

INLAND SCUTTLEBUTT



Volume 19, Issue 2

Inland Empire Chapter of the Antique & Classic Boat Society

Summer 2019

Spokane Boat Show Success

by Barry Provorse

Brian Fair orchestrated the Inland Empire chapter's exhibit at the Spokane Boat Show with the help of chapter members John Whitcomb, Glenn Dutro, Bob Henshaw, Steve Zwarg, Ron Yandt, Mitch Johnson, Andy Kerfoot, BK Powell, Mike Moen, Alan Wardsworth, and limping members Mike Wilson and Daryl Reynolds. The show opened February 1st and ran for nine days. Heavy snowfalls created a challenge, however according to Chapter President Bob Henshaw it was "successful."

Alan Wardsworth managed a motivated crew of SkillsUSA/Central Valley High School students undertaking the renovation of a 17-foot Chris Craft contributed to SkillsUSA by John Whitcomb. Wardsworth organized SkillsUSA members into groups to host the Chapter's booth. Students took turns explaining the work already completed and their plans for the craft's future.

Even though it was a dryland show, two boats nearly sunk, one a 1932 mini Century hydroplane and the other a 1958 Brendella. Both boats were meant to float in an indoor pond constructed by Knight Boat Docks. The aging winter-dried wood boats took on water at an unsustainable rate. They had to be removed and added to the Inland Chapter's static display.

The boats attracted attention and several new members. Welcome aboard. And for the well-run show, thanks Brian.



Inland Empire Chapter display at the 2019 Spokane Boat Show.

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Our Mission

To bring people together with a common interest in historic, antique, and classic boats, sharing fellowship, information, experience, and exchange of ideas.

To protect the heritage of boating by promoting, first, the preservation and, secondly, the restoration of historic antique and classic boats.

To promote, further, and encourage a love and enjoyment of all aspects of historic, antique, and classic boating.

To serve as a communication channel for our membership, the public, and any other entities regarding information relating to historic, antique, and classic boating. This includes serving as a clearing house and referral service for all information relating to historic, antique, and classic boating.



To serve as the governing body and parent organization for such chapters as shall be formed and created under our auspices; this includes providing support for and communicating with these chapters.

To inspire and support quality boat shows and related events among our chapters; to establish and maintain standards for classifying boats and conducting boat shows.

To educate our membership and the general public concerning safety and protocol as it relates to historic, antique, and classic boating.

MASTHEAD PHOTO:

The commemoration of all the hearty boaters and a great day on the lake. Upper Priest Lake, Dry Rot, 2017. (photo by Wes Yandt)

President's Message

April 27, 2019



After we welcomed in the new year, some of us nearby and others far afield, February arrived with another "Great Spokane Boat Show."

We again thank Brian and Kathy Fair, along with Alan Wardsworth and his Central Valley Bears, for the outstanding presentation of their 1959 17' Chris Craft restoration, representing the commitment

of our Inland Empire Chapter. The further success of the show would not have been accomplished without the help of many club members taking time to come down to talk to passersby, explain the Chris Craft restoration project, share information about our many upcoming boat shows, run quality videos (thanks Wes Yandt), create a backdrop with pictures of members' boats, and hand out newsletters and membership applications. And of course, we had bragging rights as the 2018 Chapter of the Year. This was a highly positive event. We garnered many new members from the show and are anxious to get to know them better.

March came and went as the saying goes, "In like a lion out like a lamb." And then April arrived with April Fools'

jokes and longer days. Instead of meeting in February, we held an April board meeting hosted by Brian and Kathy Fair. At six o'clock we had a special two-way phone call with ACBS Executive Director Dan Gyoerkoe from Clayton, New York. During the conversation, Dan spoke with our chapter about the International show in September of 2020 in Coeur d'Alene, the fourth such show for us to host. Dan also informed us the 2019 ACBS 44th annual meeting and International Show will be held September 19-21 in Alexandria Bay, NY. After the call, Brian barbequed some over-the-top burgers and Kathy filled two rooms with food, later to be followed with homemade dessert. A chapter meeting with more than 30 members completed the evening.

