

The Smoke Signal



VOLUME 16 ISSUE 2

March/April 2010

Newsletter of the **BLACKHAWK CHAPTER-ACBS**

Building a Custom Boat Two - Different Styles

By Charles L. Colman

I have had the great pleasure of contracting the building of two very special boats from two very different boat builders. The first, "Nokomis", was a 35' 6" Saloon Runabout built by Steve Van Dam of Boyne City, Michigan in the style of the Classic Garwood hull of the pre "depression" era. The second, "Nenemoosha" was a 32' displacement launch in the style of the Canadian "Ditchburn" launches from the 1910's - 1920's built by Peter Breen of Ontario, Canada. What I discovered is the project is a journey and you have to understand the passions and special expertise of each builder to both enjoy and get the most out of the experience.

It is important to note both boat builders are artists in their own way and, in my opinion, are among the best builders of wooden boats in business anywhere in the world today. Both are incredibly detailed and have strong opinions about what is right or wrong or what "works best". Both are super fun to work with. Their projects take from 12 - 24 months to complete and they keep their commitments. I have no hesitation about recommending either one. But, it depends on what you want because they are very different. To work with them you have to understand their

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A Visit with Randy and Chris Streblow

by Kurt Rothe Sunnyland Chapter

On a beautiful Fall day, Carol and I had the opportunity to visit the Streblow Custom Boat Company in Walworth, Wisconsin accompanied by our close friend, Don Taylor. Don spends a lot of time at Streblow's in the summer tinkering on his own 23 footer along with a few other boats that he is restoring and asked if we wanted to get a first-hand look at a new hull under construction and meet Randy and Chris Streblow, father and daughter owners of the company. Of course we took him up on his offer.

Randy and Chris greeted us with great warmth and made us feel right at home. And home it was, the place where many Streblows boats have been built over the past years and are still being cared for on Geneva Lake. We were truly amazed by the story of how the company began historically and by its current and well-planned operation.

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A new 1950's Streblow outboard cabin cruiser!

BLACKHAWK CHAPTER-ACBS

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Visit the web site at
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Please send any info, comments or suggestions to:
mattbyrne@mrbtech.com

Or, contact Matt Byrne directly at :
630-236-7214(home) or 630-802-2698(mobile)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members and Friends,

As 2010 began, The Blackhawk kicked it off with a big success, see Classic Boating's Winter edition for the article on The Chicago Boat Show. Thanks again to Mark Svoboda, Al Bosworth and their committee for organizing this event.

Labor Day of last summer, we were invited to a friends house in northern Michigan for a picture perfect weekend. Jokingly I said, " this is the first weekend of summer. Not too much boating last summer! Add to that, the winter of 2010, there is a pent-up amount of "spring fever" going around. The water ways should be "hopping". Let's hope this is the year to get this hobby in the water, running at full speed, but please don't get a ticket.

Just a reminder, there are some marvelous boat shows around the country, plan on dropping in on one or two, great way to get involved and see what's going on. In that regard, I was in Mt. Dora, Fl. for the ACBS Quarterly Meeting in February. One of the events was tour of restoration shops and collections in all stages of "work in progress", perhaps the "mecca" of our hobby. You leave knowing you were amongst some of the finest talent in the country. Also, what our organization does to in bring people together with this common interest, so much of this work could not be accomplished without this interchange of information.

Come to our web site, this year we will be continuing to keep you updated and informed of the activities of your chapter.

I hope as many as possible will make our Blackhawk Spring Dinner in Kenosha. Set aside Sunday afternoon May 23rd. The weather should be great as well as having lots of boating "stuff" to keep us current with our "passion".

Best Regards,
George Plamondon

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passions and what makes them tick.

