



The Smoke Signal



VOLUME 15 ISSUE 5

September/October 2009

Newsletter of the **BLACKHAWK CHAPTER-ACBS**

Annual Geneva Lakes Boat Show Breaks All Records!

By Larry Lange

Wood boat enthusiasts came by land and sea to converge on the Abbey Resort for the **LARGEST** Annual Geneva Lakes Antique and Classic Wood Boat Show **EVER**. After almost a year of planning, the time was here for all to enjoy the activities that had been so carefully planned. Matt Byrne's computer expertise was essential in upgrading to online registration and streamlining the entire boat registration process. John Barrett made the calls and filled in all the blanks with the volunteers necessary for the entire show. The lists of things to do just kept on coming and we kept putting X's in the boxes as we completed the tasks we volunteered for. The committee kept generating more and more paperwork as the deadline approached. This was essential as we tried to anticipate every last detail. Two days before the show "almost" everything was accounted for. Everything except the weather!



As the show approached, the forecast was changing every hour; there was a flurry of phone calls and e-mails between Matt Byrne, Al Bosworth and myself. It all came to a final decision at the launching ramp on Friday at 9:15 to proceed with the garden tours. The Armada left the Harbor at 9:30 with the hope of clearing skies. By 10:30 our hope turned into sunshine, although there was quite an Easterly wind blowing. And everybody that attended was able to reach their destinations safely; "although it did make for some interesting docking". Nita Carlson was the narrator at the Rasin's Estate and Kathy Lange was the narrator at Bonnie Brae Estate.

(Continued on page 3)

RENDEZVOUS *at* MUSKOKA

THE ACBS INTERNATIONAL BOAT SHOW

By Ted Cartner

Our adventure began at 3:30AM Sunday morning, leaving the Antioch area with a boat, diesel truck, and a tank full of fuel. As if in a Blues Brothers movie, off to Lake Muskoka we went, and 11 ½ hours later we arrived, tired, hungry, but safe and sound.

What followed was 7 fun filled days of various events leading up to the awards banquet on Saturday night.

Of the over 100 boats in the Show portion, many were Canadian. The Canadian long deck launches are in a class of finish and fit all by themselves. The care that goes into the preservation and restoration of these boats is unmatched. They truly are works of art and labors of love.

We were privileged to have two days of visiting over 20 boat houses in the pre-

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Let's see, where do I start. One thing for sure is our Geneva Lakes boat show was a big time success. First, the weather gods were so very good to us and for that I think each of us is very thankful. This show is always an enormous commitment. Let's hear it for our Chairmen, Al Bosworth and Larry Lange. Beyond that, we are grateful to all the others whose countless hours go into making this one of the best shows in the country. I would particularly like to thank the wives who step up to the plate to make this a great event. Part of the ACBS vision statement is our common interest in antique and classic boats. I would add to that this year, a common interest in a special collection of these boats. There were some of the best I've seen.

I am pleased to welcome "aboard" twenty new members to the Blackhawk Chapter of The Antique and Classic Boat Society. I hope you find as much enjoyment from your new affiliation as we have. The other night, I was having a conversation with an architect friend who belongs to our chapter. He was explaining at some length why he felt boat restoration was so much different than cars by way of the set of skills needed. Wood or fiberglass versus mechanical and metal. At any rate, I don't think I've ever looked at our hobby in those terms. I hope he will write it up someday for the Smoke Signal, our interest is unique in so many ways.

Part of getting a "little" older is that sometimes you run across someone you've got a few years on, you are humbled and feel privileged to know. For me that person is this year's winner of the President' Cup trophy. Matt Byrne has throughout the year has been a champion as our editor and board secretary. On behalf of every member I feel proud to give him this award. Thanks Matt!

Finally, at our boat show dinner, The Blackhawk Chapter was able to announce it was confirmed at this year's annual meeting as to be the hosting chapter, together with our Glacier Lakes neighbors, of the 2011 Tenth Annual International Boat Show. At the June quarterly meeting (this year, St. Michaels, Maryland) we were approved, subject to review of The ACBS board director in charge of annual boat shows and meetings. He inspects the site and writes a report to be delivered at the annual meeting (this year, Gravenhurst, Canada). It was a glowing report as well it should be. We have a lot to offer. The society has 56 chapters to choose from so this selection reflects on every aspect of who we are and our vision for presenting an informative and fun filled week. Two years in advance, people have already stepped up to make this a remarkable event, more than could be anticipated. As Always, good boating and I hope to see you at the fall dinner.