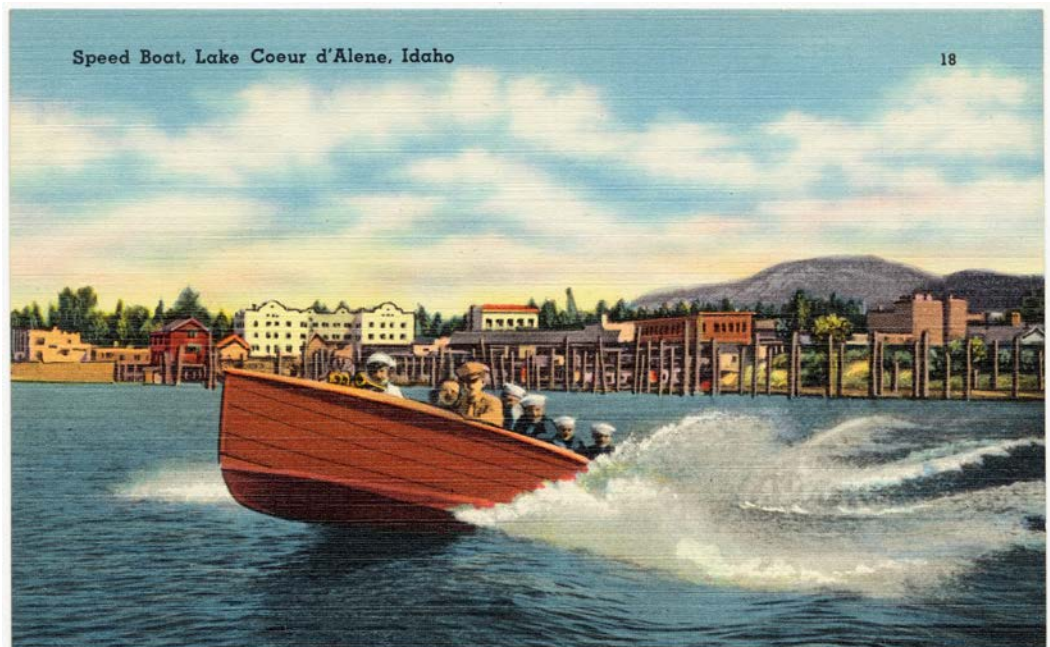
Anne and I, and some other members, plan on attending the ACBS show in September. If any of you are interested, please contact me. In closing, please remember to check out our chapter's boating events starting with the Big Sky Chapter's "Whitefish Woody Weekend" VIII June 28-30 in Whitefish, MT.

I personally want to thank all the ACBS members. Communication with you in person or email is what keeps our chapter and the ACBS moving forward!

Best Wishes and safe boating for our upcoming season!

Bob Henshaw

*President
Inland Empire Chapter
ACBS*



BK Powell

by Molly Beck

In this issue we feature BK Powell, one of our more enigmatic members. We're all familiar with that image of BK, little pink and green palm trees springing from his head as he passes out awards and borderline humor at our boat show banquets. He's always OUT THERE, on stage in one way or another trying to coax a grin or stir up a few laughs. But I must admit, after five years of club membership about all I knew about BK was that he had a dog, a boat, and two new knees. That was it. Period. Thus, he seemed a good candidate for a little Scuttlebutt research. Sometimes it pays to just ask the question.

For example, how many of you knew that our master of humorous banter quotes Shakespeare, worked in Hollywood productions, and has a love of history, flying, and riding his Harley? This man is full of surprises. Even his earliest boating memories are somewhat unusual. When asked when and how he got hooked on boats he responded, "In the middle 50's a neighbor of ours had an old 20's split cockpit Chris Craft rotting away in their backyard. Being kids we played in and around that boat for years. That was my first boating experience." Dry land boating—low maintenance and no danger going overboard—all families should have a backyard boat in their neighborhood.

Growing up in the San Fernando Valley in Burbank, California, BK didn't have a lot of fresh water boating

opportunities other than the Colorado River (a 5-hour drive) and a couple of medium-sized skiable reservoirs in the area. Nevertheless, he made the most of things. One of his favorite boats he can remember was a 1974 Tahiti ski boat. "I was a typical young 'disco' dude in those days and had a boat to match the times. The Tahiti was a 19' ski boat, with an 180hp Mercury outboard. The boat was painted a very cool orange and yellow with an orange interior, fitting for the times. It was fast, the girls loved it, and, being an unattached disco dude, I loved it too."

BK was also involved in sports both in High School and at UCLA. Being from Hollywood, he worked a few summers in the studios, mainly as a "grip," a stagehand moving sets around. He worked on the Flip Wilson Show and Laugh-In, and was on an early version of The Dating Game in 1966 (came in last). In 1973 he was hired by Continental Airlines as one of their first male flight attendants then left the airlines in the early 80's and migrated to Anchorage Alaska. It was in Alaska his career and personal life took a different turn. He started a sales agency contracted to the Xerox Organization and met his wife Julie. They purchased a Xerox Agency in Spokane in 2000, expanding to Moses Lake, Coeur d'Alene, and Wenatchee. "The rest is history."

