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Rudder

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF
THE ANTIQUE & CLASSIC BOAT SOCIETY

FALL 2023





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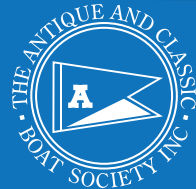


Photo courtesy of
Charles and Cindy Still



2023 ACBS VINTAGE BOAT WEEK THE PRE-EVENTS

LET THE FUN BEGIN!



U

nder a canopy of clouds and the threat of rain, our intrepid boaters launched one by one for the inaugural 2023 Vintage Boat Week cruise on Lake Charlevoix. Passing sheltered coves, stately homes, and even the odd boater or two, as they banked towards Lake Michigan, the skies opened up. "Let's have some fun!" smiled Bluegrass Chapter member, Anne Leazenzby, cinching her hood at the helm of *Eau! Canada*, a 1949 Greavette Runabout and surprise gift from her husband Bryan. "Oh this is definitely Anne's boat," says Bryan, "I just clean it."

The rain was no bother, however. For a wet day on the water is worth two on dry land, and so, those willing to brave the swells of Lake Michigan, passed under the drawbridge, through the channel, and past the South Pier lighthouse at Lake Michigan beach before cruising into the mighty Great Lake, which was really rolling!

"We'll toast when we get back to land!" yelled Anne over to Blue Ridge Chapter's Stephanie Ryan in the perennial fan favorite, *Sunburn*, a 1960 Dorsette Catalina and Toronto Chapter's Julie Bullen at the helm of *Riot*, a sleek contemporary Clarion Gold Cup (see the Fall 2022 ACBS Rudder for more on *Riot*). The seas were a little

rough to break out the local Wise Men Distillery whiskey, part of a beautifully crafted welcome gift designed by Bob Shapton, co-chair of the of the 2023 ACBS Vintage Boat Week. So, after a few circles and a satisfactory sense that this week in Northern Michigan would be one for the record books, the crews motored back to the Charlevoix town docks for a fabulous catered lunch.

And so it went, these first two celebratory, yet rainy days, touring the Charlevoix Historical Society, more cruises along the Indian River, across a very choppy Burt Lake, into the narrows of the Crooked River and under the world's shortest swinging bridge. Led by a host of dedicated Water Wonderland volunteers and aided by Michigan Chapter volunteers, folks like Scott and Hazel Rissi in their 1957 Chris-Craft, *Queen Mary*, Jon and Amanda VanderWeele in their 1959 Century Resorter, and a whole host of dock hands helped to launch and guide 33 boats and a slew of riders who learned first-hand why Michigan is known as a Water Wonderland.

And then, on Wednesday, the clouds broke and the morning sun glistened across the still waters of Walloon Lake. Nearly 20 boaters cast off on a journey of a lifetime, motoring through the ►



John and Zita Winn's fabulous collection.

Though the skies were ominous, our boaters gathered at the docks, ready for adventure! Photo: Holly Weber.



Our revelers had an opportunity to experience a diversity of collections the likes of which are rarely seen.

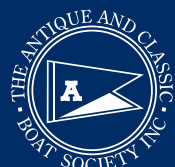
corkscrew shadows of Ernest Hemingway's beloved *Pilar*. What a day as our boaters passed quaint lakeside cottages tucked between towering hydrangeas that soaked in the summer's waning sun. New ACBS members, Bob and Cindy Grimm in their 1972 Lyman Islander, *Miss Cindy Lynn*, carried Blackhawk Chapter members Dave and Nina Anderson to the end of the North arm, before heading back to lunch at the Barrel Back Restaurant. "It was really fun," says Cindy. "We weren't in a hurry so we slowed down to enjoy the scenery. Next thing we knew the two cruisers that had been our leads circled back to check on us and followed us for a while. It was neat having a Lyman leading these cruisers!"

