

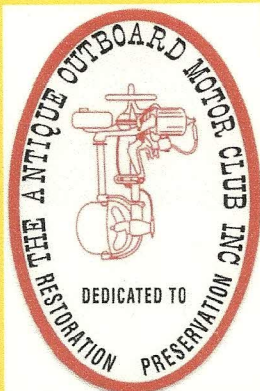
"THE ORIGINAL"
 TEXAS CHAPTER
 ANTIQUE OUTBOARD
 MOTOR CLUB, INC.



Texas Chapter News

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

April 2014



58th Annual Houston International Boat, Sport & Travel Show



Once again, the Texas Chapter of AOMCI was invited to join the Southwest Chapter of ACBS to co-exhibit vintage boats and motors at the Houston International Boat, Show & Travel Show held in the Reliant Center. This is a huge show—over 1100 new dealer boats

Reliant Center where folks had to pass by us to enter the show. All our exhibitors had an opportunity to man the display booth during the show which opened on January 3rd and continued through January 12th.

As is customary at this dealer show, we hear every imaginable question about the old boats and motors making this a real special experience for those manning the exhibit. Not only do we hear a great deal of stories from visitors at the exhibit about their past adventures with old boats and motors, but many of them reveal their own

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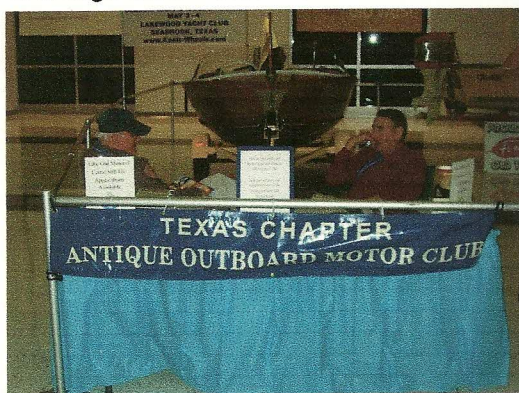
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were for sale accompanied by all kinds of outdoor gear, campers, fishing equipment, and a large number of exhibitors selling anything from chocolates to pot holders.



By popular acclaim, the most appealing and crowd pleasing boats and motors were our oldies. We did "WOW" the crowds as we were set up in the main lobby area of the



stored treasures in garages and barns which gives us a chance to invite them to join the AOMCI and our Texas Chapter.

This year's exhibit was organized by Di Johnson and Adam Finn. This is the 28th year that the antique and classic boats and motors have graced the Houston boat show. Our exhibit dates back to January 1987 when the Wooden Boat Owners Association of Texas, Inc. exhibited six beautifully restored wooden boats in the Houston Astrohalla. In fact we were pleased to

have two past directors of the Wooden Boat Owners Association of Texas, Inc., Wayne Myers and Tom Oncken, to help assist in this year's exhibit. The Wooden Boat Owners Association of Texas, Inc. merged into the Southwest Chapter of ACBS when the new ACBS Chapter was

initially formed in the 1990's.

Although we are more specifically outboard related, two impeccable inboard boats anchored the

front and center areas of our display. Mike Friesel's 16' 1946 Chris-Craft Special Runabout, "Current Affair" is always a popular

boat at this show. All of the restoration work was done by Mike and his brother, Dennis. Dave Parker's 1947 16' Gar Wood Ensign, "My

Fair Lady", is just that—the fairest of them all! The plank work on this boat is exquisite. Just try to find a visible bung.

