



# Notes from the Bilge



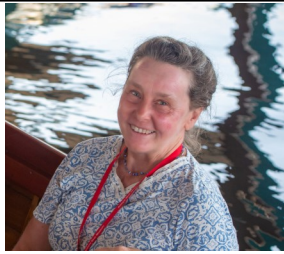
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December 2021

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

Susan Haigh, President

## President's Message



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As winter closes in and we begin to gear up for an exciting year ahead, I want to thank everyone for their support as our new Officers and Directors take on leadership roles. **Steve Pond** has done an outstanding job over the last 4 1/2 years and he will leave big shoes to fill. Luckily for us he is still lending his experience and efforts to our chapter. **Holly Weber**, our new Vice President, is a very talented and focused individual who gets things done. Our Board of Directors has a new member, **Greg Woodard**, who grew up helping his Dad at Woodard Marine and is now helping him manage the operation on Lake Bomoseen.

ACBS has a new Executive Director, **Lora Hanson**, whose remarkable credentials stood out among the 40 applicants. Her skills in non-profit management, fund-raising, gala organizing, grant writing, and her years of experience working at Antique Boat Museum in Clayton, and then as Executive Director for the Tahoe Maritime Museum bode well for the **future** of ACBS. Dan Gyoerkoe is assisting her as she takes over the job.

I attended a Chapter Rountable Zoom meeting on Nov 12th, entitled "What does ACBS do for you?" Community Relations lead **Ed Andrews** led the discussion, and went over the offerings of the ACBS website for members. **Seth Vore**, Community Engagement Manager, showed how the revived ACBS Instagram use has brought renewed focus on our hobby with thousands of interactions, and will be the way to attract future members, especially the next generation. Facebook is also a social media platform that engages the boating community and attracts followers. Over the last couple months ACBS has seen a surge of about 500 new members likely attributed to these social platforms. We'll be continuing to use these platforms to our best advantage.

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**David Gabriel Steinman**, 84, of Waitsfield, Vermont passed away on Saturday, October 9, 2021. David was born in Philadelphia in 1937. He was married to the late Elizabeth Fenning Steinman for 38 years and is survived by their two children, John and William; four grandchildren, Charles, Jeffrey, Jamie, and Eleanor; and companion, Arlene Diesenhouse.

David and Beth spent their early years together in Gwynedd Valley, outside of Philadelphia, and summered with their boys on Nantucket Island. The family moved to Waitsfield in 1978, where they owned and ran Gallagher's pub, one of Vermont's premier rock and roll ski bars of the era, once graced by Lucretia Gallagher Sears. David was the consummate publican, always in a tweed jacket, and played host to many a memorable night, including numerous Tomato War banquets.

During his 43 years in Waitsfield, David became part of the fabric of the Mad River Valley. He was part of the group of amateur dramatists that

*continued — page 2*

**Steinman** (continued from Page 1)

re-established the Valley Players in 1978, and was instrumental in helping the group move into its home at the Odd Fellow's Hall.

A lifelong antique automobile enthusiast, David later established the Waitsfield Motor Car Company. His life's work and avocation were the restoration of fine, antique automobiles, a craft for which he was highly decorated. Those who had the pleasure of visiting his workshop know the true measure of his artistry. David's works were frequently invited to and displayed at the country's premier concours, including the Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance, the Elegance at Hershey, Radnor Hunt, and the world-renown Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance. David's restorations were shown nine times at Pebble, and he won a total of five awards, including the prestigious Montagu of Beaulieu Trophy. His antique cars were ubiquitous sites in the Valley, whether at the Polo Field, the Air Show, or parked in front of the Warren Store, and from the late 1970s to the 2010s, David was behind the wheel of one of his classics near the front of the Warren 4th of July Parade.

His life will be celebrated in a simple, private family affair in accordance with his wishes. He will rest with Beth in the Warren Cemetery, sporting his signature Nantucket reds and Gucci loafers (no socks, of course).



