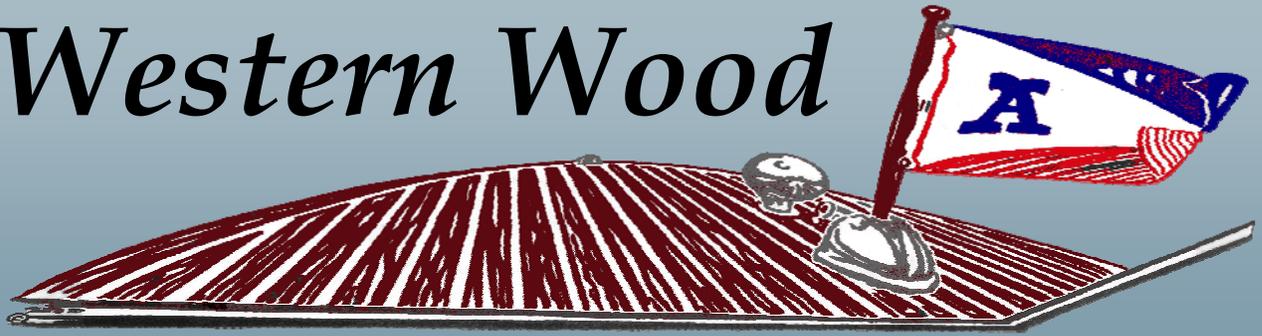


# Western Wood

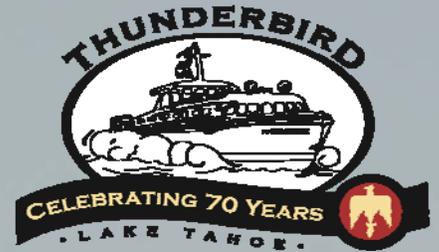


The Northern California/Lake Tahoe Chapter of the Antique and Classic Boat Society, Inc.

Volume 27, Issue 2

Quarterly Newsletter

Spring 2010





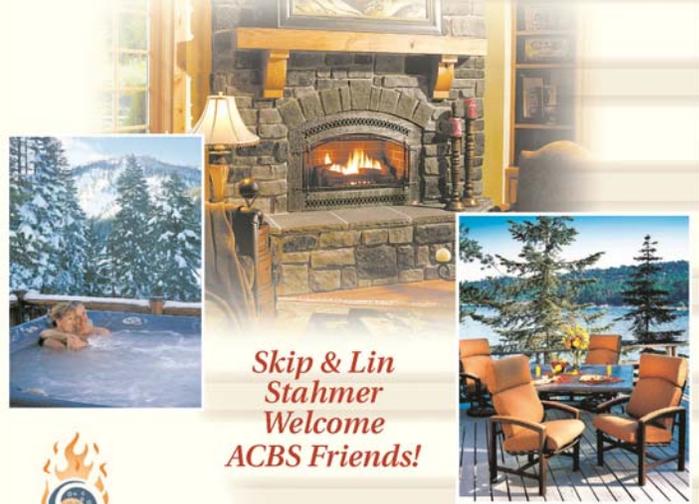
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Western Wood is published quarterly – Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall for mailing to over 600 members of our Northern California / Lake Tahoe Chapter. Your advertising dollar takes your business to the center of the select Northern California classic boating community and activities.

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Inquire To: Lee Chase or Norm Kitching  
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Reflections from the editors

One week before we need to have Western Wood to the printers, we have nothing. But then we get the calls, "what's the absolutely last possible moment I can get something into the next issue"? Then the articles come in, so now we have more than enough to fill this issue, but not enough time to make the deadline. We do appreciate the contributions, even the late ones, so please keep submitting them. We are doing our best to get it all done in a reasonable time.

This issue features the Thunderbird, a beautiful boat with a colorful history on our beautiful Lake Tahoe. It's wonderful that the Thunderbird Lodge Preservation Society is working to keep the Thunderbird on the water so we can all enjoy seeing her. She will be featured at the South Tahoe Wooden Boat Classic, which will help our show and it's an opportunity for us to help support the Thunderbird.

Regards,

*Lee and Sandy Chase,*

Editors

**leee.chase@sbcglobal.net**

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**April-Spring**

**July-Summer**

**October-Fall**

**January-Winter**

**Deadline Date: 15th of preceding month of publication.**

**The newsletter is also available on our chapter website:**

**www.acbs-tahoe.org**

**Questions, articles for publication, advertisements and letters to the editor, etc. should be sent to...**

**WESTERN WOOD,**

**Lee and Sandy Chase**

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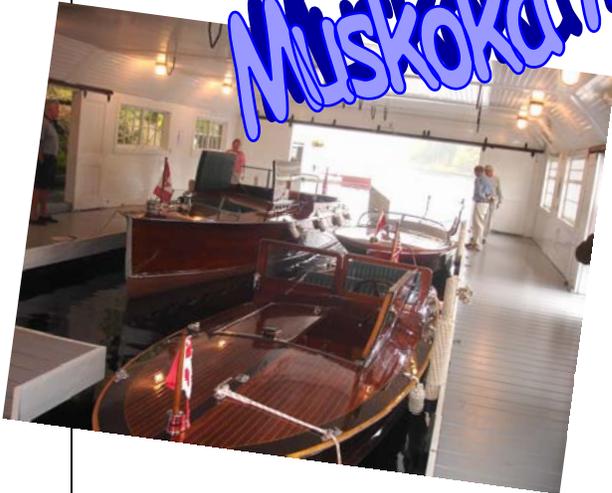
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# Muskoka Mystery



*Norm & Kathy Kitching discover the contents of the beautiful Muskoka boat houses*

This story begins when our chapter hosted the 2006 ACBS International Annual Meeting.

For the Thunderbird/Whittel estate tour and lunch event, our boat was designated to pick up any passengers that had not found a ride in other boats. We cruised by Sierra Boat several times, each

time there were no "extra" couples. To be sure, we returned 10 minutes after everyone was supposed to be on their way. Standing on the gas dock was a forlorn looking couple needing a ride. They jumped in all smiles looking forward to a fun ride and good lunch. We spent the next 2 days with them enjoying the lake, a great picnic at Emerald Bay and a lobster feed at Obexer's. We enjoyed them as much as they enjoyed Lake Tahoe.

During the next few years we saw them at other events, exchanged Christmas cards and then in their 2009 card they asked if we were going to attend the ACBS International Meeting in Muskoka. YES we were signed up for this outstanding trip. We were invited to stay with them and gladly accepted! Little did we know what a wonderful invitation it was.

We experienced the best of the best, Chris and Julie Bullen's home is on a 37 acre family island in Muskoka Lake ! The Bullen's have lived on Muskoka Lake all their life and like most residents they had never seen the mysterious contents of the beautiful boat houses around the lake. For the ACBS meeting though, many of the boat houses were opened and revealed for the first time in decades some amazing boats. The boats of Muskoka rarely if ever leave the lakes, live in wonderful boathouses, are beautifully maintained and a joy to see.



