

Brightwork



Newsletter for the Finger Lakes Chapter of ACBS

Volume 24, Issue 4

December 2019



From the President

Rick Nelson



Greetings,

As I write this, winter weather is settling in with a few snowflakes flying about but what a nice fall we had here in Central New York with several days of bright sunshine, temperatures in the 60's and light winds. The ever-changing leaf colors made for a fine background across the region.

This pleasant weather fortunately arrived and lingered the whole week at Alexandria Bay for the 2019 ACBS Annual Meeting and International Boat Show. I hope many of you were able to travel there and take in the beautiful boats, the unique scenery and the attractions that the 1000 Islands have to offer. I personally visited Singer Castle for the first time—very special.

Several Finger Lakes Chapter members were recognized at the evening banquet. Mike and Elaine Jakubowski were called to the podium for three awards. Tom Beardsley, our **Brightwork** editor, received the Hagerty Safety Award for articles on boating safety. Other members won awards as well. Please check the recap article on the ACBS meeting, page 4.

It was good to see FLC members who brought their boats for display: Julie and Jim Moore, Laurie Navratil and Howard Skinner, and Heidi Szonn and Randy Fletcher. Though the 2020 International Show is out west in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, the 2021 show will be nearby in Burlington, Vermont.

This year has seen the passing of many of our boating friends. Doug Clark, "flounder" of Doug's Fish Fry in Skaneateles, supported the Skaneateles Boat Show from the beginning. Doug joined us at every show to announce the People's Choice Award, sponsored by his restaurant. Winner's names are

displayed permanently in a special display case at the Fish Fry.

Joe Turcotte grew up loving wooden boats, particularly Gar Woods. He was an essential member of the Turcotte family boat shop in Brant Lake, NY. Many FLC and ACBS members have very positive memories of working with Joe and the Turcotte family.

FLC member Peter Patch of Cicero passed in late August. Peter won an award at both the Skaneateles and Alexandria Bay shows this year with his boat *Betty Anne*.

Our sincere condolences to the families of Peter, Doug and Joe.

Lastly, we have found a volunteer to assume the occasional duties of FLC website liaison. Thank you to **Paul Garret** who has graciously stepped up. He will be helping our webmaster, Kathleen Hope, checking posts, helping to keep the site current, informative and interesting.

I hope to see you at Julie and Jim Moore's for our holiday gathering on December 15th.

Best wishes for a safe and happy Holiday Season to you all.

-Rick



Aim your smartphone's camera at this code to email the editor, ask about membership, find out about advertising and learn more about the Chapter. Or email: editor.brightwork@gmail.com

FLC Membership

(11/17/2019)

Total Membership: 173

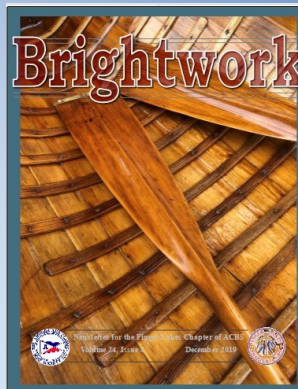
Jean Kubisen, Lancaster, PA
Amy Scanlin, Sackets Harbor, NY



Give a Gift of Membership anytime! Use this QR code (aim the camera on your phone) or click anywhere on this box if you're reading the online version!

There is nothing—absolutely nothing—half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats. - Kenneth Grahame, The Wind in The Willows

On the Cover



Brass tipped oars rest in the hull of a Skaneateles land display, Summer 2019.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Before you forget, **Call or Go Online to Renew and/or Give Membership in FLC / ACBS.**

Thru Dec 24	Weekends	Dickens' Christmas in Skaneateles. 26th Year—Skaneateles, NY
Dec 7	Evening	Carolling in the Woods. Baltimore Woods—Marcellus, NY
Dec 7—21	Evenings	Candle-Light Tours of the Seward Mansion Museum—Auburn, NY
Dec 12–14	Call for Tkts	“Scrooge the Musical” Auburn Public Theatre—Auburn, NY
Dec 15	Evening	Finger Lakes Chapter Holiday get together. Jim & Julie Moore’s
Dec 25	All Day	Merry Christmas! (Gift membership to the Finger Lakes Boating Museum?)
Jan 21	12:10pm	How Glaciers Left Their Mark in New York. NYS Museum, Albany
Jan 25	10:00am	Canvassing a Boat. FLBM Workshop, FLBM—Hammondsport, NY
Feb 15	10:00am	Outboard Motors. FLBM Workshop, FLBM—Hammondsport, NY
Feb 20	7:00pm	Skaneateles Boat Company. FLBM Lecture—Skaneateles (location TBA)
Feb 20—23	All Day	CNY Winter Boat Show. NYS Fairgrounds & Exhibition Ctr—Syracuse, NY
Mar 5	6:00pm	FLC Board Meeting. Creamery — Skaneateles, NY
Mar 19	7:00pm	Grumman Boat Company. FLBM Lecture—FLBM, Hammondsport, NY
April 1		Registration opens for the 2020 ACBS Int’l Boat Show and Annual Meeting
April 2	6:00pm	FLC Board Meeting. Creamery — Skaneateles, NY
May 7	6:00pm	FLC Board Meeting. Creamery — Skaneateles, NY
June 4	6:00pm	FLC Board Meeting. Creamery — Skaneateles, NY
July 10-11	All Day	30th Annual Fulton Chain Rendezvous—Old Forge, NY
July 24—26	All Day	Finger Lakes Chapter 42nd Annual Antique Boat Show—Skaneateles, NY
July 31—Aug 2	All Day	Clayton Boat Show. Antique Boat Museum—Clayton, NY
Aug 8	All Day	30th Annual Harvey’s Lake Antique Boat Show—Harvey’s Lake, PA
Sept 17—19	All Day	ACBS Int’l Boat Show and Annual Meeting—Coeur d’Alene, Idaho

Brightwork accepts listings for many different events which may be of interest to our membership. Please send your listing request to the editor: editor.brightwork@gmail.com. Of course, all listings are subject to approval and space available.