We had a variety of outboard boats and motors on display. Darryl Hurst's 1963 15' Proske, a Houston-built boat, is

powered by its 1964 Johnson 60HP Super Sea Horse outboard. Darryl did a beautiful job on the restoration. Bob Macaluso displayed his 1957 15' Yellow Jacket Catalina powered by a Mercury Mark 55 outboard. This is a runner that has been seen at our

meets. Di Johnson showed his 1957 aluminum Feather Craft Vagabond II with its 1958 Mercury Mark 58E. Knut Bulow displayed his impeccably restored 1957 Carver Colonel Deluxe with its 1958 Johnson 35HP Super Sea Horse outboard. Edward Bachman's 1957 Yellow Jacket Fury Deluxe showed nicely with its 1957 Johnson 35HP Golden Javelin. This was the model that Roy Rogers used to chase the bad guys in that famous lake scene on his television show years ago. Ed Slominski displayed his 15' 1956 Lyman with its Mercury Mark 58 outboard. This is an exceptionally preserved lapstrake boat, and another example of Ed's skillful ability to make his wood boats gleam. Darrell Beaulier's 1964 15' Power Cat catamaran type hull fiberglass boat was a real head turner with its twin 1960 Mercury 70HP Merc 700 outboards. Its 4 month restoration was completed just prior to the show. Last, but not least, Bruce Miller displayed his 1963 15' Thompson Sea Mate with its 2001 Johnson 40HP outboard motor.

Dave Parker's 1947 16' Gar Wood Ensign Runabout



Edward Bachman's 1957 Yellow Jacket Catalina with 35HP Johnson Golden Javelin



Darrell Beaulier's 1960 Mercury 70HP Merc 700 Twins on 1964 Power Cat



We had fewer free-standing outboards on display this year. Di Johnson had his three childhood motors on display including a 2.5HP Elgin, a Johnson TD-20 5HP, and a Mercury KE-7 complete with his dad's photos of Di using each motor. Louis Rothermel's pristine 1946 Evinrude Speeditwin 22HP outboard completed the individual outboards section.

We wish to offer our thanks to the Boating Trades Association of Metropolitan Houston for donating space to our groups at the boat show each year. Prime space like that costs members of the BTA a pretty penny. Without their generous contribution, the city of Houston would not get to see our special vintage boats and motors. If you would be interested in showing some restored outboards next year, let Adam and Di know.

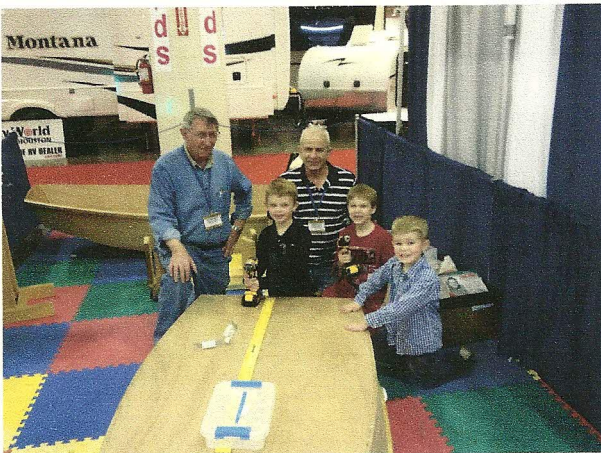
Mercury's 75th Anniversary

Just in case you are not aware, this year marks the 75th Anniversary of Mercury Marine. Mercury had a very impressive motor display at the Houston International Boat, Sport & Travel Show this past January. Check out the photos to the right.



Kids Build A Boat

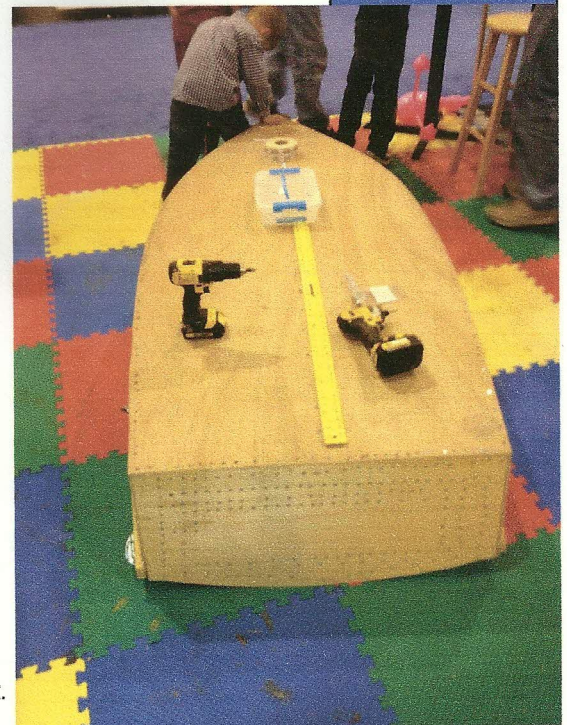
This is the 6th year of "Kids Build a Boat", an increasingly popular feature at Houston area boat shows. This free-to-the-public event, and the brainchild of John Platou, began with the Keels and Wheels Concours Show held each May and has continued at the annual Houston Boat Show at Reliant Center in January. These events are co-sponsored by Southwest Chapter of the Antique and Classic Boat Society, Inc. and the Texas Chapter of the Antique Outboard Motor Club, Inc.



