

SPRING 2016

# The Range Marker

The Blue Ridge Chapter  
Antique and Classic Boat Society, Inc.

acbs.org • blueridgechapter.com



## Hartwell Show Kicks Off Season

*Antique boats, classic cars, new members*

Anxious to get the BRC boating season started, some out-of-town members arrived early to the 23rd Antique Wooden Boat Festival.

Right on schedule, the cruise to the Heiderichs' welcome party departed in beautiful weather with four full boats; others came by auto; and 54 people joyfully joined together for food and fellowship after a long winter's separation.

Unfortunately, the next day the long-anticipated cruise to Clemson Marina had to be cancelled due to high winds of 15-20 mph on the lake. But carpooling sufficed, and the Clemson Marina snack shack provided a cozy and warm environment for a burger lunch. With more arrivals checking in, the BBQ rib dinner at the Boat Barn was literally standing room only. Tables were decorated with charming collectible boats, but for some reason Dennis Moore excluded them from the vast raffle of other fun stuff. And as usual there was plenty of "finger lickin'" food and frolicking to go around.

At 9:00 AM, with the dock slips full and another four boats on land, the ceremonies began. In addition to the 54 antique wooden boats, there were 40 classic cars guided to the show by a police escort. More than 2,000 visitors had their choice of food and craft

see Hartwell Show PAGE 2



## Old Boats - Old Cars - Old Friends and Great Memories

*29th Annual Lake Chatuge Rendezvous*

*By Jerri Nowlen*

What a fabulous weekend at Lake Chatuge, June 2-4! A welcome party at the Fespermans' condo Thursday night kicked off the weekend's festivities, with Mary Jo's famous chicken salad along with other goodies and plenty of libations. We relaxed and reconnected with familiar boating friends while welcoming new members into the fold. Friday was a beautiful sunny day as Paul & Kathy Crisp helped launch the 33 boats in attendance. The Ridges Resort is a perfect venue for our Rendezvous, with plenty of covered slips to keep the boats high and dry. An afternoon cruise around the lake gave members a great opportunity to enjoy the beauty of the North Georgia Mountains.

Friday night's barbecue at the Hollises' Cars-Majal was a treat, with automotive eye candy that made us all drool. Happy Hawg provided the delicious food. A special treat for the evening - Dennis & Julie Moore celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary with a delectable cake.

Saturday the docks were open to the public, with slips filled to capacity, a canoe display and boats

see Old Friends PAGE 3



## COMMANDER'S CALL



John Heiderich

What a great way to start off our Boat Shows for 2016! The Hartwell Antique and Classic Boat Festival was an amazing success. The big question coming out of the show was how high is the freeboard on a racing shell and what size bilge pump do they have? If you are wondering why I ask these questions, talk to any of us who drove to Clemson for lunch instead of running our boats. The Chatuge show was another not-to-be-missed affair. The Friday night event at Wayne Hollis's car barn was amazing. The only way to describe the Saturday night banquet is heartwarming and sentimental. A big thank-you to all committee members for their efforts in creating both of these great shows. Looking forward, next up is Charlotte, the annual meeting, Hilton Head and, last but not least, the Christmas party. Don't take off your track shoes just yet.

From exit surveys conducted by National, the top three reasons for not renewing memberships were as follows: 35% did not see value in the membership; 50% did not have enough time or sold their boat; and 10% said the chapter was not friendly, or they felt ignored by existing members. While we cannot do much about having

time or selling a boat, we can all do our best to make sure not only new but all members are made to feel welcome and part of the chapter. Fifty percent of our new members heard about us at boat shows or from a friend, 41% from websites (ours and National's). Why did they join? 30% for social activities and 50% for restoration help. Our Blue Ridge Chapter is known to be friendly, inclusive and active. I believe we have added at least six new members so far this year. Let's keep up the good work.

I was recently asked about how to obtain Blue Ridge Chapter logo shirts since we closed down our ship store. We have integrated our logo with National's ship store run by Tip Top. By going to [acbs.org](http://acbs.org), then store in the very top right corner of the home page, you will find all types of clothing that can be purchased with our logo added. Next time you are on the computer, take time to check out the ACBS website. During the summer months, how about contacting other members in your area to set up impromptu lake cruises or runs to a restaurant for lunch or dinner? How about keeping some chapter applications on your boat, just in case you're stopped by someone who just loves old boats? Let's do our best to continue to earn our reputation as a friendly, welcoming chapter. The more the merrier!

Your President, *John*

Hartwell Show continued from PAGE 1

vendors to round out their show-day experience. Several new boats attended this year; one in particular was a 1931 Swedish Snipa owned by Gary & Donna Drews.

