



SOUTHWESTER

The Southwest Chapter—Antique & Classic Boat Society newsletter serving Arkansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas

April 2007

The Bow Last year about this time, I was talking to Kathy Snyder at the ACBS headquarters. At that time, there was still snow on the ground, but that didn't stop her husband from enjoying his wooden boat. He would take beer down to the garage/basement and sit in the boat, no doubt thinking of summer. Here we are this year; it's the first weekend in April and it's 40 degrees with rain. The good news is - cold weather doesn't last long in Texas and of course, we all love August here.

The boat show season begins in less than a month with the Keels and Wheels May 4-6th. We need boats and volunteers. This year there will be a Luau by the pool, instead of the Saturday night Banquet at a different location. There will be new items available in the Ship Store. Come by the cabana for refreshments and to visit with other members. For more information about attending, go to the Keels and Wheels website; www.keels-wheels.com. The next show on the schedule will be sponsored by the Eagle Mountain Classic Boat Club. The "In the Water Show" is June 1-2nd. For more information go to www.emcbc.com. See the Show Calendar for all show dates.

ACBS Southwest Chapter name badges are being printed and should be ready in time for the Keels and Wheels. The badges have the popular magnetic backs and will work even on suit jackets. For anyone who uses a pace maker, we will supply the traditional badge clips. Please notify me at blackd@earthlink.net.

Enjoy Spring and we'll see you at the shows. **Robert**

the King holding court in Mt. Dora!



Garvan Gardens To call Heartland Chapter's "Garvan Gardens" show on Lake Hamilton "small" would be the understatement of the year. While having space to only hold 25 boats on their docks this show more than makes up for its' size in so many ways.

First and foremost the hospitality stands out above all. Leesa Watkins and Paula Hastings did an over-the-top job of coordinating and preparing almost all of the meals we enjoyed over the four day event (I'm sure we gained weight on this trip). John Watkins did a fine job orchestrating the entire event from start to finish. Paul Hastings opened his fine lake home with it's 90 year family history to all who came.

Clay and Patty Thompson hosted our family at their gorgeous lake mansion (could hardly call it a house). Along with the three other couples who shared their home we found ourselves amongst new friends. With six beautiful classics moored to their boat house we had our own mini boat show in their peaceful cove.

The showing of boats was diverse and first class having Clay's 26' Riva Aquarama down to 5 year old Collier Watkins restored 14' Pen Yan. From Jeff Hills 1926 Dispro to a fine collection of early 70's Jet-boats (of which my 10 year old Greg managed to con his way behind the helm of two and operate at break neck speeds).

...boys and their toys...



Every day started with a trip in our boats which adds tremendously to the enjoyment of any show. Lake Hamilton is a beautiful sprawling lake surrounded by high terrain and towering pines providing shelter from the wind. As such even the smallest woodie can enjoy the cruises in comfort. With its' deep clear water, lots of finger coves, and many beautiful lake-front homes there is plenty of cruising' and sight seeing to be done.