Best Regards,
George Plamondon

(Continued from page 1)

The day continued with a boat ride to Aurora University for a classic picnic lunch and cocktails at the Beasley Center. The food was great and the service outstanding! We then boarded a trolley (compliments of Charles Colman) to head for Yerkes Observatory for a tour, compliments of Larry Larkin, where the group was given an outside architectural tour. We then ventured inside to have a fascinating and very entertaining tour of the largest refractory telescope in the world, as well as, a basement tour that the public never sees, to view a camera under construction that is being built for NASA by the observatory. After the trolley ride back to Aurora, it was time for a boat ride back to the Abbey to get ready for the cocktail dinner party at Gordy's Cobalt Lounge.



As usual, the staff at Gordy's went out of their way to make the evening perfect. Gordy's has always been a huge supporter by moving all their boats out of the harbor to accommodate our boat show. The incredible Laura Baliss Jazz band entertained the group the entire evening, which was generously provided by Al Bosworth, and George Plamondon. If you missed it, you really missed it, they were GREAT!



Saturday started with fog and a beautiful sunrise, and became partly cloudy, but then mostly sunny, thanks to Al! The registration area was setup by Matt, and John and Pat Barrett; coffee, and donuts sponsored by Lake Geneva's Stinebrink's Piggly Wiggly were in abundance, and the boat owners poured in to pick up their registration packets and the weekend's agenda. The boats were coming by water and by land all morning, with the harbor and the land filling up fast with the sounds and smells of wood boats. Old friends met again and new friends were made.



Kathi Bosworth and her crew organized all the merchandise in the main tent, while Don Taylor and his crew kept the parking lot and the launching ramp in order. By 11:00 a.m. the piers and land were full of spectators and the smell of bar-b-q was in the air.

The spectators and the boat owners were treated to the largest variety and quantity of wood and classic fiberglass boats in history ever assembled by the Blackhawk Chapter at the Abbey. There were many boats that have been on Geneva Lake for years that most people only see from a distance. Many others were brought to the show from all over the Midwest. Thanks again to all the dedicated and generous boat owners for bringing their "toys" for everyone to enjoy. The Streblov family was well represented both days, giving rides on two of their incredible boats to any spectator who wanted a thrill of a lifetime. There was a line of people at the dock waiting for their turn. A RIDE IN A WOOD BOAT! Their faces said it all when they returned to the dock!

The highlight of the day was the annual "gentlemen start your engines". The windows rattled and the ground shook when all those beautiful boats cranked it up, particularly the Streblovs.

Spectators line up every year at the Abbey Harbor entrance and along the shoreline to see the woodies roar down the lakefront for the annual boat parade, which went east out of the harbor along Fontana into Williams Bay. What a sight it was looking out the back of our boat as we rounded the corner at Cedar Point to see all those "floating coffee tables" (as my wife likes to call them) coming around the corner and heading down to the narrows, where it turned into a race, as most parades do!

The evening continued at the Abbey Resort with our largest awards banquet to date! Many businesses in the area, committee members, artist's from the marketplace and boat owners had generously donated an abundance of wonderful items for the raffle; which is one of our sources of income to pay for the show. Dinner was excellent, as always, and then it was on to the much anticipated awards.

It is a difficult decision, since all the boats are so beautiful, but the skippers decided which they like best, as, a few were also judged awards which are judged by the previous winners. A few of us drifted to the Helm Lounge in the Abbey to celebrate the day and eve-

(Continued from page 3)

ning's events, and to "discuss" the Sunday venue to come.

Sunday morning came fast, but it was back to work to keep the plates spinning. The day started out cool and cloudy but became sunny and gorgeous. Another record crowd came to view the unbelievable variety of the most beautiful boats ever seen at the Abbey.

Thanks to Kathy Lange, spectators and participants enjoyed the wide variety of artists in the marketplace, which added a festive atmosphere to the grounds along with an "easy rock" band that was arranged by the committee. As the day progressed, our weather luck was threatening to run out, with a severe storm headed our way by 3:00 p.m. Fortunately it went around us. The show wrapped up without a hitch, although the launching ramp was a bit "hurried", as the storm threatened. All participants retrieved their boats safely, and always a bit entertaining, and headed for home.

At the end of the day, again, all the volunteers were there to help take down banners, load the remaining merchandise in the trailer and take down the lighting. The Annual Geneva Lakes Boat Show Committee would like to thank all the people who volunteered their time during the show to help with the many necessary tasks, to help make a show of this magnitude possible.

