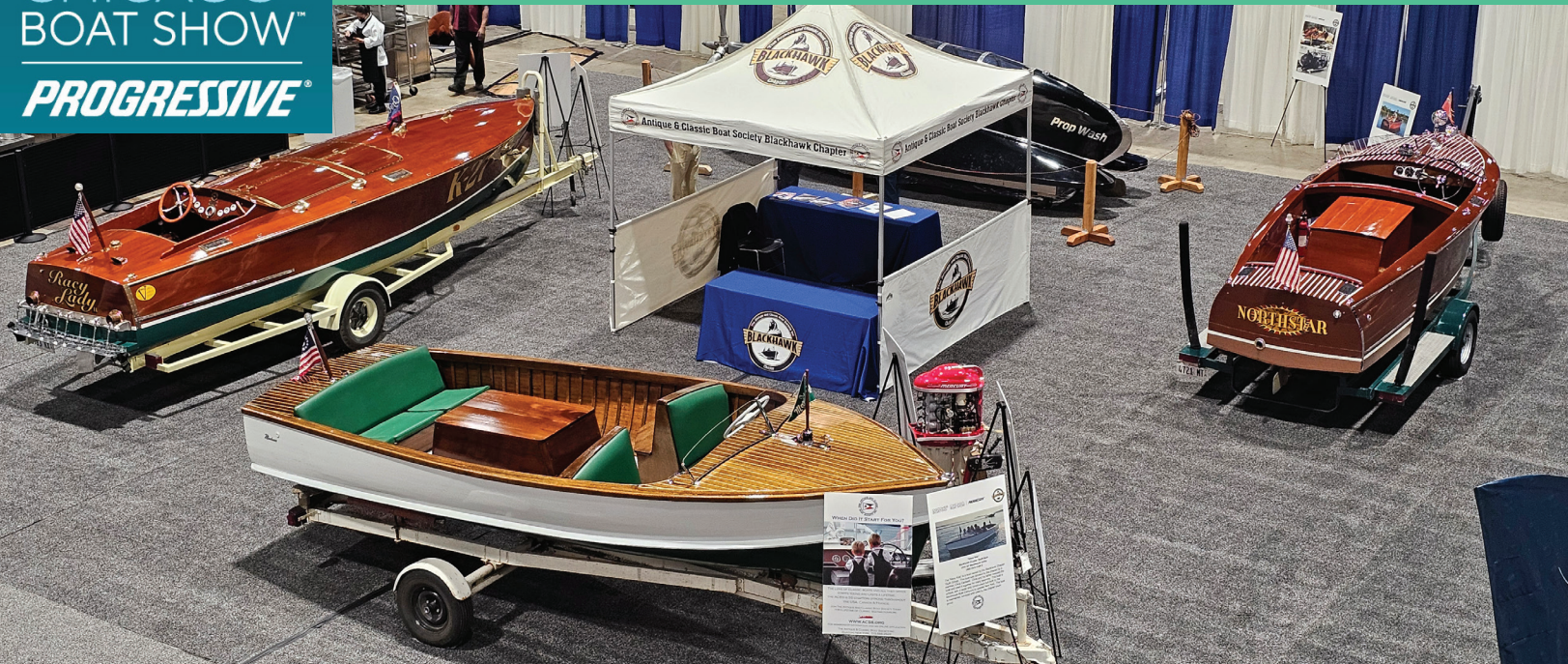
## ALL HANDS ON DECK!

**Ahoy Blackhawk Members!** This is a shout out to any and all to lend a helping hand at some of our upcoming boat shows and events.

If you are interested in volunteering your time and energy please contact Mike Furibondo. 773-230-7247 [mfuribondo@gmail.com](mailto:mfuribondo@gmail.com)







## As reported by Paul Miller

The Blackhawk Charter participated in the 2024 Chicago Boat Show at McCormick place this January 9 through the 14th. We had four boats and one great outboard motor on display in our booth. You may recall it was the worst week of winter weather with heavy snow and subzero temperatures.