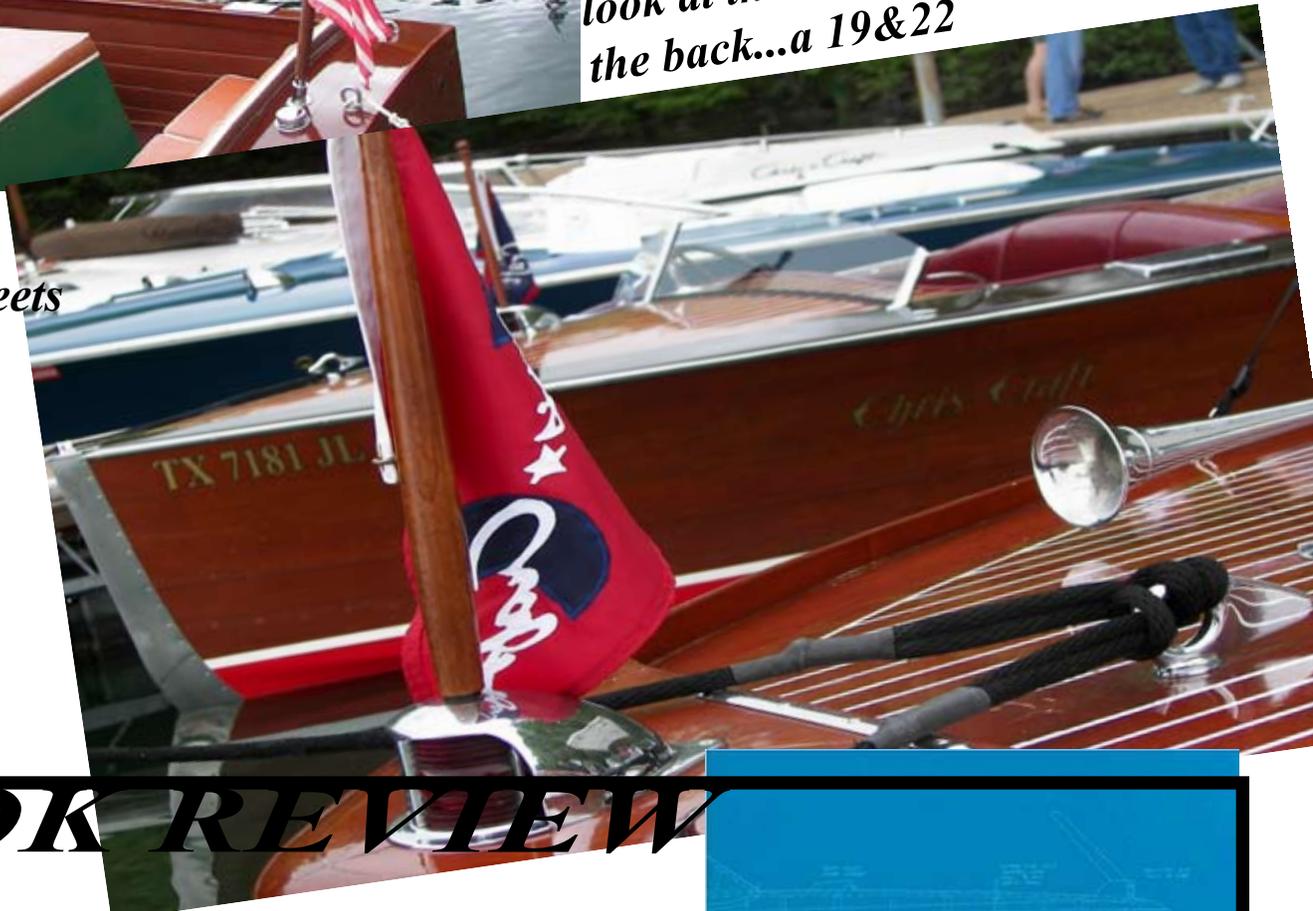
Garvan Gardens is nothing short of spectacular. Nestled among the tall whispering pines is a lush paradise of horticulture. Every native flowering plant was in full bloom on that spring weekend. Boasting over a hundred thousand tulips of every color and more species of plant life than one could name in a day the 200 acre "garden of Eden" is a perfect setting for folks who appreciate nature's beauty. Be sure to wear your walking shoes, bring a camera and a boat to enjoy this "pineywoods paradise". ***Chris Dorflinger***



Beautiful water and boats. And don't forget the great people and parties, too!!!

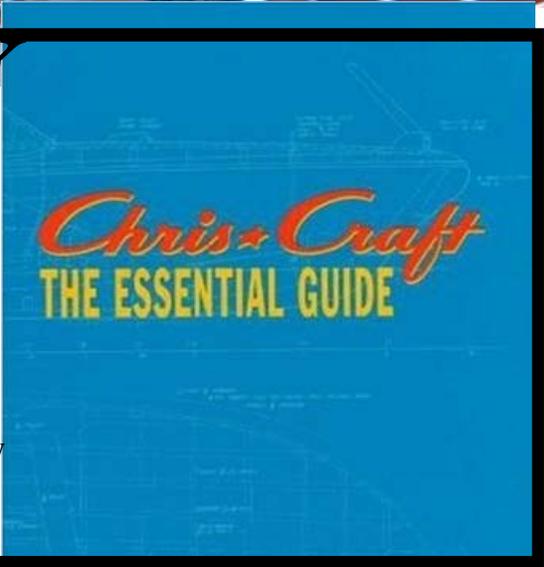
look at those two XKs in the back...a 19&22

Classic glass meets wood at Garvan Gardens!