Finger Lakes Chapter, ACBS

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 Dick Sherwood (1992-1995) Susan Beuhler (1988-1991) George Zeth (1987) Jim Brennan (1984-1986) Bob Myllymaki (1982-1983) Syd Marsden (1979-1981)
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Chapter Website: www.acbs-flc.org

Brightwork is the quarterly newsletter of the Finger Lakes Antique and Classic Boat Society, LTD., a.k.a. the Finger Lakes Chapter of the Antique and Classic Boat Society, Inc. and is published for the benefit of Finger Lakes Chapter members. Publication dates are March 1, June 1, September 1 and December 1. Questions, submission or ideas for publication, letters to the editor, noncommercial advertising, etc. are welcomed. **Brightwork Editor, FLC-ACBS, PO Box 1022, Skaneateles, NY 13152.** Email the current editor: Tom Beardsley at editor.brightwork@gmail.com or tom@tombeardsley.com or 315-263-8906.

Commercial advertising copy and questions should be sent to **Howard Skinner, 7474 Park Ave., Wolcott, NY 14590** email: hskinner@gmail.com or 585-429-0588.

The Finger Lakes Chapter general mailing address is also: **PO Box 1022, Skaneateles, NY 13152.** The Chapter’s employer identification number (EIN) is 3452140.

FLC Boats Float Home Honors From ACBS I

Over 21% of the world's fresh water flows down the St. Lawrence River, splitting the US / Canada border in upstate New York. A famous part of the river is the archipelago called "Thousand Islands" and Alexandria Bay is at the center of it. Late this past summer, this village hosted more than 500 boats from all over North America for the 2019 ACBS Annual Meeting and International Boat Show.



Village Docks in A-Bay, September 2019. Photo by Maggi Cassell, ACBS SoCal

The golden age of the Thousand Islands went into the mid 20th century. It drew kingpins of industry and finance who established actual castles on some of the islands such as Singer or Boldt Castles. Other islands, as long as there was at least one tree, sported many more modest summer homes, large and small. The area was an escape from the summer heat of Chicago, Washington, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, New York and Boston.

More than a dozen area boat builders were busy in this heyday, keeping up with the demand for runabouts, water-taxis, shuttles, yachts, skiffs and delivery craft. The repair shops were busy, too. In this famous Thousand Islands region, boaters cruising in depths of up to 200' have then been surprised with shoals and rocks just inches below the surface. (see sidebar, page 5).

This past September, (15 – 19, 2019), in perfect weather, ACBS members came to the show with more than 150 cruisers, launches, runabouts, utilities, skiffs, rowboats and sailboats. There were boats from Florida to Washington and Maine to California. Several Canadian provinces were represented, too.

A few Finger Lakes Chapter members won awards:

* **Best of Show Preserved** Ed Bobowicz of Lockport, with his 1971 Chris-Craft XK-19. This boat has also been at the Finger Lakes Show. [Finger Lakes Chapter Member.](#)

* **Antique Runabout Preserved – Platinum Award** Mike and Elaine Jakubowski of Rochester with *Blythe Spirit*, a 1938 22' Gar Wood Streamliner powered by a 115 hp, 6 cyl. Chrysler. The first of

three awards for these [Finger Lakes Members](#).

* **Antique Runabout Restored – Silver Award** Josh Bryant III of Harvey's Lake. Josh has exhibited *The Bike King* at Skaneateles in the past, although not as a FLC member. A 1940 17' Chris-Craft Barrel Barrel Back with a 95 hp 6 cyl. Chris-Craft Engine.

* **Antique Runabout Restored – Gold Award** Peter Patch of Cicero. His 1931 17' Chris-Craft Runabout, *Betty Anne*, with a 60 hp 4 cyl. Chris-Craft engine was exhibited by his sons. [Finger Lakes Chapter Member.](#)

* **Classic Runabout Preserved – Platinum Award** Also to Ed Bobowicz of Lockport with his 1972 Chris-Craft XK-19.

* **Classic Utility Preserved – Gold Award** Ray and Ann McDowell of Lockport with their 1963 18' Century Sabre. This boat, named *Heaven on a Sunday* is powered by a 235 hp 8 cyl. Gray, has often been seen in Skaneateles with its gull-wing doors and orange trim. [Finger Lakes Members.](#)

* **Contemporary Runabout – Gold Award** Randy Fletcher and Heidi Szonn of Rochester with their 2006 22' Gar Wood Speedster. Powered by a 430 hp 8 cylinder Mercruiser, *White Knuckles* is also a FLC award winner. [Finger Lakes Members.](#)

* **Diamond Circle Award** Also to Mike and Elaine Jakubowski of Rochester with *Blythe Spirit*. This coveted award is a "Best of the Best" award by ACBS, given to one of the boats that receives a "Best of..." award at the International



Like Old Times. Photo by Maggi Cassell, ACBS SoCal

International Show

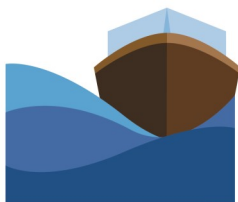
Show. Finger Lakes Chapter Members.

International Awards were earned by FLC members, too. Mike and Elaine Jakubowski were awarded the “**Spirit of the Sport**” award, a prestigious recognition of their participation in pre-events and receipt of the highest point total

from the judges. This award is donated by the Bob Speltz Land O' Lakes Classic Boat Club Chapter.

See Sidebar: “Shoal Finders Club...”

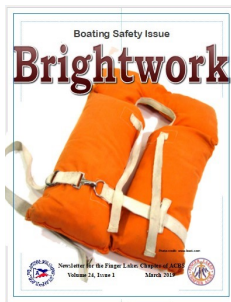
The Jakubowski's actively use their boats, not only the Gar Wood, but also their 1942 Chris Craft Custom, *Emerald Cut*.



1000 ISLANDS MEMORIES

ALEXANDRIA BAY / NY

Tom Beardsley, editor of **Brightwork**, received the **Hagerty Safety Award**. This is given to the author of “the best article on boating safety” in an ACBS related publication. The March, 2019 issue featured an interview with the Coast Guard and specifically outlined how to inspect a period life jacket.



Other FLC members exhibiting at the ACBS International Boat Show included Jim & Julie Moore with their 1940 Chris-Craft *Julia* and Howard Skinner and Laurie Navratil with their 1962 Century *Wooden It Be Nice*.

Boats built in the Finger Lakes did well, too. Both Fay and Bowen and Penn Yan boats won awards.

A full list of award winners can be found in the fall issue of **Rudder** (September, 2019) or on the ACBS website: <https://acbs.org/the-2019-acbs-boat-show-winners-are/>.

