



THE WET EDGE

NEWSLETTER OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAPTER ANTIQUE & CLASSIC BOAT SOCIETY



Antique and Classic Boat Society
Pacific NW Chapter
8704 State Route 530 NE
Arlington, WA 98223
www.acbs.org
www.acbs-pnw.org

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Classic Boats and Airplanes, What is the Connection?

Greetings;

For those paying attention, you already know that our next monthly meeting will be held at the Museum of Flight Restoration Center. You may ask, "Why would an Antique and Classic Boat club meet at an airplane restoration center?" The quick answer would be that our very own PNW Club officer Tom Cathcart is the director of the restoration center and he has invited us to view his workplace. Fair enough, but on a broader level, the history of the motor boat, specifically motor boat sports, is intertwined with the history of aviation. The connection is a natural. Just a casual look at the development of the mahogany speedboat and you will bump into engine names like Curtiss, Hispano-Suiza, Liberty, Hall-Scott, Packard, Rolls Royce and many others. For a more detailed explanation, just ask our residing historian Craig Magnusson about the



connection between motor boats and aviation. Be prepared for a long answer for they are hopelessly intermixed and Craig can recite much of the rich history from memory. Understanding history and the context in which our boats came forth is a major part of the enjoyment of our hobby. Aviation is a piece of that historical puzzle.

On a personal level, my interest in aviation is not only historical, but also personal through my uncle Jim Wright. Jim took me flying at a young age, first in his Taylorcraft Cub, and then later in his Beechcraft Bonanza. Jim was the type of person that I greatly admire - skilled, smart, kind, soft spoken and modest. Jim had a dream of recreating what he (and many others) considered to be one of the greatest airplane

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Guest Editor - Jim Giesy

design achievements ever, the 1935 Hughes H-1 Racer. Not only did Jim fulfill his dream, but after some 35,000 hours of labor he accomplished his goal in a spectacular fashion. So exact was Jim's replica to the original Hughes H-1, the FAA granted Jim's H-1 serial number 2 of the model. The build quality of the H-1 was phenomenal. The Hughes H-1 model 2 was heralded in many aviation publications and created a buzz among the aviation community. Sadly, in August of 2003, on a flight from Air Venture in Oshkosh Wisconsin to his home in Oregon, Jim encountered mechanical failures in the H-1 and fatally crashed. I think of Jim often. I think about the dangers of pushing the design envelope, the history, and my times together with him. I recall his interest in my projects and how Jim inspired in me a desire to emulate not only his skills, but also in his gentle ways of kindness and humility. Sad, but good, memories.

Before I forget, here are the details of our July gathering:

Museum of Flight Restoration Center
2909 100th St. SW, Everett, WA
Wednesday, July 10. Start time is 6:30 PM.
Food and drinks will be provided for \$15.00

See you in Everett, Rob



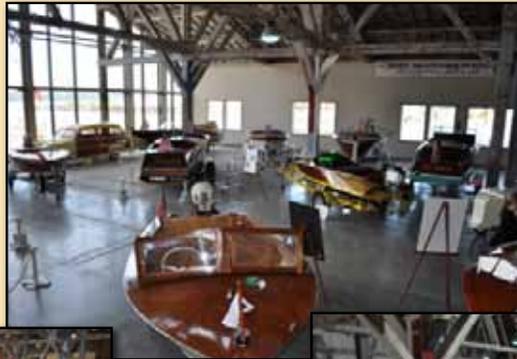
“Splashback in Time”

Recreational Boating Through the Decades!

at the Foss Waterway Seaport 705 Dock Street Tacoma, WA

Opened June 22nd and runs until October 1st .

The general public were absolutely blown away by what they saw, referring to it as the LeMay of classic boats. Boats will be rotated in so that owners can use their boats over the summer season. This will allow the display to be freshened up from time to time. If it wasn't for the cooperation of the PNW-ACBS chapter, this event would never have happened! Jim Giesy wishes to thank the people who are donating their boats and the volunteers who helped to make this event take place.



