



Notes from the Bilge



www.lcacbs.com

June 2020

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

Steve Pond, President

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President's Message

Well, what a couple of months it has been! The Covid-19 situation has obviously affected everyone's lives in one way or another. We are lucky to be able to spend time on or around our boats, enjoying activities that help to ease the tensions in our lives surrounding the Corona virus pandemic.

What does the pandemic mean to our classic boat community? ACBS International has indicated that sanctioned Boat Shows will be out of the question for the immediate future. The ACBS insurance provider has backed away from allowing any shows due to liability concerns. There will be an ACBS Board of Director's meeting on June 20th to determine the fate of the annual show and meeting in Coeur D'Alene, Idaho in September. Their decision may impact the scheduling for the 2021 show in Burlington. We'll know more after they meet on the 20th.

How does this affect our Chapter? As you probably assumed, this means that our annual Boat Show in Burlington at the end of July 2020 will not be happening. I am trying to find alternatives to that type of gathering and one suggestion has been a Virtual Boat Show. If there's anyone who would like to spearhead a Virtual Boat Show please contact me. I am happy to help facilitate any alternative ideas that members may have.

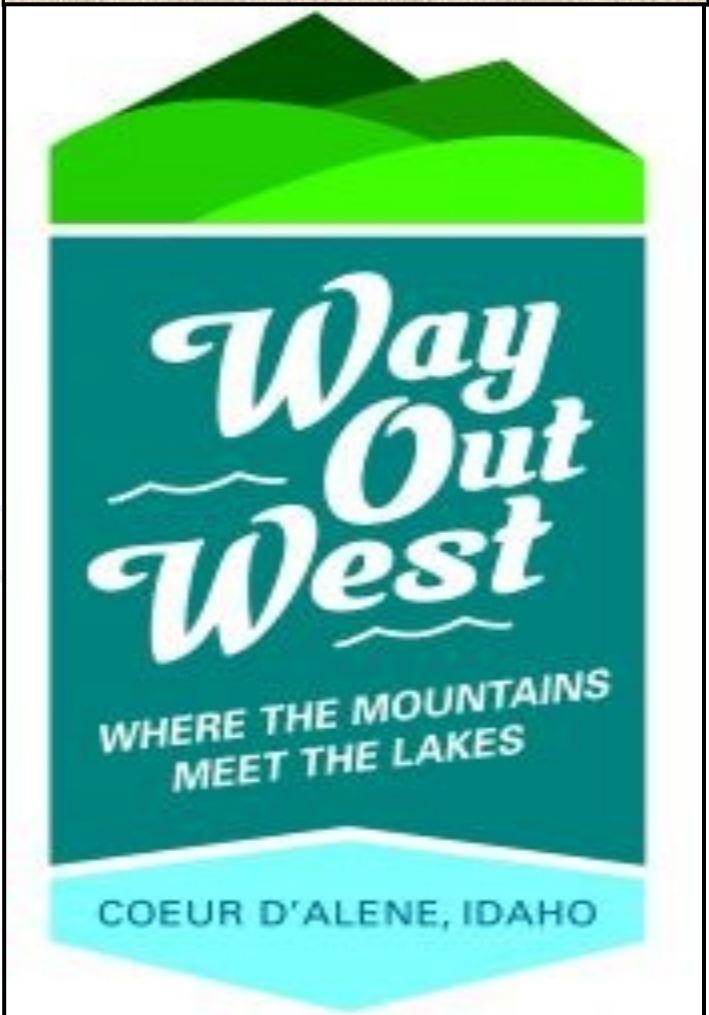
We also would like to keep the social aspect of our chapter alive. We usually have our Spring Dinner at Anthony's in Plattsburgh in May, our boat show in Burlington in July and our Annual Meeting in October at Basin Harbor as well as many rendezvous at restaurants on the lake throughout the summer.

(continued on page 5)

Upcoming Events

- 6/27/20 Keels or Wheels Old Forge, NY
- 7/10/20 Fulton Chain Rendezvous Old Forge, NY
- 7/11/20 Saranac Lake Rendezvous Saranac, NY
- 7/25/20 LCACBS Boat Show Burlington, VT
- 8/28/20 Lake George Rendezvous ... Lake George, NY

ALL DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE TO COVID-19



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Editor's Note ~

You will note this issue of *Notes From the Bilge* is late. The COVID-19 has had an impact on every aspect of our lives.

With the assistance of Dan Gyoekoe,, ACBS Executive Director, I am receiving copies of other ACBS chapter's newsletters as they are published. Conversely, I am sending copies of our newsletter to those same chapters. I am gleaning ideas from those contributing chapters and I hope we have been able to participate in kind. Yes, we are all in the same boat.

If there are any among you who wish to share a insight or experience with your fellow readers, please do not hesitate to forward your thoughts and experiences to me and I will insure your comments are included in *Notes From The Bilge*.

I hope to get on the water and I hope you do as well. As the summer wears on, please remember to patronize the folks who help make *Notes From the Bilge* possible. 



