



# The Smoke Signal



Newsletter of the BLACKHAWK CHAPTER-ACBS

VOLUME 17 ISSUE 1

January/February 2011

## Wooden Boats of Stockholm

By Eric Moberg, Photos by Kathy Moberg

Kathy and I had the opportunity to travel to Stockholm in August 2010. While this was essentially a business trip, it quickly became apparent that Stockholm is a hotbed of wooden boating. The most amazing woodie, from both a size and restoration project perspective is, of course, the 226 foot long Vasa. Think Pirates of the Caribbean – Flying Dutchman, for which Vasa was the inspiration. This Swedish warship, which was the crowning glory of the Swedish Navy, was launched in August 1628, and was to engage the Polish Navy in an ongoing war. Unfortunately, she overturned on her maiden voyage, less than a kilometer from port. In the next several years most of the 64 canon were retrieved, but little else could be salvaged with the technology of the day. She was mostly forgotten until the 1950's when she was again located, largely intact. After a heroic effort, Vasa returned to the surface in 1961 after 333 years at the bottom, and still 95% complete. Ironically, the polluted and oxygen starved waters that hid her from discovery was the very thing that saved her from decay. What followed was the ultimate restoration project, which would boggle the mind of any of us who do our own restoration work. All the wood had to be stabilized and the missing bits rebuilt. A museum was built around the ship, also showcasing the technology used to construct, as well as restore her; and depictions of life in the day, both onboard and ashore. Although built as a fearsome warship, Vasa was also a thing of beauty. She was adorned with ornate symbolic carvings and statuary throughout, most of which survived to the present. The original “Shock and Awe”, Vasa is a must see for anyone going to Stockholm.

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## Blackhawk Exhibit At The 81<sup>st</sup> Annual Chicago Boat, RV & Outdoors Show

By Mark Svoboda

For the second year in a row, the Blackhawk Chapter of the Antique and Classic Boat Society presented an exhibit of antique and classic boats and motors at the 81<sup>st</sup> Annual Chicago Boat, RV & Outdoors Show. Along with our partner in this event, The Antique Outboard Motor Club, Motorheads of Illinois Chapter, we presented 20 boats representing 14 manufacturers and 20 antique motors representing 10 manufacturers. The boats



2011 exhibit crew members for the 81<sup>st</sup> Annual Chicago Boat, RV & Outdoors Show

exhibited spanned 100 years with the oldest model a 1907 Morris canoe and the newest a 2007 Hacker design. Every day of the event many attendees expressed to our team that the exhibit was the highlight of the show ! In a February 17<sup>th</sup> arti-

(Continued on page 7)

# BLACKHAWK CHAPTER

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fellow Blackhawk Members:



It can be hard to believe that we may be boating in as little as 8 or 10 weeks! With record snowfall in the Midwest and some of the coldest temperatures in decades, it is hard to visualize that first launch day but fear not spring is just around the corner.

The 2011 season is underway and the Blackhawk Chapter already has our first show in our wake. For the second year in a row the Chicago show was a huge success and an impressive display. We had 20 boats and 20 motors and a lot of help from our partners the Motorheads of Illinois that braved the snow on setup day. Overall attendance was up at the show and once again the common message from attendees is that the exhibit was the hit of the event! Check out the show summary in this issue of the Smoke Signal. Thank you to all of the volunteers who participated in our display and helped to make the show a success.

