

# PORT & STARBOARD

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www.lcacbs.com

Spring/Summer 2011

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

## The View from the Helm

I'm sure you will all join me as we say good bye to the harsh winter of 2011 as it passes into now a memory. Even though the weather brought a great deal of snow and icy roads the Lake Champlain ACBS Membership was fortunate that all our workshop programs stayed on schedule. For the first time that I know of, we were able to have four workshops during the winter season, one a month January through April. All were well attended with more than fifteen members at each workshop and all were completely different.



President, Mike O'Brien.

I would like to thank our hosts... Photo by George Kurjanowicz Jody Lapham...David Steinman...Jay Annis and Michael Claudon all who went out of their way to make us feel welcome. So now that summer is almost here and we all begin the process of fine tuning are boats for the up and coming season let's hope we have a summer as we did last year with plenty of sunshine and wonderful boating conditions.

Please review the Calendar of Events for the Summer Boating Season as well as for the balance of 2011. We have our first rendezvous of the summer Sunday June 26th at The Rudder Club in Essex, New York followed by Spencer Boatworks' Runabout Rendezvous July 9 Saranac Lake, New York plus additional rendezvous and a special new event "Tour de Champlain". We will be sending out additional information during the summer, so please check your email and or the web site [www.lcacbs.com](http://www.lcacbs.com) for updates...

Finally and most important...  
**The Lake Champlain ACBS 26th Anniversary Boat Show at the Burlington Boathouse August 12-13.** We have enclosed the 2011 registration form including show information. Please sign up for the show early and make the necessary reservations. If you have a suggestion or need more information regarding the boat show or summer events please let me know... 802-355-1781 or [mmob1@comcast.net](mailto:mmob1@comcast.net)...

## 2011 Lake Champlain ACBS Calendar of Events

- June 26 **LCACBS Rendezvous:** 12 noon  
The Rudder Club, Essex, New York
- July 9 **Spencer Boatworks Runabout Rendezvous:**  
10am, Saranac Lake, New York
- July 22-24 **Tour de Champlain**
- Aug. 12-13 **Lake Champlain ACBS 26th Anniversary Boat Show and Lake Champlain Maritime Festival**  
Burlington, Vermont
- Aug. 21 **LCACBS Rendezvous:** 12noon, Basin Harbor Club
- Aug. 19-21 **Montreal Classic Boat Festival:** Montreal, Quebec
- Sept. 17-18 **LCACBS Fall Cruise**
- Sept. 28 **Directors' Meeting** 5pm
- Oct. 16 **Annual Meeting** 12noon "Northern Lights"  
Burlington, Vermont
- Oct. 21 **Fall/Winter Newsletter Deadline**
- Dec. 3 **Holiday Party** 5pm



~Mike O'Brien, President

2010 Burlington Boat Show. Photo by George Kurjanowicz

# Winter Workshops

by Mike O'Brien

All of our scheduled winter workshops were quite successful. The attendance was consistent at each of the Saturday morning gatherings averaging 15-20 members. The season started with a hands on "work" workshop assisting Jody Lapham with his current



Jody Lapham's workshop. Photo by Larry Asam

restoration a 1926 Fay Bowen 27' Longdeck. February's workshop was a bit different and brought us to David Steinman's Restoration Shop in Waitsfield, where we were fortunate to view his collection of Antique and Classic Cars as well as his 1929 Chris Craft 22' Triple Cadet. Then in March we ventured to Saranac Lake where Jay Annis and the Spencer Boatworks team always have a full house of projects with many a fascinating story to go with each boat. The last workshop of the season brought us to Weybridge



David Steinman's workshop. Photo by Mike O'Brien



Spencer Boatworks workshop. Photo by Larry Asam



Snake Mountain Boatworks workshop. Photo by Mike O'Brien

where Michael Claudon welcomed the chapter with an open house showcasing his newly constructed workshop and boat restoration business "Snake Mountain Boatworks". We had a wonderful series of workshops and each venue was truly unique. A special thanks to our hosts for having us and for sharing their experiences in restoring these great treasures from the past.