Van Dam Boats



Steve Van Dam is a Dutchman and as precise and thoughtful as you can get. That doesn't make him boring, however, because his passion is breaking new ground, doing something different from what's been done before. In doing this, he uses technology and experience to create unique boats. The hulls are designed well. They are balanced to ride perfectly though the water or waves and to turn gracefully without hesitation. He likes technology. His boats utilize complex layers of plywood and laminate and lots of epoxy yet you would never know it looking at the boat. The bottoms are "vacuum glued" and are hard as rocks. The result is Steve's boats hold up well and are easy to maintain (for wooden boats). He can make boats go fast. He knows about every type of technology for speed. My boat Nokomis didn't use half of what he knows. However, it does incorporate technology. Those of you who have ridden in it will know without asking. She is smooth and fast, no matter how loaded, and can thrill in the turns.

So, how do you work with Steve Van Dam? First, tell him what you dream about in a boat, how it looks and what you want to do with it. He'll walk you through the process. Nothing is off limits. Only your budget will be your constraint. He won't let you make a mistake. He can be very polite and subtle but when you suggest something he thinks is wrong, you will start getting hints that it's not a good idea. In my boat for example, he actually suggested a smaller engine so the boat would ride better. It's the same with cosmetic ideas. He lets you know when he thinks something won't look good. So, be extreme if you want but listen and learn. The result will be phenomenal and different and a good value when compared with other makers, boat for boat.

Peter Breen Boats

Peter's boats come from legends. Peter learned by repairing and rebuilding Ditchburn launches and other Canadian boats in the Muskoka area of Canada. The boats are made the traditional way with white oak frames hung from the ceiling and the planking laid one solid board at a time and fitted into place. All metal parts are custom cast to match the way the originals were made. This includes incredible cutwaters and external rudders with pulley systems, both of which are on my boat Nenemoosha. Peter doesn't stray far from traditional but



(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

he does allow customization. He finds incredible parts and pieces from boat shows at Clayton, New York or Mt. Dora Florida or from barns and garages wherever he can find them. This includes 1920's car horns, steering columns or light poles. Peter leads you through a slew of different design options to make the boat yours. Arm rests, custom placement of the seat, steering wheel options, raised decks or flat, slanted stern or straight. They keep coming. Peter is more direct than Steve. He tells you right out what works and what doesn't and his knowledge comes from having done it many times. He knows this style of boat well. And, he's fun to be with. If you're nice he'll take you on the St. Johns River cruise with your new boat. I know because he did it with me. It was great fun.

Which Do I Like Best?

I'm often asked, "Which boat do I like best or which do I use more?" My answer is just like the builders: I like both of them for different things. Nokomis is great for picking up lots of people to go to a restaurant for dinner. I always use it if it's rough or I need to get somewhere fast. Nenemoosha, however, is great for a slow cruise with a bottle of wine and a couple friends when the goal is more to be elegant and relive a period in history together while cruising Geneva Lake. They're both wonderful boats that turn heads when parked or underway. I know I've been fortunate to own and use both boats and to have had the experience of building them with two wonderful individuals.

P.S. "Nokomis" was the grandmother of Hiawatha who raised him when his parents were killed in a raid by another tribe. She was the "daughter of the moon" and hence the boat is an evening cruiser. "Nenemoosha" is from the same poem about Hiawatha. It means "Sweetheart" and was what Hiawatha's best warrior sought out when he ended his days of fighting – a sweetheart. The name is applicable to the boat as well.

**That was then...
This Is Now...**

Keels and Wheels

May 14-16, 2010
www.muscatineboatshow.com

Sponsored by... Riverside Park, Muscatine, Iowa



CHICAGO RIVER CRUISE

SATURDAY JULY 10

On Saturday July 10th we are going to cruise the Chicago River through beautiful downtown Chicago. The launch ramp is at 31st. & Western Ave. We'd like to get underway by 10:30 so get there in time to launch and park your trailers and be ready by 10:30. We will be stopping at a restaurant (to be announced later) and order lunch off the menu. Make sure your boat is fueled up for the day. You might want to explore downtown by water for the rest of the day.

Directions: From the Eisenhower Expressway, exit Western Ave southbound, turn Right (west) off of Western at 33rd St., go back north two blocks to 31st. St.

Launch fee and lunch bill will be paid directly to the Ramp people and restaurant.

Please let us know if you are bringing a boat and how many people will be in your group so we can make proper arrangements at the restaurant.