BOOK REVIEW

This is a heck of a book...and remember, I sawed up my last Chris Craft! Technically out of print, everything is here for every production Chris made through the years. I picked up a couple of copies from Classic Boating, but noticed Amazon also has the offering in new and used. A real treat with production numbers, details, and a page of photos on every model. EVERY MODEL!!! Just when will there be a Century version???



More Mount Dora! The Icon Harry Scholl (Mr. Delta-Conic) in his wood-decked hybrid with surface drive. I said "You're a real design hero of mine", Harry said "I didn't know I³ was that old!!!"

Cruisin'

For more than fifty years one of my favorite activities has been to go boating with good friends in old boats. Granddad's 1920's Star provided my first solo sailing adventure at age 5. which was soon followed by regattas, evening family cocktail cruises, Sunday picnics in the launch, waterskiing with my cousins and the usual knocking about in all manner of boats.

During the past ten years antique boat shows have generated much of the boating camaraderie in my life and the best of those shows, to me, are the ones which promote boat riding such as the Horseshoe Bay and Lake Lewisville events. Already, '07 has been a brutal work year and the sirens of Mt. Dora have been calling me for months. The Mt. Dora show in the central chain-of-lakes region of Florida kicks off the year's boat show calendar. Each March more than 200 boats come from as far away as Canada and Colorado to be admired and run and to signal the advent of another year of glorious watersport.

Because *Teddy Bear* also needed some fresh varnish and a friend in Florida agreed to shine her up, we set out for the show last week with smiles of anticipation. Show chairman Terry Fiest always puts me to work when I arrive - always at the launch ramp. What a glorious job! I get to see, touch, and smell each boat and greet their owners first hand. \$100,000 boats on \$200 trailers, boats that leak, won't start, and won't stop.

And then I get to go boating with my pals, wandering the lakes, drifting through the Dora Canal, taking sunrise and sunset cruises and swapping yarns with other owners and the enthusiastic public who attend.

This year the Southwest Chapter was well represented. Perhaps next year you'll answer the sirens of Mt. Dora and join us for the fun! ***Jacob Deegan***

Judy Johnstone checks out the boats while Jacob Deegan details Teddy.

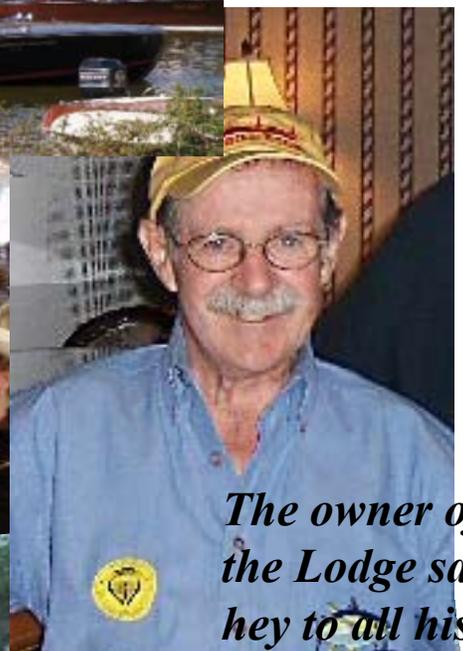


A Silver Arrow is something else!

Mercury's tower of power!