Paul Miller's **Aqua Aircar** is always a crowd pleaser. Is it a plane? Is it a boat? Yes!

### Show challenges:

We were scheduled to set up on Tuesday the 9th, but a snow storm was forecast-ed so Mark was able to arrange for setup on Monday the 8th. All things went smoothly on Monday for setup and lucky we did as it snowed Tuesday which would have required the boats to be power-washed before entering the building.

The snow on Tuesday did reduce show attendance. Wednesday and Thursday's crowds improved, with a complete fall off on Friday as the big snow hit along with sub zero temperatures. The "Burbs" got 10 to 12 inches of snow but luckily only a dusting along the lake.



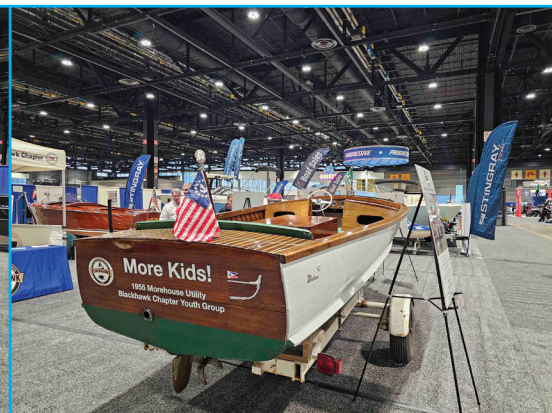
# DISCOVER BOATING 2024 CHICAGO BOAT SHOW



Paul gave free flight instructions for all comers.



USCG Auxillary conducts safety inspection for the Aqua Aircar.



Saturday and Sunday were well attended and our display received many compliments and thanks for our attendance at the show. Numerous TV new stations and internet bloggers interviewed members for video presentation which can be found on YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=of8DHSV8nuQ>





# DISCOVER BOATING 2024 CHICAGO BOAT SHOW

**“Prop Wash”** the 1947 19' Aqua Aircar was also in attendance. Owned and restored by club members Paul Miller and Peter Mueller, was the brainchild of Philip Christensen of Phelps, WI. When purchased, the boat came with a treasure of documentation of all kinds, giving us a detailed history of the boat. The boat was designed with an airplane engine and propeller for power. The boat is modeled after a WWII P-40 Warhawk fighter. AM Deering Engineering of Chicago drew up the plans after contact from Philip in response to a boat magazine ad. Philip went even further to have the boat patented; we have the original document. The boat was built by Hemming Larson of Menominee, MI and delivered in time for the Milwaukee Sentinel Sports Show in March of 1947.



The boat is powered by a Continental C-125 airplane engine like the original purchased by Philip in 1947 for \$854.53. The engine currently installed is less the 200 digits off the original engine's serial number. The boat doesn't currently function but it does look good.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fk3HsljEKVE&t=10s>



**“Northstar”** owned by Steve Gerding, also in the show is a 1946 17' Century Utility powered by a Gray Marine flathead 6 believed to be the original power plant. The engine was restored in the early 1990's runs well throughout the power range, pulling water skiers last summer. 1946 was the first year pleasure boat were produced after World War II.



Larry and Linda Dryfhout brought out **“Racy Lady”** a 1927 22' Chris Craft Gentleman's Racer. She started life as a 1927 Chris Craft Cadet. The previous owner, Robert Kent, made the conversion to include a 526 Keith Black all aluminum twin turbo engine with a power glide transmission and Menkens Z drive.

Many thanks go out to Mark & Svoboda, Paul and Cindy Miller, Mike Furibondo, the Dryhouts, Steve Gerding, Al Bosworth, John Barrett and all club members who helped during the show.