BK's flair for humor and his comfort in front of an audience has impressed me and I asked him where that came from, if there was another side to the jokester. In BK's words, "I have always been the clown, never have I denied a challenge to exhibit the fool. I truly believe I was born several

centuries too late. The court jester would have been my calling, but with that said, I may have ended up in the dungeon, given some of the puzzling humor I've displayed from time to time. My 'flair for humor' or playing the fool parallels a quote from Shakespeare: 'This fellow is wise enough to play the fool and to do that well craves a kind of wit. He must observe their mood on whom he jests, the quality of persons and the time.'" BK does his best to get it right.

One of BK's finer moments—rescuing Molly Beck & Barry Provorse after their R19 Chris Craft went dead in the water on the run to the Sandpoint boat show Sunday brunch.



Not only has BK been an active participant in ACBS, both locally and at the national level, he's also served on local boards such as the March of Dimes, Special Olympics, and other community-centered programs. He believes in the ACBS mission and values the spirit of fellowship the organization brings. Hard to imagine that this community-oriented fellow's most "on the edge" boating experience was outrunning the sheriff on Lake Washington, a long story he failed to relate. (Well maybe not so hard to imagine.)

When it comes to his enjoyment of the boating experience, his satisfaction is derived from "getting out on the water in a boat that runs." Now there's something Barry and I can relate to! And although his enjoyment hasn't diminished through the years, his approach to boating has. "Enjoyment is still there, speed isn't. Desire to run at breakneck speeds is as distant as my bellbottoms, velour shirt, and gold chain.

A few final words of advice? When it comes to maintenance of marine engines, he says his engine mechanics are limited to a checkbook. "Write a check and get it fixed." And as any seasoned boater will tell you, "Always make sure the plug is in."



Top: Mike Wilson presents BK with the Up a Creek Without a Paddle award at the Sandpoint boat show awards banquet.

Bottom: BK's Kerfoot rebuilt 1930 Dee Wite at the put in. This boat won the 2014 Concourse D Elegance for Best Pre-War entry at Tahoe that year.