For more information:

George Plamondon at 312-505-5455

Email georgeplamondon@hotmail.com

NAME _____

BOAT _____

PHONE _____

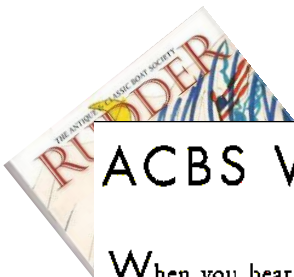
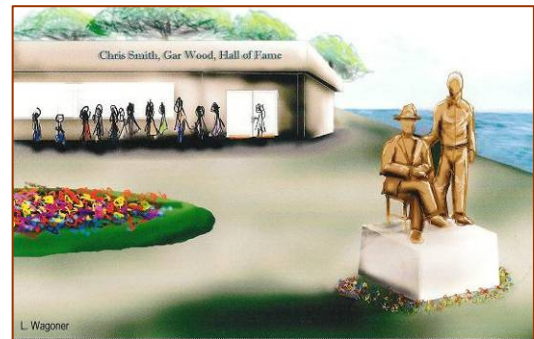
NUMBER OR PEOPLE _____

**Send to: George Plamondon
800 N Michigan Ave #3601
Chicago, IL 60611**

In the current issue of RUDDER, John Bergstrom mentioned the *Legends of Algonac* project honoring Chris Smith and Gar Wood. We would be highly honored if your chapter could send a representative to meet us for the unveiling at 1300 hours, June twenty-seventh. Can you join us?

Herb Pocklington

As the founder, I want give you an update. Well-known artist/sculptor Sergei Mitrofanov is already at work developing preliminary scale models of what will be seven foot bronze statues - standing together again on the shore of the St. Clair River. He's working in the old Algonac Chris-Craft factory, beside Gar Wood's original Miss America X. Still at work of details of Chris Smith, the sculptor has permitted release of this photo of the bust of Gar Wood. Chris's is underway. The monument itself is a "work in progress."



ACBS VOTES SUPPORT FOR LEGENDS PROJECT

BY JOHN BERGSTROM, INTERNATIONAL FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

When you hear the name Algonac, Michigan, you immediately think of the pleasure boat building industry as well as of high speed racing on the St. Clair River.

Famous names that made history in Algonac were Christopher C. Smith and Garfield A. Wood. Both of these men are responsible for starting what we enjoy today: wooden boating. The Antique and Classic Boat Society is pleased to support the vision of Herb Pocklington, the oldest living Chris-Craft senior executive, and a man who personally knew both Chris Smith and Gar Wood.

Herb's vision is to


- Identify Algonac as the original home of pleasure-boating and boat racing.
- Create a memorial to C.C. Smith and Gar Wood with life-size bronze statues on the river.
- Create a facility for educational artifact display, provision for guests, meetings and shops.

Currently, fundraising is taking place across the US and Canada to bring this project to fruition. The goal is to have the bronze

statues erected by July 4, 2010, on the grounds of the existing Algonac City Historical Society Museum.

In keeping with our charge to promote, further and encourage a love and enjoyment of all aspects of historic, antique and classic boating and to be an integral part of such an important part of our heritage, the ACBS board has voted to become a \$5,000 diamond sponsor of this project.

Thanks to Mr. Pocklington and others who have spearheaded this project so that legends can be honored and artifacts of our hobby will be preserved to educate future generations.

Anyone who wishes to support this project individually can do so by making their checks payable to Legends of Algonac and mail to: Algonac/Clay Historical Society, PO Box 228, 1240 St. Clair River Drive, Algonac, MI 48001 

6th Annual Eagle River Antique & Classic Boat Show

June 18-20, 2010

You are invited to take part in the 6th Annual Eagle River event for owners of antique and classic wooden boats! The famous Eagle River chain of 28 lakes will be the site for the show scheduled for June 18, 19 and 20, 2010. The event will be held on the grounds of the Wild Eagle Lodge on Duck and Lynx Lakes. The location is unique and simply outstanding for the public and boat owners. Newer docks, beautiful grounds and special activities, including a special exhibitor rate for those who wish to stay on the grounds, are available. There is ample free parking, free storage for trailers and assisted launching at the Wild Eagle Lodge.