Our chapter had 23 members at Muskoka. You should come to an International Annual Meeting, they are fun ! We will be in Michigan this summer at the ACBS Bay Harbor Resort Boat Show and all the pre-events.

Hope to see you there,  
Norm & Kathy Kiching

## Chapter members at Muskoka

- Paul Anderson & Bobbie Callison
- Bernia & Carol Atkinson
- Bob & Arlean Bush
- Rich Fisher & Nancy Bartolomei
- Elizabeth Hale
- Gene & Carol King
- Norm & Kathy Kitching
- Cynthia & Mont McMillen
- Gene & Nancy Moorong
- Tom & Marie O'Rourke
- Ken & Bette Schutt
- Hank & Joan Upton



# KIT BOAT UPDATE



Barry and Paul work great with the kids. The guys really appreciate all of their time, effort and dedication that they're both giving them. Not to mention tying up Barry's shop for over a year and Paul's warehouse for the donor boat (the one we're taking the steering, engine, trailer etc.. from). The stories and the conversations every boat building night go far beyond this boat and include Barry and Paul's experiences since they were kids. It's really a great overall experience for the guys.

*Layne Davis*

What a schedule of events we have ahead of us. We've just finished an absolutely amazing Spring Fling in Napa (thanks to Iren Jenny and her team) and next up is Bass Lake, followed by Wood & Glory at Clear Lake, then it's back up to Lake Tahoe for Tahoe Yacht Club Foundation's 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Concours d'Elegance at Sierra Boat Company in Carnelian Bay.

## President's Message



That just takes us through June. Then we have our chapter's premier judged show, the South Tahoe Wooden Boat Classic at the end of July and our ACBS Annual Family Picnic on August 1<sup>st</sup> at Sugar Pine State Park (this is a great family event).

We have six Woodie Whoopees scheduled this summer. What's a Woodie Whoopee you ask? A Woodie Whoopee is basically a "pot-luck" barbecue where you do not need to sign up early. Just take a dish to share and whatever you want to barbecue for yourself along with your favorite liquid refreshment. These are basically free events that are great fun and we had over 700 attendees at last year's six Woody Whoopees. (See Jane Bane's article).

Another valuable thing that is free to our members is the Trading Dock. If you have a antique or classic boat or boating related items that you want to sell, just submit your ad to Sandy Chase and she will get it into the next issue of Western Wood.

Then there's "Trailer Backing 101". Debra Dobbins wants to help those of us who are challenged when it comes to maneuvering our boat trailers at the launch ramp. It may be the spouse or the primary driver, but many of us do need help. Contact Debra for additional information.

This fall we have two classic events scheduled. The Delta Cruise is set for October 1-3 and is based at B & W Resort on Brannon Island. Our final event of the year is the Annual Membership Meeting which is set for November 5<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> in San Francisco.



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By Jim Fentress

## WOOD & *Glory* XII

All Hands Now Hear This: Captain Hornblower speaking: Be advised that the gales of winter and the ides of March have passed and it is therefore ordered that you break out your longboats from hibernation and ready yourselves for the upcoming twelfth annual gathering of antique and classic boats at Clear Lake. Good food, good grog, good music, great boats, great events and great shipmates will be the standard for the entire extravaganza.



### **WOODY WHOOPIE - FRIDAY JUNE 4th**

You will be properly piped aboard Friday afternoon June 4<sup>th</sup> @ 1700 hours (5PM) at the beautiful waterfront home of Sir John and Lady Mary Lahti who have graciously invited all shipmates of ACBS to gather on the lawn under the willow trees to share sea stories and plan for the formal fleet sojourn on the morrow. Uniform of the day (evening) shall be Western so bring your s---kickers, your Stetson, your bandana, your chaps, your gingham skirts, your best John Wayne or Mr. Dillon or Miss Kitty impersonation. Leave your horse at the hitching post. We may have valet service. Bring your entrée choice to grill and a dish to share with the crew.

### **BOAT PARADE AND PICNIC DELUXE- SAT THE 5<sup>TH</sup> DEPARTS AT 10:45 SHARP!**

All hands will gather in your fueled longboats at Ferndale Resort (event headquarters) for an informal event photo shoot @ 10:30 and will then form into a single conga line behind our lead boat, the Grand Craft of the Kitching's KATHERINE (with large ACBS flag displayed) as we wind our way gracefully and elegantly to Lakeport's Library Park where we will be met by The Sea Scouts who will assist us in disembarking and securing our vessels. Stand by to jump and jive with a great live band playing from the classic gazebo. As we wander around Library Park looking at the major collector car show on display, we will be enticed by the sights and aroma of a great catered lunch including BBQ tri tip, chicken w/ salad, baked beans etc. that will stave off scurvy on this voyage. When you depart Lakeport about 2-2:30 take another cruise exploring the full and beautiful Clear Lake. Ceago Winery and Vineyards along the North Shore in Nice next to Hwy 20 would make an excellent destination by boat or car.

### **DINNER ON HMS CLEAR LAKE QUEEN AT FERNDALE RESORT -**

SAT THE 5th MESS CALL AT 1800 (6 PM)

Captain and Lady Hornblower cordially invite all shipmates of ACBS to join them on deck of the beautifully restored HMS CLEAR LAKE QUEEN (a paddle wheeler) to enjoy an outstanding dinner catered by the acclaimed WaterColor Restaurant. The setting overlooking our stunning moored mahogany boats, the victuals, the grog will all be memorable. Who knows, we may even dance before the night is over.

### **SUNDAY CRUISE AND PICNIC FROM FERNDALE RESORT TO A PRIVATE ISLAND-DEPARTS 11AM SHARP!**

Captain Hornblower directs all Motley crews to refrain from being motley fools – do not miss this wonderful and fitting finale to an outstanding weekend. With live music from David Neft and a great setting you will treasure this as the best picnic in the best setting ever. LIFE IS GOOD. You already have the boat, now make the commitment to join Captain Hornblower on this memorable treasure hunt. On or before May 15<sup>th</sup> please.

#### **Now hear this!**

For our early arrivers, Donna & Allen Thomas are hosting a Thursday evening gathering at their Corinthian Bay home to meet our sponsors. Come by boat, auto, seaplane, or amphibias vehicle. Don't miss out on this if you can make it

An outstanding Wood & Glory clothing line is back. Captain Hornblower says that these will "blow you out of the water" so come prepared to replenish your wardrobe.

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# ACBS

## Grants Now Available for 2010

ACBS NC/LT is now accepting Grant Applications for 2010. We will be granting up to \$3,000 from our Endowment to worthy charitable organizations throughout Northern California and Northern Nevada/Lake Tahoe area. Grants will range from \$500 to \$1,000 each. The Philanthropy Committee will accept applications through October 31, 2010 and seek approval from the Board of Directors of ACBS NC/LT at the Annual Meeting in November and award the Grants soon thereafter.