## Book Update

"So what's up with the book project?" folks are asking. Before answering that directly it would be worth sharing a little perspective:

Earlier in life...a lot earlier...many of us were warned by our parents that "*your eyes are bigger than your stomach*".

Then we managed to age a bit and were cautioned about "*Biting off more than one can chew*".

And now the mantra from all fronts is "*Look before you leap!*".



Sound the horns, the book will be completed this summer.

Well, having apparently ignored all three cautions a merry band of chapter members embarked with little hands on experience to write this book. Indeed our eyes have turned out to be bigger than our stomach, we have bitten off more than we could chew - quickly, and we didn't seem to glance far enough into the future. And to "*throw all caution to the wind*"...we're "going to go out on a limb" and say that we'll "*bring it on home*" in the "*Good Old Summertime!*".

Kinda reminds you of seeing that project boat out in the field and imagining it being on the water the following season only to celebrate a new christening five years later...doesn't it!!

~ Boating Book Bunch

# Summer Visitor... Coming to Lake Champlain

by Kathy Muller

Speedboat racing was a popular spectator sport in the 1920's with national media covering races across the country and abroad. By 1922 Garfield Wood had won the Gold Cup five times and brought home the Harmsworth Trophy from England. Capitalizing on his racing success, he hired designer Nap Lisee and teamed up with Chris Craft to develop a speedboat for wealthy sportsmen, which used the powerful Liberty aircraft engine. The result of this effort was the Baby Gar.



*Bolo Babe. Photo by Jim Eberhardt*

In 1926, Charles M. Swift went to the New York Boat Show and placed his order for the "Boat of the Year," a 1926 33' Baby Gar. Howard Lyon was Gar Wood's exclusive distributor at the time, with a New York showroom and an aggressive marketing style. He sold the Baby Gars to the rich and famous of the day: John Dodge, Caleb

Bragg, William Randolph Hearst, and P.K Wrigley for a price of \$12,000, or triple the price of a three-bedroom home.

Swift fit the profile of the Baby Gar owner: he was an international industrialist, financier, attorney and entrepreneur operating out of Detroit and had developed the Manila streetcar system. He had recently sold his mansion in the tony Detroit suburb of Grosse Pointe to his neighbor, Mrs. Anna Dodge, who bought the home for her son Horace, now heavily involved building the Dodge boats and Gold Cup racing. Swift retired and moved back to his native Vermont, where he purchased a 450 acre estate with a mile and a half of frontage on Lake Champlain and named it "Grosse Pointe". Bolo Babe was delivered to Lake Champlain that spring, the name "Babe" reflecting her diminutive size next to Swift's 95' Cox & Stevens sea going yacht, Bolo.

Quickly gaining notoriety as "the fastest boat on Champlain," Bolo Babe competed in regattas at the Burlington Yacht Club, and lakeside towns of Westport and Essex. The races were regional, with classes for sail, outboard and power—the most hotly contested being the speedboat event. Often handicapped a few laps, Bolo Babe's audiences grew, eager to see her race against the lake's Liberty and Packard powered speedboats. Behind the scenes was Joe Valez, one of Gar Wood's Liberty mechanics who in 1930 opened Valez Marine across the lake in Port Henry, NY. Over the years he and his son Louis maintained up to seven Baby Gars at their boatyard, keeping the big boats and racing engines running. Louis often rode as mechanic during races.

Bolo Babe held her title through the 1950's, first with the Liberty and later with an Allison aircraft engine that her owner Howard Miller installed to insure her standing on the lake. The 800 horsepower Allison, twice that of the Liberty would prove too much for the narrow hull and though she cornered extremely well, she capsized during a number of races. Though these races added to her intrepid reputation, Miller retired the boat in 1960, but kept her in storage, unwilling to part with her for another 45 years. Only 8 of the 67 Baby Gars built from 1922-1929 remain today.

