

WINTER 2016

# The Range Marker

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

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## The First “First Mate”

*A new award*

The year was 2008 when Nancy Hampton was diagnosed with advanced cancer. Since their marriage in 2001, Art Hampton had slowly transformed his wife from a person afraid of water to an ardent boater, initially by restoring a 1958 Chris-Craft Capri he had in storage for 34 years. The transom reads *It's Someday* because that was Nancy's favorite saying. Using the restored Capri, they were ready to travel to many boat shows, meet new people and get involved in antique boating. Aware of Nancy's life-threatening condition, Art conferred with Lou Ronco, then president of the Sunnyland Chapter who knew Nancy well, to do something special for her at the 2009 Sunnyland Boat Show banquet, unbeknownst to Nancy. Lou called her and Art to the podium for a unique presentation. Addressing the men in the audience, Art remarked that none of them would be successful captains without the support of their wives, and he presented Nancy with an award entitled “Best First Mate.” She was totally surprised and overjoyed. Sadly, a few months later Nancy passed away, but because Art is very passionate about the need to recognize “first mates,” the award has lived on.

Since 2009, Art has traveled to hundreds of chapter boat shows around the Midwest and East Coast, just as Nancy would have wanted to do. His traveling partner and current first mate is their 10-year-old Jack Russell Terrier, Tater, known so well throughout ACBS chapters that he sometimes gets his own name badge at boat shows.

*see First Mate PAGE 2*



*Lou Ronco, Art and Nancy Hampton*

## Upstate South Carolina Boat Show

*By John Heiderich*

We had a great display of seven boats this year at the Upstate South Carolina Boat Show. I would like to thank the following members for bringing their boats: Lee Mapp, Sykes Deliart, Dave Nisbett, Rich Cunningham, Steve Martin and Gary Fesperman. Thanks also to those members who came to the show and helped out, and especially to Julie and Dennis for coming to my rescue on Friday. We displayed two Chris-Crafts, two Centurys, one Correct Craft, Dave's home-built and my new two-seater Hydromite. Five were wood and two were classic glass. We were back in the space we occupied the first two years, slightly smaller but still nice. The attendees still managed to find us, and it was nice to talk with people who said that our display is one they look forward to seeing each year. We gave out 500 save-the-date cards for the Hartwell show in April, and it looks as if we could be gaining two to four new members from this event. While I had fun working the booth each day, when I got home on Sunday night I promptly collapsed. I'm sure anyone who has worked a show understands why!

The best question that was asked this year was why our boats don't have a cuddy cabin under the dash. I did offer the lady a chance to climb under the dash to check out the space, but she declined.



*Visitors look forward to viewing wooden boats*

## COMMANDER'S CALL



*John Heiderich*

As we start the new year, our boating schedule is already under way. April and I have just returned from the Winter ACBS International Directors' meeting and the Fort Myers boat show. I was happy to see 10 other BRC families enjoying the "sunny" Florida weather (rain, tornado, high winds and, yes, a little sun). Planning is going well for this year's annual ACBS meeting on Lake Tahoe, which should be an impressive event. The 2017 ACBS annual meeting has

been moved to downtown Milwaukee, WI. Both April and I are looking forward to reliving some fun times in Wisconsin next year.

We had seven boats on display during the Upstate South Carolina Boat Show in Greenville, SC, Jan. 28-31. We were not able to participate in the Charlotte show this year because of space availability, but our hopes are high for next year. If you have not started to tackle those winter boat projects, you need to get started. If

this weather is telling us anything, spring is just around the corner, and at the moment I know of several BRC families headed for the upcoming Florida shows -- three attending the 29th Annual Sunnyland Antique Boat Festival in Tavares and two participating in the St. Johns River Run in Orlando.

Preparation for the Hartwell show is moving along. We are planning to add a Sunday morning Dam Run for those who want one more chance to be on the lake. Registration forms will be email blasted and posted on the website by early March. Start making plans to join us April 14-17.