# DISCOVER BOATING 2024 CHICAGO BOAT SHOW



**“More Kids”** the Youth Group’s 1955 18’ Morehouse Utility powered by a 1955 Chris Craft K engine also joined the list of boats. The boat was donated to the chapter by member Chris Cantwell and restored by Chris and his father and used together for many seasons. The hull is of cedar strip construction, very different from the typical utility/runabout of the day. The boat is owned by the Chapter and maintained, serviced and used by the chapter youth group.

**“1958 Mercury Super Marathon Mark 78”** Club member Mike Furibondo brought his super restored old Merc. 1958 was the first year they produced this in-line 6 cylinder motor and at the time, it was the most powerful outboard motor in the world. The term “Super Marathon” comes from Mercury’s testing the motor at their secret test site in Florida. They ran two identical boats continuously, day and night, rain or shine. The refueling, driver changes, and even minor repairs to the boats were done while underway to assure the motors never stopped. They traveled 25,000 miles, or around the earth, at an average 30 mph.



## Chicago Maritime Art Center STEM Activities at the Chicago Boat Show

CMAC hosted young visitors to the Chicago Boat Show. The booth included exhibits from Urban Rivers and their marine ecology work on the Chicago River as well as STEM activities such as mini boat-building platforms. Kids could learn about buoyancy and density by building a boat from a 12 inch square piece of foil, setting it afloat, and then slowly adding marbles to see how much weight their boat could bear. The competition was stiff and the winner managed to build a boat that held 24 marbles before finally sinking to the bottom!

Special thanks to Matt Bird, Joe Cannon, Angie and Timmy Carter, August Etsch, Commodore Marlon Harvey, and several members of Jackson Park Yacht Club. <https://www.chicagomaritime.org/>





# The 38th Annual Fox Lake Antique & Classic In-Water Boat Show **FAMOUS Freddie's ROADHOUSE** on Pistakee Lake 510 Park Ave, Fox Lake IL 60020

## Saturday July 13, 2024

Set up is 8:00 to 9:30

Show 9:30 to 2:00

\$20.00 Boat entry fee (before 7/5/24)

\$30 (after 7/5/24)

There is no launch ramp at Freddie's, you could launch at any of the other Marinas around the Lake. Ben Watts Marina ramp is 3 minutes by car or water.

NOTE: A Waterway Permit Sticker is required; if you don't have one, a one day permit can be purchased at Watts Marina, bring your Permit to the Show for a partial refund.

### For more info:

Mike Furibondo 773-230-7247

[mfuribondo@gmail.com](mailto:mfuribondo@gmail.com)

Ted Cartner 847-395-8902

[sedan1@msn.com](mailto:sedan1@msn.com)

★ ★ ★ 38th ANNUAL ★ ★ ★

ANTIQUE & CLASSIC  
IN-WATER BOAT SHOW



Saturday ★ July 13, 2024

*Presented by*

**BLACKHAWK ACBS**

*at Famous Freddie's on Pistakee Lake*

*510 Park Avenue Fox Lake, IL*

★ 9:30AM - 2:00PM ★

*Awards presented at 1:30PM*



For more information:  
Mike Furibondo 773.230.7247 Ted Cartner 847.395.8902  
[mfuribondo@gmail.com](mailto:mfuribondo@gmail.com) [sedan1@msn.com](mailto:sedan1@msn.com)



Name:

Address:

City

State

Zip

Phone

MFG BOAT

MODEL

YEAR

LENGTH

ENGINE

HP

BOAT NAME

Send to: Ted Cartner PO BOX 683 Antioch IL 60002

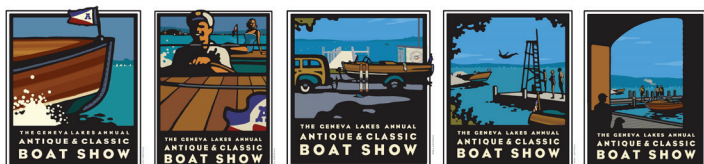


# Geneva Lakes Annual Antique & Classic Boat Show

The Abbey Resort in Fontana, WI  
Saturday & Sunday, September 28-29, 2024



## THE GENEVA LAKES ANNUAL ANTIQUE & CLASSIC BOAT SHOW



The Geneva Lakes Boat Show is back for its 25th anniversary in 2024 on September 28th and 29th.