Any ACBS NC/LT member may make a request in behalf of a worthy not-for-profit or 501c3 that supports our Mission and is within our region. Our Mission is: "To help fund not-for-profit and 501c3 organizations that are in support of our purpose; sharing knowledge and education of our core endeavor, that of preserving, restoring, and retaining the heritage of antique and classic boats."

Organizations that are not directly related to restoration or preservation can qualify, if they support the broader objectives of our Mission. Organizations, for example, that support water safety, or preservation our lakes and rivers are eligible.

Grant Request forms are on our Chapter website at [www.acbs-tahoe.org](http://www.acbs-tahoe.org). Go to the Corporate Info button and select Philanthropy. You will find the Grant Request form there.

We would very much welcome your suggestions and thoughts about organizations that we should encourage to apply for a \$500 or \$1000 ACBS grant. Please contact any of the Philanthropy Committee members (Jared Hein ([jaredhein@comcast.net](mailto:jaredhein@comcast.net)), Paul Anderson ([amberchp@verizon.net](mailto:amberchp@verizon.net)), Dave Lyon ([westboat1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:westboat1@sbcglobal.net)) or Paul Mehus ([paul@mehus.com](mailto:paul@mehus.com)) or call Steve Caplan, Philanthropy Committee Chair, at 408-981-6996 or email Steve at [stevec@kbmworkspace.com](mailto:stevec@kbmworkspace.com).

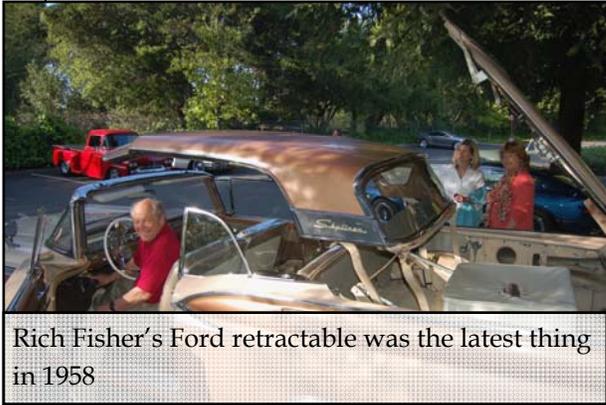
## Officers and Board of Directors 2010

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# *It rained on our fling, but it didn't dampen our spirits!*

Spring Fling 2010 in the Napa Valley is now over, but the good times will linger in the memory of those who attended. Jane Bane, long time ACBS member wrote us, "Certainly this was one of the BEST ACBS activities ever, and we have had many best ones."



Rich Fisher's Ford retractable was the latest thing in 1958

Our weekend started bright and sunny on Friday. When we arrived at the hotel our industrious committee was already there, preparing gift bags with, goodies, cards, water and brochures for participants. The bags were sponsored by Olga, Bill, Ashley and Jason of Keever Vineyards, ACBS members, who have a beautiful winery in Yountville. Soon lots of familiar faces started peeking in to see what we were doing and an informal gathering formed in the bar. Everyone was in a festive mood, after a long wet winter. The weather was beautiful, swans swam around the hotel's waterways winding through the gorgeous landscaping.

When the hotel's hospitality bar officially opened, the room was a sea of red, full of ACBS members in fear of Iren's wrath, if not complying with our instructions to wear red and have fun! "ACBS members are a fun bunch"

As our "Welcome Everyone to Spring Fling Weekend" party officially started, Sally Mullarkey and Gail Adair welcomed everyone, and made sure all those wearing red were entered in a fun raffle. The winners at the end of the evening were Arlene Bush and Bobbi Callison. We had pasta, we had salad, we had chicken, we had

veggies, we had cookies, we had brownies, we had wine, we had games, and we had FUN! Our committee, The Jennys, The Adairs, The Mullarkeys, The Robello's and The Shepherds all had donated gaily wrapped packages that could be purchased by anyone who wanted to play a gift exchange game. When we first hatched this idea, we were worried that we would have to carry the gifts back home. Lo and Behold, they were all snapped up within 5 minutes. We also had a very successful mini silent auction and would like to thank our generous donors, Craig and Kathy Gregory, Ted and Iren Jenny, Bill Canihan of Canihan Family Cellars, and the Embassy Suite for their donations. We also wish to thank everyone who bid on these items. May you enjoy them in great health! "ACBS members are a generous bunch."

Saturday morning started out nice and sunny. By one pm it started drizzling. Yikes! Since we asked people to bring vintage or sports cars we arranged a route with "awesome driving roads" to Castello di Amoroso. After everyone finally got their maps, we started out.



Bob Bush shows off his new old Mustang



Joanne Thomas is happy with her gift.



Bob Mullarkey and Jim Sweeney listen to tales from our guide.



Castello di Amoroso is a 107 room castle that took 15 years to build. It is a replica of Medieval Castles, complete with Grand Halls, Frescoes, Dungeons, Moats, Caves, Torture Chambers and incredible features too numerous to mention. Luckily we didn't lose any members in the twisting passageways inside the Castle. A special wine tasting session was set up for us after we found our way to the grand cave. "ACBS members are a thirsty bunch."



The weather relented. We drove on beautiful Highway 29 past some stately homes to the Oddfellows Hall in St. Helena, to a fabulous Lobster Feast. Ted Jenny, Bruce Adair, Jim Robello, Bob Mullarkey, Richard Valenti and many others, helped with the parking for an informal car show in the parking lot. Upstairs, Gail and Sally were checking everyone in. Gail Robello and Sandy Chase were happily bartending and the festivities began in earnest. If you have not attended one of John Sorenson's famous lobster spreads, you are missing out on great fun and a great feast including, lobster, prawns, sausages, corn, whole head garlic, artichoke, whole onion, whole red potato, fresh French baguettes, drawn butter, and Klondike bars for dessert and more wine. "ACBS members are a hungry bunch."

We thought it was raining on Saturday? Well, that was baby stuff compared to what poured on Sunday. For those that stuck it out, the best was yet to come! Through the friendship of Bruce Adair we had arranged to visit the car collection of Dick and Cindy Long, high up in the hills of the Napa Valley and what a collection it was. The look on all our faces as we walked from room to room looking at one creative custom vintage

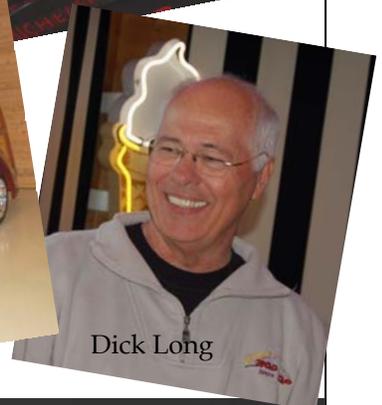


car after another was something to behold. And his wall mural? We could have spent all day just looking at that. This visit was a rare treat for everyone. "ACBS members are an appreciative bunch."

