

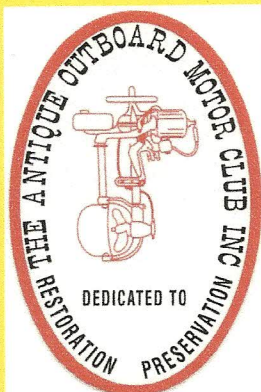
"THE ORIGINAL"  
TEXAS CHAPTER  
ANTIQUE OUTBOARD  
MOTOR CLUB, INC.



# Texas Chapter News

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

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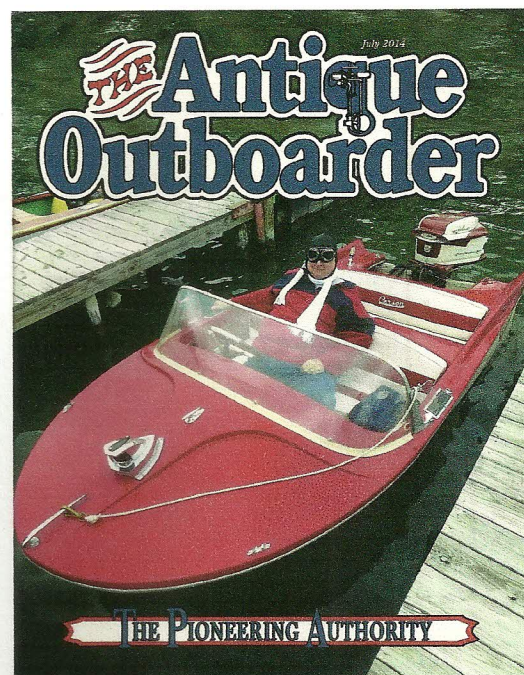
## The Red Baron Rides Again!

By Tom Oncken

The next time you see Joe McCauley, be sure to shake his hand and thank him for his excellent work. What work, you ask? You may not have noticed, but the last several issues of the Antique Outboarder have had a remarkably strong Texas Chapter influence in them. Most of that writing was done by Joe. Great job, Joe!

It has been a while since a Texas Chapter member has graced the cover of the Antique Outboarder, but it is no accident that one of Joe's photos made the cover of our international magazine. Chip Rathbun graces the July 2014 cover of the Antique Outboarder in his Corson runabout powered by his 1958 Johnson Sea-Horse V-4 50HP outboard.

I refuse to use the Carl Kiekhaefer name for Chip's maroon and white "Four-Fifty". The OMC powerhouses deserve better treatment, especially since they are historically the predecessors to so many V-4, V-6, and V-8 outboards that are on the water today. Congratulations Chip! All of your hard work on the boat and motor has paid off again.



Texas Chapter Secretary, Chip Rathbun, showing off his boat and motor at the April 2014 wet meet on Lake LBJ in Kingsland, Texas.

## 19th Annual Keels and Wheels

By Di Johnson

The 19th edition of Keels and Wheels was held on May 3rd and 4th at the Lakewood Yacht Club in Seabrook, TX. Interestingly, this show is the largest combined classic car and boat show in the whole USA. Wayne Carini of "Chasing Classic Cars" from the Velocity Channel served as Grand Marshal of this year's event.

Several Texas Chapter members displayed their boats at this Concours type show and

some garnered a few very prestigious awards. David Coffey, Jr. brought his red 1952 Arkansas Traveler powered by a pristine Mercury Mark 30 and won a Silver Award Trophy for this rig in the Classic Outboard Class. The interesting thing about this boat is that it was towed to the show and displayed with his dad's (David Coffey, Sr.) personally restored 1953 Ford Crestline Convertible. The car and boat combination made a great display.



1953 Ford Crestline Convertible displayed with 1952 Arkansas Traveler by David Coffee Sr. and Jr.



Robert and Donna Black were also awarded a Silver Award for their 2005 Aristocraft Torpedo named "Aquaholic". Their boat was entered in the Contemporary Outboard Class and is powered by a restored 1957 Johnson 35HP Golden Javelin.

In the Classic Racer Class, Jeff Workman also won a Silver Award for his preserved Dennis Farinetti-built 3 point hydro powered by a finely restored Mercury

KG-7 Super Ten Hurricane outboard.

Bob Macaluso brought his Mercury Mark 58 powered Yellow Jacket which kindled memories of this line of Texas-built boats.

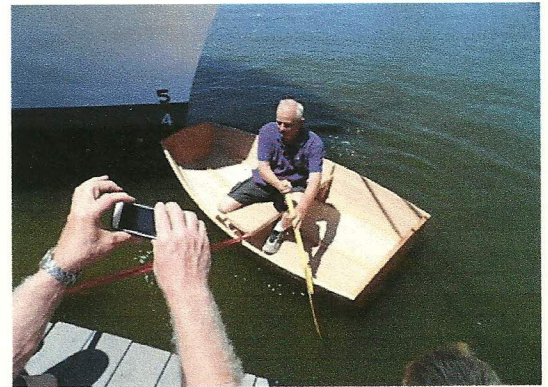
Robert and Donna Black's 2005 Aristocraft Torpedo Contemporary with 1957 Johnson Golden Javelin 35HP



Texas Chapter support of this show is very evident by its presentation of the Kids Build-A-Boat activity booth. Both John Platou and Jeff Workman were formally recognized by the show sponsors for their overwhelming support of the Kids

Build-A-Boat program over the past 8 years and each was presented special Emeritus

Awards. Unselfishly, the booth was also manned by dedicated Texas Chapter member, "Coach" Alan Bischoff. Good job gentlemen!



