

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



# Texas Chapter News

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2014

## Our Newsletter is Back!

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Revived newsletter for our technologically disadvantaged members
- Chapter officer election results for the upcoming 2014-2015 term
- Report on the 20th annual swap meet held in Houston hosted by Louis Rothermel
- Report on another very successful meet on Lake LBJ in Kingsland, Texas
- January 3-12, 2014 Houston International Boat, Sport and Travel Show at the Reliant Center
- Upcoming meets for the New Year

Our Texas Chapter officers have decided to deliver a written line of communication to all those members who do not have computer access. As a result, they requested that I serve as editor and publisher of a quarterly newsletter to be sent to the handful of members who do not benefit from our web site and periodic email notices.

With that in mind, I decided to resurrect the "Texas Chapter News". Originally created by Scott Reinhartsen and Georganne Mires in the early 1990's, the Texas Chapter News continued under my editorship from 1995 through 1997. Owen Meredith continued the publication for several years thereafter. John Graf also prepared a newsletter for a while; however, with

the introduction of advanced computer technology, printed newsletters subsequently faded out and finally disappeared in lieu of web sites and emails.

This new quarterly publication will be sent only to our members who do not have, or choose not to use, electronic media. For the most part, this new version of Texas Chapter News will clone many of the items that are published on the Texas Chapter web site and information that has been received through emails.

Feel free to send me your input to this new version of our old newsletter. If I am not creating something that each of you find to be beneficial, I am open to suggestions to make it more valuable to you. Pick up your

telephone and leave me a message at (281) 487-5305 or send a brief note to:

**Texas Chapter News**  
Attn: Tom Oncken, Editor  
1415 Dorsetshire Drive  
Pasadena, Texas 77504-3234



## Texas Chapter Officer Elections

In mid-September, Adam Finn sent out notices requesting nominations for officer positions for the upcoming two year term. The resulting mass of nominations was overwhelming . . . . . none were received.

Fortunately, our existing officers had already volunteered to serve

an additional term of office if the membership was agreeable to it. We formalized the election process by having a quick vote at Louis Rothermel's annual swap meet in November. A motion was made to re-elect the existing slate of officers, the motion was seconded, and passed unani-

mously. The following are your officers for 2014 and 2015:

**Adam Finn, President**  
**Di Johnson, Vice President**  
**Chip Rathbun,**  
**Secretary/Treasurer**

Congratulations gentlemen!  
Thanks for volunteering again.

# Louis Rothermel's 20th Swap Meet



Louis Rothermel cutting down a stainless steel tube for Jeff Workman.



Chip Rathbun running a restored Sea King.



Our host, Louis Rothermel (on the left), with Mark Schmidt enjoying good company and some great Bar-B-Q.

We participated in Louis Rothermel's annual swap meet on the weekend of November 8th through 10th. Although there appeared to be fewer motors and related items available for swapping and selling, Louis' 20th annual swap meet was very well attended.

Those in attendance who signed the guest book included the following: Tom Ashe, Jerry Ball, Ed Bachman, Mark Bartlett, Darrell Beaulier, Steve Boling, Bruce Bratton, Tom Brandon, Carleton Callahan and friend Pat, Allan Carter, Chris Chase, Travis Clifton, Tony Cloud, David Coffee, Sr., David Coffee, Jr., Tom Croasdale and Pat Nichols, Tim Dugan, Weldon Eklund, Adam Finn, E. J. Fournet, John Graf, Bruce Henderson, Di Johnson, Captain Gary Keeney, Dan and Wanda Kubecka, Brenden Macaluso, Robert Macaluso, Dennis McAlister, Joe McCauley and Cornelia Kuffner, Vernon McKinley, Bruce Miller, Jerry Morris, John "Meatball" Murray, Mike Oncken (with sons Tommy 3 and Charlie 2), Tom Oncken, Scott Pearse, John Platou, Chip and Marilyn Rathbun, Rich Reich, Louis Rothermel, Clinton Russell, Dave Samstag, Mark Schmidt, Frank Simon, John Slator, "Scott-Atwater Al" Smith, Ed Slominski, Bob Springer, Craig Stanfield, Ron Stein, Bob and Maria Sturtevant, Grant Taylor, Bob Witt, and Jeff Workman.

After some early bargaining and trading on Friday afternoon, approximately a dozen members visited the Jax Grill in nearby Bellaire for tasty burgers and chicken fried steak.

On Saturday, we had wonderful cool weather—a perfect 70 degrees. Things got off to a good start on Saturday morning as Louis had coffee and donuts at the sign in table. The popularity of this event has spread as we also had a good number of non-member visitors in attendance. Louis, Chip, and Adam handed out more than a few applications to prospective members. We were blessed with traveling guests that included Central Arizona Chapter President Vernon McKinley of Mesa, AZ; Bob and Maria Sturtevant of York, ME; and Mark Bartlett of Shingle Springs, CA. Also visiting was Bob Witt who was the Baytown, TX Johnson Dealer along with his father. Bob was also a factory race driver in Texas and piloted the legendary OMC Wankel Rotary race motors along with Johnny Sanders and Tommy Posey.