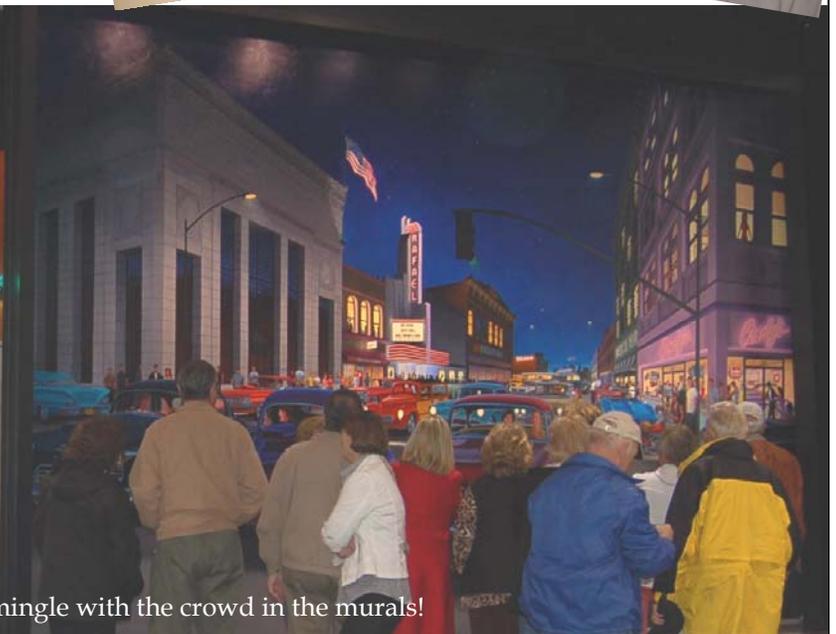
In the words of Hannah Lyon, age 8, "Spring Fling was even better than the Jelly Belly Factory" and that my folks is music to our ears.



Hannah Lyon



Dick Long



ACBS members mingle with the crowd in the murals!



# The Thunderbird and "Captain" George Whittell, Jr.

By Bill Watson

The enigmatic Captain George Whittell, like Hemingway, was a commissioned officer in the American Ambulance Corps during the First World War. He first served the Italians, then the French (in hope of becoming a pilot), and – finally – the Americans. Heir to a San Francisco real estate fortune, Whittell owned some 45,000 acres of land on the Lake's East Shore, with more than twenty miles of Nevada shoreline.

Having constructed his grand Thunderbird Lodge on the south point of Sand Harbor in 1937, Whittell endeavored to satiate his restless spirit. Powerboat racing seemed just the ticket so, at the behest of friend, fellow aviation buff, and Yacht Club Commodore Frank Fuller, Whittell joined the Tahoe Power Boat Club in 1938, forerunner of today's Lake Tahoe Yacht Club.

Whittell's old rival, Stanley Dollar, reined supreme at the Club's annual regatta. The Whittell family once owned a large stake in Matson Shipping Lines which competed ruthlessly with Dollar Steamship Lines. Soon a spirited competition between Whittell and Dollar developed. Thus he spared no expense when ordering a hot, new double-stepped hydroplane from Ventnor Boat Works. He christened her *Swoose* and was soon off-to-the-races.



Whittell with Bill the lion

After barely losing to Dollar in the 1940 regatta, Whittell employed professional raceboat driver Lou Fageol in '41 to drive *Swoose* to beat Dollar's *Baby Skipalong* by a good 20 yards at the finish. Sufficiently vindicated, Whittell would never again enter another race, having decided to float a slightly bigger boat.



Elia Whittell

**In 2010, *Thunderbird* yacht celebrates her 70<sup>th</sup> birthday on Lake Tahoe including a Birthday Celebration at the South Tahoe Wooden Boat Classic July 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>**

To learn more about George Whittell and how you can help save his Thunderbird Lodge and Thunderbird Yacht, please visit [www.ThunderbirdLodge.org](http://www.ThunderbirdLodge.org).

## THUNDERBIRD

Frank Fuller likely directed Whittell to Naval Architect John L. Hacker. Our venerable Captain desired a new kind of speedboat: one having the lines of his Duesenberg automobiles and DC-2 aircraft and able to cut through the afternoon chop kicked up by the zephyr winds along Tahoe's East Shore. Summoned from his Michigan home, Hacker met Whittell in a hotel close by Whittell's Woodside, California estate. Within hours of their only meeting, Whittell retained Hacker.



George Whittell was a man fascinated by the technology, planning, and building of a supreme boat and less interested in using it. Whittell specified the boat's fit and finish: double-planked Honduran mahogany over a frame of sawn oak, polished stainless steel cabin tops, and gleaming crystal accents. A year-round boat, there was forced-air cabin heat to keep passengers cozy on inclement days. Hot and cold running water, shower, wardrobe, four Pullman-style berths, galley, and an ample head rounded out the creature comforts. The auto-pilot captured Whittell's attention for months: an on-board aircraft radio direction finder was linked to a transmitting station built high on the hillside above Thunderbird Lodge, the *Thunderbird* yacht could actually steer her way home unattended. Thirty years later, when Whittell sold *Thunderbird* to casino magnate Bill Harrah, the boat registered only 83 operating hours on her twin Kermath V-12 Sea Wolf engines.

In early 1939, Hacker planned a twenty four month construction schedule at his brother's Bay City, MI, shop. Depression-era workers eager to work accelerated the pace and *Thunderbird* slid down the ways ten months later. The press hailed *Thunderbird's* top speed of 55 M.P.H., but many blanched at the \$83,500 price tag – what kind of speedboat could possibly cost so much?

In the winter of 1939, Hacker made *Thunderbird* ready for shipment by rail from Bay City to Lake Tahoe. One of the final shipments on the Lake Tahoe Railway and Transportation Company short line from Truckee to Tahoe City, *Thunderbird* was delivered to Mayfield's Boatyard on July 11<sup>th</sup>, 1940. These yards – the former railroad engine house and shops – are now home to the Lake Tahoe Yacht Club and Tahoe City Marina. At the start of WWII, the tracks were torn up for scrap iron and the grand era of trains delivering gleaming wooden runabouts to Lake Tahoe is just a faded memory.

In the wee hours of July 14<sup>th</sup>, 1940, Whittell slipped *Thunderbird* quietly out of Mayfield's, depriving eager reporters of their story as they slept soundly in the nearby Tahoe Tavern. *Thunderbird* headed into the dawn towards her new home – a cavernous steel boathouse blasted into solid rock and connected to Thunderbird Lodge by a 600' tunnel. August, 1941 the Tahoe-area press hoped Whittell would introduce *Thunderbird* at the Chamber's regatta scheduled later that month. The art-deco beauty staged an appearance but Whittell did not race her.

