



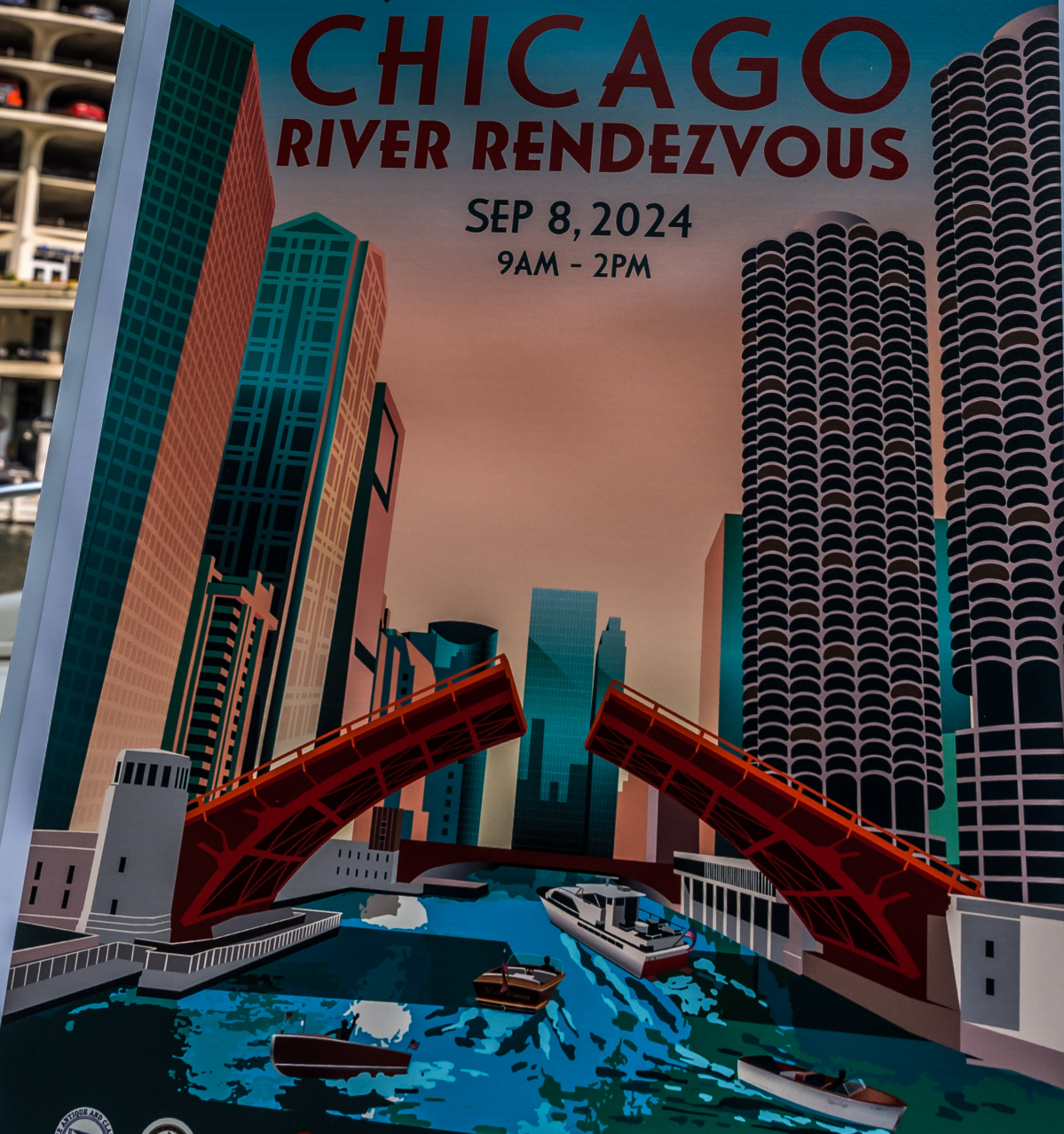
SMOKE SIGNAL

VOLUME 28 ISSUE 3

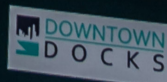
AUTUMN 2024

ANTIQUE AND CLASSIC BOAT CHICAGO RIVER RENDEZVOUS

SEP 8, 2024
9AM - 2PM



CHICAGO RIVERWALK
BETWEEN STATE AND DEARBORN



Blackhawk Chapter

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Presidents Message

Hello fellow Blackhawks,

As we wrap up another successful boating season, I'm excited for what's ahead in the year to come. Over the winter, I'll be actively searching for my next project boat. While I have a few ideas in mind, I'm keeping an open mind and trust that I'll know the right one when I find it. Of course, my wife is unaware of these plans, so we'll see how things go once she catches wind of what I'm up to!