We would also like to thank the boat owners who so generously shared their love of wooden boats with the spectators and other boat owners.

As we have always advertised in all our press releases for the 9 years the show has been held, "Our goal is to bring people together with a common interest in historic, antique, and classic boats, sharing fellowship, information and experience; also to promote and encourage a love and enjoyment of all aspects of historic, antique and classic boating." This is the mission statement of A.C.B.S and also the mission statement of the Blackhawk Chapter.

We are looking forward to seeing you all again next year at the Geneva Lake Boat Show, so tell your friends! We are already in the planning stage for next year's show and it promises to be with your help and your boats, even bigger and better than this year. If you missed this one, you definitely do not want to miss it next year! Be sure to register early!



2009 Geneva Lakes Boat Show Award Winners

- Best Ice Boat - Ross Brugger 1937 Palmer C-Class Side by Side
- Best Fiberglass - Tony Boudos 1966 18 Dozi 18 2+3 Dozi
- 2nd Place Best Outboard - David Doyle 1957 15 Switzer Craft Shooting Star
- 1st Place Best Outboard - Andrew Vogeler 1956 15 MiloCraft Valkyrie Got Woody?
- Best Contemporary Salon Cruiser - Charles Colman 2003 36 Van Dam Saloon NOKOMIS
- Best Contemporary Lapstrake - William Huck 2008 31 Van Dam Custom Chocolate Chip 3
- Best Classic Lapstrake Under 22' - Thomas Cashman 1969 21 Lyman Runabout The Seven C's
- Best Classic Lapstrake 22' & Over - Richard Honquest 1972 26 Lyman Gulf Stream Full House
- 2nd Place Best Classic Utility Under 21' - Matt Byrne 1962 19 Century Resorter
- 1st Place Best Classic Utility Under 21' - Chad Durren 1952 18 Chris Craft Sportsman LILY
- 2nd Place Best Classic Utility 21' & Over - Mark Svoboda 1967 21 Century Coronado Miss Millie
- 1st Place Best Classic Utility 21' & Over - Tom Whowell 1948 25 Chris Craft Sportsman Effie
- 2nd Place Best Classic Runabout Under 21' - Al Bosworth 1961 19 Shepherd Runabout
- 1st Place Best Classic Runabout Under 21' - Moss Cartwright 1947 19 Greavette Runabout No Golf Today
- Best Classic Runabout 21' & Over - Charlie Johnston 1969 28 Riva Super Aquarama esco pazzo
- Best Classic Cruiser - Dag Dvergsten 1958 30 Norwegian Day Cruiser Thor Of Oslo
- Best Antique Utility - Tom Nickols 1940 22 Chris Craft Utility Wooden Nickols
- Best Historic - Dean Griffin 1910 34 Hunter Launch Stardust
- Best Gage Hacker - John Cooney 2009 31 Gage Hacker 31 Sempre Avanti
- 2nd Place Best Streblov - Eric Moberg 1958 19 Streblov Rebel Rebel Without a Cause
- 1st Place Best Streblov - Ken Rodeck 2009 26 Streblov Sport Utility Rodan
- Larry Larkin's "Excellence in" - Dean Griffin 1910 34 Hunter Launch Stardust
- Best Chris Craft - Chad Durren 1952 18 Chris Craft Sportsman LILY
- Best Century - John Rinehart 1955 18 Century Arabian Luv Lee
- Skippers Choice - Ken Rodeck 2009 26 Streblov Sport Utility Rodan
- Sharpest Arrow- John Incaudo 1955 21 Century Coronado Sweet Addiction
- ACBS Most Original - Dave Rezabek 1964 16 Correct Craft Atom Skier Still Skiing
- The Peoples Choice - Chad Durren 1952 18 Chris Craft Sportsman LILY



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Thank You Volunteers & Sponsors

The Blackhawk chapter wants to thank all volunteers who contributed to the success of the 2009 Geneva Lakes Boat Show. If we missed you we apologize.

Patt Barrett
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Len Bonniver
Debbi Bosworth
Lisa Byrne
Moss Cartwright
Mark Christensen
Charles Colman
Vic Conforti
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~Captain's Continental Breakfast ~

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~Jazz Band on Friday~

George Plamondon - Al & Kathi Bosworth

~Trolley Shuttle on Friday~

Charles Colman

~Yerkes Tour~

Larry Larkin

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STREBLOW BOATS, WALWORTH, WI.