The pre-events weren't all boating however. Our ACBS'ers were treated to three incredible receptions thanks to gracious hosts. The Water Wonderland Chapter pulled out all the stops and rolled out the red carpet into the spectacular boathous-

es of fellow members John and Zita Winn, Richard and Lynette Merillat, and the boat shop of Bob and Patti Murdock's Howe Marine. Our revelers had an opportunity to experience a diversity of collections the likes of which are rarely seen. From a Barnes twin engine runabout, to a Carlson fiberglass, Falls Flyer, Trumpy motor yacht, Gar Wood Baby Gar, and multiple Four Winns and Van Dam Custom Boats creations, there was something for everyone. There were vintage motors, oars, historic photos, and a clear passion for the hobby that resonated with each and every ACBS member as well as the millions on Instagram who liked our pre-events! If you haven't already, share your photos and videos of this great week on Instagram and tag #ACBSBoats! 📸

Clockwise over spread. The Murdocks welcome the ACBS pre-event crew to Howe Marine. Photo: Holly Weber. Part of the Merrillat collection. Anne and Bryan Leazenby in *Eau! Canada*. Photo: Jane Larson. Part of John and Zita Winn's fabulous collection of oars. Richard and Lynette Merillat hosted a beautiful reception. A little rain and a lot of fun during the pre-events! Photo: Jane Larson. Scott and Hazel Rissi pass under the world's shortest swing bridge aboard *Queen Mary*. Julie and Chris Bullen in *Riot* Photo: Jane Larson. Stephanie Ryan and Raven Markgraf in *Sunburn*. Jon and Amanda VanderWeele helped to guide the pre-events. Photo: Jane Larson.





2023 ACBS VINTAGE BOAT WEEK

AND THEY'RE OFF!



Photo: Brian Hughes



Opposite. The incredible *Miss America VIII*.

Above. The 2023 Vintage Boat Week welcome keepsake designed by Bob Shapton. It just might have been the event of the Century! Photo: Holly Weber. Bo Muller checks Vixen's fuel level. Photo: Holly Weber. Bay Harbor town docks. Photo: Rob Cassell.

Behold the beauty of northern Michigan and Bay Harbor! From a balcony overlooking the setting sun, the 2023 ACBS Vintage Boat Week officially kicked off with a cocktail reception at the Bay Harbor Yacht Club. The night was magical, setting the tone for all that would come next.

From land displays to docked woodies to RestoMods to the most amazing models, this show featured an incredible array of boats. There was *Miss America VIII*, a 1929 Gar Wood, winner of the 2023 platinum restored inboard class brought to the show by Michigan Chapter members Douglas and Barbara Morin who turned heads each time she roared her engines! Van Dam Custom Boats brought a number of amazing builds including *Catnip* owned by Sunnysland Chapter members Kermit and Jenny Sutton, awing spectators as she was unloaded from her trailer, *Adieu, Italmas*, *Dreamboat*, *Chiara* and *Lightening Strikes*, all platinum contemporary winners.

Thanks to Dave Willis, Dennis Hansen and their team of volunteers from three chapters, over 350

visitors were treated to boat rides during the two day event, including a ride in an Amphicar! Wow! What a fantastic opportunity to introduce new people to the hobby. Hundreds of visitors lined the docks, talking with boat owners and restorers about history, restorations, and envisioning what life was like in the golden age of racing.

Our scholarship fundraiser, held at Van Dam Custom Boats, enabled a firsthand look at how their boats are created with a behind the scenes tour of the design and build process. From wood planking to metal fabrication, to varnish and finish details, the team at Van Dam welcomed ACBS into their home away from home and shared their passion for precision craftsmanship. Best of all, with live and silent auctions, the scholarship dinner raised over \$10,000 to support our boat building schools and their students.

It was a fantastic weekend, with old memories rekindled and new memories made. For many, a particularly poignant demonstration of this was aboard the antique runabout platinum ►



winner, *Ruby*, a 1941 Chris-Craft owned by Water Wonderland Chapter members Hank Dow and Kelly Winter and restored by Michael Green of Maritime Classics in Traverse City. When a woman approached the boat at the dock, little did they know they would meet the granddaughter of *Ruby's* first owner. There were tears of joy as she was transported back, feeling the wind against her cheeks as her grandfather cut across the lakes and rivers of her childhood and left an indelible feeling of love that she has carried with her all of these years.