Looking ahead to next season, several members are already working hard to bring an exciting lineup of events to the club. One of the most exciting new additions will be the Navy Pier Marina In-Water Boat Show, set to take place in downtown Chicago from August 21-24, 2025. This is a fantastic opportunity for us to showcase our boats right on Lake Michigan, docked at Navy Pier in the heart of summer. A huge thanks to fellow member Al Bartkus for organizing this event! If you are interested in helping out with this or any of our other events next year, please reach out to me directly.

I hope you and your families enjoy a wonderful holiday season, and I look forward to seeing you all in 2025.

Sincerely,
Michael Furibondo
President, ACBS – Blackhawk Chapter





"WELCOME ABOARD"

Blackhawk Chapter's Newest Members



Robert & Julie Vonckx, Algonquin IL

Anna & Paul Harmon, Fontana WI

Danny & Stephanie Lyons, Delavan WI

Jake & Ashely Riniker, Lancaster WI

Robert MacIntyre, Juneau WI

Ryan Hurley & Tonya Volk, Lake Geneva WI

Phil & Susan Hagenah, Lake Geneva WI

Derek Luszcz & Adam Taraska, Lake Forest IL

Julie & Doug Springer, Lake Geneva WI

David Stavropoulos, Lake Geneva WI

Ron & Jan Urban, Wheeling IL



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 nearly 200 members now 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 Thanks, Terry Dickson, Smoke Signal Editor

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



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Geneva Lakes 25th Anniversary Antique & Classic Boat Show

The Abbey Resort in Fontana, WI
September 27-29, 2024



The Rodeck's 1965 Century Coronado - 'Beagle'

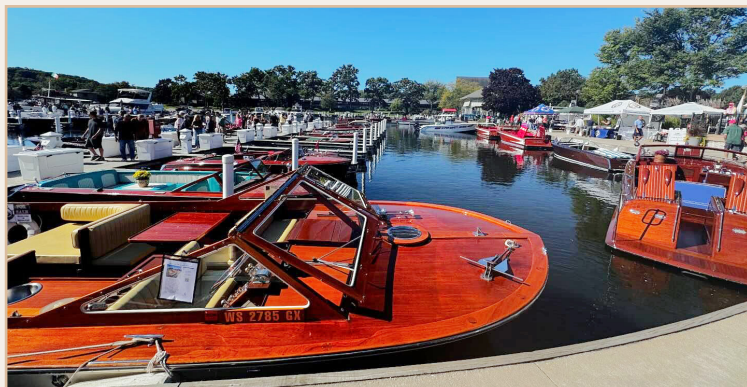


Jerry Slovick - 1955 Aristocrat Torpedo with
1959 Mercury Mark 58A



Mitchell O'Day - 1950 Chris Craft Riviera - 'BAMM'


THE ABBEY RESORT
The Lake Geneva Experience



The 25th Anniversary of the Geneva Lakes Boat Show arrived with sunshine, temps in the 70's and a light breeze, in other words perfect weather! We had a great crowd turnout at Abbey harbor lagoon both Saturday and Sunday with an estimated 5,000 people viewing the 70 boats in water and 38 on land.



Tom Nickols, Cindy & Ted Cartner
Step right up and get your coffee cups while they last.



Darlene Kalfahs, Mark Svoboda, Matt Bryne, Kathi & Al Bosworth, John Kalfahs, Dave Vogeler & Steve Fleming



Mick Raub and John Barrett directing traffic.



John Spoeri - 1956 AritoCraft Typhoon - 'Taifun' with Terry Dickson, Amy and Mitchell O'Day.



John Kozmiuk & Wooden Boats Crew



The Svoboda's and the Moberg's aboard 'Rebel'



People's Choice - Tom Eiseman - 1958 30' Shepherd Commuter



Lars of Bergersen Boat Company with owner Tom



Al and Tom present Larry Amsbaugh the Blackhawk Chapter's Sharpest Arrow Award 2024
1941 Chriscraft Barrelback - 'LAMBCHOP'





Captains Choice - Michael & Tracey King
1958 Ancarrow Marine Inc Patrician - 'Patty Wagon'



Charles Rasso - 1961 Glastron Fireflite -
'E holo kia'

