



# The Wet Edge

NEWSLETTER OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAPTER  
ANTIQUE & CLASSIC BOAT SOCIETY

MAY 2015

## 2015 Sunnyland ACBS Boat Festival on Lake Dora

Well, it all started around the end of 2014 with a call from PNW chapter member and good friend Curt Erickson. Curt, who is always itching for a grand odyssey of sorts, suggested that a few of us get together and travel to Florida to take in the 2015 Sunnyland ACBS chapter's wonderful boat festival, held this year March 27-29, which historically leads off each new year's classic boating season. And not only that, but let's stay another week and spend a few days houseboating on the St. John River with its amazing scenery, jungle like tributaries, and of course its large population of wild birds and Alligators. Who could resist that temptation?

We quickly assembled the team. There would be Curt and Marsha Erickson, my wife Janet and I, Ron Stevenson and Liz Gregory, and lastly Sam Bass and his wife Trisha. Many of you have met Sam and Trisha at the SYC Opening Day event, as they often join Curt & Marsha, traveling all of the way from their home in Clarksville, Georgia. Sam was also the Pilot in Command of the Experimental Aircraft Association's Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress.



Les Rue taking our PNW-ACBS party through the Dora Canal in his 1932 21' Chris Craft triple cockpit-"Just Right"

Arriving in Florida after a long flight, we rented a mini-van and drove to Leesburg where we would be staying the weekend. On site at the show on Friday, we were amazed at the vast array of beautiful boats and the expansive vintage marine flea market. Plus, they even threw in a few old Ford "Woodie" wagons.



Ron Stevenson, desperate to make a score at the flea market, resorts to a tried and true Seattle method of picking up some extra cash.

Not long after arriving at the show, Curt had already arranged us a ride in his good friend Les Rue's 1932 Chris Craft triple cockpit, one of 23 vessels listed to Les and his wife Penny in the 2014 directory. We had our first glimpse of a true jungle like environment as we cruised through the Dora Canal, connecting Lake Dora to Lake Eustis, which is further connected via the Dead River to Lake Harris. There are so many inland waterways in this area, and Florida in general, that one could spend weeks if not months exploring the various routes by boat. You don't have to go too far if you're hungry, as these channels are host to a various assortment of restaurants and drinking establishments. And to top that off, the weather is absolutely tropical in March, but without the extreme humidity to be expected as spring evolves towards summer.

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### ANTIQUE & CLASSIC BOAT SOCIETY

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## 2015 Sunnyland ACBS Boat Festival on Lake Dora (continued)

But back to the show; this year's marquee was the Chris Craft Cobra, and though I didn't count them all, there were at least a dozen on hand. I wish I could have seen them all cruising past the docks in line abreast! However; I can't say enough for the professional yet relaxed atmosphere of the show, that being the signature of a truly fine event, and largely due to the fine leadership of show Director Terry Fiest. Many of us met Terry at the 2008 International ACBS show held at Lake Coeur d'Alene. Terry and his wife Bobbie were guests in "Hokey-Pokey" as we all cruised up the Coeur d'Alene River. The show was originally held in the town of Mount Dora, but was moved a few years ago to the northwest side of the lake in Tavares. The town welcomed the festival with open arms, putting in a series of beautiful new docks for the benefit of the show. All of us PNW-ACBS members were envious of the site, but especially of the support shown by the town of Tavares itself. You can also ride on the Tavares, Eustis & Gulf Railroad's 1907 Steam Train pulling vintage coaches between Mount Dora and Tavares, departing from a restored train depot at show center.



*Terry Fiest; Sunnyland Chapter Vice-President and Boat Festival Director*



Following the show weekend, we all drove up to Lake George and checked on to our 60' houseboat, stocked it full of food, (and just a few libations!), then set off to explore and canoe with the Alligators for the next four days.

I won't go into too much more detail about our trip itself, but will offer to give a slideshow of our entire adventure, including the show and river cruise, at one of our future monthly meetings. Suffice it to say that the St. John waterway will entrance you with its natural beauty, wildlife- both fowl and reptilian, and endless canals and tributaries to explore. After a long and gray Seattle winter, a trip like this truly has medicinal value. Heck, maybe you can even take it off of work as "sick days"??



*Guest Editor - Tom Cathcart*

## **EDMONDS WATERFRONT FESTIVAL**

Edmonds Waterfront Festival: The organizers have invited us to participate again, this year occurring May 29<sup>th</sup> through the 31<sup>st</sup>. If you are interested in showing your boat and/or doing an ACBS land display let Dick Dow know right away. In the past we have had four or five boats in the show, which is a fun, community-centered event. They need to know if we are going to show!

## OKANAGAN ACBS SHOW 2014

Along with all of the fine folks we met or were reacquainted with in Tavares, we were pleasantly surprised to see our friends Paul and Karen Harrison who were renting a beautiful home on the lake for a few months. When last Janet and I saw them, they were hosting the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Okanagan ACBS show in lovely Sicamous, B.C. on Shuswap Lake. The lake is huge, the town rather small, and the fun rather off the charts! I can highly recommend attending this show, with the 2015 dates being August 7-9. From the Seattle area it's like driving to Coeur d'Alene, but much more scenic a route. And, after the Sunday boat parade, everyone gathered at the "Shark Shack", a floating restaurant-Bar that is located in the channel between the two arms of this pristine body of water.