John Plato proving that all the work was not in vain. The boat that the kids built actually floats! Now it needs an outboard motor to go with it. Are there any contributors out there?



Very Rare Evinrude Lark outboard motor boat powered by its counterpart Evinrude Lark outboard. Presented by Shannon Steele and her husband from Florida, acquaintances of Tom Oncken from the Toy Outboard Motor Discussion Group on Yahoo.

## 2014 Lake Catherine Wet Meet

By Di Johnson

Hot Flash in Hot Springs! May 14-18 were the scheduled dates with some early birds arriving on Wednesday, but most folks arrived Thursday. It was great to meet and greet the Arkansas folks including several day trippers on Saturday.

Some folks made a nice run to the dam and back on Friday morning. John and Cindy Slator were the on-site event coordinators and planned the evening activities. Friday night, we had a big table full at the Fisherman's Wharf in Hot Springs. On Saturday, a



Andy Zawacki with his pair of Hurricanes



few of the wives headed for the Hot Springs bath houses and also witnessed the final heat of the downtown Annual Charity Bath Tub Races. Saturday night, we were treated to a great B-B-Q dinner hosted mainly by David Coffey, Sr. who grilled hamburgers, thin slices of ribeye steak, and fantastic sausages. Those attending divided up responsibilities for the sides adding salads, appetizers, beans, and more. Great dinner!



Dennis and Sharon Schmidt ran their frisky jet boat around until it hit a submerged sand bar and the impellor ingested a rock big enough to create several hundred dollars of damage. The recovered rock became an ungrateful souvenir. Suzie and Di Johnson stopped by for two days on their way to the Finger Lakes of New York. They towed their Feather Craft up from Houston, but could not get any spark going to fire up the Mark 58 Mercury. They had better luck in New York.



Jerry and Rocky Lindamood brought their big Lindy Craft with its Merc 1150. John and Cindy Slator had their trusty Johnson 35HP powering their Lone Star plus a front porch full of parts and motors for sale. David Coffey, Sr., Sylvia, and David, Jr. brought their Elgin runabout which became the weekend test boat with energetic assistance by David, Jr. Richard and Rayleen Reich ran his Mark 20 on a boat rented from the park.

Jon and Kenra Wiggins brought a couple of motors to run including a 1920's Super Elito Ruddertwin and a 3HP. The Ruddertwin sounded great, but received a frowny face from the park ranger on the waterfront pier as it decorated about a 100 square foot area with a beautiful rainbow slick of two-cycle oil. I sure am glad we were not in California.



Jon Wiggins with his impression of the 1989 Exxon Valdez. (Look it up if you are too young to remember the incident.)

Carl and Tanya Fryar camped out around the point and brought three boats with their group, all powered by late fifties Johnson outboards. His boats included an Arkansas Traveler with 1957 Johnson Javelin 35HP, a Glass Craft with a 1957 Sea Horse 35HP, and a flats boat with a 1957 Johnson 18HP.

Damon and Gloria Johns had a comfortable pontoon rig powered by a 50HP Mercury. It was quite a sight watching them launch the rig behind their motor home while keeping the tailpipe from being submerged on the very gradual slope of the boat launch ramp.

Andy Zawacki brought his self-made Hurricane plywood runabout powered by a 1958 Mercury Mark 28 Super Hurricane outboard. What a beautiful boat and clean motor. The plans for the boat came from a 1958 boat plans catalog. The motor had a unusual shift and throttle rig.



Very sporty homemade rig built by Andy Zawacki.



Don Johnson and family in their Cadillac boat.



Don Johnson came up for the day from Little Rock with his son and grandson and their beautiful Cadillac run-about powered by its 1957 Johnson Golden Javelin 35HP. Jerry Morris also came up for the day and ran his Elgin boat with Mercury

Mark 25.

We had launching and recovery assistance pretty much all day on Saturday from a very helpful non-member and local fisherman, Donald Smith. His unusual boat started life as a square stern guide canoe powered by a Briggs and Stratton four cycle outboard. Donald, a Duck Dynasty look-a-like, has beefed up the center section of

his craft with two snow skis to accommodate his coolers and fishing rod racks. Most noticeable are the read and green running lights which serve as the eyeballs of his pink flamingo bow ornament, thus inspiring the



boat's name, "Pink Floyd".

If you want to attend next year's Lake Catherine meet, be sure to make reservations for May 13th through 17th, 2015. Cabins and camp sites are available now. Contact any of the officers if you need a telephone number or address. We hope to see you there!