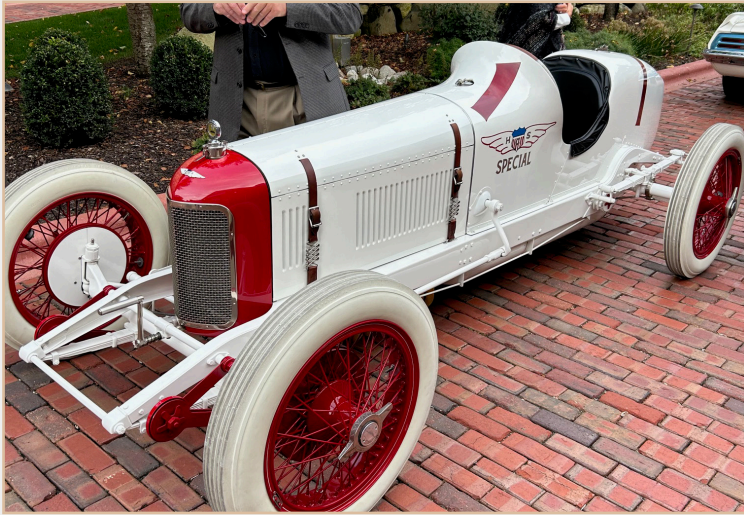


Calvin Seith - 1947 Chris Craft U22 - 'RIFF RAFT'



Judy Trunsky - 1947 Chris Craft Deluxe Runabout -
'Legacy'

LGBS Committee - Friday events Chairperson, Larry Larkin arranged a grand and glorious day. The Friday estate tour featured three different estates and lunch at the Lake Geneva Yacht Club. The journey between homes on the Sealark, Henry Knox and the Normandie made for a special day all by themselves.



The Captain's dinner at the Mecum Estate was memorable for all that attended. Our caterer, Celebration on Wells, outdid themselves with a robust autumn feast. The collection of antique and classic cars was breathtaking in quality and scope. One of the highlights was starting Miss America. Talk about fire and danger, an entirely new dimension to antique boating.

LGBS Committee thanks all our sponsors and the army of volunteers who made the show so enjoyable- a big thank you! Our thanks to the Abbey Marina and Gordy's for making the slips and harbor available- we couldn't do it without you! Mark your calendars for the 2025 show to be held September 27th and 28th. Details will be on the website next spring.



Blackhawk Chapter Fall Workshop



Kozmiuk Wooden Boats

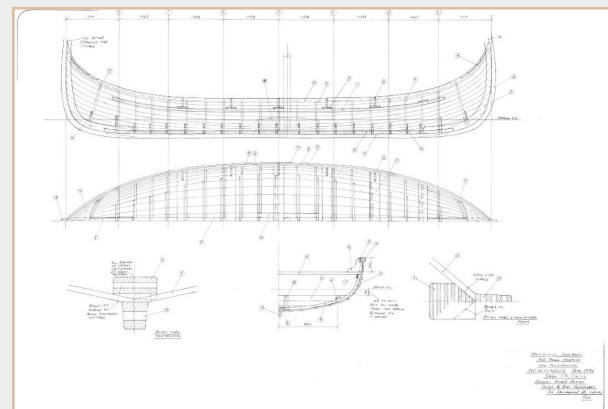
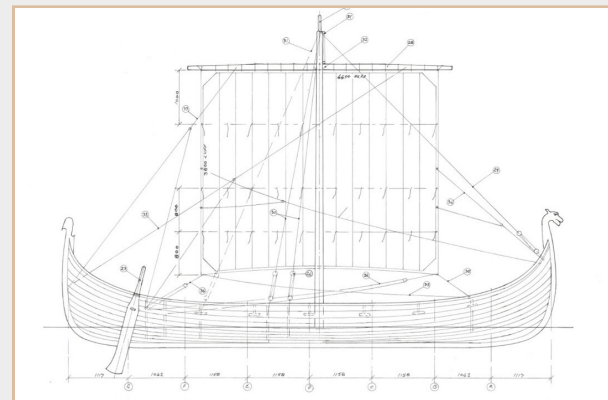
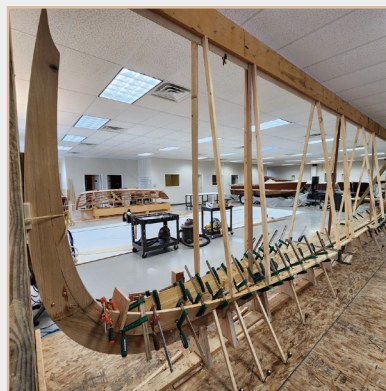
Old World Craftsmanship and Artistry

Custom Wooden Boat Building, Restoring and Refinishing. Sailboats and Powerboats, Dinghies to Yachts.

Blackhawk's recently concluded our year of boating-related events with an exceptional workshop hosted by our esteemed member, John Kozmiuk, at Kozmiuk Wooden Boats. Attendees were warmly welcomed by John and his team, who provided an insightful demonstration of traditional wooden boat-building techniques through various interactive stations.



