



SCUTTLEBUTT

Official Publication

Lake Hopatcong Chapter of the Antique and Classic Boat Society



Volume XLV Summer 2019 Number 2

**Lake Hopatcong 45th Annual Boat Show a Great Success
Hosted ACBS Quarterly Meeting.....Two Famous Boats at the Show**

Best in Show Winners



Best of Show Restored Jara

1954 Chris-Craft Racing Runabout Owned by Jara Katz



Best of Show Preserved Diva

1966 Riva Junior Owned by Peter & Rose Takvorian

Best in Show Fiberglass Tranquility 1989 Elco Launch owned by Peter Kellogg



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President's Message

As I write this Fall is in the air and our boating season is winding down. Hopefully, we will have beautiful Fall weather to continue as long as possible. It's mid September and we are getting the boat ready to go to Alexandria Bay for the ACBS International Boat Show. I am anticipating the Lake Hopatcong Chapter will be well represented.

Looking back we had a very successful year. The Annual Boat Show in June included an ACBS Quarterly Meeting, a presentation by Chuck Mistele on **Miss America IX**, a Gar Wood Race Boat, and a **Miss Lotta** historical cruise narrated by Marty Kane.

Two events were held during the month of August. The first was our annual Surf & Turf dinner at the Lake Hopatcong Yacht Club. Sadly, there was only one antique and/or classic boat in attendance. I won't mention who's boat it was. I gave an overview of the unfortunate boat explosion in July at the Wine Country Boat Show.

A few days later we held our Float In Movie at the home of Dennis & Sherry Moran. It was a beautiful evening to gather outside to watch a movie with friends.

With each passing month our Cruise Nights improved culminating in August with nine boats in attendance with many of us meeting afterward at the Main Lake Market for ice cream and socializing.

Looking forward to October when we will have a workshop presented by Jon and Kait of Jon and Kait's V8s on winterization.

We will end our year at Perona Farms for our Annual Meeting on November 24, 2019. Looking forward to seeing everyone there.

As always, safety comes first. Lift the hatch and check for fumes.

Harry W. Gedicke
President LHACBS

New Members...Welcome!

Dean & Brenda Cary Mt. Arlington, NJ
Michael Pabian Lake Hopatcong, NJ
Amy Scanlin Sackets Harbor, NY
Peter & Donna Trusio Sparta, NJ

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Editor's Desk

You make my job easy! I have the delightful dilemma of too much content to include in one issue, so some articles will be held over for the next issue in the spring. Even without those "held over" articles, you will see more pages in this issue than ever before.....mostly photos; and the focus is predominantly on boat shows. Thanks to all who contributed in any wayarticles, information, and/or photos. A special Thank You goes to our gifted photographers, Cindy Heaton, Bob Kays, and Joe Fleming. They have taken the majority of the photos which appear in this and all previous issues of **Scuttlebutt**. Moreover, they have provided many of the photos that have appeared in the **ACBS Rudder** magazine. Finally, thanks go to Dan Gyoerkoe and Stacy Dasno at ACBS Headquarters. This is the third issue of **Scuttlebutt** for which they have done the layout....a huge undertaking....and they manage the printing and mailing, as well. Having done **Scuttlebutt** for over twenty years, I can tell you that their contribution to the creation and distribution of **Scuttlebutt** is immense!

Our Photographers



Left: Cindy Heaton & Joe Fleming

Right Cindy Heaton

Bottom: Jimmy Fleming & Bob Kays



It is always exciting to report that several of our members are in various stages of boat restorations. Dennis Donohue is working on his 1948 17' Chris Craft Deluxe Runabout.....a project for which he borrowed Harry Gedicke's steaming apparatus, so major woodworking is involved. Also involving major wood replacement is Mike Schillizzi's 1959 20' Chris Craft Sportsman. I believe that Mike is done with planking the hull and is putting on a new deck. Our President, Harry Gedicke, has begun dismantling his 1930 Chris Craft Model 99, a project that will involve major wood replacement, as well. Allen Mackin is undertaking a project with less woodworking, though a significant challenge. Allen is replacing the dashboard of his Chris Craft 22' Sportsman.....no small task, as it is fastened through the deck from above. In addition, Don Gulliksen has an ongoing project with his 1955 10' Chris Craft Kit Boat Racing Pram, a boat that he has owned since he was a young fellow. Also restoring a boat that goes back to his youth is Bob Griswold with his 1959 16' Beaton Brothers Comet sailboat. We can look forward to seeing all of these boats when the restoration work is completed. If others have ongoing projects, please let me know for inclusion in future issues of **Scuttlebutt**.