ACBS International's 2020 Boat Show in Coeur d'Alene

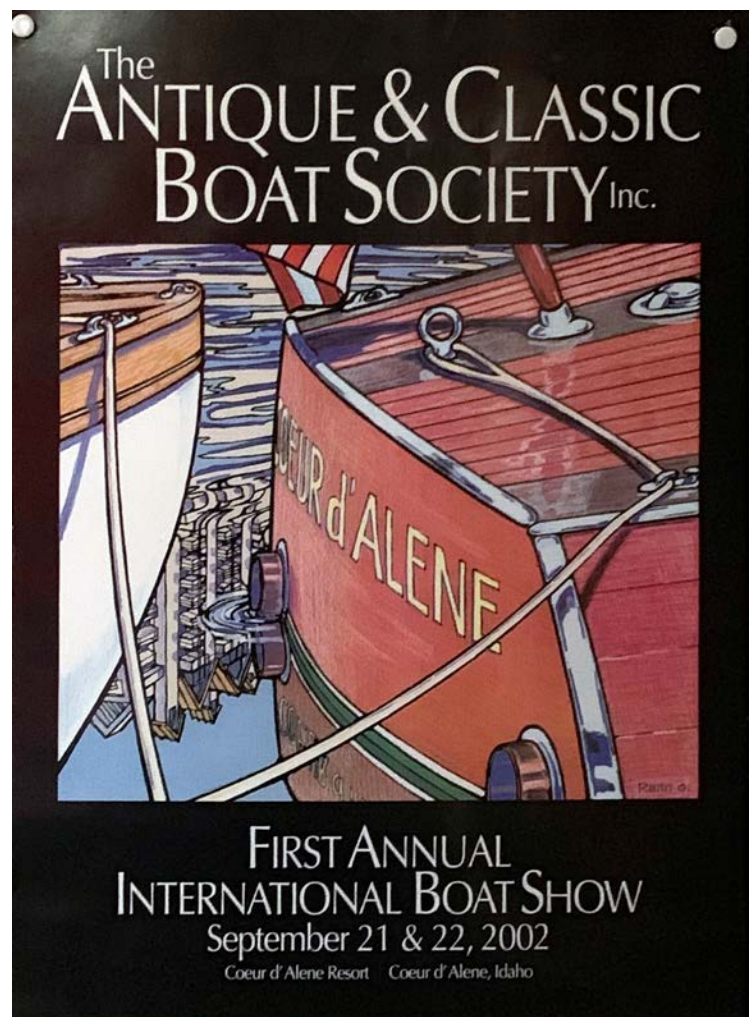
by Barry Provorse

One by one as many as 200 antique and classic boats will arrive on Lake Coeur d'Alene for the 2020 ACBS international boat show. The core of the gathering will begin to assemble around the Coeur d'Alene Resort's dock on September 16th. Judgment day will begin at 2 PM on the 17th and the opening night's dinner will be served at Cedar's Floating Restaurant. Friday the 18th will be another day of judging by both professional jurists and the public. Ten thousand spectators are expected to walk the Resort's docks and pick their favorites on Saturday. The grand ACBS beef and wild salmon banquet celebrating the international event in the Coeur d'Alene Resort's conference center. It will begin that evening at 5:30 with a grand finale of fireworks just after sundown.

"The Inland Chapter of ACBS is honored to be named as the host chapter for the 2020 International Boat Show," said Bob. "Late last year the Lake City had been named as the host site for the international show in 2022, but following a turn of events Executive Director Dan Gyorkoe asked Bob if would be possible for the Inland Chapter to host the 2020 event on Lake Coeur d'Alene. The Chapter's response from Henshaw was clear and strong. YES.

What had been viewed as a leisurely schedule for a show still years in the future has been fast-tracked. The international show will be presented by ACBS, but the rest of what is expected to be a spectacular event will be up to Mother Nature and the Inland Empire Chapter. "Your ideas are welcome," said Bob. "It's a long way for some people to come just to be judged, so it will be up to us to make their trip memorable."

If experience has anything to do with it, The Coeur d'Alene Resort and the Inland Chapter can be expected to offer up a menu of memorable events. The 2020 event will be the fourth ACBS International Boat Show hosted by the renowned hotel, and the Inland Chapter—freshly named as the ACBS International's Chapter of the Year. Bob added a brief history of one of the Gem State's premier events. "Our first show was held in 2002, and based on that success we have hosted the international event in 2008, and again in 2013. The success of these events will serve as a guide, and our



Top: Boat shows allow an opportunity for boat owners to share their enthusiasm with show-goers. Shown is a crowd on the dock during the 2008 ACBS International Show at Coeur d'Alene.

Bottom: Poster for the First Annual International Boat Show in 2002.

chapter is already four meetings into its planning for the 2020 event.”

A long list of activities is proposed including a day bicycling the Hiawatha Trail, a tour of Dwane Hagadone’s world class private garden, golf at the Coeur d’Alene Golf Course, a Spokane River cruise, an evening cruise on Coeur d’Alene’s *Mish-An-Nock*, and a StanCraft boat shop tour. By the time September 2020 arrives, the list will likely grow longer.

Brian and Kathy Fair have proposed a pre-show event at Priest Lake that will likely attract ACBS members and guests alike. The Priest Lake event would begin at noon on September 14th with check-in at both Hill’s and Elkin’s Priest Lake resorts. Those registered for the show would have the option of either driving the 90 beautiful miles between Coeur d’Alene and Priest Lake or settling into a comfortable seat on a tour bus for the trip. Once there, Inland Empire Chapter members with boats on Priest Lake would provide

free boat-taxi transportation between Hill’s and Elkin’s and to day-long events to Upper Priest Lake passing through the primitive waterway known as the Throrfare. A return trip to the main lake and on the night of the 15th, dinner at Elkins would conclude the day.

The ACBS show 2020 is expected to attract classic and antique boat owners to the Coeur d’Alene Hotels dock from all parts of North America, and many of the boats will be unique to Pacific Northwest waters. If history is any guide the event will serve as a showplace of professional craftsmanship and the personal passions of those who own and care for these pristine examples of recreational maritime history.

As a final note, Bob said, “It’s not too soon to be planning for what we—the Inland Chapter of ACBS—expect to create, “lasting memories on North Idaho’s treasured lakes.”

The 2008 ACBS International included a dry-land display that allowed the public to view some of the boats close up.



CALENDAR

You're invited to summer in North Idaho

Sandpoint Antique & Classic Boat Show

July 12th & 13th

Planned around calm water and clear skies, chaired by BK Powell, with food and festivities presented by Don and Emily Robson, this juried show is an invitation from the Lake Pend Oreille boating community to ACBS members and the North Idaho community at large.