Notable highlights included a demonstration of a full-scale lofting board and the use of traditional methods and materials to construct a replica of a recently discovered Viking longboat. Personally, I found the demonstration of hand planing one of the longboat planks, followed by the riveting process using a ball peen hammer, bronze rivets, and roves, particularly fascinating.



I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to John and his staff for their dedication and effort in making this workshop such a comprehensive and enriching experience.

Mike Furibondo

<https://www.kozmiukwoodenboats.com/>



The Chicago River Rendezvous was a success!

Article by: Capt Albert Bartkus

First, a big thank you to the ACBS Blackhawk Chapter's organizers working with Chicago Electric Boat to put this event together and make it happen.

The weather was sunny and pleasant on the Chicago Riverwalk making the location ideal for exposure to the public as they strolled by admiring our bristol boats. The backdrop for our boats this year was the majestic Chicago skyline carved out by the sparkling Chicago River with our boats floating like gems for the city to appreciate. We had a turn out of about a dozen or so boats ranging in sizes from 57' to 14'.



Boats were made up of aluminum, wood and fiberglass. We could not help but notice some immaculate outboard motors shown off on equally pristine boats. Sitting along the dock we were able to socialize with each other and share stories and project notes. We even had one boat celebrating a birthday in grand fashion along with a lot of inquisitive stares from the hip crowd sipping glasses of wine at City Winery where we were docked.



As the boat show finally wound down we departed the Riverwalk heading up the main branch of the Chicago River as we participated in an impromptu parade heading up the North Branch. Some of us made it all the way up to Belmont on the River before calling it until next year.

Video links: <https://youtu.be/HSqqQ4R6g98> https://youtu.be/J87BYD8_VjA

Old Boats and Keeping Your Brain Young

Engaging in Purposeful & Meaningful Activities

Dr. Michelle London * Neuropsychologist
Assistant Professor, Northwestern Feinberg School of Medicine
Dept. of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
USCG Master's Captains License



The 3 pound gelatinous blob between our ears holding 100 trillion synaptic connections also happens to be where the essence of who we are exists. This is where our likes and dislikes reside and where decision making occurs. This is even where for example we conjure the wild idea to purchase and restore a vintage boat... or two. The human brain is by far the most important organ in the body, and it runs on a “if you don’t use it you lose it” principle. This is why keeping our brain active with reduced stressors is even more important as we progress through life.

Everyone knows someone who has been impacted by dementia as approximately 1 out of 4 individuals over the age of 80 develop dementia. However, as a neuropsychologist I also meet a lot of individuals over 80 who are may be considered “super agers.” These are people who manage to age well. They manage to thrive physically, cognitively and emotionally. Some of my patients have even participated in the SuperAging Research Program which looks to identify genetic, lifestyle and brain factors that contribute to exceptional memory. Super agers are relatively rare, with some estimates suggesting that they make up less than 10% of the population. They have a thicker brain cortex and they have a slower rate of brain shrinkage with age than their peers.

Do I believe as a neuropsychologist that participating actively in the ACBS might be conducive as a lifestyle factor that may help you thrive into older age? I do (this is the part of the article you show to your spouse who might be a bit reluctant to go to that vintage boat festival). This rash statement will be bolstered because I believe that several factors which are crucial for brain health can be found within the antique boating community such as a sense of community, cognitive engagement, physical work, and meaningful activity.

There are 4 pillars of cognitive health which are good guideposts for us at any age to focus on if we wish to reap the benefits of brain health well into our years of retirement.

These four pillars of brain health:

- I. Engaging in meaningful activities
- II. Psychological Well-Being
- III. Social Connectedness
- IV. Physical Health

All of these points can be met in part through the one hobby that holds the ACBS community together. Besides being an avid member of the boating community, I am also a Johns Hopkins trained neuropsychologist specializing in dementias. I will share a 4- part series discussing each pillar in the consecutive quarterly publications of the Smoke Signal. We will start with -Purposeful and Meaningful Activities.

To hammer the point home: Imagine a bristol 1936 35ft Double Cabin all Mahogany wood Chris Craft, with meticulous brightwork, gleaming on the water all summer and cruising through the channels, drawing smiles and awe because of her beauty and grace only to be hauled out to a warm and cozy heated winter storage. The intention of protecting the integrity of the boat for the winter seems like a solid idea. No projects planned, just a cozy heated condominium for the Chris Craft to rest her weary bones. What might be some of the consequences for this vintage vessel?