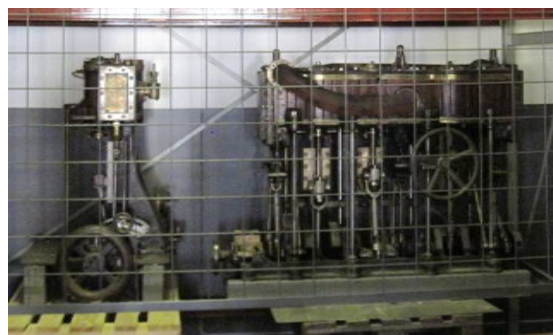
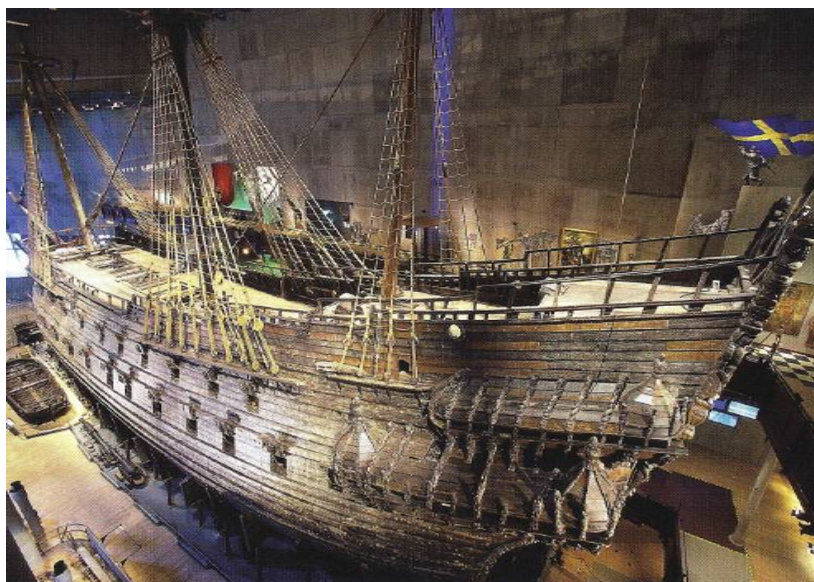
The event schedule for 2011 is coming together and this promises to be another great year for the Blackhawks. Watch the Smoke Signal and the web site for details as they develop.

I would like to thank every member for your participation and support of the Blackhawk Chapter. I am looking forward to warmer days this summer and I hope to see all of you at Blackhawk events throughout the year.

Best Regards,



(Continued from page 1)



There was also a historic marine engine collection



## Pictures From Sweden



Some of these historic craft were downright odd...



Others a little more practical...



Not far from the Vasa Museum is another collection of wood boats, including royal launches from the 1800/s and the rowing launch used to ferry the crown princess to her wedding in 2010. This boat required a crew of 16 oarsmen plus 2 guards.

## Pictures From Sweden



And if that was not enough, recalling that Stockholm is an archipelago consisting of thousands of islands in the Baltic, all one had to do was walk past any of the multitude of marinas or public docks to find everyday user boats, all different from what we are used to seeing Stateside.



# Pictures From Sweden

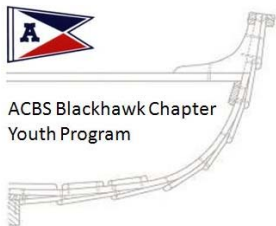


Then there was the collection of early 20<sup>th</sup> century boats that looked more familiar to us.



All in all, it was quite an interesting trip, although we barely scratched the surface of the Swedish boating scene. Go to the Blackhawk website for more photos.

## Youth Development Program



ACBS Blackhawk Chapter  
Youth Program

The Blackhawk Chapter of the Antique & Classic Boat Society is committed to the development of our junior members, the future of the Blackhawk organization.

This spring we will undertake a number of fun and educational programs targeted at our young members. All Blackhawks friends and families are welcome to participate. Membership in the program will include an associate membership funded by the chapter, recognition at Blackhawk events and the opportunity to participate in a number of events including the restoration of a classic boat.

Please contact any of the Youth Committee members if you have someone you think would like to participate. We are targeting the age group of 10 to 16 years but will make accommodations for most anyone interested. We are also looking for project boats. If you know of a project boat in need of a home, please contact the committee.

Tom Wagner  
Dave Vogeler  
Mark Svoboda

[woodboat@mydb3.com](mailto:woodboat@mydb3.com)  
[rivrats@ameritech.net](mailto:rivrats@ameritech.net)  
[msvoboda@ameritech.net](mailto:msvoboda@ameritech.net)

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(Continued from page 1)

cle about the show, Dale Bowman of the Chicago Sun Times wrote: “For another year, the display by the Blackhawk Chapter of the Antique and Classic Boat Society stole the show. NMMA likes to pitch the idea of the “boating lifestyle.” Those wooden and other classic boats don’t pitch the idea; they ooze it, lifestyle with class and style. It almost makes for an unfavorable comparison to the new boats.” Thank you Dale, we could not have said it better !



