

The Bilge Pump

Newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Classics

August, 1999

Spotlight



Beginning with this issue, The Bilge Pump will feature one of our members and introduce them to the readers, giving a little background on how they became involved in antique and classic boats and boating. It is most fitting that we begin at the beginning and introduce one of our most distinguished members. Our spotlight this month features Jean Nelson.

Jean was born at Lake George, New York and has been "water/boat" orientated all her life. As a child, she literally lived in and on the water and remembers the many navigable waters, and the privately owned mahogany beauties that were always showing off (and who could blame them?)

After time spent in the WAVES during WWII, she returned to live at Lake George, marry, raise a family of a son and two daughters, and realize that there were many old, well maintained wooden boats still operating in the immediate area. In 1974 Jean and her husband Ray, decided to promote an antique boat rendezvous at the lake George Village docks. That first show attracted approximately 36 boats. The camaraderie of that event prompted a picnic on Canoe Island, at which time They proposed that a club be formed to bring together all people interested in preserving our boating heritage. The rest, as they say, is history. There were several people at the picnic and from that group the first interim officers were selected. After many, many meetings, discussions and compromises throughout the winter and spring of

1974-75, the first Annual Meeting was held in November of 1975 at which time the first elected officers of ACBS were chosen. At the 1976 meeting, Jean was elected Secretary. That small group of members put together the first Directory, all typewritten, since computers were not yet in our world.

In addition to multiple editions of the By-Laws, developing chapters, etc., a burgee was needed to represent ACBS. With input from several sources, Jean managed to create the first burgee, which she cut from felt on her living room floor in time to be displayed at the first Annual Meeting.

At this same time, Jean's husband Ray decided to publish the Antique Boating magazine as a means of communication for anyone interested. Unfortunately, the time involved to do the research to maintain the publication and the time needed to make a living did not work out. This was Jean's introduction to the antique boating world as she, again, did all the typing for the publication and a great deal of the photography which was included. At that time Jean and Ray purchased a 1936 Chris-Craft....the first of their antique powerboats. Jean was a bit partial to the human powered variety and found a beautiful c1910 canoe in a barn in Bolton Landing, New York, that became her first "possession."

Jean and several other members "worked" the National Boat Show in New York City in January

1975. There were quite the talk of the show, as the majority of people could not believe what they were seeing. The most common comment was "My grandfather used to have a boat just like that." The New York show was followed by the International Boat show in Boston with exhibits by members of the New England Chapter; and then Madison and Milwaukee, Wisconsin, all of which Jean attended talking with prospective ACBS members and learning how much interest was being generated to preserve the "oldies."

In 1976, ACBS was asked to participate in OPERATION SAIL '76. Jean and Ray were privileged to spend two days aboard an 87 foot, 1904 Thor yacht anchored between the Statue of Liberty and the lower tip of Manhattan. Jean says that it was an incredible sight. She is sure that she will never again witness anything to compare with the Tall Ships, the fireworks, the coordinated martial music from radio stations drifting across the bay from boat to boat, and the pride in our nation that was demonstrated that weekend!

Jean says it takes a lot of people, each doing his or her own thing, to make a success story. She says there were discussions about every little thing from judging rules to what constitutes an antique, but it literally "all came out in the wash" and has been more successful than anyone dreamed. Jean says she has met so many wonderful people over the years and feels fortunate to be able to continue to meet more and more young people who are continuing and enhancing the organization. Jean feels honored to be a Life and Charter Member of the Antique and Classic Boat Society, to have had a part in its' formation and to be a Charter Member of the Rocky Mountain Classics Chapter.

Editorial Note: Thanks to Jean and the other original founders of ACBS and their foresight. Without their vision, the preservation and enjoyment of antique and classic boats surely would not have reached the level it is today. The Rocky Mountain Classics Chapter and ACBS should be proud! Thanks, Jean.

MEMBERSHIP

Our Chapter membership has grown this year to 42 members and families. Each newsletter will welcome those members who joined since the last publication.

Richard Ball	Loveland, Co
Robert Barrow	Loveland, Co
Bill & Dolly Davis	Wheat Ridge, Co
Dick & Onie Davis	Carlsbad, NM
Rob Mallory	Ft. Collins, Co
Doug & Elaine Sersun	Colorado Springs, Co
Larry & Suezan Chapman	Durango, Co
Mike & Stephanie Wayson	Durango, Co
F. Todd Warner	Excelsior, MN



WOODIES ON THE WATER

Was held on June 5, 1999 at Horsetooth Reservoir near Fort Collins, Colorado. This was the second successful year for this event and was enjoyed by several families, bringing eleven wood boats and even a few older plastic models. Jim and Julie Johnson made all the arrangements for the event again this year. The parade of boats led to a cove where we all rafted together for lunch. Larry and Toni Thieman's cruiser was again, the center of the raft and Larry made hot dogs by the numbers. The wind came up and began to drag Larry's anchor so we all left for the ramp soon after lunch. On the way back, your President and Vice President were stopped by the Park Rangers and given a stern warning for speeding! Of course, they did not admit to the charge. Considering that the late afternoon weather did not cooperate, a great time was had by all.