Most important is the fact that all proceeds from this event will go to the area's Special Athletes.

Plans again this year include an all day Friday tour of the Chain of Lakes with "pit stops" along the way for breaks and lunch. Friday evening we will have a lakeside "Gangster's Paradise" dinner just for the exhibitors. Public viewing will take place on Saturday from 9AM-5PM with an optional afternoon boat tour. Dinner, entertainment and socialization will follow at the Boon-dockers Lounge at the Wild Eagle Lodge. Awards for boats in several categories include a "popular selection" by the public, "owners' selections" for best Chris Craft (two or more divisions), best non-Chris Craft (two or more divisions), best outboard motor boat, best non-motor boat, and best of show.

Please return your application as soon as possible as slips and display locations will be assigned as completed forms are obtained. If you wish, include a brief history of your boat.

The attached schedule and reservation form should help to answer any of your questions. If you need any additional information, please feel free to contact Jo Daniel, the on-site coordinator for the Wild Eagle Lodge. The Wild Eagle Lodge will make every effort to accommodate this event. If you desire, other lodging is also available in the general area.

Thank you, in advance, for your interest and involvement. A special thanks to last year's exhibitors who made our 5th show such a success. Our 6th Annual Show will be even better for the benefit of Special Athletes.

Carl and Charlene Wussow
Program Directors
1940 Morey Road
Eagle River, WI 54521
715-477-1020
cjwuss@aol.com

Jo Daniel
Site Coordinator
North Lakes Hospitality
1330 Halberstadt Rd.
St. Germain, WI 54558
715-479-5778 for Jo
1-877-945-3965 for reservations
jo@blackbearlodge.com

OPEN HOUSE

Come and join us, and friends, as we enter into the new boating Year. For our annual Spring time open house.

May 2, 2010 from 9am-3pm

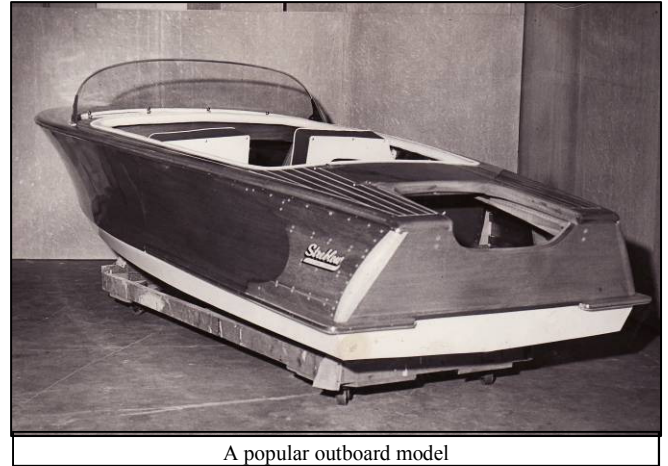
View the classic wood boats that are for sale, from restored boats, to projects, and boats in-between.

Also see the start of our new addition to the showroom, bringing back memories from the past.



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In 1947, Larry Streblov, Randy's father, began building boats as a hobby. He loved to personally design small craft and was very good at it. He was encouraged by friends to start a boat company and build small outboard boats for other people. So he started his "hobby" in his garage turning out his first hull. Pretty soon his hobby outgrew his garage and in 1950, he moved from his garage to 75th Street in Kenosha where he rented a 3 stall garage so he would have more room for boatbuilding. Well, his boats became even more popular and the new location lacked sufficient space for his operation. In 1954, he moved to the south side of Kenosha and formally incorporated his business into Streblov Custom Boats, Inc. He still served as "the designer" and was responsible for creating all Streblov designs, from small outboards to outboard cruisers to inboards. Even today, all Streblov boats still carry Larry's basic hull designs. The inside of the boat has changed to incorporate contemporary styling and customer needs but the basic hull design is still that of Larry Streblov