From the committee reports given at the meeting it looks like ACBS is in good financial shape. They have \$840,000 in total monies which includes \$300,000 in the Scholarship fund. It was satisfying to see the committee looking closely at all income and expenses to better understand the true shape of the national organization

Your President, *John*

*First Mate continued from PAGE 1*

Being present at so many different shows, Art's enthusiasm for recognizing "first mates" has been heightened so that he has established this honor, with the assistance of a few key people, as an ongoing award within the Blue Ridge Chapter. The first one was given in 2014 at the Charlotte boat show to Diane Mistele. The next one in 2015 was presented at Chatuge to Alice Forbis. Future awards will be presented at the Chatuge Rendezvous. It is important to note that the first mate isn't determined by her ability to jump on deck or tie fancy knots. The award is given to someone who over time has demonstrated ongoing support to her captain, fellow members, the chapter and ACBS as a whole. It's about participation and the love of people and wooden boats.

This is an inspiration that has caught on as George Blossmer at Smith Mountain in Virginia consulted with Art to create that chapter's own "First Mate" award. In 2015 its initial recipient was Carol Clement.

This writer believes, as does Art, that every chapter throughout ACBS has a candidate deserving of this honor.



*Art Hampton with It's Someday*



*Millie Hawbecker checks out the hors d'oeuvre table*



*Jerri Nowlen looking festive*



*Lee Mapp and Jack Gidley showing off their ugly sweaters*



# Hilton Head Concours d'Elegance 2015

*Sunny skies and good times*

*By Jerri Nowlan*

Hilton Head, South Carolina in November! Just as many of us were putting our boats up for the winter, Hilton Head bestowed upon us mid-70's and sunny weather, not to mention hundreds of the crème de la crème in automobiles. This year the Hilton Head Concours d'Elegance upped the ante and provided vintage airplanes for viewing, and they were spectacular! The Blue Ridge Chapter of ACBS proudly displayed 25 boats on the motoring midway, the most we have ever had and great representation for our organization.

For those who have not attended the Concours, you are missing a real treat. Once again our boats were at the center of the event field, where we enjoyed front-and-center seats to the Sunday afternoon parade of winning cars. We were wined and dined Friday night by Charles and Diane Misteale at their beloved Belfair. After each day on the field, we dined again with dear friends at the fine restaurants of Hilton Head.

This year we really got a chance to sit and chat with many of the vehicle owners to hear the history of their cars and planes. It was my honor to spend time chatting with a woman who grew up next door to Gar Wood himself. She regaled me with stories of how wonderful the man was. I truly felt connected.

The 2016 Concours will be the weekend of November 4. If you would like to display your boat, please contact me at [jnowlen@ellijay.com](mailto:jnowlen@ellijay.com).



*Blue Ridge Chapter boats line the motor midway*



*Belfair serves up elegant pasta dinner*

## Chapter Christmas Celebration

*By Mary Jo Fesperman*

The Blue Ridge Chapter's annual Christmas party was held on December 5, 2015, at the Holiday Inn Express in Lavonia, GA. The catered dinner was delicious, and the fellowship was priceless. This year, those attending and wishing to participate wore their ugliest Christmas sweater. After a round of playing raucous games, a collective vote was taken for who sported the Ugliest Sweater. The undisputed winner was Dennis Moore. This is one of my favorite events as it provides time to visit, mingle and hopefully bond friendships within our chapter. Kudos to the Heiderichs for making the party a big success! (See pictures on page 2)

## THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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# BRC EXCURSIONS

## Fort Myers Winter Show

*Lovely weather yields big crowds*

On January 16 and 17, the second annual Fort Myers Antique and Classic Boat Show was hosted by LuAnne and Kent Caldwell and the Sunnyland Chapter. ACBS chose Fort Myers for the quarterly directors' meeting, which was held the Friday before the show. A summary of that meeting can be found in the "International" column.

The event showcased a whopping total of 55 boats, with 11 in the water and the rest on land, cleverly organized by category. The Glasspar club had its own section. Since the Caldwells are also members of the Blue Ridge Chapter, a large contingent of BRC members attended to support the show, including Anthonys, Fespermans, Heiderichs, Hampton, Lindelys, Misteles, Moores, Nisbetts, Olsens, Prussianos, Sneddons and Wards.

Public participation surpassed the previous year, with more than 4,500 visitors.



*Back to boats and people*



*The Purple People Eater captivates youngster*



*Large boats line docks*

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## Georgetown, SC Antique Boat Show

*By Julie Moore*

After attending the Blue Ridge Chapter annual meeting in Greenwood, we turned around and headed to the Georgetown Wooden Boat Show.