Each of the Inland Chapter's shows offers a unique experience. The Sandpoint boardwalk venue is a juried show, as well as a grand social gathering that pays special recognition to perfectionists and their crafts.

CONTACT: BK Powell, Chairman
(509) 755-8326

Coeur d'Alene Antique & Classic Boat Show

August 23rd – 25th

Presented with the able assistance of Hagadone Marine, Chairperson Tayler Petticolas has issued an invitation to ACBS members to participate in the last Coeur d'Alene boat show before the 2020 ACBS International Boat Show and gala. Launching, docking, and water transportation will be provided and The Coeur d'Alene Resort's dock will be pleasantly crowded.

CONTACT: Tayler Petticolas, Chairperson
(208) 699-3286

Dry Rot on Priest Lake

August 30th – September 2nd

Planning for this year's floating gala on Priest Lake began before last year's event ended. Brian and Kathy Fair's enthusiasm ensures the event's success as a season-ender when ACBS member boats look their best and engines run without missing a stroke. The planned events are familiar, much anticipated by veteran Priest Lake boat show-goers, and a good time at the end of a great season on North Idaho's three gem lakes.

CONTACTS: Brian & Kathy Fair, Chairpersons
(509) 990-6796

2019 Dry Rot Boat Show PRIEST LAKE, IDAHO

Mark your calendars now and get your lodging and/or boat slip secured for another great Labor Day weekend for Dry Rot at Priest Lake, Idaho. Dry Rot Boat Show never disappoints as a fun-filled, exciting event to use your boat, or to get the opportunity to ride in someone else's boat. Rain or shine (or smoke) ... the show goes on, so bring the appropriate clothing, keeping in mind you might see all kinds of weather—which seems to just bring more adventures and stories.

Show packets will be handed out Friday night at the Nordman event, including an itinerary and contact number to fit in your pocket. If you are not attending the Friday night event, contact Kathy or Brian Fair for your information regarding the weekend events.

Friday Night, August 30 – Spaghetti dinner at Nordman Restaurant. Time – 6:00 p.m. If you need directions, please let us know.

Saturday, August 31 – Poker Run – Cavanaugh's Restaurant. Start parking at 8:30 a.m. We will have the whole restaurant to ourselves with lots of guaranteed parking. First boat leaves at 10:00 a.m., with each boat thereafter leaving two minutes apart. *Please note:* After launching your boat on Friday, fill up with gas. There are limited places to purchase gasoline on the lake, so if you haven't filled up your boat already, please do so on Friday, **ESPECIALLY IF YOU ARE DOING THE POKER RUN.** You will need a full tank and the resorts don't open for gasoline until 8:30 a.m.

If you plan on eating at Cavanaugh's, RSVP to me with the number of people in your party for the classic buffet style breakfast (only buffet this year so the food will be hot). Entering the Poker Run does not pay for this meal – you pay the restaurant separately. Coffee and juice will be available, with a "stronger" beverage not served until after 10:00 a.m. (Idaho law).

The traditional Fair/Hansen/Thomas jello shots will be offered and promise to help with parking your boat.

T-shirts and hats will be sold at this event only in a limited number, including a few 2X and 3X sizes.

Awards for the Best Poker Run Time and Best Poker Hand will be handed out at the BBQ later Saturday night.



Drone photo by Pecky Cox, 2018

Saturday Night, August 31 – Dinner at Werner’s cabin. Time – 5:30 p.m. If you need directions, please call Brian (509) 990-6796 or Kathy at (509) 993-6122. Please bring your own beverage(s) and mix. Pop and water will be provided. Awards for the Poker Run will be handed out at this event.

Sunday, Sept 1 – Boat Show buffet breakfast at Elkins Resort. Arrive in your boat at 8:00 a.m. to get a prime spot. Make sure to fill out your Captain’s Choice ballot and return to Kathy before leaving Elkins; ballots returned after 11:30 a.m. will not be accepted. “The Roar Off,” our boat parade, starts promptly at 11:30 a.m., a fun chance to cruise and wave at the people on the docks as we boat by to Hill’s Resort for the “Gin Fizz” gathering with the Priest Lake Yacht Club members. Captain’s Choice and Dock Walker Awards will be handed out at this event, including the Captain’s Choice award, which will be kept at Elkins Resort year-round.

