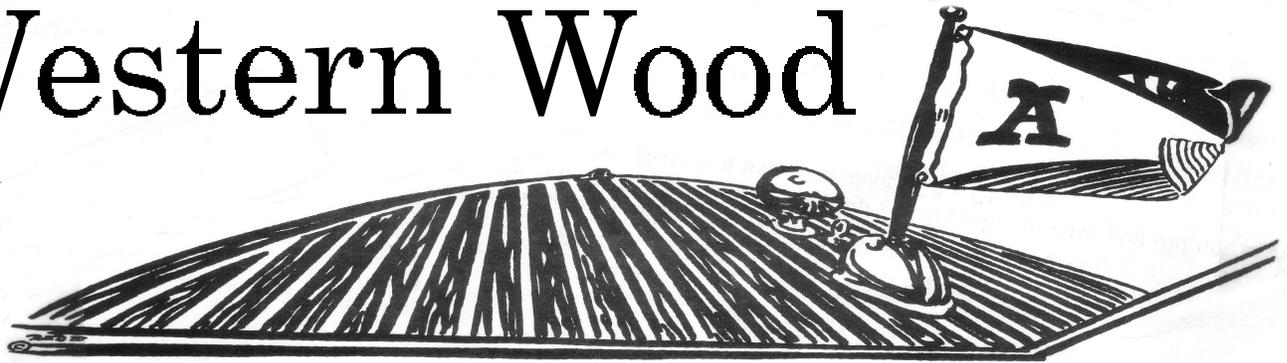


# Western Wood



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

Volume 21, Issue 3

Quarterly Newsletter

Fall 2004



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT - JIM FENTRESS

When I use or work on my boat I occasionally will reflect upon the wisdom of the author Milne who wrote the classic *Wind in the Willows* and wrote: "Nothing is quite so satisfying as messing about in a boat." This man truly understood the visual feast, the tactile pleasure, and the soul satisfying delight of being one with a beautiful boat and he reduced those feelings to one concise sentence that I believe speaks volumes. Few things in life can equal the pleasure of motoring across a beautiful calm lake in a beautiful boat with flags flying and water gently hissing off the bottom and the copper exhaust burbling motor music. Although this is only one man's view, from my perspective it appears that many enlightened women share these same nautical passions and embrace our great hobby with equal verve.

If you consider that wood runabouts and launches were first built just over 100 years ago we are all involved in a relatively young hobby and whether we realize it or not we are merely the custodians of a great deal of maritime history. If you project 50 years forward just imagine the rarity and value of your 1930 to 1970 maritime treasure. The old real estate adage about land: "they are not making any more" applies in large degree to antique and classic boats. Know that your efforts to preserve your beautiful boat will bring you great pleasure now and will continue to enrich the lives of many as the years pass for which everyone will owe you a debt of gratitude. A great legacy for all to enjoy. What a great hobby and wonderful organization we are all fortunate enough to have in our lives!

I am very pleased and proud to report that our Chapter has passed our updated revised Constitution and Bylaws. Months of work and hundreds of man hours by our dedicated Constitution and Bylaw Committee created these living documents that are now as accurate, current, relevant and useful as humanly possible. I would like to

openly thank Jim Robello and Cheryl Caplan C&B Committee (co chairs) for their outstanding work and Iren Jenny, Jared Hein, and Norm Kitching Committee members for their thoughtful insights and dedication. A BIG job and great result--well done all!

Recent chapter events that took place since my last communiqué were all, without exception, successful by any measure. Specifically:

- The ACBS Ship's Store at the Lake Tahoe Concours D'Elegance Chaired by Rich Fisher was the best ever. Rich showed his true colors when he orchestrated this important event that provided strong sales to benefit our chapter and generated new friends and subsequent memberships. Rich worked tirelessly for three days and would like more support next year. Consider raising your hand and have fun in the process.

- The Camp Richardson Cruise and Picnic was chaired by Bob Bush who was assisted by Jack Bingham, Jim Gordon, Norm Kitching, Tim Bush and a cast of thousands. This annual free event was well attended and appreciated by all. This event is open to all ACBS members, Tahoe Yacht Club Members and Sierra Boat Co. employees as our way of acknowledging and thanking the TYC Foundation and Sierra Boat Co. for inviting our ACBS Chapter to participate in Wooden Boat Week.

- The joint ACBS RIVA/USA Club event at the breathtaking Thunderbird Lodge chaired by Barbara Ewing Walker was sold out and was absolutely a winner. Thanks to all of you (Barbara, Pam, Lin) that made this event so special.

- The Delta Cruise from B & W Resort to the Delta Yacht Club included a great BBQ, a catered October fest, an outstanding 20 mile cruise ably led by Tim Stapleton with no 5 MPH zones and of course 50 + beautiful woodies in a conga line—what a sight. Hats off again to Norm and Kathy

Continued on page 2

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT -CONTINUED

The final event of 2004 is the Annual Membership Meeting on November 6<sup>th</sup> which Iren Jenny and her hard working team have been working on for over a year. The World TradeClub on The Embarcadero (Ferry Building) in San Francisco is the exciting venue for what promises to be an outstanding evening or weekend in The City. Tremendous thought, effort and planning has gone into making this event/this weekend one you will treasure. This is definitely going to be an affair to remember.

