

SUMMER 2017

The Range Marker

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

acbs.org • blueridgechapter.com



Lake Hartwell Boat Show

Lake down, crowds up

On a warm Thursday evening, the Fespermans held a welcome dinner for 63 eager attendees. With live country music playing in the background and an inviting Margarita bar staged against an old barn setting, members separated by a long winter were keen to mix and mingle. After rounds of “cornhole” and horseshoe tossing, folks were ready to sit down and enjoy the Southern-style fish fry.

An hour-long cruise can be hazardous when the lake is down 9 feet, but Lake Hartwell gave boaters an incredibly glassy ride. With all 21 boats forming a single-line flotilla, the cruise up to Clemson Marina and back was without incident.

Barbecued ribs and fixings highlighted the menu on Friday night for 90 attendees at the traditional Boat Barn dinner. It was another opportunity to meet old friends and greet new people.

Since the chapter annual meeting was washed away with the advent of Hurricane Matthew, president John Heiderich took the opportunity to present the President's Cup to Don and Charlotte Baker for their enduring support of the Blue Ridge Chapter.

On boat show day, with unseasonably warm weather, the festivities kicked off with a police escort of 50 classic cars filing into the parking lot. Formal ceremonies began with the ROTC raising the flag and Edwin McCain from the Hart County Chamber offering a welcoming speech. An array of arts and craft booths packed the marina area. An old wooden boat painted white provided a canvas for a kids' “paint-a-boat” activity. Forty-eight antique boats filled the slips, with their owners interacting with people on the docks who were

see Lake Hartwell PAGE 2



Members socializing at Welcome Dinner

30 Years and Going Strong!

2017 Lake Chatuge Rendezvous

by Jerri Nowlen

Once again Mother Nature smiled upon us, and what was predicted as a wet weekend turned out to be gorgeous! Members began arriving Thursday, and by that evening we had 46 braving the stairs to the Fesperman/Crisp/Harbin-Nowlen condo. In typical Blue Ridge Chapter fashion we started where we left off from the last show, making new friends and enjoying the company of those who have grown so dear to us.

This year was different from the past in that we had half the 30 boats on one dock and half on another. This gave us – and the many spectators -- more elbow room than we have had in the past. We also had four boats on land plus the many canoes that attend this Rendezvous. Friday was spent launching and cruising the beautiful mountain lake. If you have never attended the Lake Chatuge Rendezvous, you are missing one of the most beautiful mountain lakes of the Southeast. In the evening we all gathered at the Hollises' classic car station for live music by Gene Ponder and barbecue from the Happy Hawg.

The 25th Cardboard Boat Build was not to be missed, with a third generation of the Cunningham family, Quinn Cunningham, making his debut. Girl Power was still in full force with Ella Turner making a fast break for the lead. We had 10 boat builders this year, and the crowd went wild! If you have not been on Woody Boater's website, I suggest you hurry on over to see 60 photos taken by our wonderful photographer and chapter member Michael Maddox.

The banquet started out with the most energized raffle ticket buying I have ever seen. I am not sure if it

see 30 Years PAGE 3



1945 Century Winter's Work at dock

COMMANDER'S CALL



John Heiderich

The Blue Ridge Chapter is once again planning a full year of activities that will surely have something to offer each of our members. We have nine -- that's right, nine -- activities for 2017. We started the year with displaying our boats at the Greenville and Charlotte new boat shows. April was our Hartwell show, then in June there was Lake Chatuge. The Charlotte show followed in August, then a return of our Lake Sinclair show and annual meeting in September. Let's not forget Hilton Head in November and our Christmas

Party in December. Very few ACBS chapters put on as many events each year. What's remarkable for BRC is that each of our events is well attended. I received a call today from the president of Dixieland chapter saying their Guntersville event was cancelled this year because of lack of interest. Let's not allow this to happen to any of our events.