Finally, it is dismaying to note that it has become a regular inclusion in my comments in each issue to report that some of our members have been dealing with serious medical issues. That is the case with this issue. Respecting their privacy, they shall remain nameless, but we send our warmest good wishes to you all.

2019 Lake Hopatcong 45th Annual Boat Show

Where does one begin? There was so much going on in just a few days ...quite a whirlwind experience. It was our honor to host the ACBS Quarterly Meeting.....a special presentation on **Miss America IX** was made by Chuck Mistelea **Miss Lotta** tour took place.....and of course, the boat show, at which we had arguably two of the most famous boats in existence! What bounty!



Famous Boats

Thayer IV and Miss America IX at the Show

Thayer IV, a 1950 22' Chris Craft Sportsman, the feature boat in the movie, **On Golden Pond**, was at the show. What a thrill to stand next to the boat that Katherine Hepburn and Henry Fonda drove and rode in! Owned by Seth and Renee Katz, **Thayer IV** was in need of serious attention when they bought it. While Seth is well-known for meticulous, show-stopping, award winning restorations that adhere strictly to what the manufacturer originally built, in the case of **Thayer IV**, he opted, instead, to restore it to exactly as it appeared in the movie...a major departure from how it looked when new. It was still restored to Seth's high standards.....it just wasn't done as "original".

Miss America IX was at the show, as well. Owned by Chuck and Diane Mistele, it is a record breaking and storied 30' race boat that Gar Wood built. Chuck made a riveting presentation on their famous boat that is covered below.

Both Seth and Chuck have been very generous in traveling with their historic boats to shows around the country and providing memory making rides to countless spectators. For their generosity in exhibiting their boats at our show, a very special thanks goes to Seth and Renee and Chuck and Diane; and to express our thanks in an enduring way, we presented special "Thank You" awards to both of them.



Left: Seth Katz accepts Thank You Award

Right: Chuck & Diane Mistele accept Thank You Award.



Let's Take It Day by Day

Thursday.....Chuck Mistele Presentation.....a captivating presentation on **Miss America IX** was made by Chuck Mistele to a sellout crowd at the Jefferson House Restaurant. Quite an entertaining and polished speaker, Chuck shared the storied boat's distinguished history dating to its beginnings. Gar Wood built **Miss America IX** in the early 1930's to defend the Harmsworth Trophy. Fast forward to the 1960's. Chuck saw the boat sitting on a flatbed trailer in derelict condition. He knew that the boat had to be saved. Not for sale at the time, Chuck established an "if you ever want to sell" line of communication. After a few years, he got a call that it was for sale. Not the best timing, Chuck shared, as he and Diane were a young married couple with no bedroom furniture. They bought the boat ...quite a leap of faith, given their life circumstance at the time; but he had to save this boat! It needed major attention. He replaced the bottom, but opted to keep the original side planks and gold leaf with the nicks and dings that Gar Wood, himself, put there. Diane and Chuck did not want to lose those poignant traces of Gar Wood's racing days.

During the presentation we were treated to several fascinating vignettes from the boat's history. Notably, it was the first boat ever to exceed 100 mph! Chuck notes that **Miss America IX** is a piece of history, but it is not a static, museum piece. Instead, it is the only one of the remaining **Miss Americas** that still gets wet and runs. Chuck says that he doesn't push the boat to its record speeds, but the ride remains thrilling at still breathtaking speeds. To make Chuck's presentation all the more interesting, he brought some treasured memorabilia from its racing days as well as some extremely rare, historic photos. None who were there will ever forget this special evening.



Friday morning.....ACBS International Board of Directors Meeting.....traveling from all across the country, the International Board conducted their Quarterly Meeting.

Miss Lotta Cruise..... At the same time, a tour cruise on **Miss Lotta** took place for their significant others, an event that our members hastened to sign up for as space permitted. The tour was narrated by Marty Kane, President of the Lake Hopatcong Historical Museum.

Friday evening...a Welcome Reception and Cocktail Party was held at the Lake Hopatcong Yacht Club...our gracious hosts for the show weekend. What a wonderful opportunity to be with old friends and to meet and get to know many new ones. It was a beautiful evening which fostered a very relaxed atmosphere...an atmosphere which belied the inherent excitement on the eve of the show.