At the annual meeting on November 6<sup>th</sup> you will all have the opportunity (and responsibility) to vote for the following nominees to run the Chapter's business for the upcoming year:

- President Chuck Kelley
- Third Vice President Jack Bingham
- Secretary Barbara Ewing Walker
- Treasurer Jared Jay Hein C.P.A.
- Class of 2007 Tim Bush, Mary Drew, Marti Grossman, John Lahti (alphabetical order)

Many thanks to the Nominating Committee-Kirk Pumphrey Chair for their research and hard work and to the above eight individuals who have demonstrated their commitment to our ACBS Chapter in the past and now their continuing elevated commitment to assume positions of Chapter leadership.

The Great Northern California Boat Show Jan. 28<sup>th</sup> to Feb 6<sup>th</sup>, 2005 in Pleasanton, CA will be chaired this year by Tim Bush. I am grateful to Tim for assuming the leadership role and Tim will certainly appreciate your support for this important ACBS showcase event.

This is the last quarterly letter I will be writing as Chapter President and I would like to express my gratitude for allowing me to represent your ACBS interests this past year. It has been an honor and my privilege. Thank you all for your efforts and passion that makes this-The Best Boat Club in the World!

With appreciation,

Jim Fentress

# Rod's STITCHED INTERIORS

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**WOOD & GLORY WEEKEND -  
PLAN AHEAD  
JUNE 3RD - 5TH, 2005**

Wood & Glory planning is going on for our 2005 rendezvous @ Konocti Harbor Resort. A new poster is being created now and a meeting with the Lakeport Chamber of Commerce, Santa Cruz Woodie Car Club and Jim Fetzer of Ciego Winery is planned for mid-November.

Please Note: The invitations will be available in our winter edition of the Western Wood. Check the centerfold for both Bass Lake & Wood & Glory VII.

Konocti Harbor has released more of their \$99 rooms to us. We already have quite a few reservations. Don't wait until the last minute. There is no advance charge but there is a 48 hour cancellation policy. Phone number for reservations: 1-800-660-5253, ask for GroupReservations under ACBS.

See you the first weekend in June.

**Pictures  
Wanted!!!!**



Pictures for the ACBS events scrapbook. Nothing before this year, please. Include the name and date of the event and the names of the people in the picture. Boat names might come in handy too. Invitations or announcements from these events would be helpful. Send your pictures, cds or other mementos to:

Barb Hall  
POB 276  
Carnelian Bay, CA 96140  
(530)583-1382

## Upcoming Events

**The Great Northern California Boat Show at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, Pleasanton, CA  
Show Dates: January 28 – February 6, 2005**

The show continues for 10 days and we would like to have chapter volunteers at the display every day. If you enjoy talking to other boating enthusiasts about our boats, then you should volunteer for a day at the boat show. Visitors often have never seen boats like ours before and have many questions about the hobby. We have attracted many new members from the experience of talking to a knowledgeable member while viewing the wooden boats. Volunteers are also invited to attend a volunteer exhibitor party, a very fun event. So for a fun and satisfying experience, sign up for a shift.  
Chairperson - Tim Bush (Volunteer form in this issue page 11)

**The 5th Annual ACBS  
Restoration Clinic**

Dates - Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, and 13<sup>th</sup>  
Location - Tony Brown's Western Runabouts, Homewood, Ca.  
Chairperson - Herb Hall  
(Sign up form in this issue page 10)

**Spring Fling - Bodega Bay**

Dates - April 1st - 3rd  
Chairperson - Tia Gemmell

**Bass Lake - May 23-25**

**Wood and Glory**  
Dates- June 3rd - 5th  
Location - Konocti Harbor Resort.

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# The Boat Handling and Safety Clinic

By Herb Hall

Obexers Boat Company In Homewood was the setting for this year's Boat Handling and Safety Clinic. The emphasis this year was boat handling in the idyllic west shore was chosen for it's reliably calm water. Herb Hall, Chuck Kelley, Glory Beall and Steve Hanst, graciously donated their expertise as instructors and working in groups, all participants were able to get about an hour of instruction time. About a dozen participants signed up, but we were thrilled to see that many had brought their families with them, so whole boat loads of people were instructed at one time.



Steve Hanst explains the basics of boat handling.



The Dan McNamara family getting instructions from Steve Hanst.

Obexers marina was still empty from the previous day's Crossing of the Chris Craft's, so we had a perfect opportunity to instruct on the fine points of docking. Barbara Brown's nearby pier was also utilized and all told, every participant came away with new knowledge and higher skills by the end of the session. One participant, a life long boater, had never had the dynamics for how his boat handled, fully explained. Armed with new knowledge, he is now a much better boat handler.

If you didn't attend, you need to take advantage of this valuable educational service the club provides. Knowing how to confidently handle your boat is the first step to getting full enjoyment out of your boat.

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Linda Bingham being instructed by Glory Beall.



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Fax (530) 273-5769  
Res (530) 271-1009  
Cell (530) 277-5845

10400 Brunswick Road  
Grass Valley, CA 95945-4410



New member, George Koster getting instruction from Chuck Kelley.