Monday, Sept 2 – Continental breakfast at Werner’s cabin between 8:30 and 9:30 a.m. At 9:30 a.m., for those not attending the breakfast but going to the Upper Lake, start gathering in your boats out front of Werner’s cabin and then cruise to the Upper Lake at 10:00 a.m. We parade up the north end of the lake to the thoroughfare. Don’t miss the

annual Upper Lake Dry Rot group photo and wear your 2019 Dry Rot t-shirt and hat.

A Couple of Worthy Notes:

Dock space – Werner’s will not have dock space available for parking your boat during the 4-day show. For the Saturday night BBQ, there will be limited space for boats attending the BBQ.

Rain or shine... dress accordingly and be ready for a fun packed weekend of boating and events.

Secure your lodging now, before Elkins or Hill’s Lodging fills up. There are also rooms being saved for us at Nordman. Contact Ben or Brittney at (208) 443-2538 and inform them you are with the Dry Rot. There are also private cabins being rented out thru VBO websites.

Any questions? Check out the Dry Rot website at priestlakedryrot.com. If you still have questions that have not been answered, contact Brian Fair at (509) 990-6796 brianf@carlonsheetmetal.com or Kathy Fair at (509) 993-6122 or kathy@priestlakedryrot.com.

See you Labor Day Weekend!
Brian and Kathy Fair

The Convergence of Two Passions

by Wes Yandt

Next to my wife and family, two of my favorite things in life are photography and classic boats. Coincidentally, I can thank my Dad for both of these passions. Dad always had a good camera around as we grew up. In high school, he bought himself a new Automatic SLR camera made by Cannon. He and I “messed around” with it quite a bit. This kindled the photog in me. When I graduated from High School, Mom and Dad got me my very own state of the art Cannon AE-1 SLR. I took several photography classes in college and often exercised my new skills upon the beautiful fence posts in the surrounding farmland. My family still gives me a hard time about those fabulous shots. They just don’t appreciate true art.



I fell out of the photog ways after college. Sue and I were struggling to make ends meet and it was hard to justify spending money on developing fence post pictures. About the time we started our family the first mainstream digital cameras were hitting the market. I researched these new digital cameras, convinced Dad they were the next best thing and we both ended up buying \$1000 worth of gear at Huppin’s Electronics in downtown Spokane. We both walked out of there with a cutting-edge 3-megapixel point and shoot camera and all the required accessories. I still have this camera and use it in the boat shop to document our Skippy Jr project. It is a little worse for wear, but it is just perfect for a shop camera.

The restoration of the *Uncle Bob* got me into classic boats, and it became a natural place to practice my love of photography. I am a lucky guy to be able to enjoy both passions at the same time. I’m not like the poor guy that loves to trap shoot and water ski. Over the years, I’ve spent hours ogling the beautiful photos of classic boats in our hobby’s magazines and web sites. When we finished up the restoration of the *Uncle Bob*, I had an opportunity to try my hand at photographing a boat in motion. The first couple of photo

shoots turned out pretty darn good. The beauty of the boats made the photography easy while the photography made the boats so beautiful. Next thing I knew, I got sucked into it. Ask my daughters how many “boat pictures” I have taken. They’d probably tell you that I have taken about 100 times more pictures of boats than pictures of them and they’d probably be right.

The perfect morning to me is this: Walking the beach with my Dad down to Elkins Resort at Priest Lake from our family cabin with my camera bag slung over my shoulder and a cup of coffee in the other hand. The sun is not quite peaking up over Chimney Rock, but I can tell that is going to be a Blue Bird day. If we’ve timed it right, two or three of our boat friends will be heading down the lake to meet us and we get to see them cutting through the perfectly smooth water and hear their



beautiful engines as they ease off the throttle to idle into the dock. We have a quick skippers meeting and then we jump into the *Uncle Bob* and troll out away from the resort. The sun has come up, the lake is perfectly flat and the skippers perform as instructed. That is magic.

Here are some techniques that I have learned over the years:

- 1. Action shots rule. Dock shots are OK for fine details, but the true beauty of these boats is seen away from the dock.
- 2. Your best shots will happen in the “Golden Hour” of sunlight. This is the hour just after sunrise and the hour just before sunset.
- 3. The minimum shutter speed for a sharp photo of a boat underway is 1/500 of a second.
- 4. The maximum aperture that will give you enough depth of field for a 25’ boat is 8.
- 5. Unless you are knowingly working an effect with the sun, always place yourself between the sun and the boat when you snap the shutter.
- 6. Be in control of your shot. Tell the skippers what you want them to do. Time the shoot for the best light and conditions.
- 7. Be aware of your background. There is nothing more frustrating than producing the perfect shot and later noticing there is an ugly pontoon boat in the background.