Started in 1999 as a small local show, it has grown to over 125 boats in water and on land. In addition to the show celebration, 2024 also marks the 100th anniversary of the Village of Fontana, the site of the show.

Nestled in the calm Abbey Harbor, the Saturday and Sunday show always attracts large crowds. The Abbey is offering special room rates for Friday and Saturday nights. Plans for Friday activities are well under way and will be announced once confirmed. Information on show registration, calendar of events, hotel information and volunteer opportunities can all be found at [genevalakesboatshow.com](http://genevalakesboatshow.com) starting in early May.

The Boat Show Committee looks forward to seeing you this September.





# JUDGING (seriously?)

By Ted Cartner

I'm probably going to get some flak about this article, but remember this is just the opinion of one old guy, and I do welcome further discussion on the subject.

Every once in a while someone asks me about their judging score from an ACBS event, even though I don't think I know even one percent of what there is to know about our vintage boats.

Sometimes I'll agree the judges were right, sometimes think they were wrong, and often I just don't know. At one of the early ACBS annual Shows I was asked to judge Classic Utilities, much to my surprise I was assigned to judge Antique Runabouts over 25 feet. I was way over my head at that one. I don't think I'll do any more ACBS judging due to the inherent inconsistencies of the system.



Recently there was a major change to the categories. There is now a division as to whether a boat is "restored" or "preserved". A preserved boat is one that maintains 60% of its' deck and topside material. It seems to me that the choice of which division the boat is in is up to the owner to arbitrarily choose how he wants to be judged. Have you ever seen the judges pull out their measuring tapes and carefully calculate the total square inches of the deck and topsides to compare it to the square inches of what may or may not be replacement material?



## Blackhawk ACBS Youth Group Judges

Let's imagine this scenario. You've brought your 1939 Chris Craft to a judged show and are eager for the results. Along with your boat there are another half dozen Chris Crafts and a couple of Garwoods in your class. But there in the slip next to you is a beautiful boat, there with its perfect varnish and exquisite upholstery is probably the best 1938 Famocraft in existence. Never heard of a Famocraft? Well guess what, neither have the judges. The judges are climbing all over this boat and everything is in excellent condition and of the 1938 era. But they have no idea what might not be original or what may be missing. So how can they honestly deduct points? At the end of the day the Famocraft gets the highest points and the top honors. Is this fair?

At one time the judging allowed for items that may be different then when the boat was built as long as it was a factory replacement. But now the benchmark for what is acceptable is "did it come from the factory that way". But there are many exceptions to that rule and different judges have different exceptions. Let's consider a very obvious exception. How many points should be deducted for that beautiful gold leaf name on the transom? Did the Chris Craft factory put it there? Most likely not. Then again, some judges take off points for something just in the boat and not even part of the boat. Should points be deducted for a cell phone in the side pocket, spare light bulbs, or spare battery? It's happened.



Take a brief look at one small area of inspection, the Model K engine, Chris Craft built tens of thousands of these and they had many changes over the years. When did they change from using the Hercules QXC block in favor of the QXD block? When did they switch from 24 head studs to 22? With what engine number did they change from the early thin head, which was prone to cracking, to the more reliable thicker cylinder head? When did the oil cooler become standard equipment? Did the early Ks have just two different length spark plug wires or just the replacements as listed in the 13th edition of the parts book? For that matter when did they change to 5 different lengths, then to 3 different lengths?