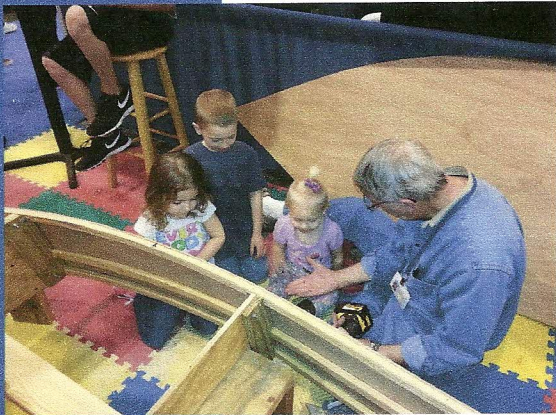
The process for last January's show began with Jeff Workman building an eight foot wooden pram that he assembled at home using minimum hardware. Boat construction consists of 1/4" marine grade plywood over a combination oak/pine frame with joints to be sealed with construction adhesive.

Club members then bring the boat to the show where it is taken apart and then reassembled by any and every willing kid attending the show. Each kid builder gets to drill and countersink holes, and no kid leaves the exhibit without putting in at least two screws into the boat.

As you can imagine the installed "hardware" becomes extreme overkill as screws get placed down to every inch available. Over the two weekends of the recently passed Houston dealer boat show, we had over 350 kids help build this boat. This pram normally calls for about 150 total screws. A cry went out on the final Sunday for more #8 3/4" screws as we had gone through 800 and needed about 300 more. This is truly the shotgun approach to boat building, as can be seen in the photo of the transom with over 220 screws in it.



Alan Bischoff coaching a few kids



We carefully and firmly hold the drill and only let kids pull the trigger. Our coaches maintain complete control of the drill and screw gun. If the kid looked like they had never used a power tool, we hold the tool firmly and have the child test-pull the trigger away from the boat before drilling or screwing.

Our lead building coaches included members John Plato and Alan Bischoff. Jeff Workman, usually serves as the lead coach spending maximum time on his knees with

these kids; however, this year he was recovering from foot surgery and was not able to serve in that capacity. John's grandsons, Jack Toole and Ty Bayless, both 7 years old, were our top recruiters as they invited kids into the booth to help build the boat. Both Jack and Ty are building 8' prams of their own. Ty's 8' pram was on display with his 1960

Business is good at the Kids Build A Boat exhibit



Johnson 3HP outboard along with Jack's 1959 Evinrude 3HP outboard. Non-members, Gabriel Radvansky, as well as Jennifer and Phil Hines also helped coach the kid builders.

As a serendipity, our booth was directly across from the Lake Houston Marine Police display and the patrol members allowed us to let some of our kid builders have pictures taken on the police jet skis with the blue enforcement strobe lights flashing away.

Here are some fun facts! Our builders consisted of over 60% girls. Ages of builders were from 18 months to 12 years old. John Platou's grandson at 2 1/2 months was also present. As in past shows, the average ages of kids participating were 3 to 8 years of age. Girls far outnumbered the boys in terms of excitement! Although this is a free event, we issue raffle style tickets to each participating kid. At the conclusion of the show, we draw a winning ticket and deliver the boat to the lucky winner.