# CROSSING OF THE CHRIS CRAFTS



BY TAMI AND DAVE LYON

Once again we were blessed with a beautiful and sunny weekend at Tahoe as we celebrated the 1st official day of Summer, and the start of the 2004 boating season! The 7th annual Crossing of Chris Crafts was a great success, with a record number of gleaming antique and classic wood boats on display at Obexer's Boat Co, on the beautiful west shore. We are greatly indebted to Sarah Obexer and her family for making this wonderful venue available to us, and we were pleased that Sarah could be there to enjoy the show. ACBS members attending included Tom & Karine Mendenhall in Tomahawk, a beautiful Chris Craft Cruiser; Larry Walter in Calabash Moon; Richard & Donna Wallrich in Whirlwind; Steve Humphreys in Dumb blonde, and Patrick & Suzanne Shane arriving in Gotta Wood, a 1930 Upswept.

"Honorary" Chris Crafts in attendance included Skip & Lin Stahmer in Rerun, a Garwood Streamliner, Marty Feletto in Disco Volante, a 1966 Riva Super Aquarama, and Alex and Linda Kanwetz in Huapala, a wonderful 1937 Stephens motor yacht.

Special thanks goes out this year to Steven Lapkin and the gang at Riva Club USA for stepping in at a moments notice and providing the morning snacks, plus champagne and orange juice for everyone to enjoy! Those attending were also treated to a special presentation of a recent Riva 360 project, which discussed the connections between Carlo Riva and Christopher Smith of Chris Craft Co.



Photographer - Tia Gemmell



**Skip and Lin Stahmer**  
Photographer - Tia Gemmell

Our lunch was a special treat this year, as we enjoyed a wonderful catered, sit-down meal served by Radiant Blue Events in the historic barn at Obexer's. Rumor has it that ACBS board member Ralph Wallen was seen stuffing his pockets full of those incredible caramel brownies! Many thanks to Roy Dryer, who arranged for the wine to be provided by Ironstone Vineyards, and to Tammi Lyon who was responsible for the wonderful "ducky" centerpieces.

Continued on page 7

## Fun Facts

Marty Feletto owns our chapters oldest Chris Craft a 1929 Runabout with a 225hp Chris Craft V8, named "Gramps".  
I would say this boat is appropriately named.



**Steve Lapkin and Jim Keil**  
Photographer - Tia Gemmell



**Julie Pumphrey, Hanna and Tammi Lyon**

We started a new tradition this year with the presentation the "Best Chris Craft of Show" award sponsored by the Antique Chris Craft Club and Sea Safe Insurance. This year the recognition went to "Splinters" a beautiful 1956 19' Capri owned by Doug and Nancy Ball.

Special thanks to everyone who signed up and made this first show of the 2004 Tahoe boating season a great time and a whole lotta fun! Extra Kudos to Harbor Master Chuck Kelley, and to Steve and Cheryl Caplan for all their excellent help!



**Steve and Cheryl Caplan**

*Photographer - Tia Gemmell*



**Valerie Good** *Photographer - Tia Gemmell*



**Phillip Ballantyne**

*Photographer - Tia Gemmell*



**Brad Hill, Tom Mendenhall and Tom Grossman**



**Todd Bredt and Al Schinnerer**

*Photographer - Tia Gemmell*

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# A MODEL YEAR AT THE SHIPS STORE

August 8th and 9th, 2004

By Rich Fisher

We had a great display of model boats as part of the "Ships Store" at the Concourse d' Elegance. The display included everything from home made models of a person's favorite boat to professionally built models of boats of the Classic Period. One of the highlights of the show was **Ken Polly's** demonstration of his small scale Cobra. The key, instruments, lights and steering wheel actually worked and although powered by an electric motor the model had proper sound effects.

Ken advised that he had thousands of hours invested in building this model and his attention to detail was excellent. Anyone that is interested in seeing this model or talking to Ken about a commission to build a model can contact him in Reno at 775-331-6557.

We would like to thank all of those that loaned or delivered models to this show. In addition to being an event of its own this display brought people into the "Store".

The Baskin-Robbins Ice Cream Stand was again a big hit and a profit maker for the club. Due to the overall lower attendance at the show and the location of the stand our volume was down from last year. We plan to put the stand near the front of the "Store" next year.

We signed up four new member families during the show and

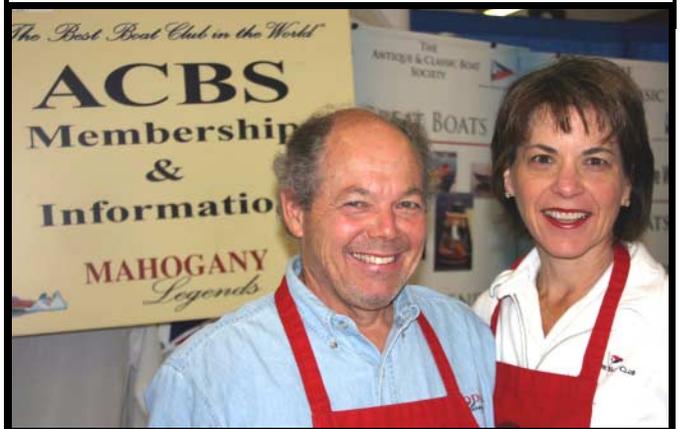


Rich Fisher at the entrance to the ACBS Ship's Store ready to make a sale.

gave out membership information to several others. **Barbara Hall's** new photo album and **Iren Jenny's** "woody" serving tray were the center of a wonderful club display. **Skip Stahmer** was very helpful with the set up and reconciliation tasks related to our point of sale equipment. Thanks to **Charlie Consoli's** organizational efforts we had wonderful set up, tear down and sales staffs. All seemed to enjoy their work and had the opportunity to visit with new and old friends while helping with this important activity for the club. Thanks to all that participated, space limitations preclude listing their names in this publication. Needless to say we could not have done it without them.