And, then, almost as quickly as it began, it was time for the awards breakfast and final banquet. With so many worthy entries, our judges had an incredibly challenging task in determining which boats would win the coveted ACBS awards. The President's Cup, and awards from the Higgins Boat Club and Chris-Craft Antique Boat Club were also presented. Don Leutz, for the first time presided over the banquet as the new ACBS ►



Spread clockwise. Bay Harbor docks. Photo: Brian Hughes. Little Bay Boards, an ACBS sponsor. Photo: Rob Cassell. Jack & William Rogers aboard their family's Gold Winning Historic Launch *Amohicana II*. Steve Tuzinowski & Dave De Horn on Silver winner *Maladee*. Photo: Brian Hughes. Platinum winner *The Andrew J*. Photo: Holly Weber. Neal Satterly captures Annika & Dave De Horn on *Maladee*. Photo: Brian Hughes. Platinum winner *Skol* gets a quick cleaning. Photo: Holly Weber. Outgoing ACBS president, Rob Lyons, and his wife Allison Photo: Rob Cassell. The Amphicar was a hit! Photo: Rob Cassell. The scholarship dinner held at Van Dam Custom Boats. Tour of Van Dam Custom Boats. Aboard *My Darling*. Photos: Van Dam Custom Boats. John Weber helps with John and Linda Hanks' Hacker-craft, *Untouchable*, as Jake and Mary Amsbaugh watch on the dock. Photo: Holly Weber. Bay Harbor docks. Photo Rob Cassell.

There were tears of joy as she was transported back, feeling the wind against her cheeks as her grandfather cut across the lakes and rivers of her childhood.

president and we said good-bye to outgoing president, Rob Lyons and board members Tim Bush and Maggi Cassell, all of whom have tirelessly served the organization and now step down to allow new members to take the lead. The evening was a celebration of what is most special about this community—the friendships and the shared collaboration of preserving something truly special.

That's the great thing about these old boats. Whenever old and new friends get together they cast a wider net, bringing in future generations who will share their same joys and create new and histories with family and friends. 🚤

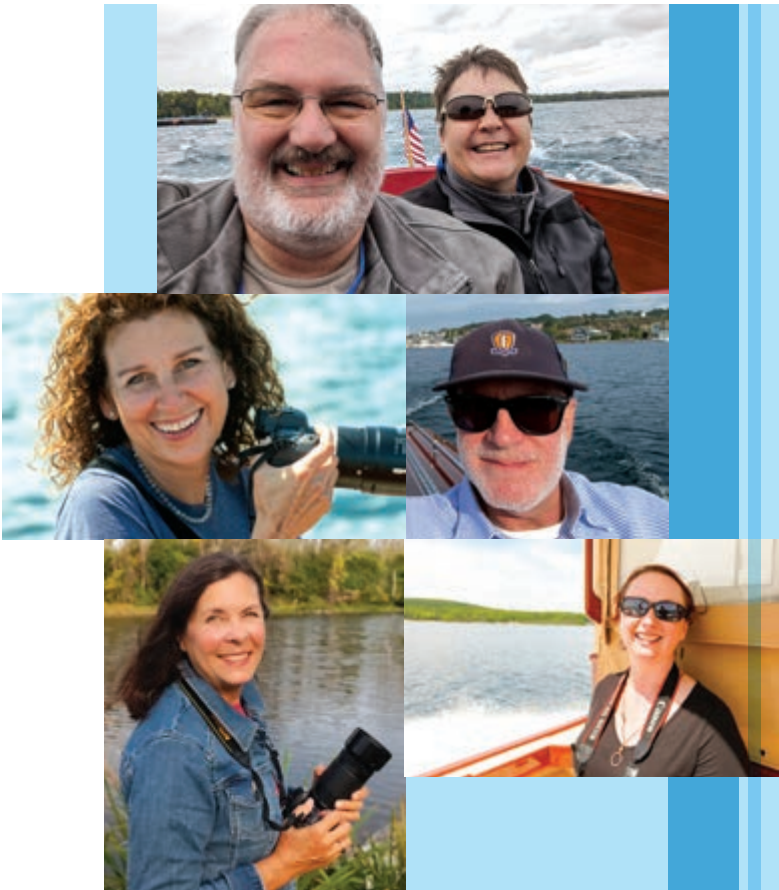


All hands to moor *Garfield*, Gold winner, Antique Runabout Restored. Photo: Brian Hughes. *Little Bitty*, Gold winner, Antique Runabout & Restored, cruises the harbor. Photo: Maggi Cassell.