## 2011 Spring Meeting Anthony's Restaurant, Plattsburg

The 2011 Spring Meeting was a spectacular event and a wonderful way to start the Social Boating Season. The day brought the sun which will hopefully keep the flood waters under control. We all now hope to see the lake recede so boats can be launched in the next few weeks. The evening was attended by well over forty five members and set a record for the Lake Champlain ACBS. Special guests included...Simon LeBrun of The Montreal Classic Boat Festival & River Run and was able to spread the word regarding the annual event. Plus we were very fortunate to have Douglas Brooks present his current program at Middlebury College which concentrates on documenting and building replicas of barn discovered trapping boats of the Champlain Valley.



Skiff and trapping boats. Photo by Douglas Brooks

**"Tuckers Bite"** ... Chris Hanson of Vermont Canvas donated a mooring cover to The Lake Champlain ACBS Youth Program. The donated cover will safeguard the Zephyr for years to come. We thank Chris for his time and interest. If you should need any type of canvas work, please keep Chris in mind! Contact: Marine Canvas 292 Bushey Dr., Shelburne, VT 05482 802-999-7159.



Photo by George Kurjanowicz

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# Lake Champlain ACBS 26th Anniversary Boat Show and Maritime Festival Schedule Of Events



2010 Burlington Boat Show  
Photo by George Kurjanowicz

## Friday August 12th

11 a.m. – 11 p.m. *Lake Champlain Maritime Festival*  
3 p.m. – 7 p.m. *Lake Champlain Boat Show*  
*Arrivals ... Cash Bar ... Light Fare*  
*Burlington Boathouse, South West Deck*

## Saturday August 13th

11 a.m. – 11 p.m. *Lake Champlain Maritime Festival*  
*Lake Champlain ACBS 26th Annual Boat Show*  
8 – 10 a.m. *Registration*  
9:30 a.m. *Skippers Meeting*  
10 a.m. – 3 p.m. *Judging*  
12 – 4 p.m. *Boat Demonstrations*  
4 p.m. *Boat Show Parade*  
5:30 p.m. *Cocktails and Awards, Ice House ... Cash Bar*  
6:30 p.m. *Dinner, Ice House*

### *Burlington Community Boathouse Overnight Docking*

**PLEASE NOTE:** Dockage Fees will apply for both Friday and Saturday Night and reservations must be made and prepaid.  
Slips for the show will be held until 10 a.m. Saturday.

**PLEASE CONTACT:** Burlington Community Boathouse DIRECTLY to make your arrangements. Tel: 802 865 3377

### *Burlington Waterfront Launch Ramps*

Perkins Pier: Burlington, Vermont *South Of Burlington Boathouse*  
U.S. Coast Guard: Burlington, Vermont *North Of Burlington Boathouse*

## Tour de Champlain 2011



**July 22-24...**Please join us for the weekend touring Lake Champlain. We plan to tour Lake Champlain starting Friday morning July 22 for a full weekend of rendezvous and boating fun. A schedule detailing the trip will be available early June.

### Lake Champlain ACBS 2011 Officers & Directors

#### Officers:

Mike O'Brien-President  
Jay Annis-Vice President  
Mike Munson-Treasurer  
Michael Claudon-Secretary  
George Maffey-Immediate Past President

#### Board of Directors for Terms Ending:

2011: Larry Asam, Hans Pfister, Gene Porter  
2012: Steve Pond, Keith Gaylord, George Kurjanowicz  
2013: Bill Aldrich, Bill Truex, Allen Dunham

#### Committees:

Membership: Steve Pond  
Boat Show: Keith Gaylord  
Calendar: Hans Pfister  
Newsletter: George Kurjanowicz  
Webmaster: Larry Asam



Photo by Larry Asam

**Congratulations!** Myndy Woodruff's newly restored Cessna was on the cover of the "170 News" First Quarter 2011 an association magazine along with an article by Myndy. Our very own Larry Asam took the photo from the top of the terminal building at Sugarbush in the low November light.

#### Newsletter Contributors

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