Opposite page, top: The magic of the lake mist and the golden hour of sunlight. Priest Lake 2011

Opposite page, bottom: This is not the best picture I have ever taken but it may be one of the most meaningful. This shot was taken when Dad and I paused on our walk back to the cabin and decided to find an “Old Yandt Boat to restore.” Priest Lake Dry Rot 2006

This page, below: Kent’s smile always made me feel good. Priest Lake Dry Rot 2012



Left: At the end of a long effort to get a good shot of these four beautiful Barrel Backs underway in formation out in the lake, I gave up because the sun was behind the clouds and the lake was rough. We came back into the marina and saw an opportunity for this shot. I scampered out of the boat and up onto the bridge. This shot saved the efforts everyone put in that day. Sandpoint Show 2015

Right: Sharing our beach fire with family and friends after we officially participated in our first boat show. Priest Lake Dry Rot 2010



... Help me feed my passions and be my subject. I love to share this with my friends and would enjoy shooting you and your boat.

More photos on next page!



Left: "I'd rather be lucky than good any day." Waiting for Alan to dock so that we could pick up my brother, Dad and I were just floating out in the bay enjoying our environment. I was watching as Greyhound slowly moved into this shot. I was taken by the beauty of the lake, the mountains and the boat. I was just sitting there gawking and almost forgot what my job was. I quickly grabbed my camera and snapped this one shot. Lucky.
 Priest Lake Dry Rot 2013

Right: I worked on this shot for over three years. If you'd like to read the nitty gritty of it visit my blog post about it: www.woodyboater.com (search my name at bottom of page).
 Coeur d'Alene Boat Show 2017



Left: Sometimes you get things in your shots that you weren't anticipating. I took this shot of the Salts in Shady Lady, edited it, posted it in a story for Woody Boater and never saw it. Matt Smith used this shot as his header the next morning and made a big deal of the rainbow that was in the wake. I never saw it. Whitefish Lake WWWW VI 2017

Right: A different perspective on the same old subject. Upper Priest Lake Dry Rot 2017



Out of the Blue

by Molly Beck

Most likely, many ACBS members have some boating storm stories to tell, and I'm hoping some of you might e-mail us here at Scuttlebutt and share them. We want to hear from you. One of Barry's and my more memorable storm experiences occurred August 2, 2014 toward the end of a sultry summer day on the Pend Oreille River. We had decided spur of the moment to take the Bull Moose Jr. on a short jaunt upriver to Dish at Dover for some dinner. We cruised along slowly enjoying the sun on our backs and the aromatic splash of the water. Pulling into the marina, we secured the boat on the more enclosed eastern side of the dock as opposed to the more exposed, downriver side, tucking her in right in front of a large houseboat that was moored there full time.

We headed up to the restaurant and our pace quickened as visions of prawns and cold Margaritas danced in our heads. Suddenly, out of nowhere, a warm wind came up stirring dust and whipping canvas boat flaps. When we asked for a patio table, the server tried to dissuade us, mentioning that there was "a bit of a storm" coming and they were encouraging guests to take their meal inside. She pointed downstream toward Priest River and said they were getting hit pretty hard in northeastern Washington. We were surprised by the bruise of a sky that had suddenly materialized in the direction from which we had come. Nevertheless, we felt the boat was secure with its spring line and in a favorable location on the more protected side of the dock and we figured it would be exciting to sit out and watch the storm pass. We weren't going to be whimps and miss a good squall. There had been strong winds and thunderstorms just 10 days previously, so this was probably a minor blow, right?

WRONG! A crack of thunder sounded before our first frosty sips and we watched the river darken as the full force of the wind moved rapidly toward us. Lightening flashed, not just downriver, but also from the darkening hills to the north. Restaurant employees were hustling to get all the umbrellas off the tables. One table was already down and being dragged into others. Barry jumped up and told me to go inside. He was going to go check the ropes. Water glasses were blowing off tables and when a glass flew by at eye level I knew it was time to get out of there. I tried to follow Barry to the boat, but they had closed the exit in an attempt to keep people



Riding out the storm, 2014.

from going down to the dock. It was like a nightmare watching Barry and a few others, little stick figures out there trying to hold boats off the docks, lightening flashing, thunder booming, wind kicking up something fierce. When I saw the stern rope give on the big houseboat we were tied in front of and watched it begin to swing around, I headed out the back door and down to the dock in the raging wind and pelting rain. The sounds were sickening, plastic boats tied on the oncoming storm side of the dock cracking like eggshells in spite of efforts to hold them off. This was not a "bit of a storm," it was a Mother of all Storms and it had appeared out of the blue. The fact that it occurred just 10 days after the other series of wind and thunderstorms was an "unprecedented occurrence."