The Photographers!

Special thanks to ACBS members, photographers and friends who so generously provided their photos for this special 2023 Vintage Boat Week issue! We appreciate everyone's contributions and would like to recognize six in particular whose photos are predominantly featured: Rob and Maggi Cassell, Holly Weber, Brian Hughes, Jane Larson, and Jessica Mulvaney from Van Dan Custom Boats.

Thank you!



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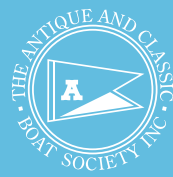


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2023 ACBS INTERNATIONAL AWARD WINNERS



Karen Ann, Photo: William Ballard. Duchess of Chula Vista, Photo: William Dreyer, II. Bunky. Photo: Maggi Cassell. Gar Wood Jr. Photo: Renee Davey.

Best in Show, RestoMod: *Karen Ann*
1954 19-foot Century Resorter
Bill and Karen Ballard
Water Wonderland Chapter

Best in Show, Preserved: *Duchess of Chula Vista*
1937 18-foot Duke Boat Works Playmate
Tom and Elizabeth Irwin
Water Wonderland Chapter

Best in Show, Non-Wood: *Gar Wood Jr.*
1949 17-foot Garform 49er
Jeff and Renee Davey
Glacier Lakes Chapter

Best in Show, Restored: *Bunky*
1929 33-foot Belle Isle Special
John Allen, Bob Speltz
Land-O-Lakes Chapter



AND THE CLASS AWARDS ARE...

From a Feather Craft, to Hacker Crafts, Chris-Crafts and Belle Isles, this year's 2023 Vintage Boat Week featured an incredible collection of antique and contemporary boats. Here is a just a sampling of our Platinum, Gold and Silver Class Award winners. For a complete list of winners, visit [ACBS.org](https://www.acbs.org).

Amohicana II

2023 ACBS Gold Winner, Historic Launch
1917 25-foot Stearns & McKay Cabin Launch
Jeff Rogers, Water Wonderland Chapter

First launched in 1917 at the Stearns & McKay yard in Marblehead, Massachusetts, *Amohicana* has provided on-the-water enjoyment every season since those days of World War I. Brought from the Atlantic to the Great Lakes in the late 1920s, she was lovingly restored to her original luster by the Seaver family in the 1980s – and the Rogers family now has the honor of carrying on this 106 year nautical tradition.

Good Shepherd

Platinum winner, Classic Runabout, Preserved
1956 Shepherd Runabout
James Barrick, Wine Country Chapter

Shepherd Boatworks was established in the 1920s and came into prominence in the late 40s and mid 50s. Today these boats remain highly collectible. *Good Shepherd's* beautiful finish was brought back to life by Breen Boats of Rockwood, Ontario. (Photo: Holly Weber).

Baby Grand

Gold winner, Classic Cruiser, Restored
1954 Chris-Craft Semi-Enclosed Cruiser
Richard De Boer, Water Wonderland Chapter

Baby Grand originally served as a mail boat for Lake St. Clair and the St. Clair River. She is all original wood and represents a classic Chris-Craft design of that era. We affectionately refer to her as a "bubbler" as we frequently take her out for long slow cruises on West Grand Traverse Bay. (Photo: Maggi Cassell).

Buster

Silver winner, Classic Outboard w/ Steering, Preserved
1959 Cruisers Inc. Commander 300
Jane Larson, Glacier Lakes Chapter

This mahogany and white oak lapstrake, *Buster*, was completely made in Wisconsin. The wood, the motor, (a rare Mark 75AE outboard manufactured by the Kiekhafer Corporation), throttle (a "pistol grip" shaped handle and thumb button that strongly resembles a WWII fighter plane control stick and machine gun actuator) and steering wheel were all made in Cedarburg and still today are all original. (Photo: Jane Larson). ►



Untouchable
Platinum winner, Antique Runabout, Restored
 1932 Hacker Craft Triple Cockpit Runabout
 John Hanks, Water Wonderland Chapter

Only three of these 1932 Hacker Craft 20-foot triple cockpit runabouts are known to exist. This is the oldest of the three. It is powered by a 135 hp Chrysler Crown M47S. *Untouchable's* ownership has been traced back to 1954. (Photo: Rob Cassell).