Saturday....the show...all sorts of long planned activities were put in motion. Docking Assistants were helping boat owners secure their craft as they arrived at the Lake Hopatcong Yacht Club docks. A total of about fifty boats were part of the show. At the same time, the Registration tent was set up as was our ship's store ...WoodyWear. An historic exhibit, mostly photographic, was set up in the yacht club ballroom by our Historian, Pat Mueller. The Opening Ceremony was conducted at 10:00 am, combining the singing of the National Anthem by Shea Schindelar with the raising of the American Flag by Lake Hopatcong Yacht Club Rear Commodore, Danny Goritski, with assistance by the Boy Scouts from the Mt. Arlington Troop. Judges then began their challenging task. At mid-day, the yacht club served "Lunch on the Patio" for us....a delightful buffet of hamburgers, hot dogs, and the like.







Saturday afternoon.....Cruise-By

For the most part, our show is a “static” exhibit of the boats at the docks with the opportunity for spectators to see them up close, but there is an opportunity to see them in motion, as well. At 3:30, as spectators were continuing to meander at a leisurely pace as they viewed the boats, the relative quiet of the afternoon was shattered as entrants started their engines, a head turning sound, to participate in the Cruise-By. After assembling at the rendezvous point, boats then passed in review in single file at idle speed close aboard the yacht club docks. As they passed, boats and owners were announced by your editor with Mike Smith providing some levity with his “color commentary”.





Saturday evening..... Awards Dinner, again, at the Lake Hopatcong Yacht Club.

Boats winning top honors were:

Best in Show Restored Jara 1954 Chris Craft Racing Runabout owned by Jara Katz

Best in Show Preserved Diva 1966 Riva Junior owned by Peter & Rose Takvorian

Best in Show Fiberglass Tranquility 1989 Elco Launch owned by Peter Kellogg

People's Choice Miss America IX 1930 GarWood Raceboat owned by Chuck & Diane Mistele

Lady's Choice K's Happy Days 1958 Century Roan owned by Katelyn Marsden

For the full list of winners visit www.lhacbs.org



Jara Katz accepts Best in Show, Restored Award



Peter & Rose Takvorian accept Best in Show, Preserved Award



Joe Fleming accepts Best in Show, Fiberglass Award for Peter Kellogg



People's Choice Miss America IX
Charles & Diane Mistele



Lady's Choice K's Happy Days
Katelyn Marsden

With our thanks....

The 2019 show, with all of its facets, was the product of the efforts of many. The list of those deserving of our thanks is long.....way too many to volunteers to name them all. But three people must be singled out for their contribution ACBS President, Stan Struble, is largely responsible for Chuck and Diane Mistele bringing **Miss America IX** to be part of the show.....a significant highlight. Jackie Loughridge, our Show Chairperson, must be credited with overseeing the organization and work of the many committees that made all facets of the show come together. And finally, our President, Harry Gedicke, a past Show Chairman, was most helpful in assisting in any and all ways to make it a great show.



Cruise Nights

Since the beginning of the last century up until today, the boats that we now celebrate as antiques and classics have been plying the waters of Lake Hopatcong. Whether a Fay & Bowen moving with the quiet elegance of a swan, or a magnificent mahogany speed boat with all of its roaring dynamic power, these boats have been part of the nautical scene and charm of Lake Hopatcong for over 100 years.

A few years ago our Chapter initiated a group boating event ...**Cruise Nights**. We rendezvous at various sites around the lake and cruise different shorelines on each cruise. Over the course of the summer of 2019, we conducted four cruises to the delight of exuberantly waving shore bound spectators, and to us as boaters, as well.



The duration of the cruise is normally about an hour, after which some have opted to go to the Main Lake Market for ice cream while others enjoyed “refreshments” on board as they shut down engines and watched the sunset.

All of our “Cruisers” should take a full measure of pride in the fact that our Chapter was honored at the recently concluded ACBS Annual Meeting Awards Dinner by being presented with the Rover Award for our Cruise Nights (criteria noted in the article on the Annual Meeting in this issue)

Join in the fun of Cruise Nights next year!



ACBS Annual Meeting and Boat Show 2019

Stan Struble Shares Comments on the Occasion of Completing His Term as President

Lake Hopatcong Chapter Wins Rover Award

The historic and magnificently scenic Alexandria Bay on the St. Lawrence Seaway was the site of the 2019 ACBS Annual Meeting and Boat Show. Close to 600 people with over 150 spectacular boats traveled from all corners of the country to be part of the show. It was impressive that there were 65 people there from California! Impressive, as well, was the turnout of our Chapter, with 34 of us there.