Saturday night, the awards banquet enjoyed a full attendance and was graced with several new members. After the raffle of two nautical posters and a fine arts picture, President John Heiderich announced the awards:

**Skipper's Choice:** 1948 Shepherd, *Purple Haze*, Phillip Jones  
**I Want That One:** 2007 Homebuilt, *Gad-a-bout*, Dave & Pat Nisbett

**Best Runabout:** 1957 Chris-Craft Capri, *Halleyluiah*, Ed & Beth Halley

**Best Utility:** 1956 Chris-Craft Holiday, *Miss Nina*, Pat & Libby MacRae

**Best Contemporary:** 1975 Modified Arabian, *Linda Ann*, Bob & Linda Smith

**Best Pre-War:** 1918 Hacker Craft Runabout, *Pal*, Tom Neff & Brenda Highsmith

**Best Post-War:** 1949 Gravette Runabout, *Eau Canada*, Bryan & Anne Leazenby

**Best Outboard:** 1961 Glassmaster, *Blue Boy*, Dan Muller

**Best Century:** 1958 Century Arabian, *Fleetwood*, Ben & Myrna Huizinga

**Best Chris-Craft:** 1960 Chris-Craft Sportsman, *Brown Eyed Girl*, Craig & Beth Miller

**Best of Show:** 1949 Gravette Runabout, *Eau Canada*, Bryan & Anne Leazenby

### Perpetual Awards

**Best Boat Enthusiasts:** Chuck & Diane Mistele

**Old Boats, Old Friends:** Tom & June Riggle

**Fred Thomas Best Antique Boater of the Year:** Gary & Mary Jo Fesperman



Classic cars line parking lot



Crowds line the docks



Lovick Evans & Gary Drews  
on Pompe



Best of Show, Eau Canada



Old Friends continued from PAGE 1

on land. The ever-popular cardboard boat build-and-paddle was the highlight of the day, with Ella Turner whipping through the water at breakneck speed to reach landfall first. (Please see sidebar in this issue for more information about this event.)

Saturday night's banquet . . . I'm getting goose bumps and misty eyed just thinking of it! Some things just fall into place, a culmination of a wonderful weekend with the best of friends.

This year's show would not have been possible without all the dear members who offered to help put it together, set up and lend a hand throughout the weekend. Scott Lundy set the stage in taking a moment to reminisce about his father with Mom's Mink and how much he loved this chapter.

The People's Choice award was won by David & Marijo Tuttle's "My Marijo," with David giving credit to Steve Blanchard who restored the boat. Captain's Choice this year was *Pal*, a 1918 Hacker 21' runabout restored by Tom Neff.

The Lake Chatuge Rendezvous is honored to present the Nancy Hampton Memorial Best First Mate Award. This year Art Hampton spoke of dear friends Don & Charlotte Baker, who could not attend. Thanks to cell phones he was able to present the award to Charlotte Baker.

Paul Crisp took the stand next with a gorgeous perpetual award called "The Randy," dedicated to Randy Cunningham, which celebrates his ability to take life's lemons and make them into lemonade - all the while regaling us with a hilarious story.

Ed Longino presented Paul & Kathy Crisp a beautiful photograph of *Bumblebee* that was taken during filming of *Live by Night* as a token of their new friendship. (Read details of their adventure in this issue.)

Needless to say Terry and I feel privileged to be a part of this event and the outpouring of love from all who were there in person and spirit.



Captain's Choice, Tom Neff's Pal



Nancy Hampton Memorial, Best First Mate  
Trophy



People's Choice, David & Marijo Tuttle's My Marijo

## THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### President

John Heiderich  
just2more@aol.com  
864-231-9616

### Vice President

Greg Jackson  
coolboats1961@gmail.com  
864-923-2817

### Secretary

Joan Wigfield  
joanwigfield@gmail.com

### Treasurer

Jerri Nowlen  
jnowlen@ellijay.com

### GA Director

Terry Harbin  
706-273-9595  
tharbin@ellijay.com

### NC Director

Ed Longino  
704-873-3282  
boss@longino.net

### SC Director

Dave Nisbett  
864-888-4403  
doubtboard@aol.com

### Membership Chairman

Bob Smith  
bobsmith@truevista.net

### Youth Chairman

Julie Moore  
julmor48@gmail.com

### Safety Chairman

Bob Churchill  
rchurc1153@aol.com

### Newsletter

Bonne Olsen  
bonneolsen@gmail.com

### Webmaster

Terry Harbin  
tharbin@ellijay.com

## AHOY NEW BRC MEMBERS, WELCOME!

By Bob Smith



Bob Smith,  
Chairman

Membership is the heart of any chapter, and boy does Blue Ridge Chapter have heart! Our chapter added 23 new members since the fall of 2015 and we hope to continue growing. We are one of the largest ACBS chapters, known for our friendliness, willingness to help and support other chapters in any way needed. So, new members, welcome to our boating family. It has been great to meet some of you at our boat shows and activities. All of us look forward to seeing each of you at future chapter events.