Johnnie Walker Red
Gold winner, Antique Cruiser, Restored
 1940 Chris-Craft Red & White
 Mark Walker, Michigan Chapter

We found this boat in Hessel, Michigan. The boat has spent its entire life on Lake St. Clair and was restored by Alan Mackie Boat Works. Mother and Dad had the same boat on Lake St. Clair before the kids arrived and my dad's name was Johnnie Walker. He loved red label whiskey, thus the name: *Johnnie Walker Red*. (Photo: Van Dam Custom Boats).

Miss Cindy Lynn
Gold, Classic Utility, Restored
 1954 Lyman Islander
 Bob and Cindy Grimm, ACBS members

Purchased in 2018 as a restoration gift for Bob's 66th birthday, this boat had not been in the water since 1984. The bow stem, knee and keel were completely rotted. Windows, decks, selected planks, and three ribs were replaced. Eighty-one parts were stripped, sanded and varnished with 12 coats. The engine, a four cylinder flat head Gray Marine, is original. Restoration was completed in 2020. (Photo: Holly Weber).

Three Amigos
Platinum winner, Classic Utility, Restored
 1948 Correct Craft Deluxe Utility
 Mark Asbury, Glacier Lakes Chapter

Three Amigos has its original 112 horsepower Gray-marine Phantom 6 engine. She was restored in 1996 by Mark Brundick and retained most of the original wood and hardware. The engine was overhauled by George Shinn. (Photo: Jane Larson).

Tradition
Gold winner, Antique Utility, Restored
 1939 Chris-Craft Utility
 Paul Tabor, Water Wonderland Chapter

Tradition was consigned by and built for The Chris-Craft Boat Company in Algonac in July 1938. Her hull number (12462) is recognized as the first 1939 24-foot Deluxe Utility boat produced. She is also the first of six 24-foot Deluxe Utilities produced for the children of Christopher Columbus Smith. The late Chris Smith (grandson of CCS) recalled these boats being given to the family members when he was about 11 years old. According to Chris Smith's daughter, Chris Anne Braaf, it was common practice for family members to receive first run boats from the Company for feedback purposes. The design was also used shortly thereafter for the prestigious Sportsman models.

This utility work boat remained in the Algonac - St. Clair area all of her useful life until she was literally put out to pasture on a farm in St. Clair. Salvaged in 2009, she was restored by Russ Arrand of the Cadillac Boat Company. True to form, Russ researched and restored this beautiful 24-footer over a three-year period. Special attention was given to ribbon-matching the mahogany gunwales that highlight the unique shear lines created by Chris-Craft's use of an extra plank of freeboard at the bow area. Upon her completion in 2011, Rob renamed the Deluxe Utility *Tradition*.

Purchased by Paul and Jan Tabor in 2019, *Tradition* now resides in the crystal clear waters of the Les Cheneaux Islands in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. (Photo: Van Dam Custom Boats).

Unnamed
Gold, Classic Runabout, Preserved
 1956 Feather Craft Vagabond II
 Bob and Alicia Boardman, Chesapeake Bay Chapter

Post WWII, faced with excess aluminum and numerous out of work fabricators, Walter Douglas Knight created Feather Craft boats. By 1956, the Vagabond II boasted a plethora of options including a walk thru center deck. It was made famous by "The Flying Boatmen" of Knoxville who performed closely coordinated stunts all over the U.S. in the 1950s and early 60s. The maneuvers performed were compared to airplane maneuvers of the "Blue Angels." They entertained thousands with their "thrill a minute tactics and famous Barrel Rolls!" (Photo: Jane Larson).