A 1960 newspaper account describes *Thunderbird* as one of the ghost ships of Lake Tahoe: a legacy of uncorroborated sightings. Whittell's servants' diaries tell us where and how *Thunderbird* was most often used – for weekend excursions by Captain and mistress to pickup mail and groceries from the villages of Zephyr Cove



Thunderbird Lodge and Thunderbird yacht are cared for by public charities Thunderbird Lodge Preservation Society and Foundation 36, respectively. With limited funds, a paid staff of four and hundreds of volunteers preserve Captain Whittell's legacy.

*Bill Watson is Manager and Curator of the Thunderbird Lodge Preservation Society. A former casino executive with a passion for Lake Tahoe history, Watson now oversees efforts to keep Thunderbird Lodge open to the public and Thunderbird Yacht operating on Lake Tahoe. You may contact him at e-mail [Watson@ThunderbirdLodge.org](mailto:Watson@ThunderbirdLodge.org).*



and Kings Beach. Whittell relished (and encouraged) the rumors of showgirls smuggled from the Cal Neva casino as he carried Frank Fuller, Jake Obexer, and other Tahoe mariners on sedate jaunts often culminating with dinner at nearby Sand Harbor Beach. When he felt like it, Whittell would host one of his famous poker games in the Card House high on the bluff overlooking his estate's private cove.

### The Legacy

With the advent of World War II, Captain Whittell's personality began to change. He was "too old" to serve in the war effort (Whittell turned 60 in 1941.) and he lost interest in past passions of technology, construction, socializing, and gallivanting. In these early war years, the Captain divested himself of his beloved big game animals, including a pet lion named "Bill", and he suspended construction at Thunderbird Lodge. Whittell lifted the majestic *Thunderbird* high-and-dry within the confines of her boathouse and, near as we can tell; he used her only time hence.

Whittell shelved his plans for massive East Shore development, very little of his property was ever developed, most notably Incline Village and Skyland further south. Much of his acreage eventually transferred to the public trust for open space. There remain visible monuments to the man—notably Thunderbird Lodge, and the *Thunderbird* Yacht. Whittell's real legacy is the open space we enjoy on Lake Tahoe's East Shore, saved by the reclusiveness of Captain George Whittell.

In 2010, *Thunderbird* yacht celebrates her 70<sup>th</sup> birthday on Lake Tahoe. Since Whittell's time, she has carried celebrities, scientists, U.S. presidents, rock stars, and terminally ill kids. *Thunderbird* has raised millions of dollars for children's causes, preserving Lake Tahoe, and the arts. Today, *Thunderbird* serves as a platform to study Lake Tahoe's fragile environment and as a floating classroom to teach a new generation about the rich maritime heritage of the Lake-in-the-Sky.



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The South Tahoe  
Wooden Boat Classic  
needs you - to get in-

involved and be part of the fun! Volunteer for a couple of hours during the South Tahoe Wooden Boat Classic on July 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup>. We need help with all sorts of jobs from boat launching & docking, to helping with tickets and set-up / tear down, and everything in between! Tell us what you do best and we'll find a job for you. Email Cheryl Caplan at [cherylcaplan@gmail.com](mailto:cherylcaplan@gmail.com) to tell her how and when you can help.





## We're ready to ROAR in South Tahoe!

The venue is set, the events are planned, the advertising is in place, and we have new things in the works for the July 30<sup>th</sup> thru August 1<sup>st</sup> 2010 South Tahoe Wooden Boat Classic. **All we need now is you, your family and friends to join us for enjoy all the fun!**

**Sign up your boat it's not too late!** The deadline is extended to **June 1<sup>st</sup>**. Every year this show fills up, so be sure to sign up TODAY so you don't get left out!

We're really excited about some new features of this year's show. First, we'll have some amazing **drag race boats** both on static display and in the water. Next, we'll be revving up many hot engines, including the drag boats too....the **roar of the engines** makes beautiful music. Speaking of music, the **Dixieland Band** will be joining us at the sponsor/charity/Ships Store/BBQ area. They will add jazzy touch to the ambiance of the show. And, for our boat show guests, **Tahoe Maritime Museum** is bringing their **ride boat**. Anyone who joins the Museum at the show will be able to take a ride! We're really excited to have Fresh Ketch provide a **BBQ lunch** featuring **Stella Artois beer** for everyone to enjoy. There will be tables and umbrellas to sit under as you enjoy friends and people watch. We have a new sponsor, **Korbel Champagne**, who will be offering free samples of their champagnes. And, **Picchetti Winery** will be pouring their wonderful wines as they have the last two years. And, the **Boys and Girls Club** will be selling water off the Balloon Boat....a great place to get out of the sun and have a drink of water to cool you down. Finally, this year we've added a new dimension to the South Tahoe Wooden Boat Classic....a website! Go to **www.tahoewoodenboats.com**.

We've heard your requests and this year, our events as last year, are **low cost**. **Friday night**, we're moving the very popular **"On the Docks"** event off the docks to the lawn at the Fresh Ketch. We'll be celebrating the **70<sup>th</sup> birthday** of George Whittell's **Thunderbird**. What great fun! When she first cruised the emerald waters of Lake Tahoe, only the rich and famous were there. A mere 70 years later, you'll be there! We'll toast her into her 71<sup>st</sup> year with **Korbel champagne** and enjoy **birthday cake** after we enjoy a sumptuous **heavy hors d'oeuvres** spread. Then, on **Saturday evening**, it's off to **Picchetti Winery** again to taste their **wines** or enjoy **mixed drinks** under the pines....a chance to visit with friends off the water. Afterwards, we've selected several restaurants for you to go to for dinner. We'll make the **reservations** for you and you pay for your dinner at the restaurant. We're holding approximately 20 seats at each location, so be sure to gather your friends and pick a restaurant then **sign up early**. The south shore will be very crowded on this very popular weekend and restaurant reservations will be hard to come by. Then on **Sunday**, we're off to **Sugar Pine Point State Park** for our Chapter's **Annual Picnic and Awards**. The picnic will no doubt be delicious and all of the terrific awards will be given out. And, we have a **special surprise** for award winners this year!

Now is the time to sign up if you haven't already. We're going to have a fun weekend and you won't want to miss out. Go to **www.acbs-tahoe.org** to download a **sign-up form** OR call Dave Lyon (530-318-5872) and he'll fill one out for you! All you'll need to do is send in your check, picture of your boat, and boat history! Tell your **friends and family** to go to **ANY Raley's, Bel Air, or Nob Hill** market to **buy their discounted entrance tickets**. This is the only place pre-sold discount tickets are available for the public. We're going to have **FUN!**

The Antique & Classic Boat Society's  
**South Tahoe Wooden Boat Classic**  
 A Vintage Boat Show for Charity  
 Friday July 30<sup>th</sup> Noon - 5pm  
 Saturday July 31<sup>st</sup> 9am - 5pm

**You've Seen Them on the Water . . .**

**Come See Them Up Close and Personal!**

**Hear Their Engines Roar!**  
 Event Sponsors

**SAVE \$5**  
 per ticket purchased at  
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**tahoewoodenboats.com**

**TAHOE MARINE MARINA**  
**STELLA ARTOIS**  
**KORBEL**  
**Outside TELEVISION**  
**Tahoe Keys Resort**



The legendary  
fun, free and wild

# Woodie Whoopies

by Jane Bane

If you have ever been to a WOODIE WHOOPIE you know that they are one of BEST social activities ACBS sponsors. If you haven't, you're missing out on a wonderful and wacky series of summer pot-luck get-togethers always punctuated with food, fun and laughter. EVERYONE is invited whether you are an ACBS member or not, and the events are FREE! You don't even need a boat, come by car or camel; just bring your goodies to the Whoopies any way you can.