This year's Houston Boat Show winner was George Williams, age 9, from Spring, Texas. We invited George and his family to John Platou's swimming pool where we launched the craft and grabbed some photos of the happy skipper paddling the pram. Then we delivered the boat to George's home. George also received a complimentary youth membership in the Texas Chapter of the Antique Outboard Motor Club, Inc. Now we need to find him a motor.



Albert and John Snell

A Birthday Tribute by Joe McCauley

On November 17, 2013, the Snell Brothers, Albert and John, long-term members of our Texas Chapter and the Antique Outboard motor Club, Inc., reached 81 years of age. I was informed of this in advance by former OMC engineer Dave Haman, a big Mark

20H fan and the designer of the OMC 15SS and 45SS racing motors.

I first met John and Albert at a Rothermel swap meet a few years ago. We discovered rapidly that we have a close mutual friend, Edgar Rose, who designed the Mark 20H



conversion exhaust housing in 1958, the first tuned exhaust system in a U.S. outboard. Both Anzani and König were earlier in Europe. Edgar's story of development of the 20H conversion is told in the July 2013 Antique Outboarder.

Mention the Snell brothers and anyone in Texas outboard collecting or racing knows them. This is not the place for the story of the Snell Brothers, which should be told. This is a birthday



greeting to the twins. I did visit Albert in May 2012 just before the Port Neches OPC race. John arrived, and Albert showed me a part of their collection. John has the 20H conversion prototype in his parts in another town. Albert has a Richardson and a DeSilva in his possession, among many other runabouts. The DeSilva is relatively new and sits on a box sporting a Quincy Looper. That entire outfit is for sale.

About a week before his birthday, Albert sent me his very nice hand-drawn and painted version of the early 1950's Mercury logo. He did this because he knew my dad had been a dealer, with me as his teenage mechanic in the late 1950's. I therefore have added a photo of my Mercury school certificate to match Albert's gift.

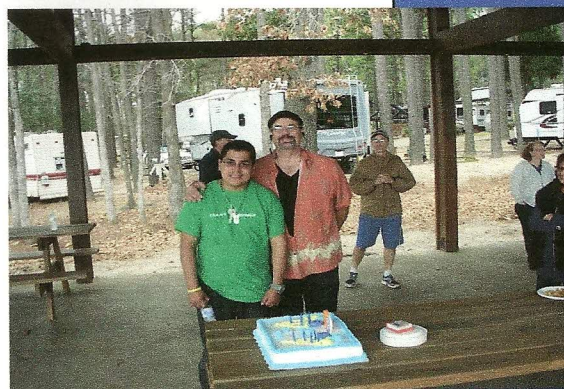


I mailed Albert a 1959 Mercury poster showing me and my Mark 58A, after preventing a Scott 40 from winning the annual NOA 100 mile Ft. Loudon Marathon. I broke the skeg of my gear case in that race. Later, I received a letter from Carl Kiekhaefer and a new gear case. I've misplaced the letter, but still have the envelope. This is a small bit of Mercury history for Albert and John on their 81st.

Coffey's Meet on Lake Conroe

David Coffey, Sr. hosted a great meet on Saturday, February 1st, that was thoroughly enjoyed by our members in attendance. The wet meet was held at Stowaway Marina on Lake Conroe which is tucked into a nice park setting with tall east Texas pine trees, quiet protected waters, a wide boat ramp, and a large pavilion where we all met. This is an annual meet that David Coffey, Sr. has sponsored in celebration of David Coffey, Jr.'s birthday. The meet was well attended and the weather cooperated by providing us with overcast skies and unusually warm 75 degree temperatures, which is amazing considering we had freezing temperatures earlier in the week.

John Slator showed up with a beautifully restored Arkansas Traveler with a Mercury Mark 58 that was a real looker. The big birthday surprise was that David Coffey, Sr. had secretly purchased the 14' Arkansas Traveler from John for one heck of a surprise birthday



gift for his son. While admiring the restored rig, David Sr. casually mentioned to David Jr. that the boat was a birthday gift for him. Wow!! It took a little while for it to sink in



that the beautiful rig was actually his, and as a result, David Jr. became increasingly happy and began smiling ear-to-ear. It was great to witness such a warm exchange between father and son.