Esther Grace
Platinum winner, Antique Runabout, Restored
 1926 Chris-Craft Triple
 Joseph Whitsett, Indiana Chapter

Esther Grace is a very early example of a Chris-Craft 26-foot Triple Cockpit. She retains most of her original hardware including the rarely seen black frame windshield. *Esther Grace* has a correct, perhaps even original 100 hp flat head Kermath engine, meticulously restored by CD's Engine Restoration. Experts in the field of early Chris-Craft Triples were called upon for advice and guidance in the completion of this accurate restoration. (Photo: Rob Cassell). ►



Summer of '65

Platinum, Classic Utility, Preserved

1965 Larson All American

Amanda VanderWeele, Water Wonderland Chapter

In the Summer of '65, a charming fiberglass boat found its way into the hands of a Michigan family who, after only a very few voyages, decided that the boat didn't align with their aspirations. It was stored away in a barn, cocooned in time's embrace. Half a century later, in 2014, that family knew it was time to let the boat go so that it could be shared with a new generation of adventurers. This perfectly preserved fiberglass boat found her way back to the waters of Michigan and is embracing a new era with the VanderWeele family while still carrying the echoes of the past.

Renabelle

Gold winner, Antique Cruiser, Preserved

1942 Chris-Craft Enclosed Cruiser

Bob and Mary Shapton, Water Wonderland Chapter

Renabelle shows her government numbers as she was used to patrol the St. Clair waterways. The original numbers were found while refastening the hull and were carefully traced and measured for positioning and reapplication after hull was refinished. (Photo: Holly Weber).

Lilly

Platinum winner, Historic Canoe, Restored

1915 Courting Canoe

Ken Kelly, Water Wonderland Chapter

Made in the Lakes District of Boston by one of the Charles River canoe building companies, this long deck canoe with its tight quarters was one of many new canoe designs of the highly popular era of "social canoeing" in the 1890s-1920s. It is estimated that in the most popular five mile stretch of the Charles River there were over 5,000 canoes housed and used on a regular basis.

Italmas

Platinum winner, Contemporary

2019 Van Dam Sail Sloop

Van Dam Custom Boats

Italmas is a world-class cruising design tuned and tailored for her owner to enjoy while sailing the Great Lakes. She combines distinction with grace in a traditional take on a Stephens Waring Yacht design that squarely pays homage to the 40s and 50s. This world-class workmanship by Van Dam Custom Boats exudes "classic" with a hull seemingly born from restrained overhangs and subtle tumblehome, an elliptical transom, and a traditional bulwark detail.

The most notable feature in the sail plan is the custom designed wooden spar equipped with a modern carbon fiber roller furling boom. The simple suite of sails minimizes work in sail handling, yet is plenty ample for the easily driven performance underbody. (Photo: Billy Black).

Vic II

Gold winner, Antique Runabout, Restored

1935 Greavette Dictator

Carlo Ferreira, ACBS Member

Tom Greavette learned his trade from Herb Ditchburn, a master craftsman regarded by many as the Father of boatbuilding in Muskoka. Eventually, Greavette grew restless and wanted to branch out on his own. In 1930 he began his own company, Greavette, one of the first in Canada to try building boats using assembly line construction.

In 1935, using plans from noted Naval Architect, John Hacker, Greavette built a new model known as the Dictator. Only nine of these were ever built and only four are known to exist today. The Dictator features art deco styling and hardware unique to this model. It has a very complex folding windshield, a fin style bow fairlead, and many other pieces of chrome hardware. Also unique to this model was the folding rumble seat. The boat was originally delivered with a Gray Phantom engine and would be only one of two configured in such a way. The sale price in 1935 was \$3,000.

Years later, the boat was found in a field and brought through an extensive restoration to its original glory. Greavette's craftsmanship represents a significant contribution to the development of wooden boat building not only in Muskoka, but indeed all of Canada. (Photo: Holly Weber).

Unnamed

Silver winner, Classic Runabout, Preserved

1957 Yellow Jacket

Dennis Spillane, Water Wonderland Chapter

Yellow Jacket boats were made in the late 1940s-50s in Denton, Texas. They are a molded plywood construction and most often had outboard engines. This particular boat is unique in that not only does it have an inboard motor, a Fageol, but it is mounted vertically. Fageol marinized motors from the Crosley car company, also from the late 1940s-1950s. Entertainer, Roy Rogers, raced Yellow Jackets and eventually became part owner of company. But, by the early 1960s they were out of business.

This is one of two Yellow Jackets owned by Dennis Spillane, both of which were found in Northern Michigan. He is drawn to their unique history and story. (Photo: Maggi Cassell).