

FALL 2015

The Range Marker

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

acbs.org • blueridgechapter.com



Lake Chatuge 2015

The largest Chatuge gathering ever!

This year's Lake Chatuge Rendezvous began with a wonderful early arrival party Thursday evening. The party was hosted by Jon and Patricia Walters at their condo just across the lake from the Ridges Resort Marina. Patricia surely slaved to provide a lavish spread and a beautiful setting to kick off the weekend's festivities.

It is always a magnificent sight to see wooden and classic glass boats cruising with a backdrop of the stunning North Georgia Mountains. This year most of the boaters were in the water and ready to provide that tableau with a casual Friday cruise led by Randy Cunningham. Afterwards we donned our leis for another fun-filled luau at the sandbar, where the hokey-pokey was performed by grass-skirted ladies and gents. We even went a bit nostalgic, testing our hoola-hooping skills.

Saturday was warm and gorgeous with 47 registered boats in the water, covering both docks, four on land plus five canoes. We were honored to have 16 new members attending and five join at the show. The cardboard boat build and paddle was a huge success with the *QE II* built in record time and an amazing outboard with trailer!

The Saturday night banquet is always a blast, and this year was no exception. Diane Mistele won the riotous "guess-the-boat" contest, with music provided by Bryan Leazenby.

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Classic boats making a statement on the lake

Charlotte Show Loves Trump

More Boats, Bigger Crowds

The 17th Annual Charlotte Antique & Classic Boat Show was held at the Trump Golf Resort on Lake Norman, July 23-26. Approximately 50 boats were registered for the show, with half in the water and the rest beautifully displayed on land. A Thursday evening "Early Arrivals" gathering was held at Cruisin' Classics, hosted by Pat and Sherrie Crusse. The Crusse boat shop was jam-packed with interesting restorations and memorabilia for members to check out.

Friday afternoon, members were treated by Chuck Mistele to a very informative and entertaining presentation of the story behind *Miss America IX*. He told the legend of Garfield 'Gar' Arthur Wood (December 4, 1880) the inventor, entrepreneur, motorboat builder and world record racer who was the first man to travel over 100 mph on water. Wood set a new world record speed for a boat of 74 mph in 1920 on the Detroit River, using a new boat called *Miss America IX*. In the following 12 years, Wood built nine more *Miss Americas* and broke the record five times. Upon Wood's death in 1971, Chuck was given the goggles and racing suit worn by this boating legend, which he proudly displayed during his presentation.

Friday evening, the official welcome dinner was held at the home of Ed and Judy Longino. A little pizzeria tent was set up on

see Charlotte PAGE 4



Early arrivals sharing stories

COMMANDER'S CALL



John Heiderich

Well, we have another year quickly coming to an end. What happened to this year? First off, let me start out by thanking Gary Feserman for his service to the Blue Ridge Chapter for the last two years. I'm taking over a chapter that is both very healthy and very active. At the recent annual meeting I spoke about each of our members taking it upon themselves to contact other members to promote the events they are attending. If you are planning on attending another chapter's event and would like some company, just let the webmaster know and we will put out an email blast to the chapter. Let's all help to make each event well attended.

Speaking of events, for 2015 the Blue Ridge Chapter sponsored eight fantastic and exciting events. We have two events left for

this year, the Hilton Head Motoring Concours d'Elegance and our Ugly Christmas Sweater Party. For 2016 we are again looking at eight BRC-sponsored events, with the possibility of adding an additional show or a fall leaf cruise. Check our website for a complete listing. A number of members will be attending events in Fort Meyer, FL, in January and Tavares, FL, in March. If you need information on these two events, please contact me for the details. Now is the time to mark these events on your 2016 calendar.

If you are working on a project boat, why not take a couple of pictures and send a short article to Bonne Olsen to include in the next *Range Marker*? I'm sure we would all like to see what our members are working on.

Your President, *John*

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Award winners were as follows:

Shiniest Boat, Owen Turner

Best Lapstrake, *Jaw Jaw*, Lee & Teresa Mapp

Best Outboard, *Full Circle*, AristoCraft Compass, Bill & Gail Turner

Looks Damn Expensive, *Le Chat Noir*, Jack & Lee Francisco

Farthest Traveled, Ben & Myrna Huizinga

Shining Star. This year's youth award went to Owen Turner, who not only made a cardboard outboard boat with engine but a trailer to put it on!