Georgetown was bustling with huge crowds and an interesting variety of boat types. We enjoyed the array of dories, sailboats, large cruisers, canoes and kayaks, along with other antique and classic wooden boats.

We also had a special visit with Jim Varner. Jim had *Love Me Tender* on display. J. L. Hamrick, Gerald Wilkin, Bob & Linda Smith (with their runabout winning the Owner Designed and Built Award) were all in attendance, and we enjoyed conversations and stories with them. While visiting the excellent nautical store, we ran into Sarah & Ed James. Sarah was doing an outstanding job of promoting the Blue Ridge Chapter and handing out brochures to prospective members.

The Georgetown Wooden Boat Show is definitely a show of boating excitement with its large boat exhibition, the boatbuilding tent, great vendors, the Maritime Museum, and crowds of people.



*Variety of boats take part in land display*





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 Winter ACBS International Quarterly Meeting was held in conjunction with Kent Caldwell's Ft. Myers Boat Show. Overall, ACBS membership has flattened out and is trending upward. Current membership as of January 15th was

6,837 members. and we are looking for that upward trend to continue in 2016. ACBS is very sound financially, with a balance of almost \$250,000 in the capital reserve fund over and above the operating accounts and \$302,835 in the scholarship fund.

The new ACBS website is up and running. There are still a few areas that need to be tweaked, but overall the site is functioning well. If you have changes that need to be made to your membership listing, please go online and make those changes now. An increasing number of members are opting for the electronic version of the ACBS directory; over 33% of the membership opted for the electronic version in 2015. We are looking to streamline the directory in the future to eliminate the repetitive material that is now included on the new ACBS website and chapter handbook.

The committee overseeing the chapter handbook has completed the changes for the 2016 version and will be sending it out to all chapter presidents by the end of February. The handbook will probably be phased out in printed form after 2016 and made available only on the website in the future.

Several ACBS committees are working on future improvements to the ship's store, youth programs, chapter outreach and publicity/marketing strategies. I am interested in any new ideas that our members may have for improving these sections. Please contact me at Gary.Fesperman@gmail.com, 706-356-4030 home or 706-491-7662 cell.

## Hollywood Seeks Wooden Boats

Last November, Ed Longino mentioned that he had been contacted by a film production company in search of vintage Chris-Craft boats for use in a film about 1920s Prohibition-era organized crime, including rum-running from Cuba

to Florida. The movie, "Live by Night," which features Ben Affleck will be filmed partly in Brunswick and Savannah, GA.

We'll keep you posted.



Bumblebee, a 1928 Chris-Craft Triple

## Lavonia Christmas Parade

The Lavonia Christmas Parade is an ideal place to highlight the beginning of spring with the anticipated opening of the Lake Hartwell Boat Show. Members enjoy riding the parade and interacting with the crowd.



Fesperman's Boat with Rep. Alan Powell



Rolling ad for Lake Hartwell Boat Show

## Thanks to the Moores

Just as I was arriving at the Greenville boat show, my wife, April, called me to say she was in a terrible car accident and needed me. (She is fine, but the car is totaled.) I knew the Moores were coming to the show to help out for a couple of hours but were not planning on staying all day. They had just stopped for lunch when I called them. They not only gave up their lunch but stayed at the booth for six hours.

Just nice people!

John Heiderich

## ON THE HORIZON

2016

### Lake Hartwell Boat Festival

April 14-17  
Hartwell, GA

### Lake Chatuge Rendezvous

June 2-4  
Hiawassee, GA

### Charlotte Antique & Classic Boat Show

Aug 19-20  
Mooresville, SC

### 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



## CHURCHILL'S TIDBITS & TIPS

### Safety First

by Bob Churchill



Bob Churchill  
Safety Chairman

Here's a safety event you won't want to miss. Mark your calendar for Saturday, May 21. Aqualand Marina on Lake Lanier is organizing a free boat show for antique and classic boats. This is Aqualand's annual safety awareness undertaking, and the Blue Ridge Chapter has been invited to participate. In addition to our boats, there will be many other activities. Fire safety and rescue teams, a contest to see how many people can wear a life jacket at one time and a 5K run with participants required to wear life jackets are just a few of the highlights. If these don't emphasize safety,

what does? For more info call me at 770-757-7327.



*See you on the lake!*