UPCOMING EVENTS THIS SUMMER

August 28, 1999
Grand Lake, Colorado
Second Annual
Antique and Classic Boat Rally

September 25, 1999
Navajo Lake, Colorado
Antique and Classic Boat
Rendezvous and Poker Run

September 26, 1999
Sky Ute Lodge & Casino
Ignacio, Colorado
Rocky Mountain Classics Chapter
ACBS Annual Meeting

Please send in the registration forms early. The deadline for Grand Lake is August 13 and Navajo Lake is August 30

THE NAME

No suggestions for a name for the news letter were received from our members. We decided then, to ask the members of the Board of Directors to decide on an appropriate name. Within minutes this name was selected as the one that best describes what the news letter is about, we want to get it all out! All of the news, information, event schedules and everything of interest to all members. Many thanks to everyone who helped out and came up with the name. *The Bilge Pump.*



LOGO CONTEST

ACBS now allows each Chapter to have a logo of its own. Our board decided to have our members submit their ideas of what our Chapter logo should be. After the winning logo is selected, it will be registered with ACBS and permanently displayed in Clayton. Please submit your ideas to Jim Johnson. The Board of Directors want to select the winning logo at their August 28th meeting. The winner and the new logo will be revealed at the Annual Membership Meeting, September 26th in Ignacio, Colorado. Let's try to have a large participation in this as the new logo will be our official symbol.



300 FOR \$300 RAFFLE

ACBS is offering an opportunity to buy a raffle ticket for a new Suburban LT. You will have a one in 300 chance of winning this new car, with a value in excess of \$40,000! No more than 300 tickets will be sold. This may be the highest odds of winning a major prize that you will ever have. Ticket price is \$300. The raffle is promoted and managed by ACBS and all of the proceeds go directly to the benefit of the ACBS endowment program. The drawing will be held on September 25, 1999 in Red Wing, Minnesota. The winner does not need to be present to win. For more information to purchase a raffle ticket, please contact Bob Moharter at (970) 884-2954.

GETTING INVOLVED

Last issue, we reminded you that the best way to get the most out of your club is to get involved. NOW IS THE TIME! The nominating committee needs to know if you are interested in becoming an Officer or Director of the Chapter for the next year. This will be a historical year. It's the year 2000, the 25th anniversary of ACBS, and this Chapter's first change of leadership; WHAT AN EXCITING TIME TO GET INVOLVED! The Rocky Mountain Classics has come a long way and the continued success is up to those who are willing to give a bit of their time and talent. Please get in touch with the nominating committee: Charlie Geuin, Bob Braaf or Jim Johnson and make your intentions known.

FEATURE ARTICLES

We encourage all readers to submit an article on any subject of interest to our members. The subject could be about a boat, a trip, restoration tips, boat safety, etc. The possibilities are endless. Beginning next issue, we will feature a member's boat. If you have a boat with a story, please send it to us. You could detail the history, the restoration or any other information. Black and white photos may also be sent. The use of them will depend on space and printability. Send all articles to: Rocky Mountain Classics, 847 Blue Ridge Drive, Bayfield, Co, 81122. You may also email your articles and pictures to:

geuin-katie@worldnet.att.net

ATTENTION BILGE PUMP READERS

As you can see by the new and very much improved BILGE PUMP format, a volunteer has come forth to help us in publishing the RMC newsletters. Katie Geuin will be putting it together and getting the news out to our Chapter. We will

still be gathering news here in Bayfield, so please call, fax (both same number) to (970) 884-2954, mail or pony express it. You can also email articles directly to Katie at

geuin-katie@worldnet.att.net. You can email pictures too. Any method is welcome!! We will be calling on you for news too. This newsletter is only as good as the information we get to share with you all. Many thanks for your help, Katie, and welcome to the BILGE PUMP staff. June & Bob.

CLASSIFIED ADDS

Members may advertise any boating related items here FREE.

FOR SALE

1963 Century Resorter
327 Graymarine engine, sliding soft top, new interior, fresh paint and varnish, tandem axle trailer. Very nice and very fast. Asking \$8,500. May take trades. Bob (970) 884-2954

1983 home built boat trailer. Heavy duty, single axle. \$175. Bob (970) 884-2954

WANTED

Old fishing nets and other nautical items. Charlie or Katie (303) 670-9415