Sales were brisk from Thursday morning through Saturday afternoon. In keeping with the theme of the show most of our new merchandise this year was identified with "Tahoe Classic Boats" embroidery. Several of these items "sold out" before the end of the show. Sales of merchandise from the Wood & Glory and Crossings of Chris Crafts events were quite active. We do have a good selection of "Tahoe" shirts for children. Be sure to check these out as possible gifts for the little ones in your life at the next show.

Special thanks to **Sierra Boat Company, Herb Hall** and **Pat Began** for making this space available to ACBS. We met our goals of having fun, increasing our membership and earning some money for the club.



Rich Fisher and Jenny Ludwig working the store.



Kathy Kitching: ACBS Room Volunteer

## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

### Officers

★ President	★ Jim Fentress	★ 707/963-1718
★ First Vice President	★ Chuck Kelley	★ 916/922-3003
★ Second Vice President	★ Herb Hall	★ 530/583-1382
★ Third Vice President	★ Norm Kitching	★ 650/941-3459
★ Treasurer(In Transition)	★ Lee Chase/Jared Hein	★ 408/374-2307 650/348-5794
★ Secretary	★ Barbara Walker	★ 916/922-3003

### Directors at Large

★ Kirk Pumphrey	★ 408/976-0631
★ Steve Caplan	★ 408/353-2755
★ Bette Shutt	★ 530/581-1730

### Class of 2004

★ Jack Bingham	★ 530/583-1317
★ Jim Gordon	★ 310/541-7336
★ Iren Jenny	★ 925/254-8809
★ Michael Magruder	★ 530/583-3958
★ Roy Dryer	★ 530/346-6915

### Class of 2005

★ Tia Gemmell	★ 916/600-1585
★ Norm Kitching	★ 650/941-3459
★ Dave Lyon	★ 831/659-3036
★ Cheryl Shields	★ 916/797-2301
★ Ralph Wallen	★ 707/433-4289

### Class of 2006

★ Rich Fisher	★ 925/945-8036
★ Jon Fletscher	★ 408/377-7850
★ Greg Joseph	★ 831/688-6295
★ Jim Keil	★ 530/271-1009
★ Jim Robello	★ 707/568-7135

### International Board of Directors

★ Bob Bush	★ Director	★ 925/462-0716
★ Norm Kitching	★ Director	★ 650/941-3459
	★ at Large	
★ Tom O'Rourke	★ Director	★ 650/345-8169
	★ at Large	
★ Jim Fentress	★ Chapter	★ 707/963-1718
	★ President	

### Past Presidents

★ 1983 Charter Received	★ 1994 Kelly Bane
★ 1984 Glory Beall	★ 1995 Lee Chase
★ 1985 Glen Wilson	★ 1996 Anne Veihmeyer
★ 1986 John Mitchell	★ 1997 Paul Mehus
★ 1987 Glory Beall	★ 1998 Bob Bush
★ 1988 Ron Wolfman	★ 1999 Marty Feletto
★ 1989 Ken Shutt	★ 2000 Roy Domke
★ 1990 Bette Shutt	★ 2001 Jeff Peterson
★ 1991 Bette Shutt	★ 2002 Barry Ludwig
★ 1992 Bette Shutt	★ 2003 Kirk Pumphrey



**Ralph Wallen**



**Dave Lyon**



**Jim Keil**



**Jared Hein**



**Rish Fisher**



**Chuck Kelley and  
Glory Beall**

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e-mail: classicmarine@earthlink.net

# The 5th Annual ACBS Restoration Clinic

## Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, and 13th at Tony Brown's Western Runabouts, Homewood, Ca.

For those of you who have always wanted to get some first hand, professional instruction on wood boat restoration, this is your chance. Western Runabouts will be hosting a three-day, hands on, intensive seminar, covering all aspects of wood boat restoration. Your instructors will be experts in the field of antique boat restoration with a combined experience of over 100 years!

Subjects covered will include: Old finish removal, re-fastening and plugging, fairing, sanding and staining deck seam caulking and striping and varnishing from sealer coat to final. We will also discuss various approaches to bottom upgrades.

By the time you're done, you'll be an expert, think you're an expert, or decide you need to hire an expert. We promise a weekend that will be instructional and most importantly, fun!

**Cost:** \$145 per applicant, includes instructional materials and lunch all three days.

Due to shop and instructor constraints, space is limited to the first 30 applicants.

**Last day to register is Feb. 1 2005.**

**For more information, contact Tony Brown at 530-525-0185 or Herb Hall at 530-546-2551**

**Please make checks payable to ACBS**

Applicant(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Module desired, please check: Module 1 [ ] Module 2 [ ]

Send with \$145 per applicant to: ACBS Restoration Clinic, C/o Sierra Boat Co Inc. P. O. Box 69., Carnelian Bay, Ca. 96140

Form is also available for download in Word or PDF from the website:  
[www.acbs-tahoe.org](http://www.acbs-tahoe.org).