The cracks could begin to show where the wood is expanding and contracting. What was a tight joint between wood would shrink like a dish sponge drying out. Our well-intentioned rest for this venerable vessel might unleash a cascade of unintended consequences.

Following postdoc at Johns Hopkins I returned home to Chicago and was running a Memory Care Clinic. I began working with a patient, let's call him Mike, who was recently retired from an illustrious career with a high level position in International Maritime Law. After spending decades traveling to and from and wearing the burden of frequent flier programs as a badge of honor, this gentleman retired proudly approaching the age of 70 years old. Without admitting it to himself or to others around him the decades on the road took their toll on his health. Retirement was a relished idea. Yet, his sense of understanding of who he was very connected to the work that he did throughout his life. Now that he was not defined solely by work questions popped up such as 'what would he do' and "what would he be?" The idea of relaxing and enjoying this downtime seemed like enough of a plan. Mike awkwardly descended into his fluffy couch after clearing out those boxes from his desk at work. There was indeed a sense of relief for not needing to awaken at 5am for flights but there was also a sense that the days were melting into one another. A Monday could not always be differentiated from a Thursday.

He felt that retiring, instead of ushering in well-deserved freedom, ushered in a sense of floating into the abyss. This was an unintended side effect of retirement and not protective and restorative at all. Instead, the slowing down was quite deleterious to Mike's brain.

Just like that vintage 1936 35ft Chris Craft placed in a warm winter storage condominium getting rest, relaxation and an abatement of activity, Mike's lack of sense of purpose contributed to a cascade of events that decreased his optimal functioning and in fact shrunk his world and his mind. Similar to that dried out sponge analogy describing the wood seams on the vintage vessel, Mike's brain began to "shrink", and this is what we call "atrophy."

We all need to wake up with a sense of purpose – whatever that means to us personally. For many, throughout our lives that sense of purpose involves work and having a role in life that transcends ourselves. Once that ends due to the natural evolution of life and with the commencement of retirement we still need to find something that propels us out of bed in the morning.

It is important to ask ourselves "What brings you a sense of purpose?" The antique and classic boat society perfectly encapsulates that sense of purpose. To wake up knowing that there is a project, there is a community and there is a beautiful boat waiting there for you to make it come to life is priceless. It is enough knowing that your work sustains a sense of nostalgic past and provides defining experiences for your friends/family. This gives your year meaning as you plan to take your vintage boat out in the late Spring, as we experience a thaw after months of work behind the scenes. Keep this up! It is good for the brain and the spirit. Honestly, many of those reading this article already are far ahead of the curve on what it means to engage in purposeful and meaningful activities for brain health. You have found this niche and it extends throughout decades. Your brain thanks you for it and so do the boats. I look forward to revisiting more topics pertinent to Old Boats and keeping your brain young.



CMAC

Summer Wrap Up & Fall Kick-off A Word from Captain Toby Lindo, Executive Director

Dear Friends and Supporters,

In 2024 the pictures tell the story. For some of our students it may have been the first time they got to see a herd of turtles convene on a log to decide how best to spend their day! Great Blue Herons are a common sight along the Chicago River, but one many Chicago kids don't often get to see. You can see their sightings and excitement in the photos we have included.



For 2024, we worked primarily with Lost Boyz (South Shore) and the Ganz Boys & Girls Club at the Lathrop Housing complex. Southern Shore Yacht Club (Jackson Inner Harbor) provided an exceptional location for teaching young boys and girls about the marine environment and small boat handling. And the Lathrop Homes complex on the North Branch of the Chicago River offers the best stretch of the river to teach young kids boating skills.



Welcome to our New Boating Skills Instructors.

This summer, we were excited to bring in a group of dynamic instructors to lead our youth programming. Marcial Garcia Jr., from Little Village and currently an assistant teacher at Disney Magnet School, brings expertise in student and parent engagement. He recently welcomed a new daughter, Paola Marcellina, and will be completing his community service with us this fall, documenting curriculum and assisting with program planning.

Sean Reeser, a former Maryland park ranger with expertise in environmental issues and small craft water rescue, provided excellent safety management, especially for kids new to the water. He's also doing important campaign work for the Sierra Club this fall.

Rounding out the team was Jack Tarpy, a 16-year-old St. Ignatius High School crew member, who brought valuable rowing experience and worked closely with Marcial and Sean.



Boating Skills Workshops

Our new instructors led multiple week-long boating skills workshops this summer with the Boys and Girls Club at Lathrop Homes and Lost Boyz in South Shore. We were also fortunate to partner with the South Shore Yacht Club as a host site.

The youth gained skills in rowing, using boating terms, safety management and STEAM skills.