What about the Rajah bare spark plug terminals used in almost all restorations today? The original Rajah SR-11 terminal has not been available for a long time. The OD on the replacement split ring tongue terminal is about 5/64" larger than what was original, not much, but not original. Page through the various Chris Craft Model K parts books. You'll find spark plugs listed as J8, J8J, J8JRed Line, J8JM, and UJ6M. Which one is correct for your engine? When did the boats start being delivered with the 100 HP version vs the 95HP?



EQUIPMENT RECO		
EQUIPMENT		
Alcohol Stove		
Anchor <i>HELIX</i> Wt. <i>20</i>		✓
Anchor Lines <i>30' of 5"</i>		✓
Wheel in Boat	<i>2</i>	✓
Wheel Nut in Boat	<i>2</i>	✓
Wheel Key in Boat	<i>2</i>	✓
Wheel Cotter Pin in Boat	<i>2</i>	✓
Bilge Pump <i>Permanent or Hand</i>		✓
Instructions—Hull Book		✓
—Engine Book		✓
Mooring Lines	<i>2</i>	✓
Oil—Gallon Can	<i>2</i>	✓
Starting Crank		
Tools		✓
Cockpit Steps		

Excerpt from Chris Craft hull card showing items shipped with boat.  
Oil cans, anchor, tools, hand pump, etc.

I've had the opportunity to research a few Chris Craft models at the Mariners Museum. After going through almost a thousand hull cards I can tell you there are many variances among the same model. Different upholstery colors, extra gauges, a spare prop, etc. I noted that sometimes, for whatever reason, a boat would be shipped missing some items such as part of their deck hardware. Many Chris Crafts were shipped with an extra can of "DUPLEX" engine oil (un-opened), without looking at the hull card, how would you know which ones were? How many judges consult the hull card of every Chris Craft being judged?



I could go on for pages, but you get the idea. Judges are volunteers, not all are equally qualified, but they do the best they can. The ACBS judging system is not perfect, it never will be, in fact it is deeply flawed, because these facts and the answers to these questions, and hundreds more, are simply not common knowledge. Take pride in your boat, enjoy the pleasure it brings, and the opportunity to commiserate with folks of like mind. If high points are your goal, do the best you can. Just don't take it too seriously.



# MINOCQUA ANTIQUE & CLASSIC BOAT SHOW

By Eric Moberg

This was the second year since the long running Minocqua show was moved to Torpy Park, and Marc Toigo and his staff of volunteers continued to build off the successes and lessons from year 1.

The festivities started with a Welcome Reception on Thursday evening hosted by the guys at Advantage Restorations of Minocqua. This is a fiberglass repair shop, and they had plenty of classic glass for us to gawk at. From unusual 1950's outboards, to a massive Donzi with triple big block power, there was certainly something there for everyone. The evening was cool for mid-June, but the chance to renew old friendships and make new ones, along with a warm tent, a warm meal and plenty of libations was enough to overcome the chill.



## MINOCQUA ANTIQUE & CLASSIC BOAT SHOW

LAKE MINOCQUA AT TORPY PARK, MINOCQUA, WI

### June 16-17, 2023

Benefiting Local Charitable Organizations  
In Conjunction with the Minocqua Lions Club

**FRIDAY, JUNE 16**

9AM-5PM: Participant Registration  
 NOON-7PM: Boat Show, food, beverages, clothing  
 3PM-6PM: MUSIC: Melissa Childers  
 3PM: Traditional Shore Lunch Fish Fry  
 7:45PM: Boat Parade during Min-Aqua Bats  
 Water Ski Show Intermission

**SATURDAY, JUNE 17**

10AM-8PM: Boat Show, food, beverages, clothing  
 NOON-3PM: MUSIC: Bree Morgan  
 3PM-7PM: MUSIC: BootJack Road

\*Times & Schedule are subject to change

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT MARC TOIGO:**  
 715-892-4873 • [MinocquaMarc@Duck.com](mailto:MinocquaMarc@Duck.com)  
 Visit us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/MinocquaBoatShow](http://www.facebook.com/MinocquaBoatShow)

SMOKE SIGNAL

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SPRING 2024





The weather warmed considerably for the opening of the show on Friday, with a gorgeous sunny day. The expansive Torpy Park grounds are tailor made for a show like this, and the grounds were packed with on-land boat displays. There were over 70 boats on display. Additional donors had been found to extend last year's newly installed and donated docks another ten feet or so each. This made the water spots more friendly for some of the larger boats, and all spots were filled with over 25 boats. Similar to last year, there was live music all day by various local acts, and food and drink were available from the Lions Club.