## CLEANING OUT THE COBWEBS!

Don't let this be the last visual you have of enjoying your classic boat! Now that we are just getting underway with the 2015 boating season, take the time to double check all of your equipment, including but not limited to: life jackets, safety equipment and flares, hull condition, trailer tires-brakes-wheel bearings, trailer and vehicle hitch points and lights, and thoroughly check all of your engine's vital signs.

I was lucky to have had good friends to pull our boat back down the lake at Chelan last year. We all get into situations though where we could really be stuck, and trying to motivate two-tons of wood & iron through the water with a little paddle would be a pitiful sight, and undoubtedly garner one an award at the next annual dinner. At Mason Lake Carl Hoffman and I both heard slight metallic noises coming from the ol' Hemi, though we thought it might just be the valves needing adjustment. Then, the very next time out, it became evident that one of the pistons had decided that its relationship with the connecting rod was just not working out, and they decided to part company. Had I taken the time to do a thorough evaluation of engine before the next show, I could have saved a ton of money. The lesson here being; if it doesn't sound right- ***IT AINT RIGHT!***



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Have you been to our web site lately? Our new logo is now up thanks to Pat Ford. He also let me know if we would send in some



new photos of our boats he would post them. But the photos have to be good clean in focus shots of the boat. We need the various years from the 20's on, so as we use our boats throughout the year please send Pat some of these updated photos. You can also find our schedule for the year listed under events.

How about the ACBS web site! Our new logo is now available for embroidered garments. I ordered a couple of sweat shirts and I have to tell you the quality is fantastic. You can click on the logo then select a shirt or whatever and you can see how it will look and cost, pretty cool.



Now I'm throwing out the idea of a Burgee again with our new logo. See sample I need to get a count from who would like one either straight or raked. We're looking at around \$35.00 each. I know that some of us fly the boat maker's burgee. But wouldn't it look cool if when we were at an event and all the Burgee's were the club logo? Please email me at [wolson1@msn.com](mailto:wolson1@msn.com) as soon as possible. This happens to be the busy season for the flag maker and it could take 4-6 weeks to do our order.

Did you happen to catch the Opening Day Parade? I know next month's Newsletter will have an article and pictures. But hat's off to Vice President Steve Snider for his efforts in getting the Rainier Bottles for our theme. And also thanks to all the unnamed helpers, you're all truly appreciated. This club wouldn't be much fun if you didn't volunteer your time as you do.

Also a forgotten thank you to Diane Franchini for sponsoring the Art Class for the women folk during our meeting in March at Ike Kielgass' shop. THANKS Diane I'm told you did a wonderful job!

Our next meeting May 13<sup>th</sup> will be at Wild About Cars Garage - 11200 Kirkland Way, Kirkland, WA 98033. As usual we'll meet around 6:30, \$15.00 food & drink. The Program will be The Garage! Hope to see you there. - Warren



## Classifieds: Buy - Sell - Trade

**For Sale:** Engines of all sizes and descriptions, miscellaneous boat parts and other things I probably don't know are on the shelf. What follows is a partial list! 1957 Evinrude 18hp, 1958 Johnson 18hp, 1959 West Bend "Golden Shark" 40hp, 1971 Chrysler 50hp, 3ea: 1965 Gray Marine 327 V8's with a ton of parts and accessories, at least three small-block Chevy cores with cranks and cams, miscellaneous carburetors and ignition parts, water pumps, electric fuel pumps, Crusader Marine V8 conversion parts, (flywheel forward) , old shaft logs and fittings, a rudder or two, you get the picture! There is also a 12' tunnel hull raceboat and a few other things up in the rafters that may be of interest. I'll entertain visits to look and offers if you are interested in anything...

Dick Dow. thisuldu@yahoo.com, 425 868-0499.



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## BELL STREET RENDEZVOUS

We have been invited back again this year to the Classic Yacht Association (CYA) Bell Street Rendezvous to do a display of our fine craft! We must be doing something right to get invited back! Actually, while many hundreds of people show up for the event at the Bell Street Marina, ours is the first ( and last) display they see before going down to the docks to see 50-60 Classic yachts which are open for public viewing. This happens on Father's Day weekend, Saturday and Sunday June 20 & 21.

We can load in Friday night or Saturday AM before 9:30, load out Sunday after 4. This is an excellent opportunity to promote the mission of our ACBS, recruit a few new members, and "cross-club" with people of your own interest, wood boats! The CYA people have invited you to partake in the Friday night desert potluck, and the Saturday nite potluck dinner. Amazing good stuff, been there, done that!

A term not so familiar with our club is - there is a DEADLINE! Believe it or not, because of the cruise ships tying up outside the Marina (pier 66) entrants must be reviewed by Homeland Security. Please contact me directly if you would like to join this amazing event. I look forward to hearing from you! DEADLINE MAY 15TH.

Ron Stevenson ronstevensonmiwa@gmail.com. 206 799-1048

## MONTHLY MEETINGS & UP-COMING EVENTS

**May 13th Meeting**  
at Wild About Cars Garage  
11200 Kirkland Way  
Kirkland WA 98033  
Ike Kielgass

**June 10th Meeting**  
at Jensen Motor Boat Co.  
1417 NE Boat Street  
Seattle WA 98105

**July 8th Meeting**  
at Delta Marine Industries, Inc  
1608 S 96th Street  
Seattle WA 98108