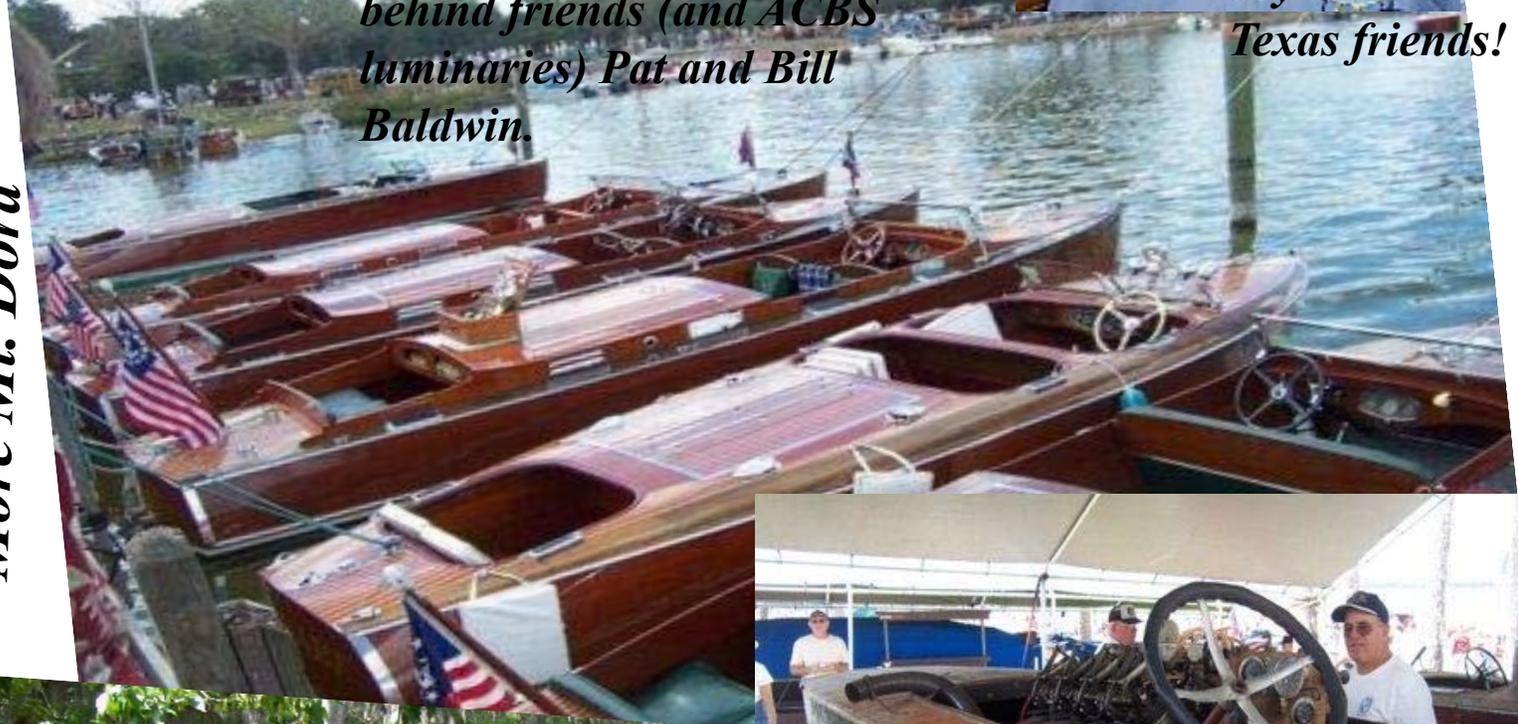
A high dollar something.



The owner of the Lodge says hey to all his Texas friends!

Jacob and Judy dancing behind friends (and ACBS luminaries) Pat and Bill Baldwin.

More Mt. Dora



A beautiful Gar Wood over-nighter with twin screw navigates the alligator infested Dora Canal.

BLESSING OF THE FLEET

Don't all those white slacks remind you of Miami Vice reruns???



On March 25th, The Dorflingers participated in a Blessing of the Fleet Ceremony and traditional christening of their beloved 1938 Chris Craft. The definitely yachtie event occurred on the grounds of Lakewood Yacht Club. To say a good time was had by all would be a gross understatement. Beautiful boat!!!!



So much to see in Mt. Dora!