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Tumblehome Welcomes Lake Champlain and Adirondack Chapters

By Sue Haig

This workshop had originally been scheduled for February 8th, but was cancelled due to a snowstorm that caused a three day loss of power at the facility, keeping the Tumblehome crew very busy trying to keep heat in both homes and workplaces. Needless to say it was very generous for them to host another workshop for the Adirondack and Lake Champlain chapters. Reuben and Cynde Smith were there as well as John Gaffney. March 7th turned out to be a lovely day, remnants of the February snowstorm a month earlier fading away.

The pictures show significant progress had been made to a couple boats still in the shop from last year. "Indian", a 1903 speed launch, has had her framing repairs complete and the rounded torpedo stern is all back together. She is now awaiting arrival of 4 new lithium-ion batteries for her drive retrofit. "Sequoia", a 1926 Fay and Bowen, has her deck superstructure in place giving her an entirely new look from last with a lot of character. "Fanita", a 1916 Fay and Bowen was back in the shop from the showroom and we looked at the fantastic work done on the wiring, restoration of her fancy spin-to-light light fixtures mounted in the backs of the front seats and her ground fault charging system.

We saw some new boats to the shop, a 15' Adirondack Guide boat, with smooth sided lapstrake construction over spruce frame from the Long Lake area. The canoe design is remarkably strong for its weight. Also an Old Town Freight Canoe is being restored. The Old Town boat was built on a mold with metal straps used to deflect and bend the fasteners. Once the boat was covered with canvas, white lead was rubbed into the canvas by hand; a great fungicide but the toxicity caused much illness to the craftsmen in Old Town Me. During restoration the boat will have 20 oz. canvas stretched and reapplied, the canvas now treated with a fungicide, much safer and perhaps a bit less effective as the lead. We had a discussion of tropical wood, the many types of mahogany, availability, and the importance of knowing how the properties of each type such as drying time, shrinkage, expansion, and rot resistance should be taken into consideration for each project.



Fanita



Old Town

Champlain Yacht Services
Mobile Marine

Michael Sinclair

821 Ferry Road Charlotte, VT 05445

A Guide to Guide Boats

By Sue Haigh

This workshop allowed us to take a step back in time, for Chris Woodward's shop has always been used for building Adirondack guideboats since 1930. A great many tools that Chris still uses date from the Adirondack guideboat builders that came before him in that same shop. The first owner, Willard J. Hanmer, had learned to build guideboats from working with his father Theodore J. Hanmer, and built and repaired Adirondack boats there for the next 30 years. The next shop owner was Carl Hathaway, a master guideboat builder who not only built Adirondack guideboats there but also, along with fellow guideboat master craftsman Ralph Morrow, taught students the craft of building guideboats using traditional methods, patterns, and materials. One of those students was Chris Woodward the current owner, who continues the tradition today out of this same shop, using a great many tools from the original operation that have been passed down with each successive business.

There were two boats in the shop, one, a smooth sided Adirondack guideboat built by a man named Charles E. Shaw as evidenced by a metal plate stamped with his name. To date no one knows who this man was, but the boat he built dates from around 1910. The materials he used were white pine planking, spruce ribs and stem, cherry gunwale, and the boat is 15' 10" long. The other boat in the shop is a Lake Pleasant row boat, built by John Buyce in Speculator, NY and was built as a livery boat, or one used to rent to tourists, also dating to the same period but built out of western red cedar. Chris led us through the many different styles of these types of boats and the history of each, how they were built, the process of building them, and the process of repairing and restoring them as well.

Chris was in the process of replacing some of the damaged planks on the Shaw boat, and we watched as he demonstrated how he tapered the planed pine plank, feathered the ends, coating the tapers with thinned down Dolphinite, and used brass screws to attach the plank to the ribs, then copper tacks clinched with an old and much used clenching iron on the horizontal seams.

One of our members, Steve Detwiler, brought a

book with him from a local library that I had also seen in our earlier workshop at Tumblehome, *The Adirondack Guideboat* by the late Stephen B. Sulavik, with additions and revisions by Edward Comstock, Jr., and Christopher Woodward. Luckily for me, Chris had some extra copies of this recently published book, and he was kind enough to sign it for me.

Below are pictures that I took during the workshop. I came away from the experience with the echo of Chris's desire to find an apprentice so that this knowledge can be passed down as it has been from generation to generation and that those tools so well used, will continue to make their mark on these unique and worthy boats.



continued next column

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and Boat Show to be
held in
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President's Message *(continued fro page 1)*

Unfortunately, none of those events will be happening so it will be a lonely summer! Unless we figure out some way to meet up safely. We could continue rendezvous on the lake, having safe, socially distanced cruises and picnic lunches. If any of you have other ideas for socially distanced events, we welcome your enthusiasm! Give me a call or drop me an email.

I hope this finds many of you preparing to launch your boats for a summer of socially distanced cruising. Personally, I have been distracted by a major deck replacement on our 26' Lyman Hardtop *Besiana* and have a few more weeks of finish work to get to before she will be ready to launch. I look forward to getting her in the water and meeting up with other members!

Stay safe! 



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