It was a highlight and a moment of significant vicarious pride as we heard Stan Struble share his parting comments at the Saturday Evening Awards Banquet as he completed his term as President of ACBS. We have long known Stan to be a “get it done” kind of guy, and he has been no different in his leadership of ACBS. He has carried forward several substantial existing initiatives and has created some new ones, as well, to assure the long term health and success of ACBS. In addition, along with his lovely wife, Barbara, Stan traveled far and wide throughout the country and Canada to attend chapter events ...boats shows and Annual Meetings...a total of eight of them, to the delight of the many chapters. Stan says, “We had a great time and met a lot of great people, and we have a large group that wants to be involved”. Congratulations to Stan (and Barbara) on serving ACBS at the highest level with honor and distinction.

A significant highlight, as well, was our Chapter being honored with the “Rover Award”. This award is donated by the Toronto Chapter and recognizes the outstanding effort by an individual or a group in organizing and implementing a cruise or function, encouraging the use of antique, classic, and historic boats for the enjoyment of Chapter and Society members. Our Chapter was honored for creating and executing our monthly Cruise Nights (See article **Cruise Nights** in this issue).

Our Chapter had seven boats in the show, six of which were judged with all six winning awards. The judging system for the show set a high bar with three levels of awards, each spanning five point ranges from 85 to 100 points with “Silver”, “Gold” and “Platinum” awards respectively for each bracket. Boats scoring under 85 received no award. Winning awards from our chapter were:

Platinum Award- Michael Wiard **Life Long Friend** 1962 Penn Yan Baltic

Platinum Award- Peter & Rose Takvorian **Diva** 1966 Riva Junior

Gold Award- Harry & Kim Gedicke **Second Wind** 1953 Chris Craft Riviera

Gold Award- Joe Fleming **Topridge** 1948 Chris Craft Sportsman

Gold Award- Donald Ploetner **Casino Royale** 1976 Monte Carlo Superfast

Silver Award- Ed Andrews **Liquid Asset** 1951 Chris Craft Holiday

Kudos are in order for all who played a role in the organization and execution of the 2019 ACBS Annual Meeting and Boat Show. It was a most enjoyable experience!



Lake Hopatcong Members at Show



Harry Gedicke & Cindy Heaton accept Rover Award from ACBS President Stan Struble





Harvey's Lake Show

By: Harry Gedicke

The Harvey's Lake ABCS Chapter held a boat show on August 10th at the Grotto Restaurant & Marina located on Harvey's Lake.

The show was very limited in size. There were about ten boats in the water and eight boats on land. What they lacked in size was made up for in the quality of the boats in attendance. There were three beautiful Pre-war Barrelbacks and a Cobra at the docks. On land there were a couple of classic glass boats and a very nice home built Glen-L runabout.

This is a judged show, and an Awards Dinner was being held after the Boat Show.

It might have been a small show, but any time spent with old boats makes for a good day.



Captains

Two of our members have gone through the challenging rigors of navigating their way through the courses and examinations necessary to get their Captain's Licenses.....no small task! Doug Mehring and Bill Hirschfeld have succeeded in their pursuit of this lofty and admirable achievement. Congratulations to you both!



Pictured left to right :
Doug Mehring & Bill
Hirschfeld

Members' New Boats



Rich & Terri Romeo -1956 Chris Craft 18' Continental **Spindrift** Lake Hopatcong boat formerly owned by Joan Greene



Kait McDermott & Jon Smith - 1966 Chris Craft 22' Sea Skiff picked up in Texas



Rich & Sarah Schindelar -1955 C.C. Galbraith 17' **Maine Squeeze** built in Keyport, NJ came from Maine



Allen & April Mackin 1950 Chris Craft 22' Sportsman Lake Hopatcong boat formerly owned by John Hoff



George Koehler 1955 Chris Craft 20' Continental **Best Buddy** Lake Hopatcong Boat formerly owned by Bob Kays

Surf & Turf Rendezvous

On August 21st, we enjoyed another Surf & Turf Rendezvous at the Lake Hopatcong Yacht Club. This event is always a sell out, because the chef and the staff at the yacht club, year in and year out, have done themselves proud as they have served us an exquisitely prepared combination of Lobster Tails and Filet Mignon.....Delicious! Photos of the happy diners tell the story.