## Volunteer Sign-up Form

The Great Northern California Boat Show at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, Pleasanton, CA  
Show Dates: January 28 - February 6, 2005

*Your response time is critical, so please read and sign up as quickly as you can. This is an opportunity to participate, volunteer, and have fun in the process.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: home \_\_\_\_\_ work \_\_\_\_\_ cell \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

***Please circle the specific times:*** (whole or half days) you will be available to work.

***Indicate if you will be able to attend the Boat Show Volunteer Party.***

***Return this completed form to:***

Tim Bush, ACBS Boat Show Chair

email: [tbassoc@comcast.net](mailto:tbassoc@comcast.net); or mail to:

3155 Randick Court

Pleasanton, CA 94588

### Move In and Set UP

Saturday, January 22 <sup>nd</sup> :	9:00 am - 5:00 pm	Tuesday, January 25 <sup>th</sup> :	9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Sunday, January 23 <sup>rd</sup> :	9:00 am - 5:00 pm	Wednesday, January 26 <sup>th</sup> :	9:00 am - 5:00 pm
		Thursday, January 27 <sup>th</sup> :	9:00 am - 5:00 pm

### Boat Show Hours

**Weekdays, noon - 9:00 pm; Saturdays, 10:00 am - 9:00 pm; Sunday, 10:00 am - 6:00 pm.**

Friday, January 28 <sup>th</sup> :	11:30 am - 5:00 pm	Wednesday, February 2 <sup>nd</sup> :	11:30 am - 5:00 pm
	4:30 pm - 9:00 pm		4:30 pm - 9:00 pm
Saturday, January 29 <sup>th</sup> :	9:00 am - 4:00 pm	Thursday, February 3 <sup>rd</sup> :	11:30 am - 5:00 pm
	3:30 pm - 9:00 pm		4:30 pm - 9:00 pm
Sunday, January 30 <sup>th</sup> :	9:30 am - 3:00 pm	Friday, February 4 <sup>th</sup> :	11:30 am - 5:00 pm
	2:30 pm - 6:00 pm		4:30 pm - 9:00 pm
Monday, January 31 <sup>st</sup> :	11:30 am - 5:00 pm	Saturday, February 5 <sup>th</sup> :	9:00 am - 4:00 pm
	4:30 pm - 9:00 pm		3:30 pm - 9:00 pm
Tuesday, February 1 <sup>st</sup> :	11:30 am - 5:00 pm	Sunday, February 6 <sup>th</sup> :	9:30 am - 3:00 pm
	4:30 pm - 9:00 pm		2:30 pm - 6:00 pm
		Break down & move out	6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

### Volunteer/Exhibitor Party!

For the volunteers who generously give their time, energy and enthusiasm to help "spread the news" of our wonderful antique and classic boats to the boating public, we will once again have a fine party at the Boat Show, Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm. Sign up here if you will attend as we must have a head count to plan appropriately.

I/we will attend: \_\_\_\_\_



# Welcome Aboard to our New Members!!!



# Trading Dock

**NOTE: Unless I hear from you, your add will be run for 2**



- ★ Tom and Bari Costello of Antioch, CA joins with a 1957, 18' Holiday Chris Craft named Olivia
- ★ Marylinn Coldiron of Menlo Park, CA
- ★ Jack and Barbara Forde of Carson City, NV
- ★ Marc and Mona Matthias of Grass Valley, CA joins with a 1960, 19' Runabout Chris Craft named Sweet Sixty
- ★ Eric and Wendy Nelson of Davis, CA joins with a 1961, 34' Sea Breeze Trojan named Sea Nicole
- ★ George and Ann Schofield of San Diego, CA joins with a 1912, 26' Launch Minett named Wascana
- ★ Thomas and Carol Terry of Novato, CA
- ★ Peter and Judith Van Inwegen of Penngrove, CA joins with a 1947, 17' R-17 Chris Craft
- ★ Tom and Van Steyn of Lockeford, CA

Membership Chairs:  
Norm and Kathy Kitching



- 1929 30' Sea Lyon, 200HP Sterling Petrol, 1<sup>st</sup> place winner at Lake Tahoe
- 1934 21' Chris Craft Triple, original motor. 1<sup>st</sup> place winner Lake Tahoe.
- 1985 20' Streblov, 440 motor, new condition
- 1949 36' Hackercraft Triple, TwinV8's, restored.
- 1937 24' Hackercraft, Scripps 152, New Trailer, 1<sup>st</sup> Place Lake Tahoe Winner.
- 1926 26' Hacker Designed Triple cockpit, 460 Ford, Has original 150 Kermath engine.
- 1936 19' Chris Craft Custom, unrestored, all h/w there.
- 1952 26' Hacker Craft Triple, 454 motor, original V12 Scripps available.
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- 2 V12 Scripps Engines available
- For more information contact Dave Lobb @ 425-454-9600 or [djlobb@comcast.net](mailto:djlobb@comcast.net)

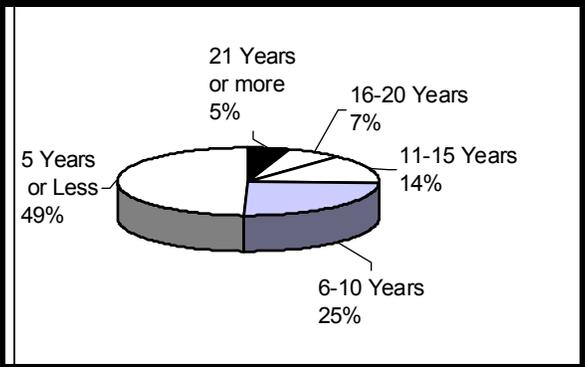
For Sale : 1947 Gray Marine straight 6 104 H.P. "Phantom." 6 volt. Fireball red. Runs great. Dual up-draft carbs. complete. \$19,000.  
See at Sierra Boat Co. or call Dave (831) 659-3036 Home or (831) 596-4239 Work.