The 2020 show will be back in Coeur d'Alene Idaho and returns to the Northeast in 2021 on Lake Champlain at Burlington, VT. Registration opens in April for the 2020 show, scheduled for September 17-19.

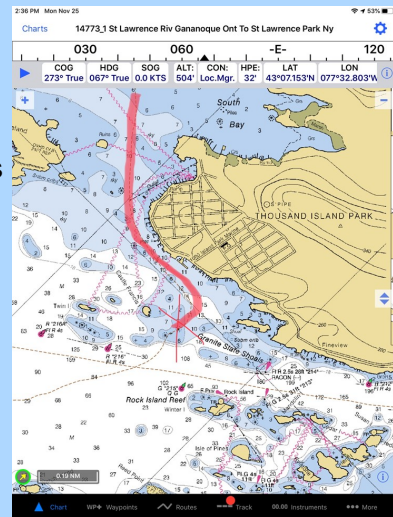


Shoalfinder's Club Claims New Members

By Mike Jakubowski

While taking in the spectacular Wellesley Island Tour during pre-events, we were just off Thousand Island Park and decided to break off. From the west side of the island we turned and headed back to our accommodations in Clayton.

We were navigating through Granite State Shoals with 11 feet of water showing on our iPad's NOAA chart. It's a good chart, but we read it incorrectly. Lesson learned: Use a chart the way you're accustomed, like having your heading facing up! Our error put us right on top of a rock almost immediately, in less than a foot of water. “Thunk-thunk” is a sound no boater ever wants to hear! Thank goodness we were running about idle speed.



Not knowing the extent of our damage, we oriented the chart the correct way and were able to see exactly where we were. We continued at idle to port. It was evident by the vibrations that we had at least damaged the prop.

Clayton was about 5 or 6 miles away and we had time to fully inspect the boat, thankful we weren't taking on any water.

We pulled the boat out right away and towed it to a local prop shop. The bad news was not only a damaged prop, but also a bent shaft. This caused the transmission seals to leak a tremendous amount of oil into the bilge. While disappointed for sure, we were really thankful there was no hull damage or injuries beyond my bruised ego!

I made the decision to pull the boat from the International Show and got back to enjoying the week with friends. But, John Howard was among these friends and with strong encouragement from him and even stronger urging from Elaine, we put our best foot forward, cleaned the bilge, found a launch



Mike and Elaine accept the “Spirit of the Sport” Award

closer to the show docks and gingerly limped *Blythe Spirit* to her spot. We managed to be ready for judging on Thursday morning.

The boat did well! (See list page 3)

Elaine and I were delighted at the Awards banquet to share the experience with the Turcotte's and especially with Joe Turcotte who was particularly passionate about the restoration of *Blythe Spirit*.

Locals welcomed us into the “Shoal Finders Club” as they heard our story. “You are not afraid to adventure outside of the safety of your port. Instead, you're eager to make your own path and seek your own adventure.” Indeed we did!



A Good Turnout At the FLC Annual Meeting in November

Elections, presentations and the state of the chapter were on the agenda for the Finger Lakes Chapter Annual Meeting and Dinner on November 16 at the Springside Inn in Auburn.



Ed Wightman presents a report on *Pat II*

Forty-seven members and guests reconnected while hearing reports on the state of the chapter and voting on 2020 officers. A keynote presentation was made by Ed Wightman, Director of the Finger Lakes Boating Museum in Hammondsport, on the status of the *Pat II* restoration project. Wightman said the project is almost complete and plans are in the works for *Pat II* to be back in Skaneateles for the 42nd Annual FLC Antique and Classic Boat Show. **(See story, pg 8)**



Black Witch model

Syd Marsden brought the detailed model of his Hackercraft, *Black Witch*. The model was built by Greg Rice of Michigan and introduced at the 2018 FLC boat show. The model was featured on the cover of *Brightwork* in December 2018. The model is a fully functional boat with electric power.

Four officers were elected. Howard Skinner is now 1st vice-president, Dave Freund is 2nd vice-president, Dave Couch and Paul Garrett were elected to Director positions.

Ford Knight, one of the founding members of FLC, spoke to the group of the creation of the chapter.

The Finger Lakes Chapter was created back in 1977 becoming the fifth chapter chartered to the relatively new Antique and Classic Boat Society. There are now 53 fully-chartered chapters of ACBS. A history of the chapter is available on the chapter's website; www.acbs-flc.org.



Part of the Parade in the '80's. Founding Member George Zeth relaxes in the back.



A FLC Show at Deauville Island, Emerson Park, Owasco Lake



Judges Inspect a Boat at an early FLC Show. Bob Myllymaki, a founding member, is on the left.

FLC's Annual Fund Drive Your Annual Gift Makes a Difference

Please consider a year-end, deductible gift to our annual appeal by making a cash donation of any size, helping us to meet this year's goal of \$2,000.

The Chapter's mission is to educate members and the public on the history and preservation of antique and classic boats as well as their impact on this country's commercial and recreational development.

Our operational budget is modest and we want to maintain affordable dues and advertising rates, but we do need help.

Our annual appeal is underway. Every donation makes a difference. Remember, it is now tax deductible!

FLC-ACBS, PO Box 1022, Skaneateles, NY 13152. Please let us know if you'd like to be recognized or remain anonymous.

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Noah Taylor

My New View of Old Boats

An Interesting First Semester at SUNY Maritime

Well, here I am, a couple of months into a SUNY Maritime College experience and no doubt, an interesting experience for sure! I'm now comfortable enough with the routines so it's like watching paint dry during the week. The weekends are for watching the sunsets and sunrises.

The routines include nightly inspections of rooms and the heads (bathrooms) as well as a morning formation followed by another inspection. The morning inspections are more and more enjoyable as time moves on. It's a motivating feeling to watch the night sky become lighter and lighter as the morning breeze from the Hudson River brushes against our pale faces. We watch our flag reach toward the sky while the Star-Spangled Banner plays. Everything seems to have a purpose: the wind carrying my distracting thoughts away, the morning sun waking up the body with its warm embrace and the flag, a living symbol of what we strive to stand for in ourselves and everyone around us.