The Nancy Hampton Memorial "Best First Mate" award went to Alice Forbis

People's Choice, *Bumblebee*, Paul & Kathy Crisp

Captain's Choice to represent the Blue Ridge Chapter in the ACBS Directory, *Brown Eyed Girl*, Craig & Beth Miller

ACBS annual award for Best Non-wood, *Knot Another*, Dave & Cindy Cowert

The gathering was an upbeat, fun-filled weekend that would not have been possible without the wonderful ACBS members that we have come to know as our Boating Family. We look forward to seeing you all next June for Chatuge 2016.



Captain's Choice, Craig & Beth Miller



Future boat builders on display



Members expressing their inner luau

Blue Ridge Chapter Annual Meeting

Lake Greenwood Venue

When you mention the word “meeting,” most people groan, thinking BORING. Not so for the BRC annual meeting. The “meeting” was just a fraction of the whole Lake Greenwood event. To start with, five couples rented a lakeside home with a big deck and fabulous view. A different group rented another home. All early arrivals on Thursday came together to share pizza, wings and wine. Needless to say, sharing quarters with other couples for three days is definitely a bonding experience.

Our host, Greg Jackson, arranged an agenda that included a variety of activities:

- A round of golf at the Patriot Golf Club. The Olsens and the Leazenbys just put their clubs in the back of the *Norwegian Son* and motored downstream to the course, where they were transported to the pro shop. The weather was balmy, and the course was picturesque.
- A catered welcome dinner at the rustic cabin (4 bedrooms/4 baths/4 docks) of Les Rue. For those who have never had the pleasure of visiting one of Les’s lake dwellings, he is a passionate collector and master decorator of vintage lake artifacts, furniture and boat memorabilia. Walking through his cabin was a treat. Members also gathered at the fire pit and dockside seating arrangement for social hour with a perfect view of the setting sun.
- The Saturday meeting was at Greg’s new showroom/office in Greenwood among the antique wooden boats and classic cars. The meeting was opened by outgoing president Gary Fesperman, who conducted the standard business. The new board was voted in, electing John Heiderich as president, Greg Jackson as vice president, Joan Wigfield as secretary and Jerri Nowlen as treasurer.

One of the central issues brought up was the declining membership for ACBS. Another issue raised was the cost of attending directors’ and international meetings. The new board will take this matter up at their next meeting. Upon adjournment, members were encouraged to explore the various lunch options in town.

The scheduled afternoon lake cruise had to be canceled due to the rain, but the weather did not dampen spirits or socializing.

A Saturday night poolside dinner was planned at Grand Harbor but when South Carolina was hit again with another rain storm the dinner was quickly diverted to the Golf Club restaurant. Also, a delicious buffet and social hour prior to dinner were enjoyed by all.

Sunday the rain subsided, the 5-6 boats that did launch were pulled out and it was time to say good-bye. A full transcript of the minutes will be posted on the website. ■



Good company, good views



Fesperman to Heiderich, “take the helm”

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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 10 new members over the summer, 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

Ken & Jan Buck
Vincent P. & Linda Frantz
Richard & Sarah Kopp
Doug & Sharron Mann
Pat & Libby McCrae
Geoffrey & Mary Sheen
Rose & Rick Sheppard
Taylor, Tim Derek Patterson
Karen & Bob Wilkins
Steve & Lisa Zwilling



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the back lawn where guests could request a pizza made to their own specifications.

Show day on Saturday morning was warm, but there was a nice breeze off the lake. Visitors started arriving early and expressed their appreciation for the beautiful boats. The resort provided a sandwich buffet for lunch, and guests were entertained by a local DJ playing Carolina beach music. Visitors packed the docks and flowed around the land display area.

Saturday evening, everyone wine and dined in the elegant Trump dining room. Ed Longino opened the program with a musical tribute followed by introductions of new Blue Ridge Chapter members and committee members and concluding with a rousing raffle of donated gifts. Awards were then presented to the following:

Best Cruiser, *Lil McTug*, Bill McComb
Best Replica, *Legend Has It*, Gerald Hurst
Best Chris Craft, *Norwegian Son*, Al & Bonne Olsen
Best Century, Ryan Crusse
Best Lyman, *Chuck Full*, Michael & Maureen Sabbagh
Best Outboard, Dana & Marlene Anthony
Captain's Choice, *Love & Luck*, Ken & LouAnn Caldwell
People's Choice, *Miss Alice*, Alice Forbis
Looks Damn Expensive To Me, *Roaring Twenties*, Tommy Watson
Hard Luck, Greg Jackson
First Annual Wayne Forbis Sportsmanship Award, Alice Forbis



Land display packs the parking lot



Miss America IX in action



Visitors rocking the docks



Captain's Choice, Ken & LouAnn Caldwell



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

As many of you are already aware, I was elected to fulfill the remaining two years of Tim Bush's three-year term at the ACBS Annual Meeting at Gull Lake, MN. Tim has assumed the position of treasurer for 2016. It is truly an

honor to represent Blue Ridge as a sitting director on the international board. While I serve in this capacity I will be writing a column for each *Range Marker* to highlight relevant news from ACBS and upcoming changes to policy or hot-button issues.