If you noticed, I only listed eight events, so what is the ninth? A group of us was sitting around at the Greenville show talking about our events and what we might do differently. We came up with the idea of a one-day boating event, at a different lake each year. No show, no awards, no months of planning needed, and low cost. This event would give BRC two big benefits. The first would be to explore lakes that we may not go to on our own. The other, and what I think is more important, is to give members the experience of what is involved in planning an event. With this experience they may also use this event as a steppingstone into a leadership position. Pat MacRae took the first step and agreed to host a Lake Keowee Boating Day in July. More information on this event will be coming out shortly. Thanks, Pat! Now who will keep this going for next year?

Safe boating to all,

John

Lake Hartwell continued from PAGE 1

taking pictures and asking questions. An estimated 2,000 people visited the festival to enjoy this BRC first-of-the-season event.

The evening banquet held at Cateechee Golf Club was well attended. After the buffet dinner, a raffle was held for three antique wooden boat prints. Awards were then presented and farewells were exchanged among old and new friends.

During the show, skippers were given a ballot to select boats in specific categories. The results were tallied for the following awards:

Skippers Choice: Tom Neff & Brenda Highsmith, 1918 Hacker, *Pal I Want That One*: Tom & June Riggle, 1952 Chris-Craft Sedan, *Slow Dancing*

Best Runabout: Eric & Christine Storm, 1953 Chris-Craft Riviera, *Knot Firewood*

Best Utility: Magan Pifer, 1946 Garwood, *Blue Eyes*

Best Contemporary: Bill & Gail Turner, 2013 AristoCraft

Best PreWar: Paul & Kathy Crisp, 1928 Chris-Craft Triple, *Bumblebee*

Best PostWar: Al & Bonne Olsen, 1950 Chris-Craft Holiday, *Norwegian Son*

Best Outboard: David & Cindy Cowart, 1956 AristoCraft Torpedo, *Just 4 Fun*

Best Century: Bob & Dottie White, 1948 Century Sea Maid, *Citation*

Best Chris-Craft: Art & Tater Hampton, 1958 Chris-Craft Capri, *It's Someday*

Best Non-Wood: David & Cindy Cowart, 1958 Arenacraft, *Knot Another*

Youth Judging: Chuck & Diane Mistele, 1930 Garwood, *Miss America IX*

Perpetual Awards

Boat Enthusiast of the Year: Ed Longino

Old Boats, Old Friends: Bob & Dottie White

Fred Thomas Best Antique Boater of the Year: Lee & Teresa Mapp



Bumblebee cruising to Clemson Marina



Skipper's Choice: 1918 Hacker, Pal



Docks full, boats & people

was due to the lovely ticket sellers or the amazing raffle items generously donated by the Turners, the Crisps, and Robert Porter. Awards this year were made by Paul Crisp and went to:

Best Outboard: *Firecracker* – Scott & Jenna Turner

Best Pre-War: *Pal* – Tom Neff & Brenda Highsmith

Best Post-War: *Knot Firewood* - Eric & Christine Storm

Best Non-Wood: *Blue Bye You* – Kent & LouAnn Caldwell



Turner family in *Firecracker*



John Hagerman cruising in *Handy Boy*

Photos courtesy of Michael Maddox

Greenville Upstate New Boat Show

By John Heiderich

This year's Greenville show started with a "What in the heck do we do now?" moment. We arrived on Tuesday afternoon to find our space, which was supposed to be 57' by 65', was in fact 57' by 32'. The show staff decided they needed a second refreshment stand, and our space was just right. We had nine boats and one canoe to shoe horn into half the planned space. With a little help, creative ideas and stealing an area across the aisle, we were able to construct a great display. This year we were one of the last into the convention center, but this also made us one of the first out on Sunday evening. As in years past, we had a large number of people stopping by to view the boats. Many commented that this year's boats were the best looking boats of all they had seen in this or previous shows.

Looks Damn Expensive: *Miss America* – Charles & Diane Mistele

People's Choice: *Sliver* – Wayne & Carolyn Hollis

Captain's Choice: *Love & Luck* – Kent & LouAnn Caldwell

The "Randy" went to Mary Jo Fesperman

Best First Mate went to April Heiderich

We came away from the weekend with full hearts and the feeling we always get, that our gatherings are more like a family reunion than a boating event. Can't wait to see you all again at Lake Norman in August!