A popular outboard model

In the late 50's, his business moved more to inboards and in 1958 he designed an 18', 19' and 20' Rebel along with a 26' Empress. Larry was great at marketing and had trade names for every model. After 1965, the company moved to producing hulls of 21', 23', and 26' in length along with a 28 footer that incorporated twin engines. Randy joined the business with Larry in the late 50's and Randy's daughter Kris also joined the boat company in 80's.



new 23 footer under construction

A great emphasis was and is still placed upon construction techniques and using quality materials. All framing is white oak; bottoms consist of marine plywood with Philippine mahogany used for outer planking with fungicidal mastic placed between the inner and outer layers so as to allow the boat to breathe. Larry was a strong believer in the fact that wood had to breathe. He treated the wood with CPES along with other compounds and used 5200 for the chines and keels while using Sikaflex on the remaining parts of the hull. Douglas fir is used for the engine stringers along with all stainless steel fasteners for the hull. Streblov boats are now produced us-



A 26' Streblov on Geneva Lake!



The cockpit of a 28 footer with twin engines!

ing either V-drives or straight drives.

At one point in time, the company employed up to 15 people and produced up to 50 boats per year. Streblov has built over 500 boats since its inception as a company in 1947. Today Streblov builds between 1 – 2 custom boats a year but serves as the year around maintenance facility for the 132 Streblovs that call Geneva Lake their summer home.

It is important to remember that all Streblovs are custom built to meet each individual customer's specifications, wants and needs. The customer as really involved in the production of his/her own custom boat. Each Streblov is unique in its character – and each is different. There are no two alike.

Streblov boat owners are very loyal to the company. Each owner considers he/she part of the "Streblov family" and Streblov owners on Geneva Lake incorporate many wonderful social gatherings every summer to talk about their boating adventures along with enjoying each others company and chatting with Randy and Chris. They all consider themselves "family" and feel that they really are leasing the boats from Streblov as at some point in time when their boating days have ended, their boats will return to the Streblov Company only to be "leased" to another lucky owner for many years of future enjoyment.



The same hull finished and at the 2009 Blackhawk Show in Fontana, Wis. It is now named "Rodan"!

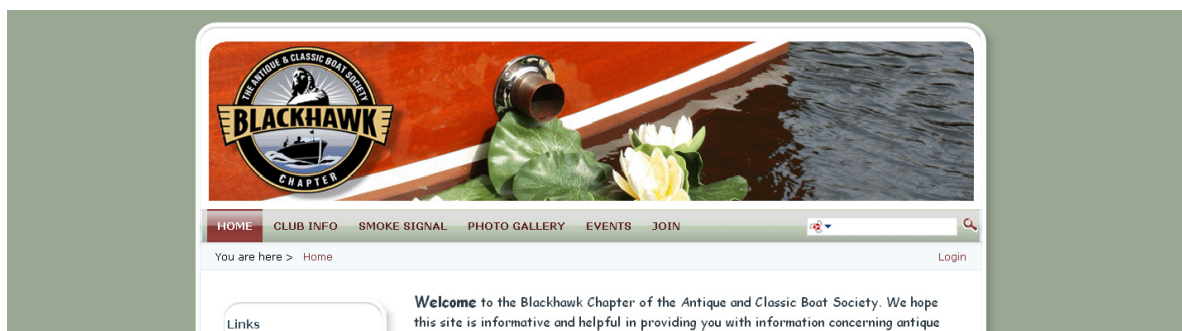
Web Site Update

The Blackhawk web site has a new "look and feel" I want to thank member Chad Durren for offering up his design skills to give the site a fresh new look. If you visit the site regularly you will notice that the content is quit static and stale. I would like to change this, so I'm asking all members for ideas on how to improve the web site. How do you use the web site? What would you like to see on the site?

One feature we had in the past was dedicated pages for each member to display their boat. I would like to bring this back, so if you are interested, please email me pictures and a short description and/or history of your boat.

As always, feel free to send any ideas and comments (good or bad) to me at mattbyrne@mrbtech.com.

Thanks
Matt Byrne



2010 Blackhawk Spring Dinner



Sunday May 23rd
5:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Southport Marina is located at 21 56th Street in Kenosha. The cost is \$15.00 per person. This will include a Buffet Dinner with Italian Beef and Chicken, Rolls, Salads, Warm Vegetable, Assorted Mini Desserts, Coffee and Condiments.