One of the main topics at the last annual meeting was the continued loss of renewal memberships and putting together a plan designed to better retain our existing memberships while encouraging younger boating families to join in the benefits of ACBS. It seems that this is an ongoing issue that has come up over and over again during the past several years without ACBS making noticeable progress in finding a resolution. The board is presently developing a marketing program designed to reach out more to the Marque Clubs and fiberglass groups. While some memberships have been added from these groups, a vast majority have not been convinced that ACBS offers enough benefit to them to join our organization.

I look forward to the upcoming ACBS discussions on how to address this matter. Any suggestions from our membership would be greatly appreciated. Our next quarterly ACBS meeting will be hosted by the Sunnyland Chapter and Kent Caldwell at Ft. Myers, FL, January 14-17, 2016. I encourage everyone to come down and join the discussion.

Congratulations



The 2015 recipient of the Mary Herwig Award recently bestowed by ACBS International was none other than our own GAIL TURNER. The purpose of this award is to honor an individual who, through activities at the chapter level, has contributed in an outstanding manner to enhance and further the objectives of ACBS. Gail has worked diligently for the past two decades to grow and strengthen the Blue Ridge Chapter as well as presiding for a term as president of ACBS International in 2010.

A Tribute to Wayne Forbis

By Alice Forbis

In 2000, Wayne and I joined ACBS and the Blue Ridge Chapter. Little did we know that decision would change our lives. We attended boat shows all over the Southeast, showing off our boat and making new friends.

Wooden boats are the focus of our shows, but the glue that binds us together is friendship. Never was that bond more evident than when Wayne passed away in February. He was a very active and colorful (yellow boat shoes!) member and loved to have a good time. During the 2015 Charlotte Boat Show, he was honored with a new award from the chapter, the Wayne Forbis Sportsmanship Award. The first presentation went to our boat, *Miss Alice II*, and was a proud moment for me, my son, Dean, and his wife, Angie.



Presentation to Alice Forbis by Ed Longino

SPECIAL THANKS

To our preserving photographers: Sara James, Bryan Leazenby and Lee Mapp.

ON THE HORIZON

2015

Annual Christmas Party

Dec 5
Lavonia, GA

2016

Quarterly Directors Meeting

Jan 15
Ft. Meyers, FL

Ft. Meyers Boat Show

Jan 15-17
Ft. Meyers, FL

Greenville Boat Show

Jan 28-31
Wooden Boat Display
Greenville, SC

Mid Atlantic Boat Show

Feb 11-14
Wooden Boat Display
Charlotte, NC

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

Tragedy struck again this summer. Two teenagers left the Florida coast for a day on the water and were never heard from again. From what I understand, they made two mistakes: First, they had a float plan but didn't stick to it; second, they didn't wear their life jackets, which were floating next to their capsized boat.

The news reported that the reason the boys didn't have their life jackets on was because they were too bulky. As is always the case, the boys did not expect to get into trouble.

Too bulky or not, they should have had their life jackets on.

Nowadays there are new style jackets that lie flat and inflate if you go overboard. I have three of them in my boat.

Another example of recent bad judgment is the captain of a container ship, a 30-year veteran, that ventured into heavy seas on his way to Puerto Rico from Florida. Hurricane Joaquin was a category 4 with winds in excess of 120 mph churning 50 foot waves. The container ship sank, losing all crew and cargo aboard.

I recall the last time I was in real trouble on the water, which underscores why I am always harping about life jackets. It was a perfect evening as I sailed along in my 14-ft. sailboat. A couple of feet from me, a downspout hit the water. The next thing I knew, the boat flipped upside down, pinning me under it. Luckily I didn't panic and, even more luckily, was able to locate my life jacket and put it on. No, I wasn't wearing it, and I learned a big lesson that night.

I am sorry for the loss of life due to these boating accidents and for the families left behind not knowing what happened to their loved ones. Never let your guard down on the ocean or the lakes we ride on. If you don't wear your life jacket, at least have it handy next to you. If you are out on the water alone, it is critical to always wear a life jacket. Believe me, since my close call, I remember to wear mine.



See you on the lake in 2016!