14' 8" wood plank boat. Older restoration. Lowe trailer with newer tires. \$595.00  
e-mail for photos and info: [rodgerbr@ucs.orst.edu](mailto:rodgerbr@ucs.orst.edu) or call

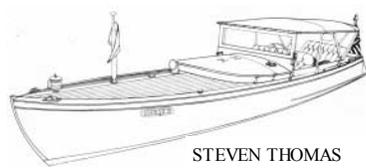
1999 Ken Bassett Rascal. 15 feet, 75 HP High Performance Evinrude, 55 + M.P.H. Show quality, very low hours. A beautiful wooden boat, must see to appreciate. Includes trailer. \$13,900 OBO.  
Reeve Holmstrom (916) 425-9884

# Fun Facts

We currently have 568 members in our chapter, of those, 49% have been members less than 5 years. Since our chapter started in 1983, 5% of our members were members of national before we ever existed.



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# Another Value of ACBS Membership

by Bob and Ellen Swensen

Beyond all the great events, parties, and friendships that come from ACBS membership, the ACBS Directory has become a valuable asset to us and integral to our last winter's boat search.

We started our search knowing that we wanted a 20 ft. Chris Craft utility with minimum beam and adequate horsepower for Lake Tahoe. After reading Jerry Conrad's *Chris-Craft: the Essential Guide*, we decided to focus on acquiring a 1950's Sportsman, of which less than 500 were made. We then went to the ACBS Directory and found that there were only about 50 listed. Assuming that about half of wood boat owners join ACBS, we calculated that there were probably only about 100 1950's 20 foot Sportsmans available nationwide.

Next, we contacted the ACBS owners of Sportsmans that met our criteria, hoping one would be for sale. We also got opinions about power, usability, and any problem areas we should look out for. All members were genuinely helpful and gracious, and were truly excited to talk about their wooden boats in February!

Armed with the learning from these ACBS members, we also looked on internet sites, issues of Rudder, Western Wood, Classic Boating, etc. Over a 6 week period, we located four boats-- in Wisconsin, Michigan, Oklahoma, and New Jersey.

Now, we really needed help. It was too far to travel to see each of these boats, we were dealing with unknown brokers and private parties, and we needed to locate several independent Marine Surveyors.

ACBS to the rescue! We first called friends in our Northern California chapter to show pictures and start a list of reliable people in the four states. (Thanks to Herb Hall,



Kirk & Julie Pumphrey, Paul Mehus, and Phil Ballantyne for their input.) We gathered additional references by calling ACBS members with multiple Chris-Crafts living near the sellers' locations. From

them, we received excellent references on Marine Surveyors or qualified restorers who could look at the boats for us. Again, all members were gracious and helpful.

As a result, we narrowed the field to two boats, had surveys done, and found our ideal boat in Oklahoma. (Thanks to Don Ayers, Paul Hastings, and our surveyor, Larry Hinton). One humorous aspect was when the Surveyor emailed us a shot of his car key stuck straight to the hilt through one of the rotten bottom boards! We laughed out loud until we realized that this was the boat we were considering! This allowed for a significant discount and we have since had the bottom restored.



Throughout our search, the ACBS Directory was a critical resource for honest information and good conversation. We encourage other members to utilize this important resource for any of their boating questions or needs.



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# Tahoe Keys Boat Show

by Gregg Joseph



Well, I've experienced my first year as event chair for the Tahoe Keys Boat Show. Sandy Chase asked me to write this article from that perspective rather than following the formula of who was there, what we ate, whose boat was beautiful, etc. Heck, all the boats we bring to these functions are beautiful; with the exception of that turquoise fiberglass thing from the Thalidomide Boat Works that Dryer brought to the Delta Cruise one year.

Why did I take this on? First, I was honored that Paul Mehus asked me to. He made me feel as though, after a couple of years of wanting to pass the baton, I was the guy to whom he would feel comfortable passing it to. Now, if there are 10 of you reading this who were pitched the same way and responded "What, do you think I'm crazy?"....keep it to yourselves.



Secondly, it was because I have always enjoyed this show. The general camaraderie amongst the club members is great anywhere, but wow! What a place to enjoy it.

Lastly, it is because I love wooden boats, wooden boat ownership and the promotion of both. The informality of the Keys Show has provided me with some great conversations with members of the public who genuinely want to be told about wooden boats in general and particularly the one they are looking at the time. I encourage all who attend in the future to seek out someone whom you don't recognize and introduce yourself.

I committed to the chair position in July of '03, but I started taking the reigns at a meeting with Paul last winter. We discussed all the past efforts, the philosophy and direction of the Keys Show, all of which we were in total agreement. Paul also provided me with a detailed outline of the critical tasks, a timeline and important contacts. This was very helpful for a first time event chair.