Intending to run on the lake, David Jr. had already launched his 1955 Feather Craft with 12HP Sea King. The Feather Craft was certainly a nice boat, but the restored



new rig was definitely top-shelf in comparison.

Ed Bachman came with his beautiful Yellow Jacket with Johnson Golden Javelin 35HP, Bruce Miller had his 1963 Thompson with 2001 Johnson 40HP, and Ed Slominski brought his great looking Lyman with Mercury Mark 58. The guys made several runs with these boats offering rides

as a treat while enjoying the warm weather conditions and relatively smooth water.

Bruce Miller had many of his family members in attendance and Jeff Workman attended with his young son, John, who was wearing one of our club's TAMOCI T-shirts. Jeff's foot was in a large cast after seriously injuring his toe at the end of 2013 and was still recovering from foot surgery. Other members in



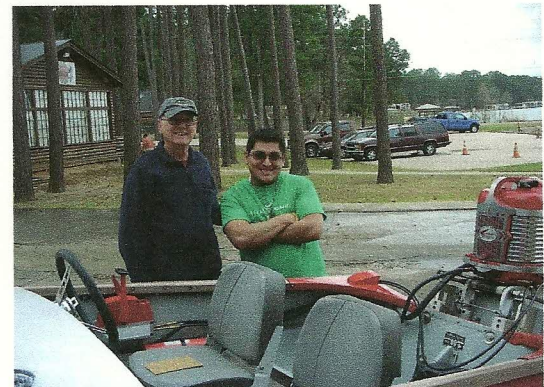
attendance were Clinton Russell, Di Johnson, Peter Schultz, Gary Keeney, John Graf, Dan Peoples, and Tony Robinson with his girlfriend. Tony also brought his father who was visiting from Michigan and is an avid antique outboard motor collector as well.

At most of our meets, long-time member, John Slator, makes things interesting as he shows up with a lot of outboard "stuff" for sale. This Saturday was no different as John loaded his pickup with a 1957 Johnson 15HP that Joe McCauley purchased, and a super nice all original 1955 Johnson 10HP



that went home with John Platou who is completing his collection of the entire 1955 Johnson series. There was also a nice 1953 Mercury 7.5HP Mark 7 with no dents in the cowling that went back home with John and is still available. John also had some Penn and Sears vintage fishing reels in like-new condition. Peter Schultz picked up one of the larger reels.

We served a great lunch of hot dogs with all the fix-ins, chili, chips and potato salad—all graciously provided by the Coffeys. All was very tasty and enjoyed by everyone. To cap it all off, we sang happy birthday to David Jr. and then enjoyed some delicious cake.



John Slator and David Coffey, Jr. with David's new toy

Ed Slominski in his Mercury powered Lyman

Bruce Miller and his crew

2014 Spring Wet Meet at Lake LBJ

By Adam Finn

The Texas Chapter had another great antique outboard spring meet at Lake LBJ in Kingsland, Texas from April 3rd through April 6th. My wife, Susan, and I arrived at the Longhorn Resort on Thursday afternoon along with a few other members that also came in early to get an extra long weekend, which is really nice having more time to enjoy the resort and lake. A cool front came in Thursday evening allowing the members to wake up to a brilliant clear sunny day on Friday. Many of our club members rolled in throughout the day on Friday with boats and motors in tow.



Dennis and Sharon Schmitt brought their great looking tunnel boat with a 1986 Evinrude 45SS race motor. Bob and Brenden Macaluso brought their late 1950's Crosby with a 1961 Evinrude 40HP which is a neat looking rig that was made in a transition year from fiberglass to wood. The 16' Crosby had a fiberglass bottom and a wooden interior. Bob was able to purchase this boat at Louis Rothermel's meet last November.