The history of the Whoopies is a Tahoe legend. It all started one evening about 20 years ago when Kelly and I were sharing ideas with Gail and Jim Thompson and Marilyn and Don Morrison. We came up with the genius idea of creating a new social event, open to everyone, as an easy and fun way to get to know more Tahoe people and to spend some time on the beautiful Tahoe lakeshore. At this time Tahoe Yacht Club was housed in Homewood, so we decided to have the events there so one and all could enjoy the lake. We spread the word to come to a fun event on the lake side, at 5:30, to bring a dish to share and something to bar-b-queue for yourself. We would supply everything else. We dubbed each of the events with a wacky theme, such as Mexican, Italian, and Clam Bake to challenge cooks to create a dish à propos the theme. Or not! Soon lots of enthusiastic people were attending, so we put it on the calendar for once or twice a month from June to August. We included a raffle to offset bar-b-queue and table expenses, to be able to purchase more raffle gifts, and to stir up a little excitement.

When Tahoe Yacht Club moved to Tahoe City, we moved Woodie Whoopies to different

lake front places. Some people volunteered their home owner beaches, such as Olympic Beach, McKinney Shores, and Rubicon Bay. Other Whoopies are held at private homes, such as Bernie and Carol Atkinson's in Carnelian Bay and Kay Turner's in Homewood, but remember...all are invited! You don't need to know the homeowners to join the fun.

Before each event, ACBS members Tom and Marie O'Rourke arrive early to set up tables and get the bar-b-queue going. They sell raffle tickets which supply us with ice, napkins, eating utensils, paper plates, cups, briquettes, and bar-b-queue utensils. Tom says "Don't bring your own bar-b-queue utensils as they often get left behind and he has plenty. The raffle is very fun; great prizes include bottles of wine, dinners at Jake's on the Lake, Garwood's, or Sunnyside, and an assortment of gifts donated by members.

As you can see from the following calendar, locations vary and you can always call Tom and Marie O'Rourke 530-546-2360 or Kelly and Jane Bane 530 581-3495 for information and directions. DON'T BE SHY!

**June 11-** Woodie Whoopie with a "Tex Mex" theme held at McKinney Shores in Homewood. It's a homeowner's beach on the lake, south of Homewood, with a brown fence running along the highway and the sign "McKinney Shores" over the gate. The beach is between Tahoe Ski Bowl Way and Ellis Street. Park in front just off West Lake Blvd and come through the gate. There is a dock and large grass area inside.

**July 9-** Whoopie "Italian" held at Rubicon Bay Homeowners Beach. Drive south on West Lake Blvd past

What's a WOODIE WHOOPIE anyway?



Chambers Landing, past Meeks Bay. Turn left on Victoria and follow it down over a little creek and it's on the left. To be honest with you every time Kelly and I drive there we find other ACBS people with wide eyes trying to find this beach also, so we follow them.

**July 23-** Whoopie "Caribbean" held at Olympic Beach. This homeowner's beach is off West Lake Blvd. If you're coming from North Lake Blvd, turn left on Olympic Drive which is about 1 mile from the Save Mart shopping center and a little past Tahoe Tree House and Granlibakken Street. If you're coming from South Lake, drive almost to North Lake Blvd, go past Sunnyside and Corpus Christi Catholic Church. Turn right onto Olympic Drive. The Beach is at the bottom, north end of this housing area. Park on the street and walk through the gates toward a lawn area with a nice dock.

**Aug** - date to be determined - Whoopie "Irish" held at the home of Bernie and Carol Atkinson in Carnelian Bay. This house is just about 7 houses west of Garwood's Restaurant.. Walk around the side into the back yard and you will see a beautiful yard with boating dock.

**August 27** - Whoopie "Clam Bake" at the home of Kay Turner in Homewood. If you are coming from North Lake, drive to Homewood, and just when you see the state sign saying Homewood and population, park your car and walk across the street to Kay's back yard. Go around the side and you will see lovely gardens and dock.

**Sept. 11-** Whoopie at Clear Lake. Location to be determined. Call Jim Robello 707-278-0233 or Ralph Wallen 707-279-2686

It's time to become part of the Woodie Whoopie legend, come to as many as you can, you won't regret it!

## Jim Thompson

*November 2 1940 - February 22 2010*

Jim Thompson passed away February 22 after a year's battle with cancer. Jim and his wife Gail, were co-founders of the Woodie Whoopies which started in the early 90's. Jim's charismatic personality contributed greatly to the success of the Friday night pot luck BBQ's where wood boat lovers gather to share food, drink and camaraderie. The dinners have had as many as 150 people show up. It has been a tradition that is going strong today.

As a teenager, Jim's family had a 1947 Chris Craft Deluxe at their Cabin at Clear Lake in the 50's. He was in love with boats at an early age and has owned about 15 of them in his lifetime. Gail says the love of his life was a restored '47 Chris Deluxe "Sticks" which won first place three years in a row. That boat now belongs to John Lathi's brother, Peter.



Kelley Bane, Jim Thompson and Bruce Adair at a Greek themed Woodie Whoopie

During the summer Jim would go for a boat ride at lease once a day. Many times he would go out 3-4 times. He used his boats like few others.

Jim served on the ACBS board in the late 90's and early 2000's. He took serving on the board seriously and wanted to make it better. He was loved and respected by his friends and our boating community will miss him tremendously.

Submitted by *Bruce Adair*



May 14-16	<b>20th Annual Bass Lake Rendezvous</b> Ducey's on the Lake, Bass Lake	Joel Castro 209-599-7310 Arnie Schweer 559-291-3198
May 22	<b>The Delta 100</b> Brannan Island State Park, 3 Miles South of Rio Vista	Jerry Turney 510-531-8214
June 4 - 6	<b>Wood &amp; Glory XII</b> Soda Bay, Clear Lake	Jim Robello 707-278-0233 Ralph Wallen 707-279-2686
June 11	<b>Woodie Whoopie - "Tex Mex"</b> McKinney Shores, Homewood, Lake Tahoe	Tom and Marie O'Rourke 530-546-2360
June 18- 20	<b>38th Annual TYCF Concours d'Elegance</b> Presented by Tahoe Yacht Club Foundation Inc. Sierra Boat Co., Carnelian Bay, Lake Tahoe	Danny Pavel 530-581-4700 X103
June 18 -20	<b>Ships Store</b> TYCF Concours d'Elegance Sierra Boat Co., Carnelian Bay, Lake Tahoe	Stan Opegard 916-652-9050 Rich Fisher 925-945-8036
June 27	<b>Palo Alto Automobile Concours d'Elegance</b> To include ACBS invited boats shown on trailers Stanford, Palo Alto	Norm Kitching 650-799-7578
July 9	<b>Woodie Whoopie - "Italian"</b> ( Homeowners Area) Rubicon Bay, Lake Tahoe	Tom and Marie O'Rourke 530-546-2360
July 23	<b>Woodie Whoopie - "Caribbean"</b> Olympic Beach, Tahoe City, Lake Tahoe	Tom and Marie O'Rourke 530-546-2360