Following the morning formation is a day of classes and regimental obligations. Unlike high school, I had to learn to manage getting to class on time. I also had to make sure I follow regimental orders when they're given, complying to whatever they entail. If orders are disregarded, you get a demerit. Speaking of demerits, I should clarify exactly what that means. The regimen for cadets calls for following all the rules and regulations. If you don't, there's a demerit system. You can get demerits for not having your "mug rates" (MUG, by the way, stands for "Mariner Under Guidance). This means a demerit if you don't have everything in order: a knife, notebook, pen, mug book, four quarters, an extra pin backing and not double-timing on the "mug path" where you're supposed to.

And that's just a few examples.

Personally, I've managed to follow the rules and regulations and have had zero demerits so far! But, at the start of the semester, that came at the cost of grades. Most of my energy went into adjusting and learning the rules, the regulations and the regimen for cadets. Some of my grades suffered as I was devoting a lot of hours getting that regimen right. Once I adjusted to the life and responsibilities, I was able to focus a little more on academics and a slow improvement followed. Before I knew it, the semester started winding to an end as I was finding the balance between being a cadet and an academic college student.



First semester, Full dress. Noah is on the right

The start of my first semester was, honestly, an emotional roller coaster, too. The pressures of the responsibilities expected of us, built on top of my homesickness and trying to figure out my new place in a new environment was a heavy weight. Adjusting was difficult for a variety of reasons, the biggest being apart from family for a long period of time. When the summers come along, I'll be shipping out on the school's training ship (*Empire State*) for a few weeks, too.. This past fall, people at home would ask how I was handling everything. The common responses from home were nice, but still didn't help with the homesickness. I'm finding that I'm very fortunate to have such a loving and supporting family. The homesickness is an entirely new feeling for me. Staying in touch with a couple of good visits through the semester helped. I have left my boat restoration life (called Tayer Wood Restoration) on pause. That was hard, too. Outside of school, work and family, that was my life and I worked on it almost every day, a lot of that time with family members. As I talked it through with my grandfather, I handed some of the responsibility to him. He'll continue with some of the work so Taylor Wood Restoration can continue while I'm in college earning my degree and licenses. This way, the part of me that didn't feel at home here at SUNY Maritime may have some sort of peace.

I'm sure that's a lot to take in for one article. I'll wrap it up. It looks like I have morning inspection in an hour or so.

I wish the best for everyone reading this. Have a nice, safe holiday season and cherish the time you spend with your family. I know I will!

Until next time.





John Abbett

To Resurrect a Chris Craft Capri

John acquired a 1958, 19' Chris-Craft Capri in the late summer of 2015, finding it in desperate need of restoration. John is chronicling what he's learned and progress he's made along the way. Fully committed to a complete restoration, we're happy to share his story. For more on this project, check our back issues online. www.acbs-flc.org/brightwork.

This article is an ongoing series and this December issue is number 15. This series began in June, 2016.

I obtained clear, straight-grain African mahogany from my lumberyard and was ready for the next phase: replacing the bow deck and the hatch.

The first step was to use the old deck planking as patterns and carefully reconstruct the new deck. I cut each part oversized, then jointed for a tight fit between planks. It's quite a process to make an exact duplicate that must be joined together perfectly. You leave



sides and ends long to give yourself room for fitting and only cutting when there isn't a need to fit an opposite side or opposite end. This deck does have straight line grooves in it, making it appear to have several narrow planks. Some boats have curved grooves which would be a much bigger challenge.

I cut the grooves with the table saw using a very shallow setting. My 1/8-inch blade matched the original width, so it was straightforward.

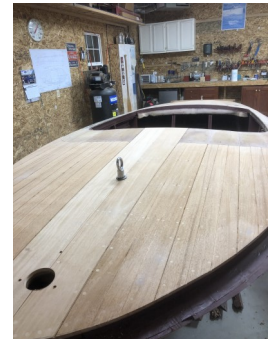
I decided not to glue or putty the deck to the frames. Hopefully, this boat will be taken care of once it's done but if not, the deck is one of the first things to need repair. Someone will think kindly of me in the distant future.



I drilled holes for the fasteners following the original pattern—a LOT of holes. This deck isn't going anywhere. Bungs

and putty were applied where the old planks shrank. With sanding, it came together nicely.

The hatch was the next milestone. The



original was rotten, and could have been easily pulled off in pieces. It was interesting that the top of the hatch boards were more solid

than the underside. The four boards that make up the hatch were tapered and had to be a tight fit. I used the originals as guides and cut each board to fit together.

Leaving things long and wide until a good fit is ensured saves a lot of expensive lumber.

I had lines for the original planks but they had shrunk over the years and were merely guides. I cut the hatch 1/4 inch wide on all sides and took a small amount off





until I was happy with the fit. It's hard to add more when you cut too much. Maybe one day I can afford a board stretcher.

One screw in the middle at the top and the bottom of the hatch allowed me to verify placement on the

framing. A little adjustment was needed but once made, I added lots more screws and then bungs and sanding were in order.



Here are pictures of the finished product. Strong enough for a sun-tanning spot.



The next steps will be to source some 12/4 African Mahogany for the covering boards, the boards that join the sides and the deck. Also, I'll be repairing or rebuilding the plywood floor.



Brightwork is always looking for stories.

Do you have an idea for an article? Is there someone with an intriguing story about their boat, restoration or family history on the water? How about a safety article and what you learned? Or maybe there's just an incident you want to share, funny or sad.

Email the Editor: editor.brightwork@gmail.com or call Tom Beardsley: 315-263-8906

The Perfect Holiday Gift

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*Boat Ownership
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After 29 Years, A Special Delivery To Skaneateles

Pat II stated delivering mail providing tours on Skaneateles in the late 1940's for Stinson Boat Lines. The boat had been delivered to Don Stinson from the "Pat Boat Lines" in Alexandria Bay. Then, after a summer of exceptionally low water in 1967, Don Stinson sold his business to Mid Lakes Navigation which continued to operate *Pat II* in the mail service, along with lunch and dinner cruises. The boat was retired in 1991 and sold to interests in Alexandria Bay, but was left outside on blocks until 2013.



The early years with Mid Lakes operating *Pat II*, after assuming Stinson Boat Lines.
Photo: Mid Lakes Navigation

For the past six years plus, the boat has been an ambitious project of volunteers at the Finger Lakes Boating Museum in Hammondsport and in the



Pat II on a dinner cruise.
Photo: Mid Lakes Navigation

summer of 2020, the restoration of *Pat II* will be complete. It is expected to be temporarily returning to the waters where it spent so much time delivering the mail.