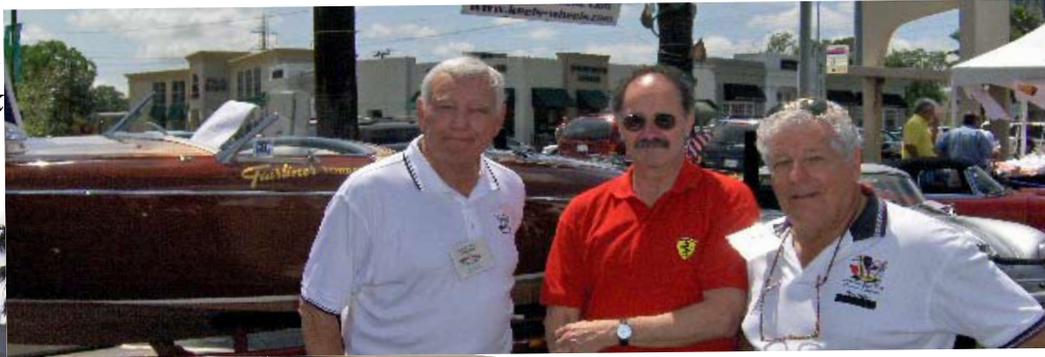


Spring Board Meeting
See, we really do have bored (err, board) meetings! Here are the troupes gathered around a courtesy lunch for the Winter board meeting /Keels and Wheels pre-planning meeting at Lakewood on February 3rd.

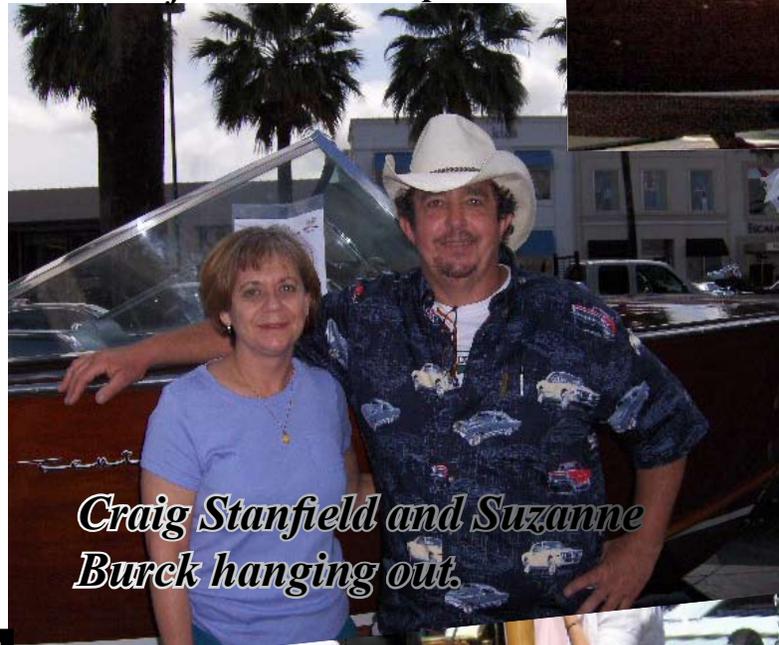
Highland Village

The first Sunday in April, there was an invitational Wheels and Keels primer located in the *oh-so-trendy Highland Village*. Numerous unbelievable cars were present including vintage and late model Porches (the silver 356 was stunning!), a Wood headlight equipped Ruxton belonging to Jim Fasnecht, an early '60's big block Galaxie (just where did Ford come up with those *names!!!*), a black and yellow Rolls Royce Silver Cloud 1, and other striking motor cars of makes I can't spell. Representing watercraft was *Dave Parker's intricately awesome Fairliner Torpedo* and *SingleWide Craig Stanfield's '67 Century Arabian*. It was a nice event, with many pluses. The view of the "haves" walking by was great. The talking of boats with people was/is always fun. And the topping of the cake? **The bilge pump switch never came on!** A great advantage of an event like this is it attracts many folks that we know in other circles outside the wooden boat fraternity. So, in addition to visiting with Bob and Judy Fuller, and the Paul and Linda Merrymens (*who were everywhere!*), and Jacob Deegan (he had the top down on that '41 Caddy of his!), there were also folks from our car and motorcycle clubs we also *hang* with. **Lots of fun all-around.**