Captain's Choice: *Love & Luck*



Full house on the floor

We passed out more than 500 "Save the Date" cards for the Hartwell show, with many people saying they would plan to come to the show. It's not too early to think about bringing your boat to the show next January. It's a great outlet for winter.

Thanks to all who took their time to show their boats this year.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

Vice President

Dana Anthony
danaanthony@bellsouth.net
803-242-2663

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706-273-9595
tharbin@ellijay.com

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704-873-3282
boss@longino.net

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bobsmith@truevista.net

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Julie Moore
julmor48@gmail.com

Safety Chairman

Bob Churchill
rchurc1153@aol.com

Newsletter

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bonneolsen@gmail.com

Webmaster

Terry Harbin
tharbin@ellijay.com

AHOY NEW BRC MEMBERS, WELCOME!

By Bob Smith



Bob Smith
Chairman

Please join me in welcoming our latest members to the growing Blue Ridge Chapter fleet.

BIG WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Conrad Travntr, GA
Dan & Tracy Gyoerkoe, NY
William Stoffers & Els Rombaut, GA
John & Mary Jane Rice, NC
Kerry & Roxanne Pope, NC
Alvan & June Judson, NC
Bob & Darcie Tumey, NC
Michael & Lisa Brown, VA
Jerry Keto & Simona Besnea, Ontario
Tom Baldwin & Diane Rothberg, GA
Gary & Deborah Petsch, SC
Bruce & A. Marie Rado, GA
Mark Merritt & Sue Primeaux, GA

We all look forward to getting to know these new additions and again welcome them to the finest Chapter in the ACBS.

Bob & Linda Smith
Membership Chair

Greatest Boating Week St. John's River Cruise, Florida

By John Heiderich

One of the greatest boating weeks you can ever have is running the St. John's River. April and I have enjoyed the Northbound or, to more accurately describe it, the After Tavares Show run for the past seven years. Running the St. John's started about 30 years ago as a way to enjoy the full week before the old Mt. Dora, Florida, boat show. Boats started in Jacksonville and ended in Sanford. After a couple of years, the popularity of this run grew and the "north" run was added. As with most things, over time refinements are made until we have today's schedule. The "south" run spends a day moving their trailers from Jacksonville to Sanford, thus losing a full day of river fun. The "After" show run starts and ends in Palatka, giving us five days on the river instead of four. There is plenty of great company, lots of food, and plenty of bathroom breaks along with the gas stops.

The run starts on Sunday when you leave the Tavares Show and drive 90 minutes to launch your boat at Palatka. Accommodations in Palatka are the Quality Inn, party central, an older property with clean rooms facing the river but lacking an elevator, so request the first floor. The docks are for bigger boats and may be high for ours depending on the tides. After checking in and getting everyone docked, we enjoyed a get-acquainted cocktail party, renewing old friendships from past trips and making new soon-to-be-friends. Dinner Sunday night gets all of the business matters out of the way, such as what to expect each day, where we will stop to eat (very important!), the poker cards, and the 50-50 jackpot.

Monday morning sunrise over the river was something to see. After breakfast it was time to wipe the dew off the boats, warm up the engines and pack the boats for the day's run. I should mention that your luggage is moved each day by trailer to the next stop and is there waiting for you when you arrive. If you forgot anything, need an engine part or more beer, wine or whatever, Rick Dake, one of the organizers, goes out of his way to assist. After applying plenty of sunscreen, our 18-boat flotilla headed south for an all-you-can-eat lunch at Shrimp R Us in Welatka, then on to Astor. After a gas and personal stop at Georgetown we headed across the 12-mile-wide Lake George, which can be a mill pond or have two-foot waves, depending on the wind. That day it was a mill pond. We arrived in Astor around 3:00 PM, after running 45 miles and burning 13 gallons of fuel. In Astor you stay at the Astor Bridge Motel. (Think of a small, quaint old Florida fishing camp with small pink bathrooms.) Docks are on the river and a bar-restaurant is next door. The Castaways across the river has cottages with covered docks. Dinner at the Astor Bridge Grill was a Florida dinner of fish, shrimp, hush puppies and all the fixings.