Pat II will be attending the Skaneateles Antique Boat Show as an exhibited boat from the museum. Its restoration has been done to current USCG Subchapter T regulations, according to the museum. They hope to put it into service as a passenger carrying vessel with regular operations on Keuka Lake.

More details on the summer visit of this boat will be published in the spring and summer issues of *Brightwork*.

See *Brightwork* March 2014 for a story on the beginning of the *Pat II* project at the Boating Museum



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flcboats@aol.com or
585-265-1518



Joseph Daniel Turcotte Scholarship

A new scholarship has been created in Joe Turcotte's name by his wife and family. A native of Chestertown, NY, Joe was killed in a traffic collision in the southeastern Adirondacks this past September.

Donations can be made to the North Warren Central School, 6110 State Rt. 8, Chestertown, NY 12817.

Please note in the memo field of your check:

"Joseph Daniel Turcotte Memorial Scholarship"

Doug Clark, 76, Avid Supporter of the FLC Show Sponsor of People's Choice Award



At the 2019 boat show

In 1982, Doug Clark opened a small, quick order restaurant on Jordan Street in Skaneateles. By his own admission at the time, he was having fun “floundering” a successful fish fry. There were only a few tables and a wooden counter in front of the fryers. Quickly, he dedicated a section of the counter for take-out orders. Everything was served on paper plates, the portions were generous, the fries were fresh and served by Doug, with his Greek fisherman’s cap and honest, genuine smile.



He had recently closed Working Man’s Tavern in East Syracuse and just wanted more regular hours than a bar could provide.

He always included his employees, calling them his Board of Directors as they discussed operations. He made it a creed to make sure the crew was happy and involved. He said, “They’ll work for you that way. Not just work for you, but believe.” Mark Edwards was one who came in those early years, joining Doug’s “Board” in April, 1982. Doug sold controlling interest of the Fry to Mark in 2001.

Doug’s Fish Fry has sponsored the “People’s Choice Award” at the Skaneateles boat show since the beginning. It was presented personally by Doug at nearly every one of the 25 years the boat show has been in Skaneateles.

Doug was also proud of his own antique boat, *Little Fry* and a 1947 Aeronca Champ airplane, *Birdie*. He actively handled both.

Doug died on September 27, 2019 at Upstate Medical Center. Memories may be made to the SPCA or any wildlife organization.



Peter Patch, 82, FLC Member and Owner of *Betty Anne*



Peter’s 1931 Chris-Craft was in “Slip 1” at the 2019 Skaneateles boat show, and won “Best Restored Antique Runabout.” He died of complications from medications for cancer treatment on August 30.



Retired from Niagara Mohawk, Peter was active in the community with Habitat for Humanity (he founded a group called “Silver Hammers”), the Little League, village and town governments and a long time member of the Central Square fire department where he served a term as chief.

Peter’s wife Ann noted, “We would have celebrated our 60th wedding anniversary in September... Many family members had already arrived for the party and were here when Peter died.

“He had entered the *Betty Anne* into September’s International show at Alexandria Bay. Our four sons decided to show the boat as an honor to Peter. It won the Platinum Award for Runabouts, and we were all thrilled. He so loved wood boats and his dear *Betty Anne*, named after his sister who died young of cancer. I know they are reunited now.”



Joe Turcotte, 38, Gar Wood Custom Boats

Joe graduated from Cornell University and was one of the partners with Gar Wood Custom Boat company of Brant Lake. Often seen at the Skaneateles FLC show and instrumental in a number of restorations or original builds at the show, Joe was proud of the impact his family and employees had accomplished in the classic boating community. Joe died in a traffic accident on the Northway (I-87), not far from Brant Lake, on September 26.



Joe was as passionate in his work as he was with his family and everything Adirondack life had to offer. He loved four-wheeling, boating, snowmobiling, and enjoyed a partnership with his wife Amy who also works for the company in marketing.

Joe was one of the master craftsmen behind many of the award-winning Gar Wood restorations and contemporaries seen at shows around the country. He is survived by his wife, Amy, his parents Thomas and Cynthia, two brothers, a sister, numerous aunts and uncles and a huge number of friends made even larger by the boating community. A nice tribute can be found in Woody Boater:



www.woodyboater.com/blog/2019/10/01/the-official-and-unofficial-obituaries-of-joseph-turcotte/.



After 51 Years of Operation, the Wiles Family Harborside Sale to Sherwood Inn Properties Hoped to be Finalized by End of Year

A golf course entrepreneur, in his 30's and with a young family, was building a brand new club on the hills just outside Borodino, over-looking Skaneateles Lake in the 1960's. Through the late '60's and the '70's, this golf course expanded to 18 holes and established a popular clubhouse and restaurant. In 1967, while building the business, club owner Peter Wiles heard that Bill Stinson was going to retire and stop running the mail boat on Skaneateles Lake.

Peter Wiles couldn't let that happen, so he set about buying the business and the boat, *Pat II*. Mid Lakes Navigation was born in 1968 and Peter turned 40 that summer. The "Star 13" mail contract on Skaneateles Lake was saved and Mid Lakes Country Club found itself in the



business of both mowing grass on the hills above the lake while navigating on its waters.

In the first ten years, Mid Lakes Navigation expanded. Sightseeing trips were added to the mail run, another boat was added and the country club's restaurant became busy with not only golfers, but dinner cruise passengers (and some pretty funny adventures – see *Brightwork December, 2017*). The company expanded to the NYS Canal system, too. In the fall of 1976, they started the mini-cruises along the canal from Syracuse to Albany. In 1979, the country club was sold.

On Skaneateles, a third boat was added in 1980, the Barbara S Wiles. In 1983, the keel for the Judge Ben Wiles was laid on the concrete pad of a brand-new pole barn in Borodino. In 1985, the Judge was launched and became the premier dinner cruise and sightseeing boat in the Finger Lakes.

While all this was going on, a historic building on Genesee Street was going through a lot of changes. In 1973, the Sherwood Inn (aka,



"Packwood House") was closed. A restaurant worker from Syracuse, an employee of Walter White's and also with a young family, found this dilapidated Skaneateles structure attractive enough to scrape together the resources to buy it. Bill Eberhardt's trajectory as an innkeeper was just getting started.

