



# Notes from the Bilge



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December 1, 2022

Newsletter of the Lake Champlain Chapter of the Antique and Classic Boat Society, Inc.

Susan Haigh, President

## President's Message



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## International Cruise

by Mary Bogan and Doug Bell,  
Mountain View Woodies Chapter Members  
With Photos by Chris Bulen, Toronto Chapter

As winter begins to wrap it's icy hands around us and cabin fever begins to set in, I want you know that we have some fun things in store to look forward to. I'm a bit behind the curve as I've been winning a battle with ovarian cancer, but I'm catching up fast!

Ofcourse there is the Christmas Party pot luck coming up on the 10th of December at 4:00 PM at the St John's Club. Thanks go out to Steve and Betsy Pond for coordination with the St John's Club and the pot luck contributions.

So far we've got two promising workshops to put on the calendar and more in the works. Michael Claudon has vounteered to host a workshop in late January, and Garwood Custom Boats has offered a workshop as well. Once we begin the new year I'll firm up those dates and add a couple more if possible. If someone has a project they are working on and would like to open their shop for a visit let me know and we'll set something up!

We will be going through the final accounting with ACBS this next week, and will be in a position shortly to make contributions to worthy charities and scholarships. I will be scheduling a Board of Director's meeting to discuss options once this has happened.

During next year's boating season we will be working on plenty of rendezvous opportunities, maybe in new waters. Also we plan on a local boat show, most likely at the Burlington Boathouse.

Finally I want to mention that your support not only to the Chapter during the show, but also to me personally during my health battle has been a true blessing. It has given me great strength, comfort, and confidence and I'm looking forward to a bountiful 2023.

**This year's** Antique and Classic Boat Society (ACBS) International Show was held in Burlington, Vermont, on Lake Champlain. We planned to trailer *Baxter*, our 22-foot Lyman, to the show and spend the weekend on the lake, hoping to get more "on the water" time than most boat shows offer. While reading about the ACBS show, we saw that a "Northern Adventure" trip had been planned as a pre-event event. The 4-day excursion beginning in Montreal and ending in Burlington sounded fun and provided a great opportunity for some quality time on the water — the Saint Lawrence and Richelieu Rivers to be exact.

So we signed up! On September 2, we hauled our boat 284 miles from Belfast, Maine, to Montreal and launched it in the Saint Lawrence River to be part of the Northern Adventure flotilla. The Northern Adventure was planned by Kathy and Bo Muller who you may know from their eponymous Muller Boatworks on Lake Sunapee, New Hampshire. The seventeen-boat group was made up participants from Canada and the States, piloting boats of a variety of makes, models, and sizes ranging from two 1929 Elco cruisers to a 2021 Hacker Gentleman's racer built in a basement workshop. The largest boat — one of the Elcos — was 46-feet and the smallest was a 17-foot Chris-Craft. We made the trip with our 1968 22-foot Lyman Sleeper.

The 164.2 mile excursion that included pre-arranged stops at marinas and hotels along the route began early Sunday morning, September 4, at the

*continued page 2*

*International Cruise continued*

Port de Plaisance La Ronde in Montreal, Quebec. We launched from the marina and headed north into the very bumpy Saint Lawrence River. After some early-going rough water on the seaway we made it to the town of Sorel-Tracey and stopped for the night at Marina de Saurel. We checked into the *Hotel de la Rive* and had a delicious meal with the group at the restaurant.

The next morning we headed into the Richelieu River. We stopped for lunch at Ile Darvard and entered the large Saint-Ours Lock that led to the Richelieu/Chambly Canal system. That night was spent at the *Hotel Rive Gauche – Refuge Gormand* in the town of Beloeil. We had a great dinner there and were treated to a private tour of their world class wine cellar. Fun!

We made an early departure on Tuesday morning to arrive on time at the historic Chambly Canal and Lock in the town of Chambly. Special arrangements had been made with Parcs Canada to operate the locks for the Northern Adventure group, as the locks operate on a very limited schedule after Labor Day. It was a fantastic trip through the 9 hand-operated locks. At each lock, many spectators turned out to watch the antique and classic boat parade. Lots of waving and well-wishing was enjoyed by everyone on land and in the boats. It was a relatively relaxing and easy day on the canal, and we stopped for the night in Saint-Jean-Sur-Richelieu and enjoyed some much deserved cocktails at the Le Nautique Marina and *Le Bleumarine* restaurant.

The following morning we got underway for the final leg of the journey. We headed the final 22 miles p the Richelieu, passed through US customs via a smart phone app, and were treated to 43 calm, warm and beautiful miles across Lake Champlain to Burlington. We arrived in plenty of time to check into the hotel and walk downhill to the ACBS Welcome Reception at the ECHO Waterfront Museum. The weekend’s weather was picture-perfect and the boat show was fantastic. We were able to go for several boat rides on Lake Champlain. Over 100 boats were on view at the show and nine of those were lapstrake style, four of them were Lymans, three Whites, and two Sea Skiffs.

The Northern Adventure was great fun. It was nice to navigate unfamiliar territory with a group, and we enjoyed meeting fellow boaters from California, Michigan, New York, Maryland, various provinces of Canada and even Australia! And we hope to see some of them at the international show next year in Michigan. Maybe we’ll see you there too?



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# Lake George Excursion Boat

## For Sale

In 2005, tragedy struck when the 40-foot, glass-enclosed tour boat *Ethan Allen* capsized and sank on Lake George in New York, causing the death of 20 out of its 47 passengers. For 13 years, the infamous boat has been sitting outside of a marina in Ulster County, 115 miles away from Lake George, and has not been seen since the accident. Now, it is being listed for sale by its owner, John Panzella, for \$49,000.

Though some have criticized the owner's decision to sell the boat, Panzella has defended his decision, telling all that he feels the boat is a piece of maritime history. He has replaced the engine and the heavy hard top, which he believes played a role in its capsizing, with a new aluminum one. The boat's original name has also been painted over.

Panzella claims the boat is functional and safe, though he has not received any offers. When asked Mayor Bob Blais of Lake George if he would like to see the boat return to the lake, he responded, "Personally, no."



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## Changing of the Scribe



*Notes From the Bilge* is (was) a response to a suggestion that LCACBS terminate the newsletter. That was Spring of 2018.

I, for one, felt an LCACBS newsletter essential to communicating with our geographically scattered membership. In keeping with the old saw, "Put up or Shut Up", I took on the task of assembling *Notes From the Bilge*.

Now, well over four years later, it is time for the efforts and perspective of a new editor.

As you know it is a quarterly effort which provides ample time for the editor to gather relevant news for each issue.

A new editor could do it on an as-needed basis, a monthly basis, or . . .

In any event, we need a new scribe. Please give it some serious thought.

I am no longer living in Vermont. Thus, soliciting advertising from vendors in the Champlain Valley becomes a more difficult task. Yet, the advertisers provide welcome support to the chapter. A volunteer is needed to both service our existing advertisers as well as seek new advertisers. Again, give it some serious thought.



*Michael Sinclair*

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