*Dan Basore’s Antique Fishing Collection*

We added a number of new features to our exhibit this year. First was a historical display of antique fishing equipment by Dan Basore. You may remember Dan and his display from the 2010 Geneva Lakes Show. Dan has a fantastic collection and a great deal of historical knowledge.

A second new feature was two “grey” boats. These boats were presented just as they were found. The first was a 1942 Century Utility and the second was a 1957 Century Resorter. The Utility was a garage find and has been in storage for a number of years. The Resorter was pulled out of a garage in the suburbs the Friday before the show where it had been sitting for over 20 years ! Show attendees enjoyed seeing the before and after effect that this feature created.



*Tom Wagner’s 1942 Grey Century Utility*



*Bill Shultz’s 1957 Grey Century Resorter*

Another first this year was a beautifully restored classic fiberglass 1957 Larson Thunderhawk Jr. This boat was pristine in every detail. It would be hard to believe that the boat looked this good the day it rolled out of the factory !



*Mick Ignatiuk’s 1957 Larson Thunderhawk Jr.*



*(Continued from page 7)*

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 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 was displayed. 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.



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

On Sunday afternoon we presented the People's Choice awards for Best Boat and Best Motor. There were over 650 ballots cast for the awards. It was fun to watch, over the five 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 Karen Birch for her boat "Birchwood", a 1957 18' Chris Craft Continental. The Best Motor award went to Peter Muller for his 1932 restored Johnson VR-50 outboard.



*Best Boat – Karen Birch - "Birchwood"*



*Best Motor – Peter Muller - 1932 Johnson VR-50*

Congratulations to Karen, Peter and all of the Blackhawks and Motorheads that brought boats and motors to the show.





*People's Choice Award Winner - Best Boat 1957 Chris Craft Continental Presented By Karen Birch*



*People's Choice Award Winner - Best Motor 1932 Johnson VR-50 Presented by Peter Muller*



*Darrell Van Eck's 1964 Mercury 1000*



*Paul Miller's 1907 Morris Canoe*



*Vince Heywood's 1950's Evinrude & Johnson*



This year we also had a boat return to the show after 48 years ! Sheil Kottkamp's 1963 Thompson Sea Coaster Special was on display at the Chicago Boat Show in 1963 and was purchased by Joseph Slifka of Berwyn, IL. Joseph's daughter Millie and her family made a special trip to the show to see the boat. Millie remembers her father purchasing the boat at the show and spending many summers enjoying the boat in the Chicago area.



*Joe & Millie Lebeda & Family with the current owner Sheil Kottkamp*

A special thank you to all of the club members who helped make this event possible. With the help of over 40 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 Keith Ogulnick and the entire crew at 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.

Sincerely,  
The 2011 Chicago Boat, RV & Outdoors Show Committee,  
Al Bosworth, Moss Cartwright & Mark Svoboda