Bill was 31. The Inn was 166. The Inn was showing its age. Stone foundations were in need of re-pointing, Every floor creaked. The roof leaked in places. Open porches required almost complete rebuilding. Bill opened the Inn in 1974 and success came from the start.



Time and progress moved quickly. Operations – like re-opening the bar and re-building the kitchen were the first priority. Bill knew that continuing improvements kept the customers coming and that meant the money to do what was needed. It didn't take long before the Inn became known for a nice night out in Skaneateles.

While improvements to the Inn haven't stopped, Bill established a parent company and expanded throughout Central New York in the

Hands Over Stewardship of Mail and Dinner Cruises

'70's and '80's. There were restaurants near Geneseo, in state parks along Lake Ontario and more. In Syracuse, Phoebe's was established and continues to thrive. In Ithaca, a restaurant

Today, Sherwood Inn Properties includes the Inn, the Hannum House, the Packwood House, Patisserie, Arbor House, Phoebe's in Syracuse and investments in other local properties.

The newest and biggest venture is the acquisition of Mid Lakes Navigation.

The logo for Sherwood Inn Properties features the word "SHERWOOD" in a large, white, serif font, followed by "INN" in a smaller, white, serif font, and "properties" in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font. The text is set against a dark blue background.

The Wiles family has been looking to retirement and the Sherwood Inn properties are

operation ran for a few years and changed to Ithaca Navigation, a dinner boat and sightseeing company which moved for a short while to Onondaga Lake.

In the 90's, Bill started to rein things in, looking locally.

Investments were made in local historic properties, and other operations were established in downtown Skaneateles.

considered a logical choice.

The sale was still officially pending at press time for this issue of **Brightwork**. Because of this, Bill Eberhardt could not comment on detailed plans. The Wiles family has indicated they are very happy



with the arrangement and that it's a logical progression for the stewardship of public cruising on Skaneateles Lake.



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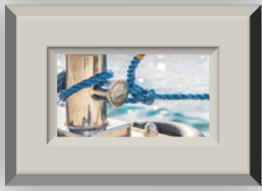
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Back Issues of *Brightwork*
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You can have them back—the goal is
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News Bitts...



More often each year, **HAB's** (Harmful Algal Blooms) are becoming a problem in lakes, rivers and streams throughout the country. *Brightwork* has run a series of articles on this growing problem in Rick Nelson's column. These blooms are favored with increasing temperatures, run-off from increasing spring rainfall and changes in land-use practices.

Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY) called for federal assistance for this problem in a statement on November 7. Specifically calling for help in New York State waters, Schumer is requesting the US Army Corps of Engineers "to bring in certain pilot programs which have found success in Florida waters."

A recent report found more than 1,100 blooms in NYS with Seneca and Skaneateles Lakes together experiencing 113 blooms.

-source: WXHC, Cortland 



Dicken's Christmas has returned to Skaneateles' downtown for a 26th year.


Opening on the day after Thanksgiving (November 29), thousands were in attendance while the 60+ cast members opened the strolling street show .



Credit Skaneateles.com

Loosely based on a combination of various Dicken's characters, the street performance continues each weekend from Thanksgiving through Christmas. Typically, the troupe reprises the show on the day of Christmas Eve.

The chamber of commerce estimates that tens of thousands of people will visit the Skaneateles shopping district through the holiday season and credits the Dicken's tradition with the success. The program runs afternoons, Saturdays and Sundays.

-source: various outlets 



Tewksbury, Massachussets is a city of just over 28,000 (about the same size as Auburn). It's located just outside of Lowell, northwest of Boston.

The Tewksbury Town Crier did a nice article on Skaneateles, covering topics from the lake's water quality, fishing, teasel history, shopping, bakery, restaurants, lodging and—the boat building history, of course.

It's always nice to be recognized.

-source: The Tewksbury Town Crier, Oct. 26, 2019 



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The world runs on volunteers. Seriously. Think of the volunteers at your churches, schools and various community organizations. Even the assistants at the blood bank—and yourself when you visit there to donate.

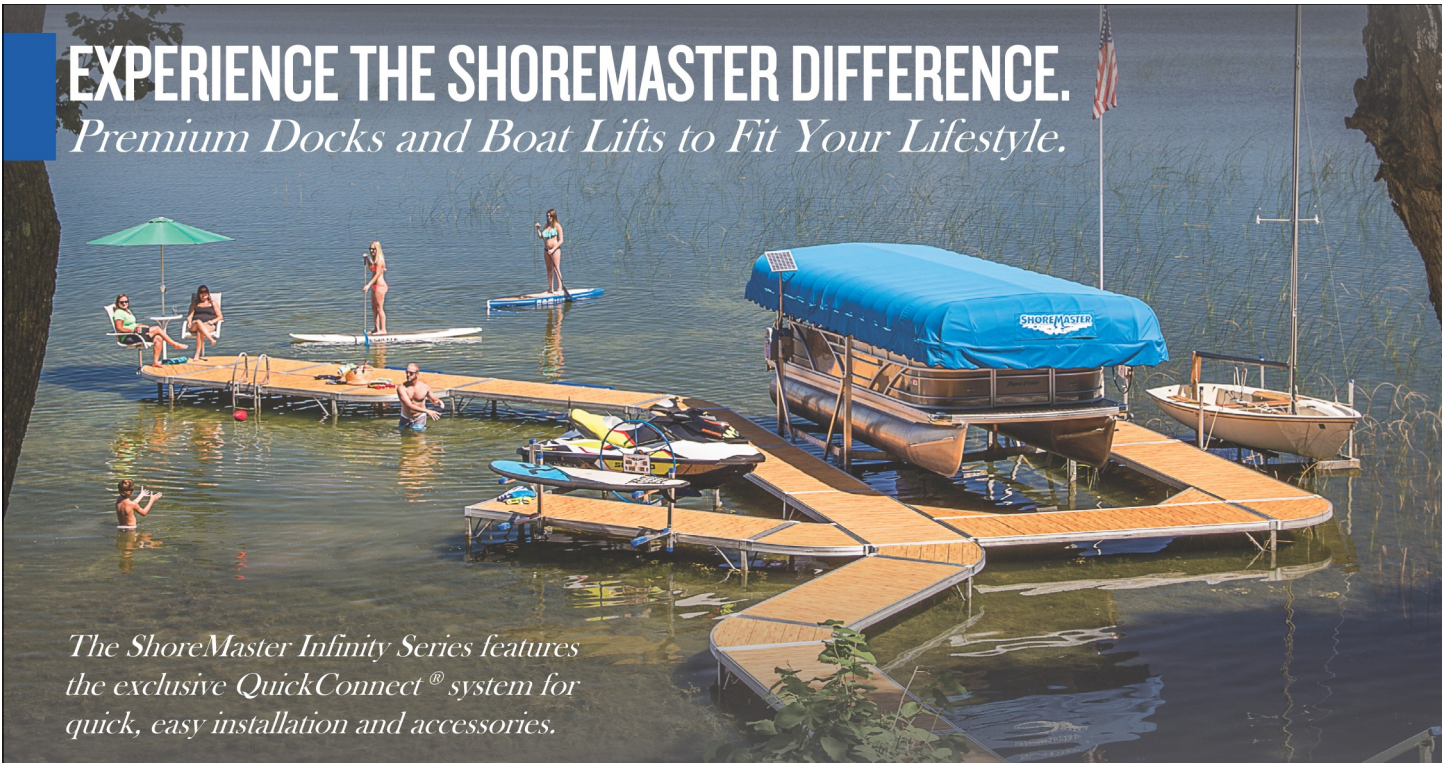
The Finger Lakes Chapter is no exception. Our members volunteer for our operations but also a lot of other organizations and efforts. Whenever you see a volunteer, remember not only the sacrifice they make with their time—but the rewards they experience. Many thanks to all of you!