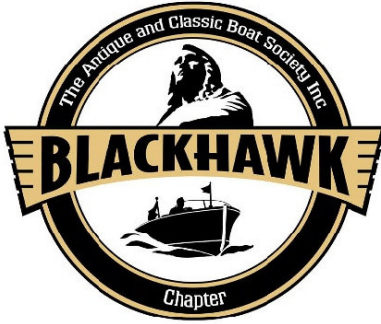
A Cash Bar (Soda, Beer, Wine, Basic Mixed Drinks) is also available.

If the weather cooperates there is a launch facility and slips available for those who want to make it a boating event.

Please RSVP to Mark Svoboda 630-208-1775 or msvoboda@ameritech.net, no later than May 15. We hope you can join us!



Southport Marina



**The 26th. Annual Antique &
Classic in water Wooden Boat Show
is back at
FAMOUS FREDDIE'S**

Saturday July 24, 2010

FOOD, DRINKS, & MUSIC WILL BE AVAILABLE

**“Famous Freddie’s” on Pistakee Lake. 510 Park Ave,
Fox Lake**

Same times, same date, set up time is 8:00 – 9:00

Show is from 10:00 to 2:00 \$10.00 entry fee

Additional \$15 for boats “For Sale”

**There is no free launch ramp,
but you could launch at any of the other Marinas around the Lake.**

Ben Watts Marina ramp is 3 minutes by car or water.

For more info:

**Ron Van Horn 708-347-8951 or
Ted Cartner 847-395-8902**



REGISTRATION INFORMATION

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ EMAIL _____

TELEPHONE: (day) _____ (eve) _____ fax _____

MFG OF BOAT _____ MFG OF ENGINE _____

HP _____ MODEL _____ YEAR _____ LENGTH _____ BEAM _____

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Blackhawk Name Badges

Blackhawk Chapter name badges are again available. These tasteful badges are a great way to let other members know who you are at our outings, and to show your affiliation at non-Blackhawk events. Simply send your name as you would like it to appear, along with a check for \$10.00 made out to the Blackhawk Chapter to:

Blackhawk Chapter
 c/o Ted Cartner
 P.O. Box 683
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 or contact
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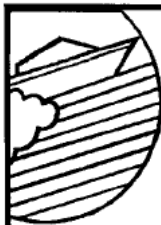
PO Box 683
Antioch IL 60002

As many of you know the Chris Craft flat head sixes were based on Hercules engine blocks, below is a brief comparison of the various models.

Chris Craft Model	Hercules Block	Carbs	HP@RPM	Bore	Stroke	C.I.D.	Compression Ratio*
H	QXB	1 up	75 @ 3200	3 ¼	4 1/8	205	6.5
HA	QXB	1 up	85 @ 3500	3 ¼	4 1/8	205	?
K	QXC	1 up	85 @ 3200	3 3/8	4 1/8	221	6.2
KA	QXC	1 up	95 @ 3500	3 3/8	4 1/8	221	?
KB	QXC^	3 down	121 @ 3800	3 3/8	4 1/8	221	6.2
K	QXD	1 up	95 @ 3200	3 7/16	4 1/8	230	7.2
K	QXD	1 up	100 @ 3200	3 7/16	4 1/8	230	7.6
KL	QXLD	1 up	105 @ 3200	3 7/16	4 ¼	237	7.4
KLC	QXLD	1 up	120 @ 3800	3 7/16	4 ¼	237	7.5
KBL	QXLD	3 down	131 @ 3800	3 7/16	4 ¼	237	7.5
KFL	QXLD	2 up	131 @ 3800	3 7/16	4 ¼	237	7.5
L	JXB	1 up	110 @ 3200	3 5/8	4 ¼	263	6.2
LA	JXB	2 up	125 @ 3500	3 5/8	4 ¼	263	?
M	JXD	1 up	130 @ 3000	4	4 ¼	320	7.5
MB	JXD	1 up	145 @ 3400	4	4 ¼	320	8.1
ML	JXLD	1 up	145 @ 3000	4	4 ½	339	7.3
MBL	JXLD	1 up	158 @ 3400	4	4 ½	339	7.3
MCL	JXLD	2 up	175 @ 3400	4	4 ½	339	7.2
W	WXD	1 up	160 @ 3000	4 ¼	4 ¾	404	6.4
WB	WXD	2 up	200 @ 3200	4 ¼	4 ¾	404	6.9

*Compression ratio sometimes varied as Chris Craft redesigned their heads.