There were some extraordinary challenges, however, that had to be overcome. The first was the advertising and

media program. Over the past few years, Lin Stahmer had developed an advertising and media plan that was beginning to become effective in bringing in more paying public. Lin and Skip, however, bought a beautiful home in Kona, Hawaii and were spending the winter over there. This required Lin to, understandably, withdraw from that task. Micki, my wife, and I were already planning to visit Kona in March, so while we were there, I stopped by the

Stahmer estate, got the tour (absolutely marvelous) and picked up Lin's files for the media program. All I needed then was someone to pick up the ball and run with it (even though we were way behind the curve with regard to timing). Enter our savior, Tia Gemmell. I passed the files to her at the Spring Fling and off she went.

We had many conversations wherein she had questions to which I answered "I don't know" or "I haven't the slightest idea", or "Your guess is as good as mine". Yet, undeterred, Tia trudged on and did a great job, circumstances aside. Thank you, Tia!

The next challenge was the brunch. Jenny Ludwig had agreed to take over from Iren Jenny and, in what I believe was the first conversation we had about it, she informed me that our mainstay, the West Shore Café, was out of business until further notice and had canceled all events. I was thinking ..boy, are we getting off to a great start! Jenny reminded me that there were people who had planned weddings a year in advance who were left in more of a lurch than we were. Jenny worked tirelessly and lined up a great venue at Meeks Bay. In the absence of the West Shore, which is ideal, I think Meeks is the best alternative. The management there is eager to have us, and Jenny has already started a good relationship with them. I envision being able to set up a temporary anchorage and have a large boat-in attendance in the future, a scene reminiscent of the 50's.

Paul gave me some leads to follow that may help with the show. One of them was Lew Long of the South Lake

Tahoe Yacht Club. As I am not a property owner at Tahoe, it was not feasible for me to commute back and forth from Aptos to handle the many details that needed a local presence. Lew was an eager resource and helped with lots of issues at the south end. The Yacht Club is trying to make itself more visible and asked to have a booth at the show. I had no problem with it nor did Ray Carreau (Mr. Keys Marina). Ray, by the way, is a great proponent of the show, which doesn't make him any money. He is hard to get to know, but a good guy, and easy to work with. One very pleasant surprise was the hospitality room that the yacht club set up for us. I will be sure to cultivate the relationship between our clubs.



**Chuck Kelley and Barbara Walker in Baby Boat**

The show itself went off without a hitch, made possible by those that volunteered and worked hard. My son, Kristofer, did the computer graphics that allowed me to put our new burgee on the boat plaques and name tags. He and his fiancé, Brooklyn Matheson, also worked at the desk along with Cheryl Caplan, Linda Bingham, Maryls Greenhalgh and Jackie Mehus. If I left anyone out, I'm sorry, it was not intentional.



**Jackie Mehus**

One would think that Jackie would take a long deserved break from working at the show, but worked all day at the desk. She and Cheryl were good mentors for those who

were new to the whole thing. Jackie gave me a call the night before I left for Tahoe just to touch base. She quickly ran through the punch list; Do you have the participant plaques?....Check. The T-shirts....Check. The awards, coffee & muffins, name tags?....Check, check, check. Do you have the ballots?.....Aw \_\_\_\_!! Don't worry, she tells me, I'll bring them.

Launching went very well, thanks Rich Fisher, Jim Fentress and STYC. Docking was smooth thanks Tom Garside (my life long friend who drove up from Santa Cruz to help out and isn't even a member), Jon Fletcher, Steve Caplan and Tom Bates with Chuck Kelly in the pilot boat. The same docking crew stayed after the whole thing was over and helped put all the boats (many that were large) back in the slips we had occupied. Ray and the marina crew really needed this help and expressed their appreciation. All of these logistical tasks were made easier by the use of the four new handheld radios the club bought through Herb Hall.

I think I've rambled on long enough, but I want to say that it was so nice working with all the vendors involved who were very accommodating and very pro Nor/Cal ACBS because of the relationships developed by Paul Mehus, Roy Dryer, Marty Felletto and others in past years.

This show has the potential to become the anchor event in South Tahoe, much as the Concours has in the north. The challenges are to increase the paying attendance, add more boats, and designate a worthy cause as a recipient of the gate (the Tahoe Maritime Museum comes to mind). I feel that a relationship with the Casinos and perhaps even a partnership with the South Tahoe Yacht Club might be keys to realizing the potential.

Thank You All for giving me a good first year.

Greg Joseph



**Deni Mateer, Dotti Bachelor, Gail Adair**

All Photographs used in this article are by Tia Gemmell.

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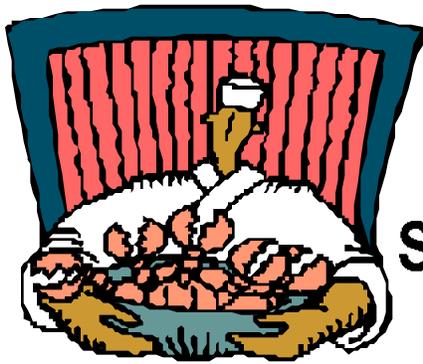
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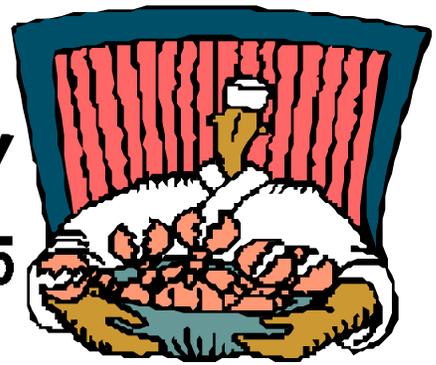


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## In Memoriam

John Mitchell, our friend Buckwheat, past President, passed away October 9<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 AM at the Tahoe Forest Hospital. ACBS has lost a great ambassador. I have known John too long to tell the real world what we went through. We lived through the first few years of ACBS, the ground floor of the Tahoe Maritime Museum, a few dogs and boats. We had a lot of fun. We will all miss John, the jokes, the shirts, his great sense of humor, love for his pets and friends.