They also had a chance to be on the water almost every day, as the weather was in our favor. One day they did an activity of picking up trash along the river and learned about safe ways to conduct clean-up work and also the impact it had on the river and lake. They also also had the chance to identify birds, fish, and other animals along the water and shoreline.

Thanks to Friends, Partners and Supporters

A huge thanks for the generous support provided by partners, friends and volunteers who offered guidance, advice, material support, community building and endless amounts of time to ensure our success. A huge debt of gratitude is owed to the following people for their invaluable and gracious efforts:

Board members included Grant Crowley, Tom Blakely, Christina Page, Joe Rickard, Ted Cartner and Gail Spreen

Program support was provided by Joe Cannon, Dave Correia, Angie and Timmy Carter, Steve Steubig, George Lowe, Jay Desrosiers, and the staff at the Maritime Museum.

Program partners included LaVonte Stewart from Lost Boyz, Amanda Herrera from Bickerdike Redevelopment Corporation, Hilda Crispin from the Boys and Girls Club of Chicago, Flo and Dwayne Digby from the South Shore Yacht Club, and Marlon Harvey from the Jackson Park Yacht Club.

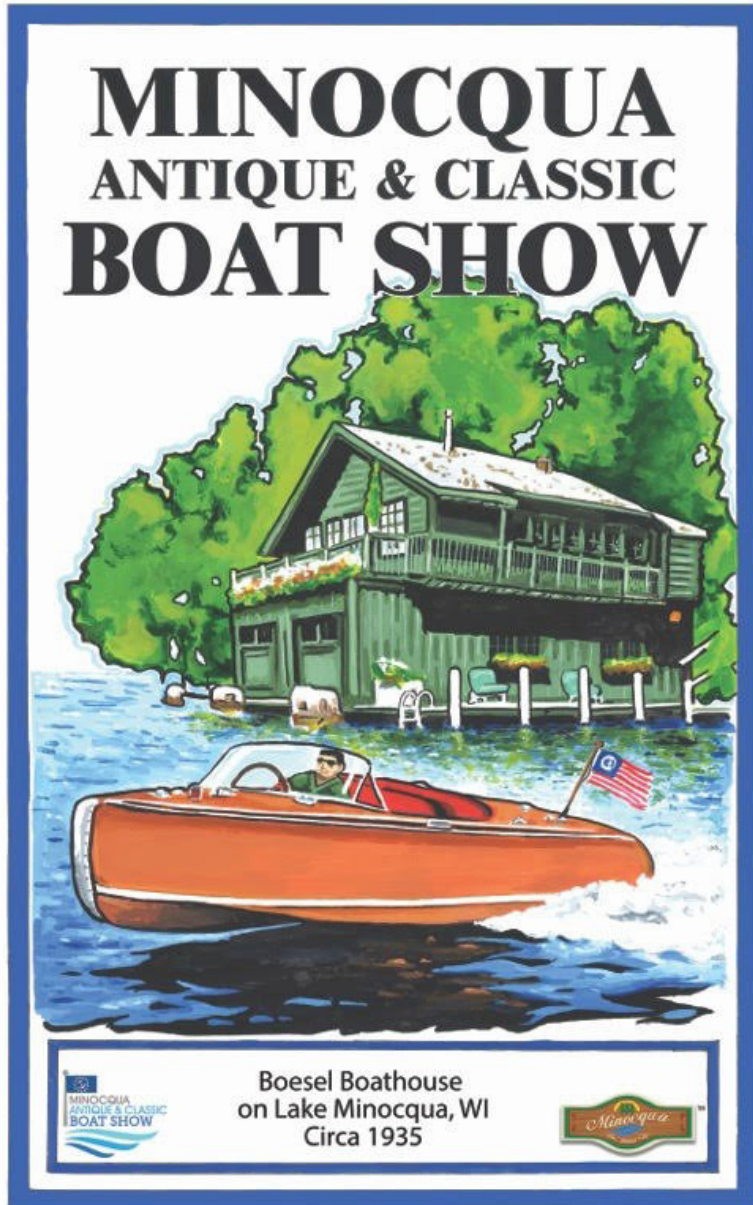
Thanks also to our consultant, Kelli Covey from The Covey Group, for helping to hire, train and support our instructors. She is also working with our instructors to provide an updated curriculum and instructor's manual to guide the work.



Chicago Maritime Arts Center expects to build on these relationships to expand access for city kids in 2025 and beyond.

