



# 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](http://www.acbs.org)  
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**OCTOBER 2014**

*Guest Editor - Tom Cunningham*

## Mahogany and Merlot

Yikes, Mahogany and Merlot is next weekend! I suppose that by the time you receive this newsletter Mahogany and Merlot will have already occurred, but for me it signifies several things. One, the gathering at Chelan is our last major boating event of the year. Two, our annual dinner is close at hand, and third, if our annual dinner is near that means we will soon have a fresh new president along with a new group of officers and board members. Our annual dinner this year will be on Saturday November 1 at the Tacoma Yacht Club. As I type, the invitations are being reviewed and will soon be printed and mailed. Look for them soon in your mailbox soon. As with last year's annual dinner, we have made an effort to keep the cost down while at the same time trying to provide our group with a nice meal and a pleasant atmosphere. I hope you would consider joining us in celebrating as we look back at the past years events while at the same time look forward to our chapters next year together. It was fantastic to have such a large and supportive crowd at our last annual dinner - I am hoping for once again to repeat such support.

Finally, I believe this will be my last "presidents' letter." I cannot express what a pleasure it has been to work with this group. Of all the good things that have been accomplished in the last couple of years, I give all credit to those within our chapter. You guys are the best.

Rob.

## MONTHLY MEETINGS & UP-COMING EVENTS

### **October 3 - 5, 2014**

Mahogany and Merlot. At  
Campbell's Resort on Lake Chelan.  
**Don't miss out! Could be the  
event of the year!**

### **October 8, 2014 Meeting**

Center for Wooden Boats, boat  
shop  
1010 Valley St. Seattle, WA 98109

### **November 1, 2014**

Annual Dinner at the Tacoma Yacht  
Club  
5401 North Waterfront Drive  
Tacoma, WA 98407

### **December 2014**

A holiday gathering at a location to  
be determined

# Maiden Voyage Rerun

The story of the Sea Deuce began in 1957. The boat builder was a 37 year old father of three named Bob Radcliffe. He built Sea Deuce in the shop of his north Tacoma home. When completed she was launched at the Narrows Marina in Tacoma and motored across Henderson Bay to their beach place near Glen Cove. Sea Deuce was destined to be the family's ski boat.

Years passed, kids grew up and she eventually ended up in a shed on the property. During her "time out" she was mistreated. Her hull was painted with latex house paint, her deck was covered with Formica and all her "lipstick" was stripped. Probably by a young enthusiastic teen or two trying to keep busy. We're all for that.

In 2010, Bob's son-in-law Tom Cunningham and grandson Eric Cunningham rescued Sea Deuce from a shed and took her back to the same shop where Bob built her some 53 years earlier. The next three plus years of renovation would begin.

Eric and I hadn't anticipated the project would take too long to accomplish. We thought the most complicated task would be laying a new layer of fiberglass mat to the bottom. We organized a "flip party" or two, with beer and pizza of course, so we could work on the hull. Once completed we flipped her back over for phase two, the rest of the boat. The first piece of Formica decking was removed with ease. The next section proved fatal. The top layer of marine plywood came up with the Formica. Now we had a problem.

My friend Jim suggested that we go to the expert, Bruce Bronson of Bronson Boat Works in Gig Harbor. After showing Bruce photos of the damaged deck his remedy was to start from square one, remove the old and replace it with Philippine Mahogany. Time consuming but worth it. It wouldn't be the last time I asked Bruce for advice. For those of you whom restore your own boats you know the rest of the process of bungs and sanding and varnish. Oh my!

Fast forward to the rerun of the maiden voyage. The goal was to once again launch Sea Deuce in Henderson Bay and have Bob's widow, Phyllis, now 94, watch the boat race past their beach home in all her glory.

The day was planned, the tides were right and the boat gassed and ready. The picnic basket was packed and the wine chilled. We had just picked the motor up from the repair shop so we eager to go boating.

My wife Linda and I arrived at Lakebay Marina for the launch. The place was fairly quiet with only a few people milling around. We positioned the boat near the ramp and was loading up our gear before going in the water. Out of no where people appeared with comments and questions about our boat and stories about the boats they had as a kid. We'd chat as we'd inch closer to the ramp. Then another interested person would approach. We'd get another few inches closer only to find ourselves engaged more conversation. Finally, there was a small gaggle of us all taking about boats, and the history of the area and the re-opening of the marina. We almost missed the



tide. We had a good time talking to all those local "old fogies" and then we realized, we too are those "old fogies".

As soon as we shoved off the dock, we knew this day wasn't going to be our best. The motor coughed and choked and sputtered and we were done. Back to town. Back for repairs. No picnic. No wine.

The second try wasn't much better. The motor had been serviced again since the last launch but didn't want to co-operate. Back to town. Back for repairs. No picnic. No wine. We did however run into many more wooden boat enthusiasts.

The third try on Sept 4<sup>th</sup>. We were packed up. The tides right and the bay flat. No one was waiting at the ramp so we dumped her in the water. One turn of the key and she was purrrring. I guess the third time is a charm.

We cruised up the bay toward Glen Cove and near our destination. The boat was looking good and we were excited to show her off. We circled out front of Phyllis's bay home and tooted the horn. Then another toot. Aw, just another toot for good measure. Tension mounting, we called out for Phyllis.

All that work to recreate the maiden voyage and Phyllis wasn't home. We didn't see that coming.

We toured the bay looking for signs of the old 50's beach cabins that use to be so common. We stopped and had our picnic lunch and cracked open that bottle of wine and toasted to the man that made this story possible.

Thank you Bob. We're pretty sure you didn't miss the rerun.



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425-271-4799  
BC5speed@comcast.net**

## How do I send a message to my fellow chapter members?

Want to contact all of your fellow chapter members about that free boat you found or the evening lake cruise you want to do? It is very easy, simply send an email with your message to: [ACBSPNWMailList@acbs-pnw.org](mailto:ACBSPNWMailList@acbs-pnw.org)  
Your message will be held for review, and sent out usually within hours.



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## 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](mailto:gonzalesfa@hotmail.com)) if you have any questions or can help.

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We want you at this month's meeting!

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