Toward the end of the day, there was time to grab a quick snack before heading out for the boat parade past the Minocquabats Ski show in the evening. This was a prime photo opportunity, and Photographer Gunnar Larson captured some great shots there as well as all weekend long.

His photos are available on his web site: <https://gunnarlarssonphotography.com/minocqua-boat-show>

Saturday was a carbon copy beautiful day which flew by until suddenly it was time for the awards and wrapping up of the show. This has become one of the finer shows in the area, and Marc and Co. already have ideas for even more enhancements. Be sure to mark your calendars for Father's Day weekend. This is one you won't want to miss!



And Winners are: Back Row, left to right Beth & Rich Lepping, Jamie Geschke, Susan & Fred Bartizol, Lynn & Marc Toigo, Demaree & Jeff Heeren, Beth & Mike Keesler, Scott Martin, Kate & Jay Fleck  
Front row, left to right: Mary, Mark and River, Willis, Molly Martin, Jay Savage, Mindy & Tom Clark

## MINOCQUA ANTIQUUE & CLASSIC BOAT SHOW

LAKE MINOCQUA AT TORPY PARK, MINOCQUA, WI

June 14-15, 2024

Benefiting Local Charitable Organizations  
In Conjunction with the Minocqua Lions Club



FRIDAY, JUNE 14

9AM-5PM: Participant Registration  
NOON-7PM: Boat Show, food, beverages, clothing  
3PM-6PM: MUSIC-Melissa Childers  
3PM: Traditional Shore Lunch Fish Fry  
7:45PM: Boat Parade during Min-Aqua Bats Water Ski Show Intermission

SATURDAY, JUNE 15

10AM-8PM: Boat Show, food, beverages, clothing  
NOON-3PM: MUSIC-Tuck Pence  
3PM-7PM: MUSIC-Double Barrel

\*Times & Schedule are subject to change

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT MARC TOIGO:

715-892-4873 • MinocquaMarc@Duck.com

Visit us on [www.MinocquaBoatShow.com](http://www.MinocquaBoatShow.com)

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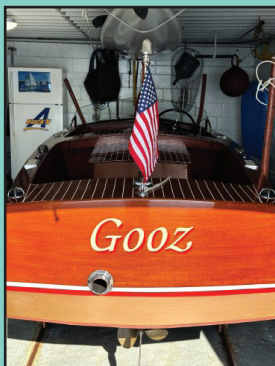


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# CLASSIFIED ADS



## 1952 Chris Craft 17' Special Runabout - GOOZ

The original 105 HP KL engine was replaced in 2016 with a 120 HP KLC. Ted Cartner, Antioch, IL supplied the long block and Mark Willis, Custom Boat Service in Brookfield, WI installed the engine. Other than the engine, all parts are original and all gauges, lights, etc. are in working order. Original 6-volt system. Was re-varnished in 2006 by S&R Marine. I have all the original purchase documents along with the owner's manual and service receipts. There is also an original Chris Craft brochure that came with the boat. Tom Sweitzer 414-507-2728 [tomsweitzer@gmail.com](mailto:tomsweitzer@gmail.com)



## 1960 Chetek Princess - Why Not!

18'9" lapstrake with original Johnson 75 HP 4 cycle engine. Boat was stored inside for 27 years prior to my purchase in 2013. This boat has been shown in many Midwest Antique Wood Boat Shows and is a crowd-pleaser winning gold at the Racine International in 2017. In very good preserved condition, with new custom upholstery, top, and new trailer tires. Price: \$8600, recently lowered from \$11,000. Ron Campana, Thomson IL 815-690-9766