<https://www.chicagomaritime.org/>

2024 Minocqua Antique & Classic Boat Show



The 2024 Minocqua Antique & Classic Boat Show enjoyed great weather, fantastic boats, excited crowds, and plenty of camaraderie in Torpy Park on Lake Minocqua June 14-15, 2024. Over 80 boats were registered from throughout the Midwest and 1000's of visitors browsed the park enjoying the variety of boats, food, and music. The 33rd annual event has become a springboard into the summer vacation and boating season for boat owners and visitors alike.

This year's boats were a perfect combination of nostalgic wooden, vintage fiberglass, and custom boats. Each was special in its own right and each had a story to tell. Torpy Park gives everyone the space to interact, relax, and share these stories.

The show enjoys the support of both the Glacier Lakes and Blackhawk Chapters of ACBS and without their support and involvement the show would not be possible. Local volunteers help in setup and logistics, and sponsors support the effort throughout the process.



The weekend started with a wonderful Welcome Party at sponsor Advantage Restoration where food, music, and refreshments were the perfect backdrop to boat owners and sponsors meeting each other or reconfirming old relationships.

Friday morning starts with a frenzy of parking boats in the 26 water spots and 60+ on land spots. Visitors show up all day, enjoy the Minocqua Lions Club food including a Shore Lunch Fish Fry, and we finish the first day with a boat parade through the Min-Aqua-Bats Water Ski Show.

On Saturday the crowds start early, music plays all day, and the smiles on people's faces as they reminisce about these boats and their place in history, make it all worthwhile.



We start the planning process right away for June 13-14, 2025.

Please join us at:

www.facebook.com/MinocquaBoatShow

www.MinocquaBoatShow.com

Blackhawk Chapter Youth Group Update

The Blackhawk Chapter of the Antique & Classic Boat Society (ACBS) Youth Group offers a dynamic and hands-on approach to learning about classic boating. This group brings together young people with an interest in preserving the heritage of antique boats, providing them with opportunities to engage in educational workshops, restoration projects, and social events. Through these activities, members gain invaluable skills in woodworking, fiberglass repair, mechanical restoration, and the history of classic boats. They work alongside experienced craftsmen and boat enthusiasts, learning the techniques and traditions that have been passed down through generations. The youth group helps foster a deep appreciation for the craftsmanship involved in building and maintaining these vintage vessels.



In addition to practical skills, the Blackhawk Chapter's youth group emphasizes teamwork, leadership, and community involvement. The group participates in local boat shows, community events, and charity functions, showcasing their work and spreading awareness about the importance of preserving classic boats.

This involvement not only strengthens the group's bond but also connects them to a larger network of boating enthusiasts across the country. The youth group provides a unique opportunity for young people to develop a lifelong passion for boating while making lasting memories and friendships. By encouraging the next generation to get involved in the world of antique and classic boats, the Blackhawk Chapter is ensuring the continued preservation and appreciation of these iconic vessels.



Bergersen Boat Co.

The Bergersen Boat Company has agreed to play a key role in leading the Blackhawk Chapter of the Antique & Classic Boat Society (ACBS) Youth Group, serving as a guiding force for young boat enthusiasts passionate about classic boating. With a legacy of expertise in boat restoration and craftsmanship, Bergersen Boat Company provides invaluable mentorship to the youth members, offering hands-on training in the art of restoring and maintaining antique boats.

Their skilled craftsmen work directly with the youth, teaching them the intricate techniques involved in woodworking, fiberglass repair, and mechanical restoration. This partnership ensures that the next generation gains practical, real-world experience while learning about the historical significance of these vintage vessels.

Under the guidance of Lars Bergersen and the Bergersen Boat Company, the Blackhawk Chapter's youth group not only gains technical skills but also develops a deeper connection to the boating community. The company's leadership helps foster a sense of professionalism, teamwork, and responsibility, as young members are encouraged to participate in community events, boat shows, and restoration projects. Bergersen's commitment to preserving the legacy of classic boats aligns perfectly with the ACBS's mission, and their involvement strengthens the youth group's ability to carry forward the passion and traditions of boating. This mentorship not only provides young people with essential skills but also inspires them to become stewards of boating history, ensuring that classic boats continue to be cherished for generations to come.

Earlier this month Bergersen's hosted an open house for the Lake Geneva Boy Scout Troops 235 and 239. There was a lot of excitement about participating with the group this coming spring. The Blackhawk Chapter youth group is open to all chapter members and their friends and family. There is no cost to join the group. Our chapter covers the expense for ACBS and Blackhawk Chapter youth membership.