Also important, please support our sponsors and advertisers this holiday season!



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The Dock Market

FOR SALE: 11'4" Thompson car-topper, made in Cortland, NY in the 40's or '50's. 11'4", Canvas clad appears to be original. Asking \$800.00 or best offer. Rick Hood, Marcellus, NY. 315-729-5048 or rhood3@twcny.rr.com *NEW 0919*



For Sale: 1915 22-ft. long-decker launch built by Brooks Boat Mfg. Co., of Saginaw, MI, Camille. Cypress hull with oak combing. Upgrades include new windshield, flooring, seating, fittings and bright-work. Engine is 25 hp 1934 Universal in excellent running condition. Custom cover, trailer and original Brooks catalogs. ABM award winner. \$16,900. Doug Reicher, Syracuse, NY 315-506-9005 dreic2208@aol.com *NEW 0319*



For Sale: Classic Boating Magazine, a complete collection from Issue #1 through 200. \$500.00, plus shipping (at cost). Bill Locke, Chautauqua Lake Twin Tier Chapter. 716-386-2107 (Bemus Point) wrlenzo@aol.com *NEW 0319*

For Sale: 1957 16 1/2' Lyman outboard in good condition. New paint and varnish. New custom cushions, interior LED lighting, spotlight, custom cockpit cover. The 1989 28 hp Evinrude runs well. Includes a 1987 single-axle Highlander trailer in good condition. Asking \$ 7,500. **Steve Arthur** 315-567-3640 or eastlakedesign@yahoo.com *NEW 0618*



For Sale: 1958 22' Chris Craft Sea Skiff Ranger in good condition. Original Model M engine, runs well, original fuel tank recently cleaned. Carb recently rebuilt. Tonneau cover, boat cover and original cushions. Chrome restored (90%). Double-axle, 1996 trailer. Asking \$12,000. **Steve Arthur** 315-567-3640 or eastlakedesign@yahoo.com *NEW 0618*

For Sale: 1958 22' Century Raven, all original. Second Owner for the last 34 years. Original 6 cylinder Chrysler engine (rebuilt), 134 hp. Complete with aluminum tandem axle float-on-trailer. Offered at \$25k. Jim Davis, Pittsford, NY 585-721-8205 jdavis171@frontier.com *NEW 1217*

For Sale: 1954 Johnson Outboard. 5.5 hp, includes 6 gal. tank. Runs, good condition. Make Offer. 585-889-9635 (Rochester, NY) *REV 0616*

For Sale: Many Outboard Boats - Ark Traveler, Texas Maid,

Feathercraft, MFG, Wooden strip-built rowboat, Molded Play 16' Runabout, etc. Many off-brand outboards—Champion, Muncie, Oliver, West Ben, etc. Contact the Curvin family,, Moravia, NY 315-729-4666. *REV 0619*

For Sale: 1931 Garwood Triple 22 ft Model 22-35 , One of only 8 made in 1931, only 2 known to exist today. Excellent condition and shows well. Older restoration, New, no soak bottom, excellent top sides, nice chrome and interior. Originally powered by a 125 hp Chrysler Imperial 6 cyl engine. Currently powered by a similar-era Chrysler 6 cyl. Twin axle road-worthy trailer with fresh paint. \$64,000. OBO . Multiple ACBS show winner and winner of "Best Garwood" in 2018 FLC show. E-Mail for photos and info to steve@shehadirug.com or call 315 472 6397 Skan., NY 0615

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For Sale: Rare 1927 20-ft. Gesswein Sportabout (hull #7) with original 6 cyl. Van Blerck engine. Twin cockpit with unusual facing rear seats. Brass hardware & leather upholstery. Boat & engine fully restored; both in excellent condition. Beautiful boat, could be award winner. Custom trailer. Asking \$35,000. **Sue Giovannetti**, 802-434-3059 or sueag@hotmail.com *REV 0616*

Submit new ads, corrections or deletions to Dick Sherwood at jlcboats@aol.com.

Listings are at no charge, although priority is given to members first. Non--members (of FLC) may be listed as space permits. photos may be included, space permitting.