Fortunately, our boat rode it out just fine with a good spring line and a favorable location on the downwind side of the dock. The houseboat swung with its bow to the wind and didn't continue to arc around onto us. We had considered removing our ropes and taking our chances out on the water if it looked like that houseboat was going to come around. To the credit of Dish management somebody was passing out ropes to aid in securing flailing boats. Our only loss was a seat cushion that we were able to get replaced thanks to the expertise of Tammy at Sandpoint Upholstery. When the storm passed it left widespread damage and significant power outages in its wake. A number of boaters were caught unaware and as mentioned in a previous article, a Bonner County Sheriff's Officer had to rescue four firefighters whose boat was swamped when trying to rescue two other boaters down lake. We never did get those prawns that night, but when we got back to homeport, we sure didn't have any trouble coming up with the margaritas.

Central Valley High School/ SkillsUSA Tour Was Satisfying and Productive

by Barry Provorse

March 9th was a satisfying day for Central Valley High School/ SkillsUSA members and Inland Empire Chapter ACBS members. It began at 9 AM in the Central Valley High School metal shop where 7 Skills members, their faculty advisor and ACBS member Alan Wardsworth, a parent, and a few Inland Empire Chapter members, including the project's benefactor John Whitcomb gathered around the school's now well-known project boat, a 1959 Chris Craft that laid bottom-side



SkillsUSA members at Central Valley High School with their 1959 Chris Craft project.

up on a pile of old rubber tires. It was the start of a productive day that began in Ron Yandt's garage around *Skippy Jr.* where the group admired the work on the Yandt water-taxi and listened to both Wes and Ron describe some of the successes and learning experiences they encountered during the boat's renovation to date. Their craftsmanship showed on the boat's rebuilt frame and the first layer of what will be a no-soak bottom. The Yandt lessons included: Nothing is easy. Everything is possible.

For contrast, the tour group's next stop was the Coeur d'Alene Wood Boat Shop where a wide variety of boats were in various stages of repair. The Hagadon shop projects included everything from a cabin rebuild on a 33-foot Chris to refinishing smaller wood and fiberglass boats. Vessel maker, condition, age, and materials each posed unique refurbishing issues, and the Shop's craftsmen encouraged questions and provided professional answers to the group.

Next stop was StanCraft where Manager Jory Schmeling started the group at the beginning of the company's remarkable assembly line where ribs and keels were being attached to transoms. After that was what can best be described as the bottom shop where Mahogany strips were laid over marine plywood membrane and secured with wooden dowels. It was all handwork, and as the group learned, the applied crafts at this stage represented more than 200 man-hours of work.

After a fine Northwest Pizza lunch in StanCraft's lunch room the tour continued to the production line where the boats were upright and work, including cabinetry, sanding, finishing (15 coats), upholstery, rigging, and the installation of engines, was completed. The StanCraft tour was a demonstration of quality construction, and the value of details. SkillsUSA members saw what could be done with a pile of wood and up to 5,000 highly skilled man-hours. In all, there were eight boats in work and countless questions asked and explanations given.



StanCraft Manager Jory Schmeling tours Inland Empire ACBS members and SkillsUSA members through the production facility.

In a follow-up message, StanCraft co-owner Robb Bloem offered SkillsUSA members encouragement: "[We're] Always looking for good future employees."

The final stop on the tour route was Glenn Dutro's shop where he explained the construction of the stem, keel, transom, and frame repair to the group. What most impressed the group was the amount of work and the variety of skills it takes to rebuild an old wood boat. Glenn's boat is very similar to SkillsUSA project boat, a 19-foot Chris Craft Holiday.

Perhaps the most valued part of the day was the appreciation for what the SkillsUSA group has taken on as a learning project, and the offer of assistance by the Yandts, Jim Brown and the Coeur d'Alene Wood Boat Shop, Robb Bloem at StanCraft, and Glenn Dutro. Thanks for your support.

Thanks to:



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Having fun with our woodies...



Danny Hines busting the wake like only he can. Priest Lake 2013 International Show Preshow Event. (photo by Wes Yandt)