**FOR SALE: Chris Craft Engines** K100HP, KL 105HP, KLO 105HP, M130HP, ML145HP, MCL 175HP, also a dual carb 135HP Chrysler Crown, Ted 847-395-8902





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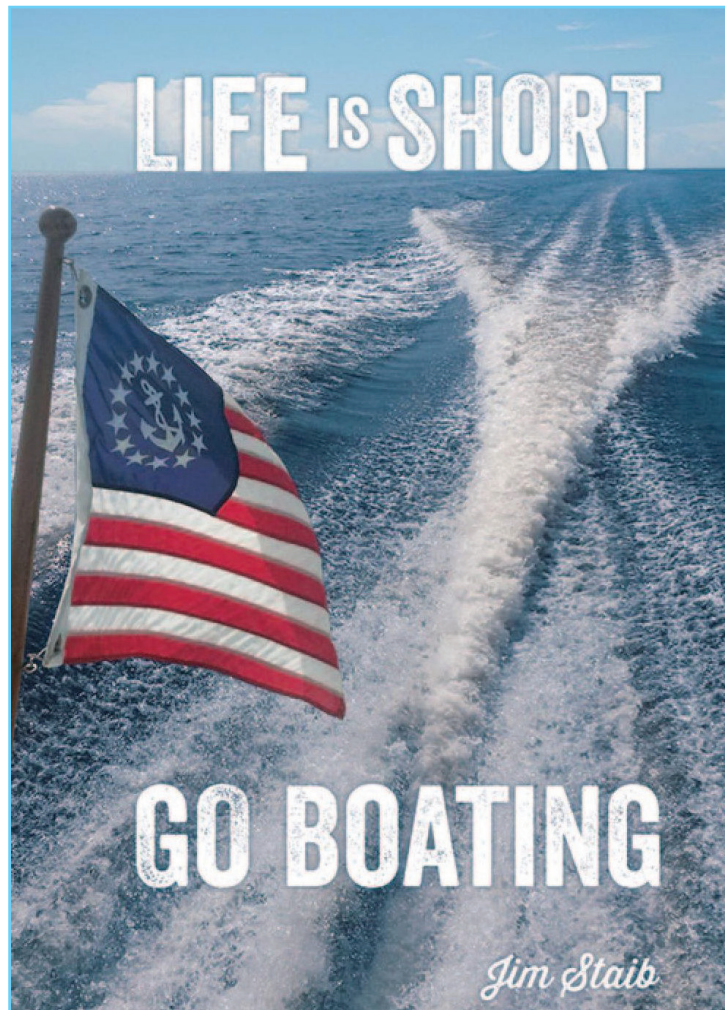
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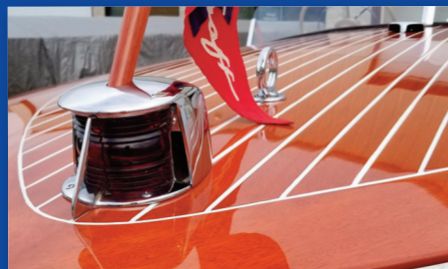
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# Boat Materials are our Specialty

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# Bottoms Up

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**BLACKHAWK CHAPTER- ACBS**  
**Smoke Signal**  
21 Plum Court  
Sleepy Hollow IL, 60118



## **BLACKHAWK 2024 EVENT CALENDAR**

Sun June 9th	Bob O'Day Memorial Fox River Cruise
Sat July 13th	Fox Lake Boat Show
August	Summer Workshop
Sun September 8	Chicago River Rendezvous
Sat Sun September 28 & 29	Geneva Lake Boat Show
October	Fall Dinner & Event

View Smoke Signal and past issues at:  
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