## BIG WELCOME

### NEW MEMBERS

John & Kathleen Reid

Huntley & Brittany Tarleton

Jeffrey & Cynthia Newell

Steve & Leslie Omo

Foster McIsick

Steve Gaffney

Kelly & Christie Daniel

Horace Glass

Marvin Spencer

Bill Callahan

John & Jeanne Balsam

Gary & Donna Drews

Eric & Diane Miller

Rob Beams

## Cardboard Boatbuilding Challenge

In 2017 the Chatuge Cardboard Boatbuilding Challenge will mark its 20-year milestone.

Back in 1997, organizers of the Lake Chatuge Rendezvous were searching for something to add some variety to their annual wooden boat rendezvous. After brainstorming, Bill & Gail Turner initiated the first cardboard building event for kids and adults.

The guidelines were simple: Each participant would get two 4x8 pieces of cardboard and one roll of duct tape. Life jackets were provided for youngsters. They would have two hours to put their boat together. Entries would launch in the shallow end of the cove, then paddle roughly 75 feet to the bridge and return to the shoreline.

That first competition consisted of eight to 10 kids, age 8 and up, and six to eight adults. They all pushed off at the same time, and when all was said and done, Chrissy Churchill, daughter of Bob & Sheila Churchill, won the challenge. Although the winner mainly got bragging rights in lieu of a trophy, Bob Churchill

gives out a treasure chest of goodies to each participant.

While the guidelines have never changed over the years, the boat construction has evolved immensely. Participants have been known to come prepared with plans, drawings, and carefully crafted ideas to keep their kids' boats afloat. This is an event where fathers, grandfathers and kids work closely together to develop their floating creations. This year symbolized a third generation of challengers, with mostly youngsters competing.

As the years have passed, the Cardboard Boatbuilding Challenge has grown to be a very popular event, with spectators lining the shore and bridge, rooting for their favorite boat. This year there were seven very young contestants backed up by their dads or granddads. With a vast array of different boat designs that actually all floated, the ultimate winner was 5-year-old Ella Turner, daughter of Scott & Jenna Turner and granddaughter of Bill & Gail Turner, in her cardboard canoe.



Very first challenge



Chrissy Churchill with father Bob



Third generation cardboard boats



Winner Ella Turner with dad Scott





Like us on  
**Facebook**

Search: Blue Ridge Chapter ACBS | Like us: Click the "Like" button  
Updates will show up on your home page.

You can post a comment and add a picture of your own boating experience!

## INTEL FROM INTERNATIONAL

By Gary Fesperman,  
Director, ACBS International



Gary Fesperman

The ACBS quarterly meeting was held in Seattle, WA, the first week of May and was the kickoff of the Seattle Chapter's boating season. The weather was great, and there were plenty of boating events to enjoy. The highlight of the meeting was a presentation by Bjorn Bakken, president of the Bay State Woodies chapter, asking approval by the ACBS Board for creation of a new Scandinavia Chapter to include Norway, Sweden, Finland and Denmark. The Chapter would consist of 20 charter members and a potential for 200-plus members in the coming years. The Board approved the request pending completion of the process required for becoming a new chapter. The Clear Lake Chapter petitioned to become absorbed by the Bob Speltz Land-of-Lakes Chapter. The Board approved their petition pending completion of all necessary paperwork with ACBS Executive Director Peter Stevens. Other items of interest were the usual continued efforts to entice new membership and retain current members. Membership is holding steady, and exit surveys have been very helpful in providing data as to why members did not renew with more than half stating they did not have time or had sold their boat.

Another noteworthy issue was the liquor liability insurance confusion among the chapters. There will be an article in the next *Rudder* from Doug Adams that should clear up any uncertainty. ACBS is healthy, with good cash and fund reserves, posting a 3.48 percent growth YTD on investments. The 2017 ACBS International Annual Meeting and Show will be in Racine, WI. Have a great summer boating season!

## BRC EXCURSIONS

### Tavares, Florida - March 18-20

*Sunny weather beckons*

By Jerri Nowlen

What could be better than a trip down to sunny Florida while our region is still too chilly, at least for this boater! The Blue Ridge Chapter once again was well represented with many of us trekking to central Florida for one of the first boat shows of the season. The weekend began with balmy weather in the mid 70s. And while the predictions were for rainfall all weekend, there was only one wet day.