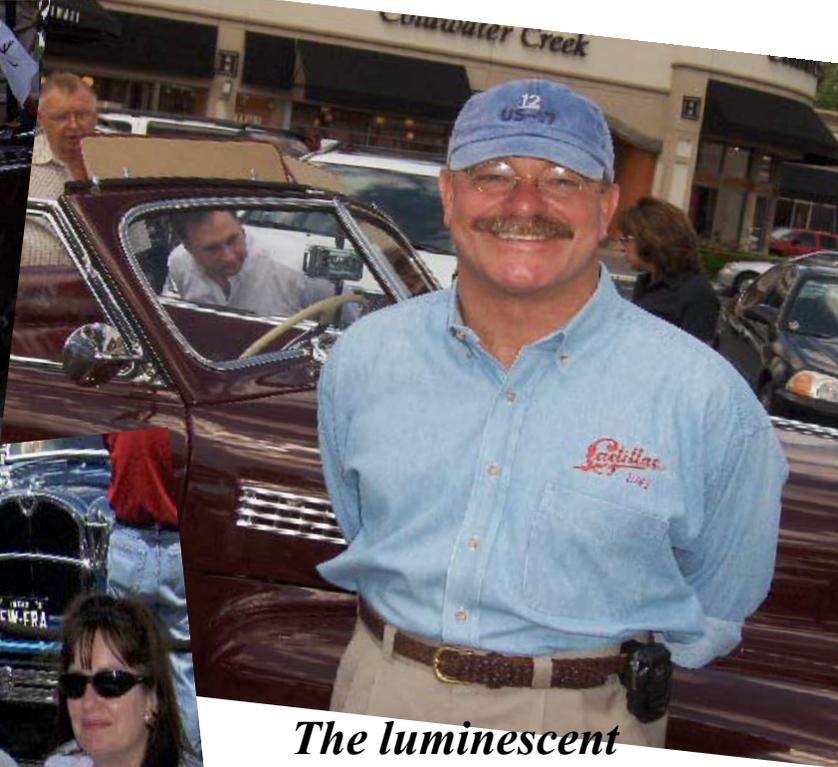
2 of the Wheels and Keels Co-Founders - Bob Fuller and Ron Stein - and Ferrari buddy check things out in front of Parker's beautiful Fairliner Torpedo.



Craig Stanfield and Suzanne Burck hanging out.



The luminescent Jacob stopping by for a visit.



Dave Parker "holding court" with friends under the tent.



New Member Bill

Brown's 1953 Chris Riviera is shown before the "turning over ritual" at *Lenire Yacht Restoration*. She now sports a new "5200 bottom" and mostly new framing, keel, and chines. *And she is now rightside up...*

Bill's a long time Kemah resident who also keeps a 50's Chris Sportsman and a fiberglass Resorter 18 at his beck and call.

The Riviera originally was built with a KBL 120 hp. Chris Craft engine. A new/used engine was sourced, but for non-show duty plans are to test the replacement bottom with a "new in the crate" marine engine with 300 or so ponies.

Tentative plans are for completion in the Winter/Spring of 2008. This blonde-decked beauty should be a real looker!!



Calendar 2007

Tentative... always verify the event details with a board member.

Houston, TX May 4-5-6

Keels & Wheels Concourse d" Elegance

Antique Boat & Car Show. Concours Regatta Thursday

May 3rd for exhibitors,

Car & Boat Auction Saturday, Luau Saturday Night; Location-Lakewood Yacht Club, Seabrook, TX. www.keels-wheels.com; Contact: Bob Fuller, 713-521-0105

PO Box 156, Seabrook, TX 77586; Email fullerg@ev1.net.

Board meeting tentatively scheduled for May 5.

Ft. Worth, TX June 1-2

19th Annual EMCBC "In The Water", Classic and

Wooden Boat Show at Eagle Mountain Lake Marina.

Friday night dinner. Boat show Saturday. Contact : John

Reinhart 817-294-9451, www.emcbc.com

Dallas, TX

August 24-26

Annual North Texas Wooden Boat Association Ride And Show on Lake Lewisville.

Friday night dinner. Boat show Saturday.

Saturday night banquet. Contact David Kanally

%20david.kanally@ps.net,

www.woodenboatassociation.com

Austin, TX

October 12-14

Annual Austin/Hill Country Boat Show at Horseshoe Bay (Lake LBJ), TX.

River cruise Friday. Dinner Friday night. Sat

urday night banquet. Contact Scott Reichardt

hsbadmiral@hotmail.com

830 -598-4661