^This later changed to the QXD block when Chris Craft obsoleted the QXC block.



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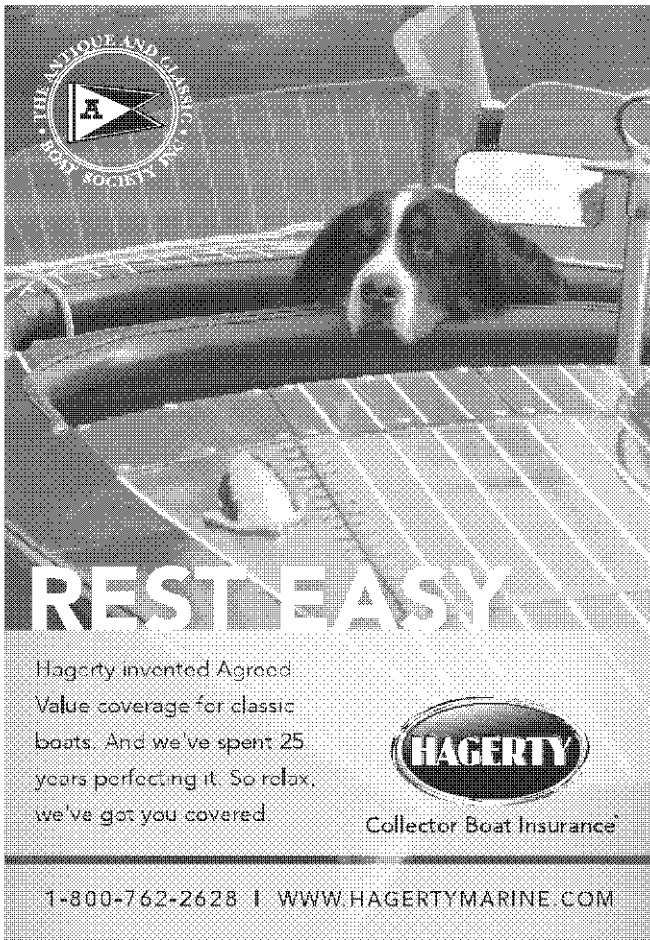
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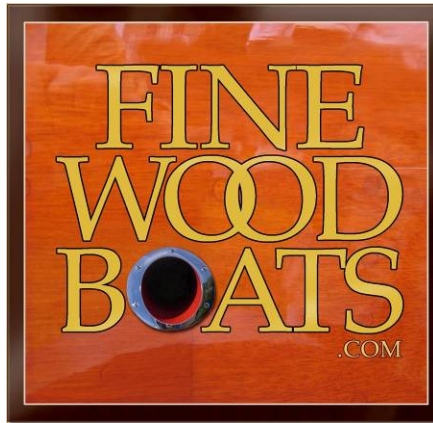


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Commercial advertisements will be run in each issue published during the course of the year unless prior arrangements are made. Six issues per year are published. The following rates apply for commercial advertising, on a per year basis. Contact your editor for more information:

	Business card sized	Quarter page	Half Page	Full Page
Members	\$40	\$80	150	\$300
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Provide all advertisements to: Matt Byrne Phone: 630-802-2698 E-mail MattByrne@mrbtech.com



BLACKHAWK CHAPTER-ACBS

The Smoke Signal

2201 E Lakeshore Dr..
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Calendar of Events

May 14-15	Muscatine Boat Show
May 23	Spring dinner
June 18-20	6th Annual Eagle River Boat Show
July 10	Chicago River Cruise
July 24	Fox Lake Boat Show
TBD	Ottawa Venetian night
Sept 24-26	Geneva Lake Show