Tuesday again was a sunscreen day, running to our farthest south point at Blue Springs. After pulling up on shore and getting everyone off safely we walked the half mile boardwalk to view the cave, more than 200 feet deep, pouring forth thousands of gallons of water per minute. Along the way we viewed many fish and even got to see a couple of manatees that were still in the warm spring before heading out to the river and the Atlantic Ocean. After lunch at the Yacht Club we again returned to Astor with a couple of detours up small creeks. Wednesday morning we left Astor, and after a fun little creek run we headed to Silver Glen Spring, halfway across Lake George. About 50 yards out,



Wild, untouched landscape



Boaters exploring the environment

see Greatest PAGE 5



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Updates will show up on your home page.

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

Greatest continued from PAGE 4



Blue Springs tie up

the water suddenly turns from tannin brown to crystal clear. When you arrive at the springs you anchor in three feet of water and wade ashore for lunch. After lunch it's back to cross the other half of Lake George and on to Palatka for the night.

Thursday morning after breakfast at Angles, the oldest diner in Florida, we headed back south on the St. John's, then up the winding Dunn's Creek to Crescent City for a great lunch provided by the owners of the Sprague House B&B. For some reason the wind is always out of the south, causing Crescent Lake to be rough going to lunch but giving a smoother run after lunch. Dunn's Creek is always a fun run with many twisting turns, allowing one to go from full right to full left rudder through the many turns. Before heading back to the St. John's we take a turn to port and run a small creek around Murphy Island. Altogether we counted 25 alligators, one over 10 feet long, too many turtles to count, and four eagles.

Friday started out very windy, but by the time we shoved off for our run to lunch, the wind decreased and the waves were nothing more than a hard chop. Normally we would head north to St. Augustine and the Outback Crab Shack, but sadly last year's October storms destroyed the Crab Shack. We headed back to Welatka to a new location for another great lunch. On the way back to Palatka we had the chance to see the Amtrak passenger train cross the river. With everyone's help we had all of the boats back on their trailers in no time and said our goodbyes till next year.

All told we ran over 200 miles, burned 65 gallons of gas, emptied one bottle of sunscreen, ate too much, and had five wonderful days of running our boats. The St. John's run is one of the best times you will ever have with your boat. Please consider joining April and me next year on this fabulous run.

Mid-Atlantic Boat Show Charlotte, NC

By Ed Longino

In the dead of winter, the show was very well attended. We talked to hundreds of people promoting our August Charlotte show as well as the Blue Ridge Chapter. The following boats were on display:

1955 Chris-Craft Capri, Lee & Evelyn Hunt; 1958 Wagemaker Wolverine, David & Lorre Coone; 1969 Correct Craft, Reid & Laurie Pinkham; 1957 Chris-Craft Cruiser, and 2013 Homemade Pram, Dana & Marlene Anthony; 1930 Chris-Craft Triple, Ed & Judy Longino.

Thanks to all who participated, with a special thanks to Dana Anthony, who was present for all four days for all show hours. That's beyond the call of duty!



Antique wooden boats draw crowds

Classic Boat Dinners on Lanier Continue...

By Gail Turner

The Classic Boat Dinners on Lake Lanier actually started simply because we wanted to get together more! Dinners on the lake were the perfect solution! Some arrive in their antique and classic boats, others by newer power, others sail, and still others drive. As long as we all get to the same spot, then we are good to go!

From initially assuming only those on the lake would want to attend, we learned quickly of the willingness of other members to drive from other areas, so now we look forward to sending the information out to the chapter and being able to visit with many. It has been especially exciting to have members we had never met before join us, and now we cannot imagine a show or gathering without them!

This is a story of people who love boating and especially vintage and classic boats. We all have a story; we all love hearing our collective stories; and nothing beats a summer evening on the lake, cruising together, sharing our bloopers or tall tales, and following the sunset home.