July 30 & 31	<b>South Tahoe Wooden Boat Classic</b> Tahoe Keys Marina, South Lake Tahoe	Steve Caplan cell: 408-981-6996
August 1	<b>ACBS Annual Picnic &amp; STWBC Show Awards</b> Sugar Pine Point State Park, Tahoma, Lake Tahoe	Debra & Lew Dobbins 530-265-3476
Aug TBD	<b>Woodie Whoopie - "Irish"</b> Bernie and Carol Atkinson's, Carnelian Bay, Lake Tahoe	Tom and Marie O'Rourke 530-546-2360
August 21	<b>Tahoe Get-Around Wood Boat Cruise</b> Lake Tahoe	Jerry Turney 510-531-8214
August 22	<b>Board Meeting</b> Nevada City - Location TBD	Jim Robello 707-278-0233
August 27	<b>Woodie Whoopie - "Clam Bake"</b> Turner's "Playtime", Homewood, Lake Tahoe	Tom and Marie O'Rourke 530-546-2360
Sept TBD	<b>Hillsborough Automobile Concours d'Elegance</b> to include ACBS invited boats shown on trailers	Jared Hein 415-543-6900
Sept 11	<b>Woodie Whoopie - Clear Lake</b> Location TBD	Jim Robello 707-278-0233 Ralph Wallen 707-279-2686
Sept 15 -18	<b>35th ACBS International Meeting</b> & 9th Annual Boat Show Bay Harbor Resort, Petoskey, Michigan	ACBS - Clayton, NY e-mail: hqs@acbs.org
Sept 24-25	<b>Ironstone Winery - Automobile Concours d'Elegance</b> To include ACBS invited boats shown on trailers Murphys, CA	Chuck Kelly cbkcbi@aol.com
Oct 1 - 3	<b>Delta Cruise</b> B & W Resort 964 Brannan Island Road & Highway 12 - Isleton, CA	Preston & Joy Smith 916-434-6322
Oct 23-24	<b>Restoration Clinic</b> Location TBD	Event Chair Needed - call Jim Robello
Nov 5 - 7	<b>Chapter Annual Meeting</b> SF Bay Area	Jim Robello 707-278-0233 Iren & Ted Jenny 925-254-8809 cell: 925-899-9708



*A Fabulous Weekend in The City by the Bay!*  
*ACBS Annual Meeting,*  
*Dinner, Dancing & Much Fun in San Francisco!*

*Saturday evening, November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at five,*  
*followed by no host cocktails at six, dinner at seven and dancing dinner!*

*Golden Gate Yacht Club on the Marina*  
*#1 Yacht Road*  
*San Francisco, Ca. 94123*

*But wait! Did we say*  
*weekend?*

*Fun starts Friday night!*

*Join us on Friday, November 5<sup>th</sup> for what promises to be a rousing evening of casual fun at another super San Francisco iconic, restaurant, **Scoma's**. This will be a fun and casual evening of good food, and merriment. More detail will be mailed to you closer to the event.*

*Saturday during the day!*

*Before we dazzle and razzle you Saturday evening, we have more plans for you, A private walking tour of the **Presidio** and **Crissy Fields** and a visit to the new **Walt Disney Family Museum**.*

*Sunday during the day! Optional!*

*If you are still standing,, experience San Francisco sightseeing from a duck's eye view on this **San Francisco Duck Tour**. Travel on land and water in an amphibious vehicle crafted from the WW II DUKW. Ride through San Francisco's historic streets and neighborhoods. Splash down into the bay and cruise McCovey Cove. Details to follow.*

*Lodging information!*

*We have blocked 20 rooms at the **Argonaut Hotel** at 149.00 a night which is unheard of for San Francisco. Make your reservations early so that if needed, we can add rooms to our block. We have 10 rooms blocked at the **Hyatt** at 149.00 also, but our headquarters will be the Argonaut. Ask for block under, The Antique and Classic Boat Society. We are booking two different types of hotels to give you a choice.*

*The Argonaut Hotel*  
*495 Jefferson Street*  
*San Francisco, Ca. 94133*  
*415-563-0800,*

*[www.argonauthotel.com](http://www.argonauthotel.com)*

*The Hyatt at Fisherman's Wharf*  
*555 North Point*  
*San Francisco, Ca. 94133*  
*800-233-1234*

*Call or email Ted and Iren Jenny if any*  
*questions! Home, 925-254-8809,*  
*Cell, 925-899-9708,*  
*email [jennysrus@att.net](mailto:jennysrus@att.net)*

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**Engines- Pair 1942 Chrysler Royal** straight 8. Rebuild-able or parts. Call for info: Jim Sweeney 415-459-8681 email james.sweeney3@comcast.net

**1954 - 33' Chris Craft Capitan Cruiser** - Twin LM-318 225 HP V-8's. Sleeps 6, Fridge, Stove, Microwave, A/C, Lectrasan Head, AM/FM/CD, VHF, 6.5 KW Genset. Needs Varnish. \$15,000. (808) 652-9402 or Leutz@inreach.com

**1959 Christ Craft 17ft Sportsman**, Original 283 V8, Original bottom, C-C Tandem Trailer, Taylor windshield, in storage since 1990. Tahoe Boat, Fresh Water only. \$9500 cgmgear@aol.com Bob (925) 462-0716

**1940 22' Deluxe Utility**, beautiful restoration done in 2006, since then many enhancements, new engine, interior, great disc brake trailer, etc. \$44500 call for details Bob, 530-470-8785 or email drobertson530@comcast.net

**Engine- Chris Craft-Hercules K- 95HP** Complete with transmission. \$800 Call Vince for details: 916-372-1442 email czalutka@aol.com

**1949 Chris-Craft Sportsman 22 ft.** with "Panther Marine" Corvette V-8 290 HP(Hobbs meter: less than 500 hrs) Velvetdrive modern marine transmission. Bimini top. Kapok filled show quality blue upholstery. Correct linoleum. West System bottom. Dual large 12 volt batteries. Dual electric bilge pumps, plus original rear suction bilge pump. New aluminum fuel tank. Multiple ACBS & Concours awards. Historical documents. Tandem trailer. "Ready to go!-Ready to show" \$ 44k. Details call Charles (831)425-7776. email: cdehola@mac.com

**Chris Craft -1956, 27ft Super Sport** Cruiser "Our Time" - Twin 110 HP 6 cyl Chris Craft engines Sleeps 4 with head and galley Recent Survey and Varnish Pristine Classic Wood Boat Lake Tahoe "FUN" boat \$30,000.00 Call Don 916-765-1517 email: Donsmith@ssctv.net

### LAKE TAHOE Crackdown on speeding boaters

Regulators at Lake Tahoe said they plan to crack down this year on boaters, jet skiers and others who zoom too close to shore. The no-wake zone that extends 600 feet from shore all the way around the alpine lake has been on the books since the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency imposed a 5 mph speed limit in 1999.