Tony Robinson and girlfriend, Andrea, arrived midday Friday with his rare 1950's Wizard big-fin



boat with 1958 Evinrude Lark 35HP. Tony put some real miles on his rig over the weekend spending a lot of time cruising on the lake.

Dave and Doug Samstag came with Doug's race hydro boat powered by an expertly restored early 1970's race Mercury 25HP. Doug got some pretty



Doug Samstag running his hydro

good speed out of his rig on Saturday morning. Eric and Gail Peterson came with their slick early 1980's Carlson with Mercury 115HP. Eric also ripped down the lake on Saturday in Gus Gustafson's hydro boat racing against Dennis' tunnel rig. Dennis was able to record their race with his helmet cam, which was a great sight.



Scott-Atwater Al, Katie, and Addison Smith ready to play

Scott-Atwater Al along with wife, Katie, and daughter, Addison, arrived later Friday evening with his hot G3 with Scott 75HP. On Saturday, Brenden and Al worked to get the Scott tweaked just right so the G3 was performing to Al's satisfaction. Joe McCauley and his son, Finn, also pulled in later Friday evening with their go-fast Allison powered by

their perfectly built 1975 Johnson Stinger 75HP. Joe and son made many high speed passes in the high 60's MPH range.

What a great sounding motor.

Chip Rathbun ran his 1958 Corson and its matching Johnson 50HP. Saturday afternoon Chip dressed in a leather skull-cap, large fighter pilot goggles, and a white scarf looking just like Snoopy and the Red Baron.



The Red Baron rides again!

I came to the meet without a boat and was able to purchase one from Meatball - an original 1961 Glass Magic

with 1963 Mercury 65HP. The boat was in excellent condition and quite sporty looking. The Mercury-powered 14 footer ran great jumping off the

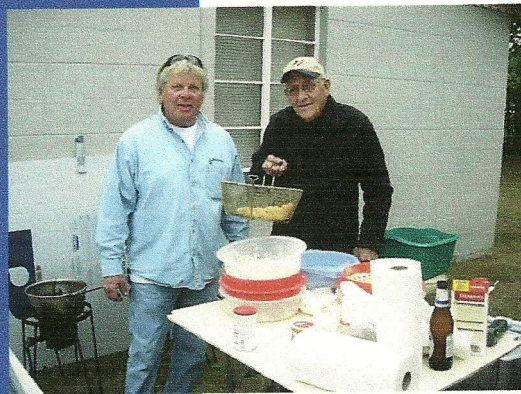
starting line like a thorough-bred pony at the race gate.

On the sale and swap part of our meet, John and Cindy Slator came with a nice load of miscellaneous motors, parts, and boat stuff for sale. Bob Macaluso also had a pickup truck of miscellaneous motors and other sundry items for sale along with a couple



John Slator had Meatball where he wanted him on this deal

of motors brought by Tony Robinson. A few items did change hands. Darrel Beaulier, Robert Black and his wife, Donna, joined us for the day Saturday.



Chef Meatball and Bad Bob making dinner

We all had a lot of fun on Saturday running our rigs and sharing stories. Saturday evening, chef Meatball Murray, along with his friend, Bad Bob, cooked up an all you can eat awesome fried catfish dinner, coleslaw, hand cut French fries, and fried okra. Des-



A bunch of happy campers enjoying a great catfish dinner

sert was a cherry cobbler made by Cindy Slator along with a tray of various cookies. After dinner, we had a brief club meeting whereby the members thanked Meatball for cooking a great dinner. We also thanked my wife, Susan, and Sharon Schmitt for cutting the fries, preparing the coleslaw, and making homemade tartar sauce.

Another great meet came to an end as Sunday morning brought back the cool weather and rain reminding us that winter this year was just not finished with us yet.

We all look forward to the 2014 Fall wet meet to be held at Kingsland on October 31st through November 2nd and we hope to see all of you there.