The Sunnyland Chapter offered a great opportunity for boating on Friday with a cruise to a barbecue, which is always great fun. Both the docks and land were filled with vintage wooden boats, and we were thrilled to see more classic glass in the mix.

The field of dreams beckoned us to maybe add "just one more" boat, but we were strong and resisted the temptation. However, the temptations of the homemade ice cream and the beer garden were just too strong! And who can resist picking up a little something at the vendor market and Woody Boater's tent?

If you have never been, be sure to mark your calendar for March of 2017. The show is not to be missed.

### Good Grief, Miss Budweiser!

By John Heiderich

In May, Gary & Mary Jo Fesperman and April and I were in Seattle attending the spring International ACBS meeting. As part of the welcoming festivities, the local chapter hosted a cocktail party at the Hydroplane and Raceboat Museum. We were overwhelmed by the number of unlimited hydroplanes on display along with many other interesting items. The Miss Budweiser boat pictured here with April was raced in the early 1970s. During the Madison, IN, unlimited race in 1972, I was a rescue driver and have the distinction of being run over (I was 10' underwater at the time) by the same Miss Budweiser while retying a turn marker float. Fortunately we both survived the encounter to meet again in these much happier circumstances!



## Wooden Boats Got Hollywood Call

by Ed Longino

In late September of 2015 I received a call from the Hilton Head Concours show (thanks to Huntley), explaining that they had received an inquiry from Warner Bros. looking for a couple of Prohibition-era boats to be used in a Ben Affleck gangster movie and asking if I would be interested in talking to them. It was hard not to say "Hell, yes!" However, I responded calmly, "Sure." The week after the Hilton Head show (and if you haven't participated, put it on your 2016 calendar), Paul & Kathleen Crisp (1928 CC Triple) and Judy & I (1930 CC Triple) headed to Brunswick, GA, for our movie debut.

Ben Affleck owns a 500-acre island in the salt marsh between Savannah and Brunswick in Riceboro, GA. There are a few houses and other structures, but that's about it. It reminded me of the setting in *Forrest Gump*, with old oak trees and Spanish moss in abundance. If you wanted to get away from it all, this was the place. We experienced several days of hurry-up-and-wait and learned a little about what goes into filming a movie. The number of people was absolutely amazing! It was great to talk to the crew members, who were all very courteous to us.

The best part of our time spent in Brunswick was getting to know Paul & Kathleen. They are quite an interesting couple, and Judy & I look forward to seeing them at BRC shows. Paul kept me laughing for days! They both have a serious side but are really fun to be around. The movie will come and go, but we will be friends with the Crisps from now on. The movie is called *Live by Night* and is based on a novel by Dennis Lehane. You can read about it on the internet and, by the way, I have the book!! The movie should be out in early 2017.

It was a once in a lifetime experience, but Paul and I will probably never put our boats back in salt water! Sorry, Ben!

## CHURCHILL'S TIDBITS & TIPS

### Life Jacket Awareness

by Bob Churchill



Bob Churchill  
Safety Chairman

May is National Boating Safety Month, celebrated by many marinas throughout the country. On May 21st Aqualand Marina on Lake Lanier organized an event to get every person at the marina to wear a life jacket. Rescue teams from Hall and Gwinnett counties were scheduled to be there but unfortunately were assigned to search for a missing girl.

Rainy weather early in the day was something of a deterrent to attendance, even though the sun finally came out to produce a nice warm day.

The Blue Ridge Chapter was represented by Paul & Kathleen Crisp, sporting their just-completed 1938 Chris-Craft Triple; Jerry Winter; and me with my 1962 Chris-Craft sea skiff.

Several booths provided an array of boating information, from underwater hull cleaning services to boat sales and other miscellaneous boating services.

In view of this event, I am recommending the following checklist for all boaters before putting their boats in the water:

1. Check the fuel level.
2. Check that the drain plug is in and secure.
3. Ensure there is a life jacket of the correct size for every person.
4. Make sure the dock lines are ready.
5. Provide a cell phone in a waterproof bag or two-way marine radio.

Having these precautions in place can allow everyone to cruise confidently and comfortably. Have a safe and enjoyable summer!



Bill Lovejoy and young rider both wearing their life jackets.

## ON THE HORIZON - 2016

**Charlotte Antique & Classic Boat Show**  
Aug 19-20 - Mooresville, NC

**Blue Ridge Chapter Annual Meeting**  
Oct 15 - TBD

**Motoring Festival & Concours d'Elegance**  
Nov 4-6 - Hilton Head Island, SC

**Annual Christmas Party**  
Dec 3 - Lavonia, GA

**NOTE:** See website for event details