Wine Country Classic Boats Chapter Show

By: Harry Gedicke

The Wine Country Chapter Boat Show was held on July 19-21, 2019 on Keuka Lake in Hammondsport, New York. The show was very similar in size and activities to the Lake Hopatcong Show.

The show is held at Depot Park at the southern tip of Keuka Lake. The show takes over the park for the weekend. The boat launch ramp is part of the park and the trailer parking area is a block away. The docks are typically shorter docks with a few double ones. There was a tent set up for the entire weekend with tables and chairs. The Friday night Welcome Reception was held under the tent, and on Saturday and Sunday you could find their WoodyWear apparel and Tricky Tray tables under the tent along with plenty of seating to have lunch or to just find some shade.

The Opening Ceremony was held at 10:00 am with a young lady singing the National Anthem. Judging started at 10:00 am and was to be completed by noon. Their judges even had the same color shirts as ours! They had a boat parade scheduled for 3:00 pm that would include two passes by Depot Park.

It was during the milling around of the boats for the parade that an unfortunate accident occurred. A 1955 Century Coronado exploded about one hundred feet off the docks. The occupants were rescued and one was taken to the local hospital while the other one was airlifted to a burn unit at Rochester Hospital. Thankfully, the Fire Boat was right there and was able to put out the fire. The boat did sink in about 75' of water. I did hear that the boat was recovered later on in the week. Due to this incident the boat parade was cancelled.

The Saturday evening awards dinner was held at the Curtis Museum. You could walk around the museum and enjoy the early airplanes and different modes of transportation from a bygone era. Following an absolutely delicious buffet was the awards ceremony. Awards were only given to Best in Class and Best in Show. I am happy to report that **Second Wind** received the Best in Class for Classic Runabout Preserved.



Float-In Movie

We came by boat, we came by car to the beautiful lakeside home of Sherry and Dennis Moran for the Float-In Movie. Seating options were varied with some remaining on their boats while others opted to view the movie from the boat house deck, still others from the lawn. Sherry and Dennis had all the usual trappings of a movie theater, complete with Hot Dogs and Popcorn. As in years past, boats coincidentally passing by stopped to view the movie, this year airing the action packed, **Sahara**. And action packed it was!

Many thanks go to Sherry and Dennis for welcoming us to their home for this event.

Fisher Tradition Continues

Each of us who were fortunate enough to know the late Russ Fisher, a past President of our Chapter, has our own special memories of him. The litany of humorous stories that were part of his life is unbounded and will forever bring a smile to our faces. Russ had many boats over the years, and many of those memorable stories were born of his involvement with those boats (ask Rich Reichert about a trip to Pennsylvania to retrieve a boat. What they found in the middle of a field was a bee-infested, derelict Chris Craft that was covered with a thorny underbrush.....and it was raining!).

One of Russ's favorite boats was a 1950 Chris Craft Special Runabout named **Cheerleader**. To understand why this boat was special to him above others, it will make sense for the reader to know that his lovely wife, Joan, was a cheerleader in high school, and she graduated in 1950, the year of the boat.

It is heartwarming to know that his daughter, Holly Weber and her family, husband John, and daughters Emily and Sydney, have continued the family tradition with the old boats that Russ so enjoyed. It was a delight to see that they brought **Cheerleader** to the ACBS Annual Meeting and Show in Alex Bay in September. To their surprise and delight, **Cheerleader** won an award.

The Webers reside in northern Vermont and are active in the Lake Champlain Chapter of ACBS, Holly serving as Secretary. Their making their home there explains why one of the shows that Russ traveled to many times and most enjoyed was the Lake Champlain Chapter Show in Burlington (if you haven't been to that show, you have missed a great experience....consider ACBS Annual Meeting & Show in 2021).

Pictured you will see a somewhat old photo of Russ flanked by Lou Pontes on his left and your editor on his right in one of Wayne's many boats (Wayne was driving, and Bob Kays took the picture). You will also see a shot of Holly and John in **Cheerleader** at Alex Bay this year.

Russ was a dear friend to many of us, and how nice it is to see that Holly and her family are continuing the family tradition of enjoying antique and classic boats.





Two of the Grandfathers of Antique Boating
Top, ACBS Founder, Joe Fleming with Lois Bottom, ACBS Charter Member, Wayne Mocksfield