Brenden Macaluso hitching a ride with Adam and Susan Finn

In Memoriam

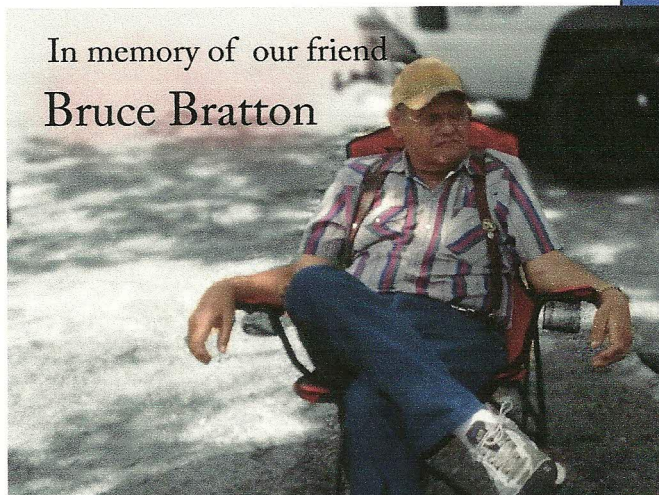
Lee Roy "Bruce" Bratton

September 30, 1948 - January 25, 2014

It is with deep regret that I have to inform you of the passing of another Texas Chapter member, Bruce Bratton. As many of you know, Bruce was taking dialysis treatments three times each week due to severe kidney failure. He passed away on January 25th at the age of 65 while at Memorial Herman Hospital in Houston.

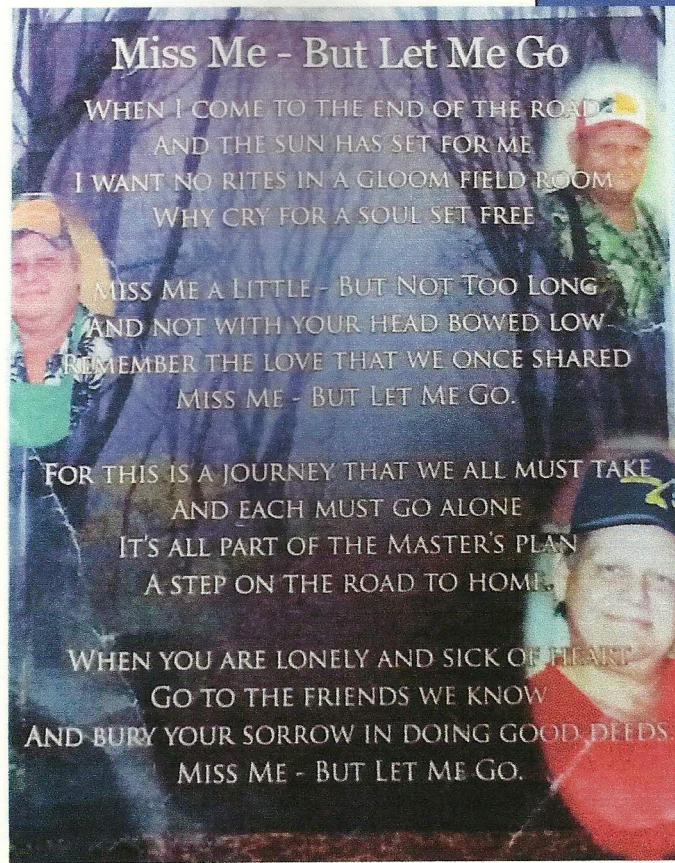
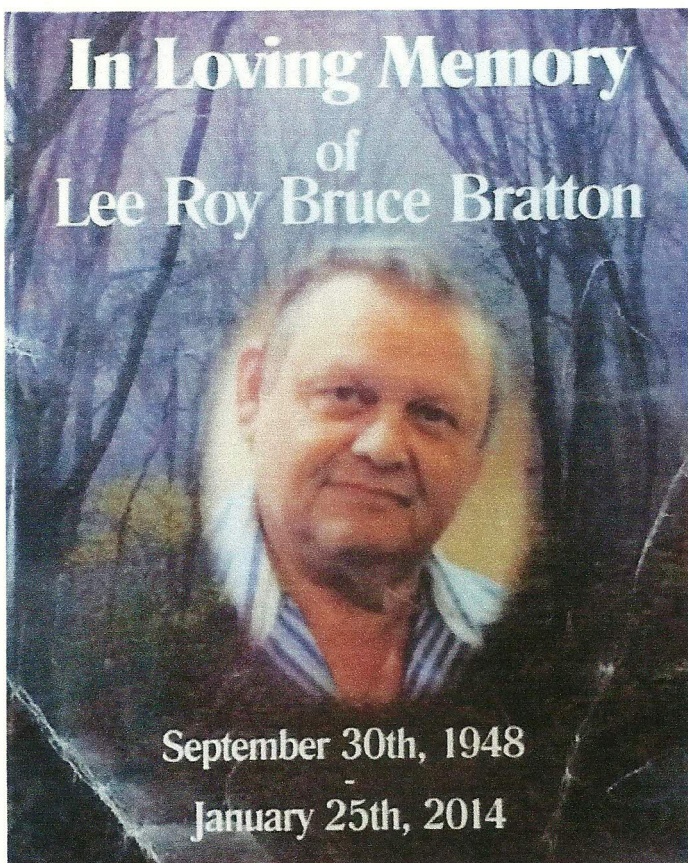
Bruce had been a resident of Dayton, Texas for over 25 years. He was a retired electrician and a former business owner. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, and working on boats and motors. Apparently he also had gunsmith skills and liked to rebuild guns for himself as well as others. A long-time member of Eastgate church, Bruce was also teaching younger children at the church how to work on older outboard motors.