Sheriff's deputies routinely enforce a smaller 200-foot zone. But until now, TRPA officials haven't had the means to patrol the larger area.

— Associated Press

From the San Jose Mercury News, May 3, 2010.

### Watch Out!



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## ACBS Picnic



**Remember when** mom would fry up chicken and make a big batch of potato salad, and bake a cake or pie, then stuff it all into a basket and off you'd go to a picnic at the local park? It all seemed so simple and easy. Play some games, eat too much, visit with friends and hang around until it was time to leave. Times have changed a bit, but the essence of a balmy summer picnic remains the same.

This year's ACBS Picnic and SLT Boat Show Awards will be held at Sugar Pine Point State Park, along the west shore of Lake Tahoe, on the grass. We are planning a vintage BBQ to match our boats. Fun for one and all with good, tummy-satisfying food! Where our friends and families are given handcrafted awards for their efforts restoring boats shown at the Wood Boat Classic! The picnic will begin at 11:30 A.M. and the awards will start a half an hour later on Sunday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010.



Buoys and a shuttle boat will be provided for those arriving by boat from the show at South Lake Tahoe or other points around the lake. Bring anchors just in case. **There will be a fee for parking all vehicles at the state park.**

If you are towing your boat home on Sunday, consider participating in a "boats on trailers show" behind the Ehrmann Mansion during the picnic and dazzle the public with their divine beauty. Volunteers will supervise and extol their virtues to the public at large. There is only room for a limited number so call Debra Dobbins soon if you want to reserve a place.

We look forward to reliving the days of the past, where life was simple and fun. Where food was shared and friends are enjoyed. See you there!

## How I named my boat

By Dave Lyon

Miss Puddle Duck is an early 1939 Chris Craft 19' Custom Runabout, and was named after our daughter, Hannah Marie. The boat is 71 years old this year. Hannah Marie is all of seven.

8 years and 2 mahogany boats into our marriage, my wife Tammi announced that it was time for children. This thought had not occurred to me, and I expressed my reservations: "aren't children expensive to maintain?"

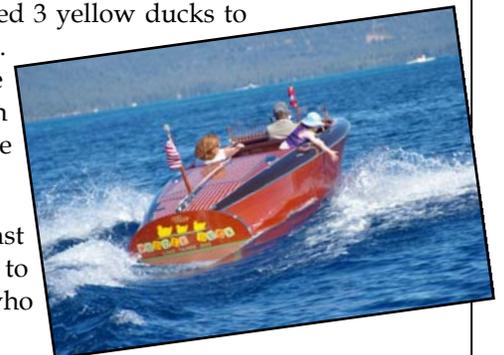
Reservations aside, I was about to learn that children can be miracles, and miracles, like old rare boats, often come once in a life-time. Less than 3 months later, we were expecting our first child; my wife was happily preparing to be a mom, and I had begun the search for my dream: a 1939 Chris Craft Custom.

Two months later, while attending the Lake Tahoe Concours, we received news of a 1939 barrel-stern for sale in near-by Reno, NV. I was there within an hour, and found, in a storage garage outside of town, a very original and well-preserved boat. Yes, it was un-restored, yes, it needed a lot of work, no, it didn't float, and no, I didn't care.

With ultra-sounds showing a baby girl on the way, we had playfully began referring to her as "Miss Puddle Duck", a tribute to the growing rubber ducky collection in the new nursery. The '39 Custom became our other "work in progress", and by the time both were delivered, one from the hospital, and one from the restoration shop, the 2 had grown to share a single name.

We chose nostalgic children's play-block lettering for the transom, and included 3 yellow ducks to represent our new family. The artwork was done by Fred Bush of Seattle, Wa. from a design that Tammi had drawn while on a business trip, and faxed to me from over-seas at 2:00am. Even after sending the sketch on to the restoration shop, the final product required yet another in-person consultation; just to be sure our vision had been realized.

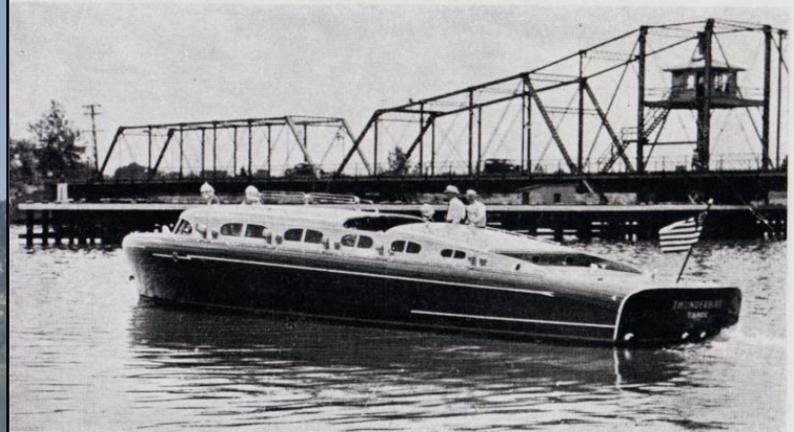
So the miracle and promise of a new generation and the nostalgic call of the past have both come together on our boat transom, though Hannah will readily point to the 3<sup>rd</sup> duck below the name, the one with the pink bow in its hair, as proof of who really owns this rare and beautiful boat.



**Send us your "How I Named My Boat" or "How I Bought My Boat" Story for an upcoming issue of Western Wood.**



## WHAT'S NEW IN BOATS



*"Thunderbird," owned by George Whittel and in service on Lake Tahoe, Nevada, is a Hacker 55-footer of 11' 10" beam and 3' 3" draft. She is planked with mahogany and her houses are of stainless steel. A pair of 12-cylinder Kermath engines of 500 hp. each are installed and, in addition, two 4-91 Gray motors for auxiliary power.*

The Thunderbird now and then. The flying bridge was added in 1962 by Bill Harrah, known for his casino and car collection.

# Triano Marine Design

*Antique boat preservation, one at a time, ultimately accurate.*

*The finest possible restoration of your cherished boat can come from only one place: The studio of David Triano. David specializes in the aquisition, historical documentation, and presentation of the boats of Horace E. Dodge, Jr, antique runabouts of all type, and special racing craft from every era. Museum quality restorations, with Concourse award-winning craftsmanship. Discuss your project with David today at 530-318-5872.*