For more information please contact Mark Svoboda at msvoboda@markshell.com or call at 630.841.8540

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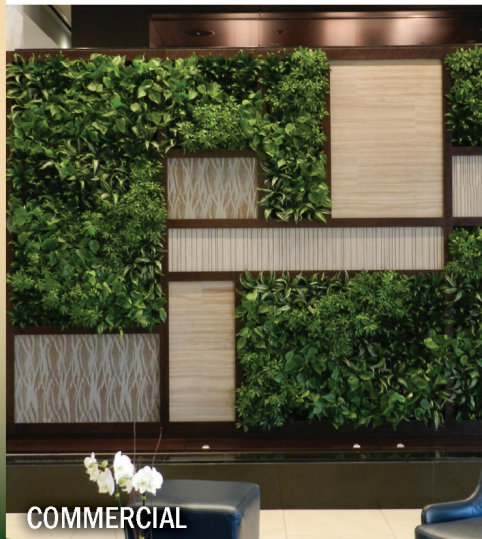
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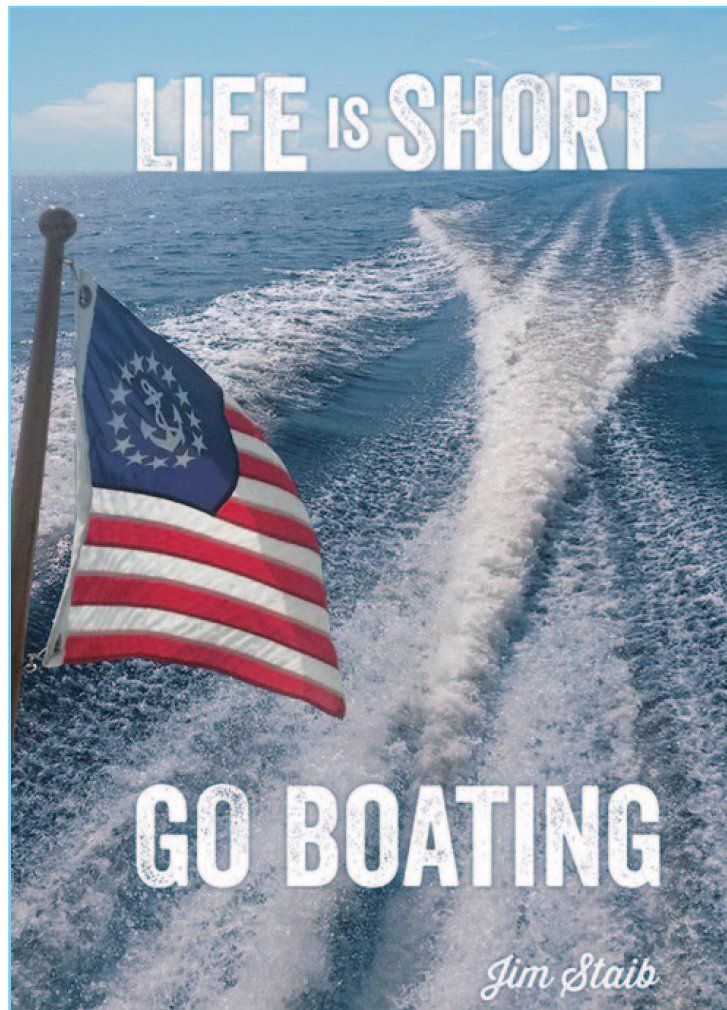
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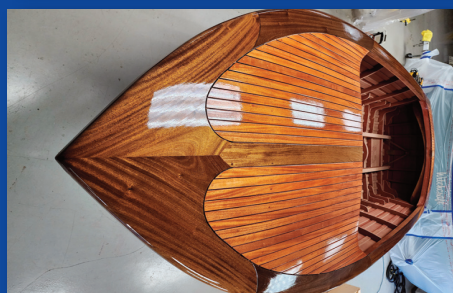
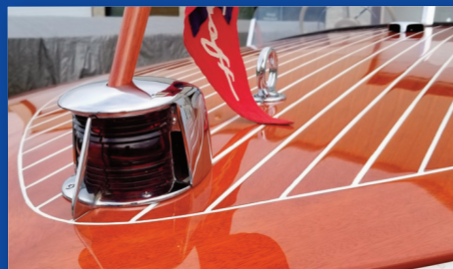
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BLACKHAWK CHAPTER- ACBS
Smoke Signal
21 Plum Court
Sleepy Hollow IL, 60118



BLACKHAWK 2025 EVENT CALENDAR

Sat June 14

Spring Cruise

Sat July 12

Fox Lake Boat Show

Thu - Sun August 21-24

Navy Pier Marina In-Water Boat Show

Sat - Sun September 27 -28

Geneva Lakes Boat Show

View Smoke Signal and past issues at:
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