The first dinner this year was scheduled on Wednesday evening, June 14th. We met at Pig Tales restaurant at Aqualand Marina at 6:30 p.m. This place has been a favorite of the group for a while! Also, mark your calendars for Wednesday, July 12th at 6:30 p.m. We will meet at another favorite place, Skogies on Lanier at Gainesville Marina. As usual, I will send an email out about a week ahead of time for a head count so we can let the restaurant know of our plans.

Looking forward to seeing you on the lake!



Sunset on Lake Lanier

Youth Judging

By Julie Moore



Youth Judges at work

During the Lake Hartwell Antique Boat Festival, I rounded up Olivia, Logan, Cody and Dylan when they finished their artistic expression at the "Paint-a-Boat." Each received a red "Judges" cap, a t-shirt, a really cool name tag and a scoring pad. As we headed to the dock, they already had in mind their favorite boats. However, once they really stopped and took a hard look, they favored all of the classic and antique boats.

Thanks to Darrell Dyas and Chuck Mistele for allowing the young judges to board their boats. The skippers relayed some interesting facts for the judges to consider. Along with *Miss America IX* and *C-C Classic* they really liked *Itty Bitty*, the *AristoCraft Holiday*, *C-Mego* and *Mallard*. (They wanted to know if the boat hit a duck!) Their final pick for the Youth Judging Award went to *Miss America IX*.

There is definitely a different perspective walking the docks with young, inquisitive kids. I learned a lot (and maybe not just about boats.)

Thanks to Ed Longing for preparing the youth judges photo award. Thanks to Hagarty for the youth judging kit, which gives kids the opportunity to become excited and informed about old boats.

CHURCHILL'S TIDBITS & TIPS



Bob Churchill
Safety Chairman

National Safe Boating Week was in May. Here are some facts taken from the US Coast Guard data:

1. The Coast Guard reported 4,158 boating accidents, of which 626 were deaths. These were only the accidents reported. Many accidents go unreported to the Coast Guard.
2. Of those accidents, 76 percent of the victims drowned, as 85 percent were not wearing life jackets.
3. Operator inattention was cited as the primary reason for those accidents.

Now that the boating season is upon us, it's time to go through a checklist of your safety supplies.

Life Jackets

1. Make sure they are Coast-Guard-approved.
2. Check for rips or tears.
3. Check straps and buckles.
4. Be sure you have a life jacket that fits every person on your boat.
5. Insist that every child age 14 and under wear a life jacket. (It's the law.)
6. Remind all passengers that LIFE JACKETS SAVE LIVES!

Fire Extinguishers

1. ABC class extinguishers will smother wood, plastic, fluid and electrical fires
- How long has that fire extinguisher been sitting in your boat? If it has been there a long time, it might not work when you need it, even if the gauge indicates "full." I recommend getting a 5-pound rechargeable model. This way you know it will work. I carry two and get them checked every year. Remember: You may be betting your life that it works.

First Aid Kits

It is best to have a commercial kit available on your boat at all times. These come with instructions, and they will carry the basic supplies. I carry a good-size kit on my boat for the club. However, I might not be where you are, so having your own well stocked kit is essential.

There is one other item that may not be standard-issue with a first aid kit but that you should seriously consider carrying on your boat: chewable aspirin. Chest pain in the middle of a lake is no laughing matter. Anyone who is allergic to aspirin or who has a bleeding ulcer should avoid it, but for anyone else, chewing up to four aspirin at the onset of chest pain could make a huge difference. If the pain is heart-related, definitely get to a hospital for treatment as quickly as possible.

Remember, these are only a few suggestions for everyone's safety and health. Let's be safe and have a great time with our boats!

ON THE HORIZON - 2017

Charlotte Antique & Classic Boat Show

August 25-26 | Mooresville, NC
Trump National Golf & Country Club
Contact: Ed & Judy Longino
704-871-7747
boss@longinodist.com

Blue Ridge Chapter Annual Meeting

September 15-16 | Milledgeville, GA
Contact: Tom Neff or Brenda Highsmith
912-614-1337
njoyce07@gmail.com

Hilton Head Island Motoring Festival & Concours d'Elegance

November 4-5 | Hilton Head Island, SC
Contact: Jerri Nowlen
706-273-6495
jnowlen@ellijay.com

NOTE: See website for event details