## Lake Houston Wet Meet

By Adam Finn

John Platou, Jeff Workman, and Adam Finn prepared a fine wet meet event for us all. The sunny weather was welcome and not overly hot. There were several shady areas to rest under. The Indian Shores Community Center building provided air-conditioned shelter as well as clean indoor rest-rooms.



Extra tables and chairs were made available to eat without holding your plate in your lap. This is a great location for our

club and we could easily accommodate a much larger group. There is plenty of space for families to assemble.

Dock space was more than adequate and every boat could tie up to the dock or bulk-head. We had a smaller turnout compared

to last year with approximately 24 people in attendance including 14 members, family, and guests along with 6 member boats. Last year, we held this meet the weekend before Father's Day weekend and attracted more folks—a consideration for next year. Folks made morning runs at will offering rides to any and all landlubbers willing to chance it. There were numerous takers on those offers.

Adam and Suzie Finn assisted by Clinton Russell served up a tasty lunch of grilled jumbo hotdogs (FYI-Hebrew National) and Suzie Finn's excellent chili. Other fixin's included potato salad, watermelon, cookies, and drinks.

David Coffey, Jr. and Sr. arrived in style pulling David Jr.'s Arkansas Traveler and Mark 30 Mercury behind David Sr.'s 1953 Ford Crestline Sunliner convertible. The red-on-red combo is powerfully eye-catching to say the least. David, Jr. spent the most time out on the lake running his Arkansas Traveler and giving rides.





New members, John and Karen McRae from Lufkin brought their 1962 Pacific Mariner powered by a 1978 Johnson 85HP. This red and white beauty is a clean machine and John says it rides and handles great. (See photo below.)



Edward and Sheila Bachman ran their awesome Javelin powered Yellow Jacket, a true Texas classic. John

Platou launched his Cruisers Inc. with its 1960 Evinrude 40HP and gave rides to many folks and kids. Jeff Workman brought the 1963



Thompson with its 2001 Johnson 40HP that he recently bought from Bruce Miller. Jeff also ran that boat throughout the day giving rides to all that wanted one.

Affiliated "guest inboarder" member, Mike Freisel ran his impeccable 1946 Chris-Craft 16" Special Runabout. This completely restored beauty was all done completely by Mike and his brother, Dennis. The boat was displayed recently at the

2014 Houston International Boat, Sport & Travel Show as well as frequently at Keels and Wheels.

John and Cindy Slator brought a few OMC's to sell as well as parts, gas tanks, and motor stands. It seems like I almost always need something in John's parts pile.

Other members were present that arrived without boats and/or motors. Adam's new project boat needs some more time, Di Johnson took his Feather Craft with Mark 58 up north for the summer, and Robert Macaluso's Crosby is in the shop getting a fresh hull paint job. Louis Rothermel stopped by for a nice visit. Tom Oncken was also in attendance and many reminiscences were reminisced. Alan Bischoff, our senior Kids Build-a-Boat coach was on hand to enjoy the festivities.

For the boatless, there was plenty of friendly gabbing and visiting. Spouses Suzie Johnson, Cindy Slator, and Suzie Finn caught up and shared about the recent Lake Catherine meet. It was just a nice day to just sit and relax under the trees.



Believe it or not, several young ladies came to help keep us in line.

Brenden Macaluso brought along guests, William Hesser and Rebecca Verm, friends from his motorcycle collective shop to show them a taste of classic outboarding.



Brenden Macaluso, Rebecca Verm, William Hesser, and Bob Macaluso.

After lunch, the boats shoved off to do a boat

parade led by John Platou and Jeff Workman while some of the landlubbers began to drift on home in the mid-afternoon. Overall, it was a well done meet. Thanks again to John Platou, Jeff Workman, Clinton Russell, and Adam and Suzie Finn.





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

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## Upcoming Events for 2014

### 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

## From The Editor

First of all, I want to offer my apologies for the tardiness of this issue of our Texas Chapter News. It should have been out in early July at the latest. Although it is not a good excuse, I have been working with our Founder, Dave Reinhartsen, assisting him in the preparation of an article for the Antique Outboarder in recognition of AOMCI's 50th anniversary next year. The workload really did not place a heavy burden on me. I simply lost track of time and fell behind. Sorry about that.

Between now and the next issue of our newsletter, we have no activities planned. The October issue should be out early in October, and I still plan on producing a newsletter by then. Since I have been going through older issues of the Antique Outboarder for the 50th anniversary research, I have decided that I may reprint some of the articles that I have written or seen in the older issues. For

some of you older members, it will hopefully bring back fond memories of our past. For you newer members, you may find out that we used to do some pretty unusual things in our Chapter years ago. Some of you told me at the meet at Lake Houston that you met Jon Wiggins from Missouri and he told you some stories about my hardships at a meet held in Cypress Springs. I stumbled into that story and think I may have to reprint it so I can get even with Jon again. I miss abusing Jon. I may have to go to Lake Catherine next year and see if we can have a reunion.

I encourage all of you to consider attending the next two meets. Kingsland is always well attended and I know that Louis and I would like to see a better turnout at his annual meet this year. We will be mailing reminders in October.

Until then, stay out of the heat. Tom Oncken, Editor