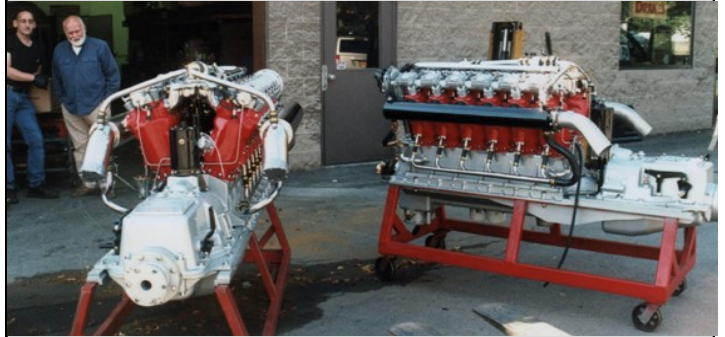
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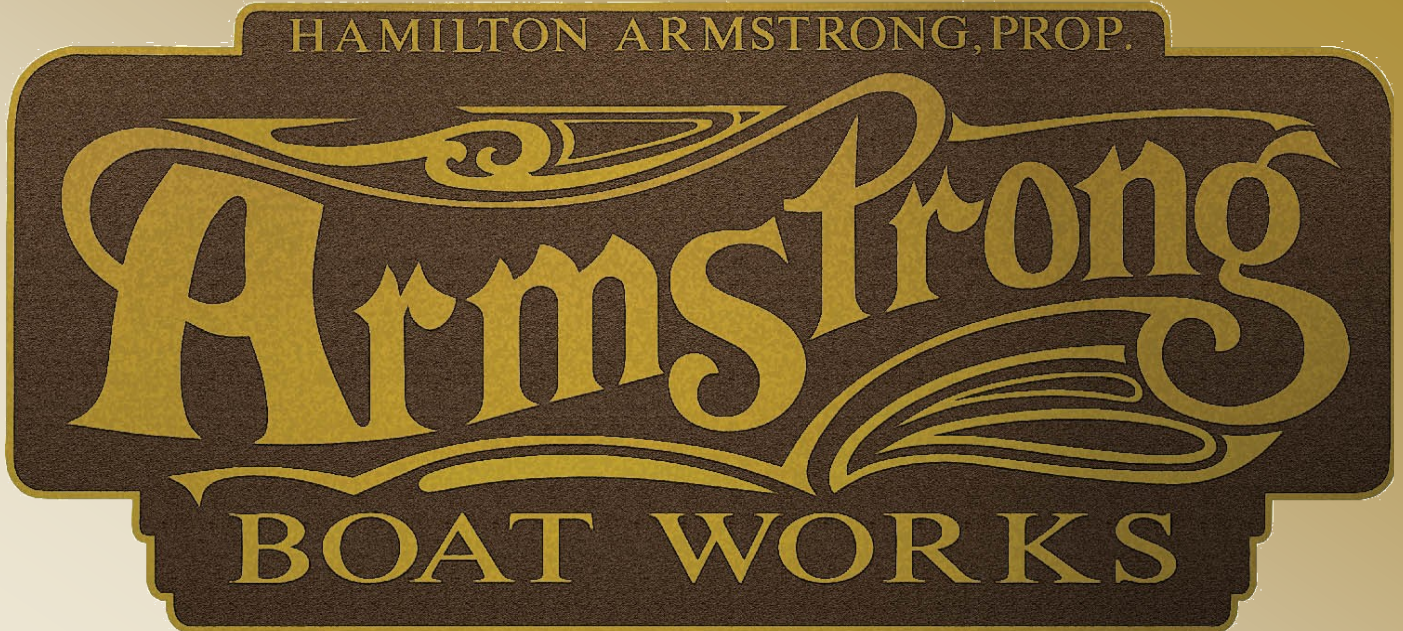
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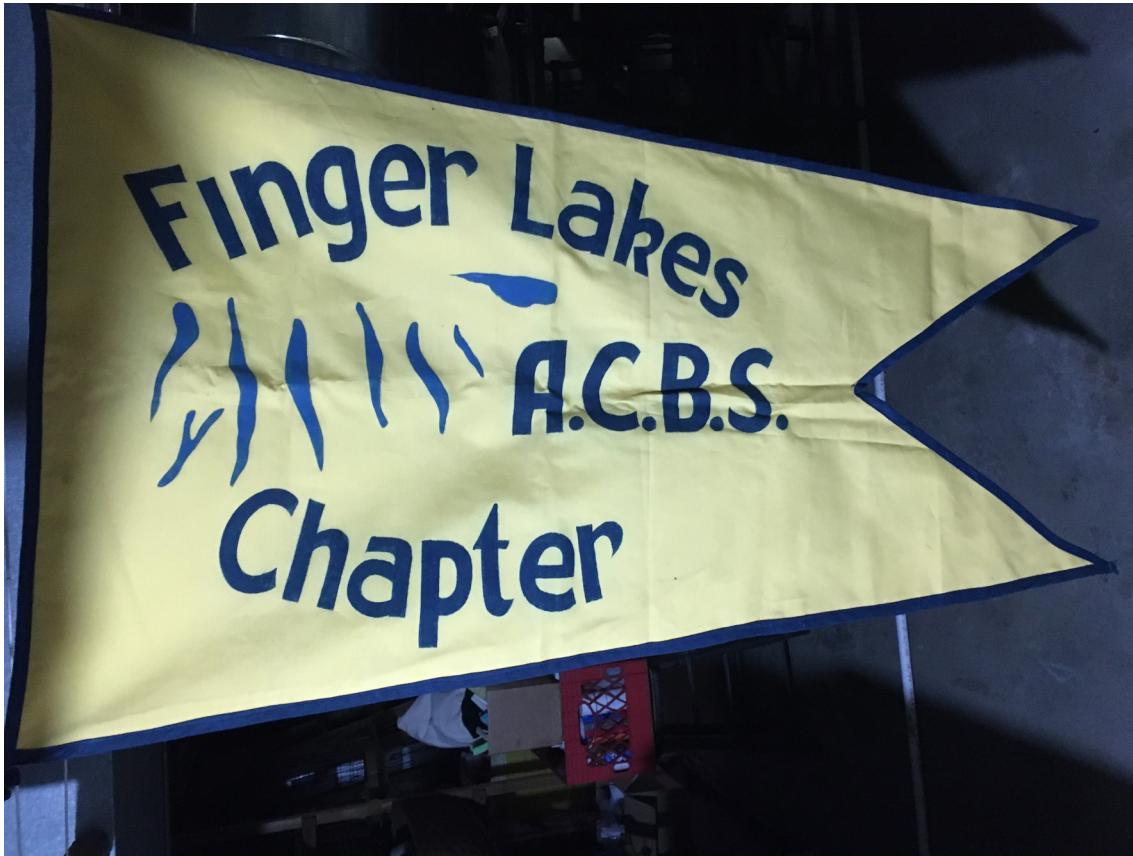


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-submitted by Syd (Bruce) Marsden

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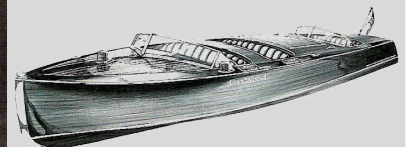
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