Members at the recent Coffey birthday meet held a club memorial in Bruce's honor shortly after lunch. Adam Finn shared several written tributes from members relaying their sincere feelings for Bruce and how he had touched their lives. John Graf was close to Bruce and shared a great deal of information that most members



In memory of our friend
Bruce Bratton

did not know about him. Unfortunately, Bruce had to go through a lot of turmoil during his life, and through it all, he was always there for his family. He seemed a quiet individual, but once you got him going, you could appreciate his wealth of motor knowledge. If you ever asked for his help, he was always available to lend a helping hand. We will all definitely miss Bruce Bratton, and will always keep him in our memories.





**"The Original" Texas Chapter
Antique Outboard Motor Club, Inc.**

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Upcoming Events for 2014

Keels & Wheels Concours d'Elegance Show, May 3-4, 2014

Lakewood Yacht Club; 2425 NASA Parkway; Seabrook, TX 77586

Lake Catherine Wet Meet, May 14-18

Lake Catherine State Park; 1200 Catherine Park Road; Hot Springs, AR 71913

Contact the Ranger Station for Reservations: (800) 264-2422

Lake Houston Wet/Swap/Sell Meet, June 14, 2014

Indian Shores Community Center; 20719 Appaloosa; Crosby, TX 77532

Contact: John Plato (832) 473-8928

Fall Wet Meet at Lake LBJ, October 31-November 2

Longhorn Resort; 151 Melodie Lane; Kingsland, TX 78639

Contact: Michelle Lawrence (325) 388-4343

Louis Rothermel's Annual Swap Meet, November 14-16, 2014 **[NEW DATE]**

Louis Rothermel; 5910 Star Lane; Houston, TX 77057 (713) 783-6300

Special Invitation from the Snell Brothers

Albert and John Snell have decided that it is time to reduce some of their massive outboard collection. With that in mind, they have decided to sell off some of their parts motors and boats at reasonable prices. Members of the Texas Chapter are cordially invited to Contact Albert Snell at (409) 384-2938 to set appointments to see their available items in Jasper, Texas. **PLEASE, DO NOT DROP IN WITHOUT CONTACTING ALBERT FIRST.** Albert can tell you more about what they have for sale and will provide directions to their farm in Jasper when you call him. In case you are unaware, the Snell brothers have forgotten more about Mercury outboard motors and racing than most of us know now. I am sure it would be a worthwhile effort for you to make a trip to Jasper, Texas.