A "Wake" will be held on December 4, 2004, 4:00-7:00 PM at the Tahoe Yacht Club, Tahoe City. RSVP 530-525-3313.

We will miss John, my friend,  
Glory Beall, fellow member of FFYC



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## Fun Facts

The members of our local chapter own a combined total of 965 boats!!!

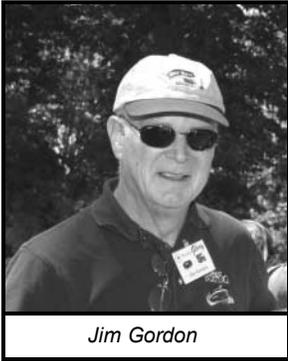
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Jim Gordon

## “ACBS Chapter Members - Always a presence at the Lake Tahoe Yacht Club Foundations’ Concours d’Elegance”

Wooden Boat Week 2004  
captured forever in pictures by Jim Gordon

During this transition 2004 year of evolving volunteer assignments, the Northern California/Lake Tahoe Chapter has repeatedly demonstrated an amazing degree of versatility and skill in re-assigning many new positions in support of this years’ Concours d’Elegance and Wooden Boat Week. For example, Rich Fisher successfully undertook the key assignment of preparing and managing the “ACBS Room” at the Show together with many new faces, but plenty of returning veterans. Barbara Walker graciously accepted the Chairmanship of the well-attended ACBS/RIVA event at Thunderbird Lodge for 150 guests. Bob Bush together with Jack Bingham seamlessly put on a magnificent Camp Richardson’s event at Valhalla Lodge for over 120 happy members. In addition, literally hundreds of our members participated in various capacities – as Wooden Boat week Chairman, Foundation President Chief judge, judges, escorts, dock workers, ticket takers, artist, photographers, Boat Week “Mahogany Magic” producer, as well as exhibitors of their prized wooden boats. Many of our member ACBS boats were awarded high honors. The weather was sparkling! It was a terrific time for all.



**Tim and Laura Robinson** with their restorer son **Brian** took top honors with their Best of Show 26’ triple cockpit Hacker, “Eleventh Hour”. The **Robinsons** are moving north from Fallbrook to Nevada City this year so expect to be seeing more of their expert handiwork soon.



**Bill and Olga Keever**: winners with Hae Dae III, a 1941 25’ Triple Cockpit Runabout, Awarded Best Gar Wood of Show.

Al Schinnerer, Awarded this year’s Dick Clark Perpetual representing that person who best perpetuates Concours Standards and concepts.





Mary and Eric Drew Receive a well-deserved First Place for "Charlie's Gar", her fathers 17'6"1941 Deluxe Runabout from Judge Lee Chase.



Utilities Class 5 Lead Judge Kirk Pumphrey with judge Norm Kitching et al



Chapter Secretary Barbara Walker and sister Patty celebrate with owner Amy Noel Witty her First Place Award aboard "Totally Tahoe"



Bruce Adair, Tahoe Maritime Museum Docent with Museum Display



Tom O'Rourke, Executive Chef, Camp Richardson



Doug Elmore aboard..Best of Show over 23 feet



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Letters from the Editor



Dear Fellow ACBS Members,

I would like to thank all of you that have sent me letters, e-mails and have personally given me your comments on the Newsletter. Your words of encouragement are greatly appreciated. I received the greatest response concerning adding names to the pictures. I am trying really hard and most of the people that are sending me pictures have been wonderful about identifying people. Now, for those of you that have not shown up in the newsletter yet, and would like to, make sure that you wear your name tags at events, and print clearly. I don't know everyone's names and if I receive a good picture of you, I can zoom in on your name tag. Then I can introduce you, through the newsletter, to everyone else.

Although the newsletter is printed in black and white, most of the pictures are in color in the issue available on the website. This will be the second issue that will be available to view or print from the website. Please take a look, we had some really great pictures this time. It was hard to choose, which is one of the reasons that the newsletter is 4 pages longer this time. The forms for the Restoration Clinic and to Volunteer for the Northern California Boat show are also available on the website. ([www.acbs-tahoe.org](http://www.acbs-tahoe.org))

Please send pictures and if you have an idea for a story, contact me. I have added "FUN FACTS" to different spots in the newsletter. I hope you enjoy them and I will try to keep them up. If you have any to contribute, just let me know!



WESTERN WOOD is the Quarterly newsletter of the Northern California/Lake Tahoe Chapter, of The Antique and Classic Boat Society, Inc. and is published for the benefit of Chapter members. Publication dates are...

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](http://www.acbs-tahoe.org)

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

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