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THE ABBEY MARINA

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Brenda's Beads...Art to Wear- Elkhorn, Wi.

Chuck's Lakeshore Inn- Fontana, Wi.

Charley O's Restaurant- Elkhorn, Wi.

Daddy Maxwell- Williams Bay, Wi.

Don Taylor

Gage Marine- Williams Bay, Wi.

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2010 Chicago Boat Show

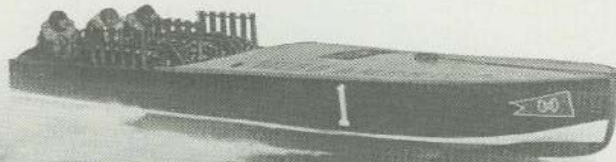
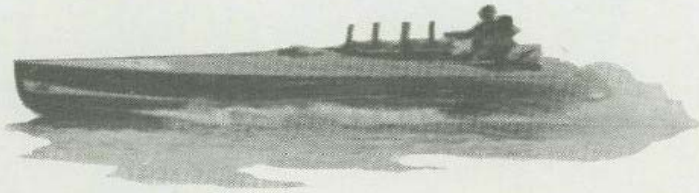
A Representative from the 80th Chicago Boat, RV & Outdoors Show has contacted the Blackhawk Club asking if we would like to be a "special feature" for this year's show on January 13-17. The show is held at McCormick Place—North. They have already sent a preliminary agreement for us to consider. A few of the highlights are free VIP tickets to the show, possible financial incentives and the Club would be included in marketing & promotional items for the show! They are looking for a minimum of 15 antique and classic boats.



The Blackhawk Club needs one person to volunteer immediately to spearhead this event including working out the final details of the agreement, contacting Club members to show their boat and determine if we would proceed or not. The Boat Show representative is looking for an answer by November 1st if we will be participating. Therefore please contact Al Bosworth at abosworth@hirenelson.com as soon as possible if you would like to step forward.

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International Trophy
in 1921.*



(Continued from page 1)

events. Some of these had never been open for visiting before. Each one more spectacular than the one before, a dreamland of vintage vessels housed in the most sensational environment you could imagine. Boat houses with up to 6 inside docks filled with launches up to 40 feet. Many of these have been in their respective families since the late 1800's. They truly give the term "Boat Houses" a new definition. It is interesting to see boats built in the 20's and 30's that have been in the same family since the boat was new and specially built for the family.

Navigating the beautiful waters of both Lake Muskoka and Rouseau and all the islands and rock outcroppings gave us a new respect for careful navigation. Especially on the morning we left the Muskoka Warf to travel 18 miles through heavy fog to the Port Carling Locks. It was nice to be in a semi-enclosed boat with heat!

The Muskoka area is beautiful for boating and the many Canadian built boats are amazing. This was truly a once in a lifetime opportunity.



Pictured are Chapter members who made the trip, Judy Vliet, Andy Ievins, Wil Vidal, Ted Cartner, Mary Vidal, and Cindy Cartner holding her award for Best Preserved Cruiser.



Geneva Lakes Boat Show Pictures







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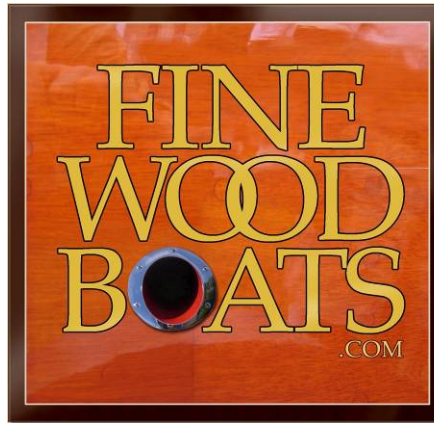
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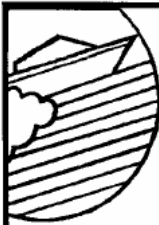


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FOR SALE: 1959 Chris Craft 17' Ski Boat Stock 283 V8 Engine-185hp; Custom Water Line Cover; Custom Trailer Award winning-Ready to show! Contact Bob 847-949-5011 or rbrehmer@sbcglobal.net \$22,000

FOR SALE: 1956 Chris Craft Cavalier, 16 feet, 60 hp engine, plywood hull. Refinished by owner, re-chromed, trailer. Great shape, runs well. West Bend Wisconsin. Asking \$8,000. Call Bill at 262-644-6087 or 847-420-4031.

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BLACKHAWK CHAPTER-ACBS

The Smoke Signal

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