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## Editorial Comments



**At the LCACBS annual meeting** it was announced that LCACBS had achieved its sponsorship budget. The budget was built to accommodate the associated costs of the pre-events for the 2022 ACBS Annual Meeting & Boat Show. The sponsors, shown on page 9 of this issue, have stepped forward enabling LCACBS to showcase the beautiful Champlain Valley to the attending international ACBS members. Without the Sponsor's participation, the 2022 event would be a missed opportunity for the ACBS attendees to share all the Champlain Valley has to offer. It would also be a missed occasion for the Champlain Valley to strut its stuff.

A huge THANK YOU to all of our sponsors!

### ACBS RECOGNIZES LCACBS WEBSITE

As many of you know, a contingent from LCACBS did the transcontinental trip in September to attend the 2021 ACBS Annual Meeting & Boat Show in Couer d'Alene, ID. The idea was to gain as much information and experience as possible for use in the 2022 Annual Meeting & Boat Show in Burlington.

A bonus occurred when the LCACBS website was judged to be the best among ALL the ACBS websites.

As you also know, our new president, Sue Haigh, assumed responsibility for the website a while back. The award, pictured on the left, is recognition of the work and dedication that Sue brought to the website.

### Welcome New Members

Our ranks have recently swelled by three. Welcome to **Jeremy King, Bob Davis and Greg Woodard**. Greg is no stranger to LCACBS as his father is Bob Woodard. Jeremy is a friend of Madam President and eager to help with the 2022 show. Bob was baptized in a breezy trip to Indian Bay Maria in *Portobella*.



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*APHRODITE* was built by the Purdy Boat Company and launched in May of 1937 for Wall Street financier and later Ambassador to the Court of St. James, John Hay (Jock) Whitney of Manhasset, Long Island. Best described as a “Commuter Yacht”, this elegant and sleek 74-footer would each morning whisk Mr. Whitney from his large two-story boat house westward down Long Island Sound and thru the East River to his Wall Street office. During the 45 minute commute Mr. Whitney would go up to the forward cockpit and read the Herald Tribune to catch up on the day’s news.

*APHRODITE’S* guest list over the years reads like a “Who’s Who” in the worlds of government, business and entertainment with such luminaries as Fred Astaire, Sir Laurence Olivier, Spencer Tracy, Katherine Hepburn, Henry Ford II, FDR advisor Harry Hopkins and Nelson Rockefeller aboard for summer day cruises down Long Island Sound. *APHRODITE* also once served as the site for a birthday party for Shirley Temple.

The day after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Mr. Whitney offered *APHRODITE* to the government for war service and she was commissioned in April 1942 as a Coast Guard auxiliary vessel (CGR-557). The boat spent most of its war-time career ferrying dignitaries up and down the Atlantic coast and transporting President Roosevelt to and from his home at Hyde Park on the Hudson River.

In the early 1960’s Mr. Whitney no longer needed a boat of *APHRODITE’S* size and so donated the boat to Anthony Drexel Duke and Boy’s Harbor, a summer program for disadvantaged inner-city youth which operated on Mr. Duke’s estate at East Hampton, Long Island. renamed *MOONFIRE* and under this name she went

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In the late 1960’s or early 1970’s *APHRODITE* was renamed *MOONFIRE* and under this name she went through a series of owners under which her condition quickly deteriorated to the point where she was parked ashore with weeds sprouting around her neglected hull.

Around 1977 Mr. John Pannell started a marine repair business (Harbor View Marine) on the site of the old Purdy Boat Company where *APHRODITE* was originally built. In 1983 Mr. Pannell was approached by a gentleman from New Jersey who told him he had just bought an old boat, would he be interested in a restoration project and added “*She’s got Moonfire on the transom but I think she’s Aphrodite.*”

The boat was launched and towed back to her birthplace where she was hauled and restoration work begun.