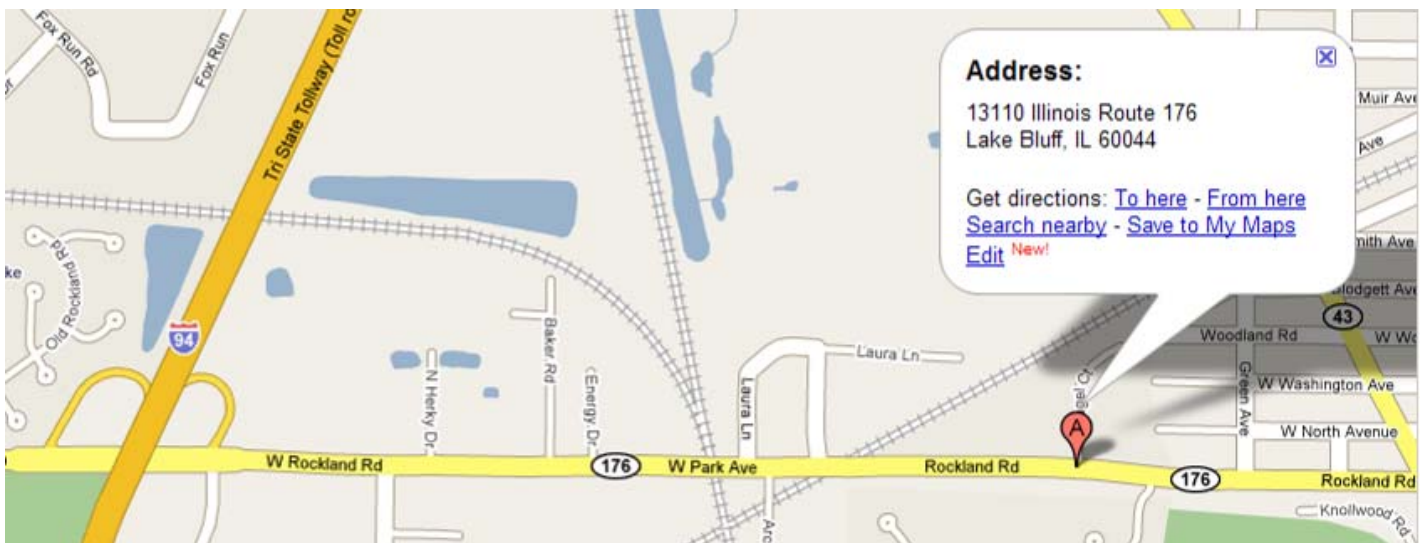


# Blackhawk Spring Workshop

**Saturday May 21**  
**10:00 am to noon at Altounian Builders**  
**at 13110 West Rt. 176 Suite One**  
**In Lake Bluff, Illinois**

Jim Altounian has graciously invited all Blackhawk members to an OPEN HOUSE. Jim is restoring a 1927 Chris Craft 26' Triple. Some of you may have attended Jim's previous open house back in December of 2004 where he was restoring a 1954 Shepherd.

*To reserve your spot, you are encouraged to email George Plamondon at: [georgeplamondon@hotmail.com](mailto:georgeplamondon@hotmail.com) or call (312) 787-7455*



## 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Blackhawk Chapter Boat Show



The 27th. Annual Blackhawk Chapter Antique & Classic in water Boat Show will be at Famous Freddie's Sat. 16 July. Pre-registration encouraged but not required. For more information contact Capt. Ron at 708-347-8951 or Capt. Ted at 847-395-8902.



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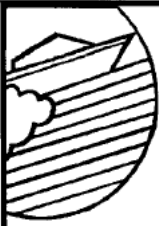
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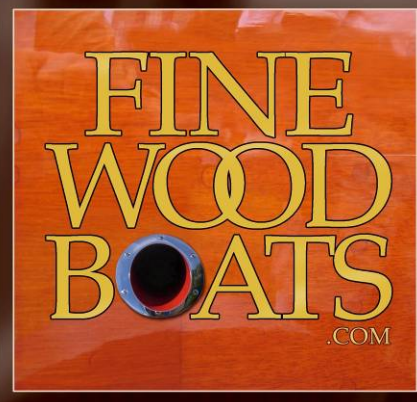



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Commercial advertisements will be run in each issue published during the course of the year unless prior arrangements are made. Six issues per year are published. The following rates apply for commercial advertising, on a per year basis. Contact your editor for more information:

	Business card sized	Quarter page	Half Page	Full Page
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## **BLACKHAWK CHAPTER-ACBS**

### ***The Smoke Signal***

2201 E Lakeshore Dr..  
Twin Lakes, WI 53181



## ***Calendar of Events***

**May 21** - Spring Workshop

**June 19** - Chicago River Cruise, Father's Day / Brunch - Columbia Yacht Club

**July 16** - 27th Annual Fox Lake Show at Famous Freddie's Roadhouse

**September 19-25** - ACBS Annual Meeting and Boat Show, Geneva Lake