Overall inside shots opening day of the Foss Waterway “Splashback in Time” Recreational Boating Through the Decades!



Dock shot representing 1939 54' Elco, four 27'-44' Western Fairliners, various Monk design cruisers and Chris Craft cruisers

1950 17' Western Fairliner Torpedo owned by John Lisicich. Not many of these left!



1951 19' Higgins owned by Gill Stork



Just part of the great collection of vintage water skis by Wiley's Water Ski's of Seattle, WA



Part of the early 1900 to 1960's vintage outboard motors displayed by the Snider Brothers from Oregon.

My long time obsession with a Cobra...

In March of 1955 I was headed down to my local Chris Craft dealer to service my LadyClipper for the upcoming boating season. While I was there I saw sitting in the sling this wondrous machine that looked like a spacecraft from outer space. I watched them put the boat in the water and the new owner running around Commencement Bay. I fell in love again, but never saw another Cobra after that day.



1955 18' CC Cobra owned by Jim Giesy featured behind 1949 Ford woody wagon

In 2001, while my Capri was under restoration, Maria & I decided to attend the Tahoe show because the marquee class was Chris Craft. When we arrived at Sierra Boat and looked over the railing, all you could see was a sea of mahogany! When I looked closer I swear I saw a gold fin and immediately ran down to the docks. Sure enough my eyes didn't deceive me and there it was, a most beautiful 1955 Chris Craft Cobra, which was the second time in my life that I have seen such a wonderful machine. I introduced myself to the owner and told him my story of when I first fell in love with a Cobra and hoped to someday own one. He took out one of his business cards and told me when I was ready that he would help in my Cobra quest. I wrote on the back of the card 1955 Chris Craft Cobra hull number 10, the boat that this gentleman owned in front of me. He told me that his wife bought this boat sight unseen, from a person in Canada, for his birthday. She then had the boat shipped from the east coast to Portland, Oregon where they lived. That same year they entered the Cobra in the Tahoe Concours d' Elegance show, it was judged scoring 97 points out of 100 and received first place in its class.

When we got back home and I put the business card away for safe keeping. It was June 2005 that I went to Antique Boat America website to view the Chris Craft section and as I scrolled down the page I noticed a 1955 Cobra from Portland Oregon. I could not believe what I was seeing, it was the same boat from the 2001 Tahoe show! I immediately went to get the business card that I had kept and called the gentleman, who remembered me. He said that after the Tahoe show he stored the boat away, in his airplane hanger, never using it after 2001, because he was afraid to use such a marvelous boat. We agreed on a price over the phone and I bought it on the spot. I then found out that the 2005 Tahoe show was 'Fins of the Fifties', so we decided to attend the show as a Cobra owner and had a blast. The rest is history!



Classifieds: Buy - Sell - Trade

WANTED:

Looking for 3 Zenith 28/ 288 carburetors for a Gray Fireball 6/160 motor.

Contact Steve at franchinisd@gmail.com

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facebook

Ways to stay
connected online

Just wanted to remind everyone that Facebook is being used to facilitate more social interaction both within the club as well as with potential new members. This site provides means to publish events, share pictures, and invite new people to join us. Please take a moment to check out our Facebook [ACBS - Antique & Classic Boat Society (PNW)] site. While you are there sign up for our group and even better, become an assistant organizer and help keep our group up to date. Contact Frank Gonzales (gonzalesfa@hotmail.com) if you have any questions or can help.

Monthly Meeting Schedule

July 10, Meeting at the Museum of Flight Restoration Center, restoration process of vintage and historic airplanes for the Boeing Museum of Flight

August 14, Predetermined location on Lake Washington - informal dinner and an evening group cruise in our boats

September 11, Meeting at the Hydroplane and Raceboat Museum

October 9, Meeting at Center for Wooden Boats. Craig Magnusson on the subject of flathead marine motors.

November 9, Meeting will be cancelled and conducted at the Annual Dinner

December 11, We will once again have a holiday gathering at a location to be determined.

We want you at this
month's meeting!

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