The unexpected death of the man from New Jersey shortly after work was begun brought the restoration efforts to a temporary halt. Work began again in earnest when John Pannell accepted ownership of *APHRODITE* from the heirs as payment for work in progress.

After relaunching in 1984, *APHRODITE* could be seen traveling up and down the East Coast and in attendance at many classic boat events where she garnered many a prize.

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In the fall of 2000 John Pannell sold *APHRODITE* to her present owner, a true classic boat enthusiast. Despite Pannell’s loving attention to the boat, the new owner found that he could not stop the clock and retain the boat’s past glory. In the late fall of 2003 *APHRODITE* was delivered to Brooklin Boat Yard where a complete restoration of the boat is planned to bring her back to her original appearance and to bring her ship’s systems up to today’s standards.

*APHRODITE* was a complete restoration using the original boat as a template from which to create what would become the reborn *APHRODITE*.

The first stage of this project was to extensively catalog all aspects of the boat for later reference. Once this historical documentation was completed, forms were placed into the boat to retain her hull shape. Next the job of disassembly began in earnest with the removal of the deck, superstructure, bulkheads, all interior accommodations and ship’s systems leaving only the hull in place.

Reconstruction began with the replacement of the original backbone, stem, floors and the reframing of the intricate curves of “Aphrodite’s” signature torpedo stern. Next on the list was the removal of the original hull planking and the fastening of temporary ribbands to the original frames. After all planking was removed, new white oak frames were fabricated and steam bent into position and the original frames were removed.

On September 2, 2004 the final original frame (last wood of the original boat) was removed marking the transition from old to new.

Once the all important structural framing work was completed the hull was then replanked as originally built with double-planked, copper-riveted Philippine Mahogany. With a new hull in place the work of engine and systems installation went forward along with the reconstruction of the interior accommodations spaces, new deck construction and the crafting of Aphrodite’s distinctive cabin and superstructure.

On a crisp clear October day in 2005, with a huge crowd made up of Aphrodite’s owner’s, the crew of Brooklin Boat Yard and families and friends from both sides of the project on hand to wish her well, Aphrodite slipped into the waters of Center Harbor Maine to begin her new life.



## Hear Ye, Hear Ye



### LCACBS Pot Luck Christmas Party

**December 12, 2021 @ 4 PM**

**St. John’s Club  
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**President’s Message**

continued from page 1

Our winter workshops are still unknown at this point, mostly due to the surge of the Delta variant among the unvaccinated. There are a few possibilities on the horizon and I will keep you posted as soon as we have any dates. As a fall back, I’m hoping that folks who are doing winter projects on their boats consider hosting a visit to their workshop. Whatever restrictions they feel comfortable with can be accommodated.

2022 LCACBS calendars featuring our 2021 show are now available and the photography by **George Kurjanowicz** and **Holly Weber** is spectacular! They can be purchased on line <https://www.lcacbs.com/lcacbs-store>, by check or contact me at [suelafever@aol.com](mailto:suelafever@aol.com). If you plan on joining us for the Christmas Party at the St John’s Club Dec.12th you can pick them up there for \$18, saving the \$2.00 shipping charge The cost is \$20.00 per calendar otherwise.

Due to our focus on hosting the 2022 ACBS International Show, we will be postponing our 36th LCACBS Annual Boat Show to 2023. Instead we plan on increasing our weekend rendezvous and cruising opportunities, with some new destinations. We’ll be putting those plans together in early spring.

Our annual spring dinner will also be at a new location! After hearing that Anthony’s restaurant in Plattsburgh no longer takes groups of over 20, Steve Pond reached out to the **Valcour Brewing Company** at Plattsburgh’s historic old stone barracks at 49 Ohio Ave. This will be the 2nd Saturday in May, the 14th. I’ll be updating the website soon with the 2022 schedule.



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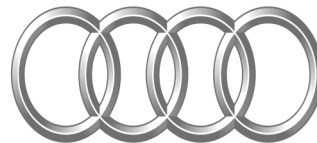
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