Club members should take note that one of our "titled" brothers, Captain Gary Keeney, is in dire need of a new captain's hat. He ran his cherished cap through the washer and a number of the threads supporting the stern section of the cap have given up the ship.

Travis Clifton, a neighbor to Louis' business, made some new friends among the members who ventured over to Travis' custom aluminum fabrication shop. Travis made a perfect exhaust tube for Di Johnson's Elto Ace from some aluminum stock that Louis had on hand. Travis even buffed a factory sheen on the tube to make it perfect.

Louis fired up his lathe and machined a perfect drive shaft

tube out of stainless steel for Jeff Workman to fit onto his Neptune Mighty-Mite.

Compared to past years, there seemed like fewer items were displayed for sale on the lot; however, Scott Pearse from Galveston brought a pickup truck full of motors, parts, and some motor stands. Among the more notable motors were a late 1920's Lockwood Ace, a Chris-Craft Commander, and a Chris-Craft Challenger.

John Slator and Dave Samstag were able to set up early and were able to move some motors and accessories to new homes. John Graf brought a handful of motors and controls. Bruce Miller and Di Johnson brought a couple of boats that they attempted to peddle for really good deals to club members. Bruce's Mickey Mouse boat was a looker and Di's Glen-L 8' Hydro was ready for a new owner. Alas, there were no sales on the boats.

A new fellow to our group, Anders Pedersen, a Dane with a New Orleans wife, brought a 1957 Crosby powered by a correct year Evinrude Lark. This rig is an awesome restored hybrid with a fiberglass hull and wood planked deck and interior.

Meatball delivered the 1961 15' Anthony Jetstar 15 (yep, "Anthony" is the brand name) three point hydro runabout to Ed Bachman for a total restoration. The boat has beautiful lines. Ed purchased the boat at the Fall LBJ wet meet.

Chip Rathbun, David Coffee, and Gary Keeney kept the test tank busy for most of Saturday.

Tom Ashe finally elbowed his

way to the run tank and tried to crank up his little Johnson. Don't we all know that feeling, "Dang, it started up just last week at home".

For lunch on Saturday, Louis and Tom Oncken organized the collection and hosting of a true Texas BBQ feast for only a paltry \$5 per. Sliced brisket, savory sausage, beans, potato salad, coleslaw, and some type of white cake that were great fare which always tastes better outside. Oh . . . don't we all love the aroma of BBQ and 2 cycle motor smoke in the afternoon?

After lunch, chapter President, Adam Finn, gave an update on finances, recent events and activities, and planned events. Adam passed thanks around to Louis Rothermel and Tom Oncken for organizing the meet. Adam recognized Joe McCauley for writing articles in the Antique Outboarder and the club leadership

endorsed Joe in his run for AOMCI Vice President of Technical Services.

Things began to wind down a tad early on Saturday afternoon due to a light sprinkle of rain.

On Sunday, we had a dozen or so people show up to work on their motors including Travis Clifton (Louis' neighbor), Tom Croasdale, Tim Duggan, John Graf, Cary Keeney, Joe McCauley, Pat Nichols, Tom Oncken, Louis Rothermel, "Scott-Atwater Al" Smith, and Grant Taylor were in attendance. John Graf bead-blasted a pile of Mercury parts. Louis, the master machinist, guided Joe McCauley removing a salt-corroded and broken machine screw from a 1978 25hp water-pump base; however, Joe reports that he still failed to get his Mark 25 gearcase to find neutral. Louis and Tim worked one of Tim's Speeditwins and had it running perfectly. Tom Oncken consulted

with Grant Taylor on his 9.5hp Evinrude and then spent some time giving his 1939 Evinrude Scout a much needed cleaning in the parts washer.

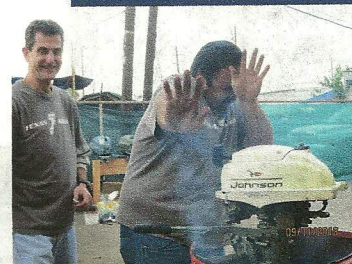
"Scott-Atwater Al" Smith needed to finish some work on a 3hp Johnson that he had brought with him to the meet. Tom Croasdale and Pat Nichols came by to visit. Tom had just gotten out of the hospital after a 7 month stay to rid him of a severe respiratory problem. He was still on oxygen, but he couldn't stay away from the fun. We wish him the best and a speedy recovery. The remaining BBQ made for a good lunch.

By 5PM, everyone had left and we had put everything up.

[This article came from the Texas Chapter web site as written by Di Johnson.]



Louis Rothermel helping fine tune Tim Dugan's Speeditwin



"Scott-Atwater Al" Smith caught working on an OMC product.

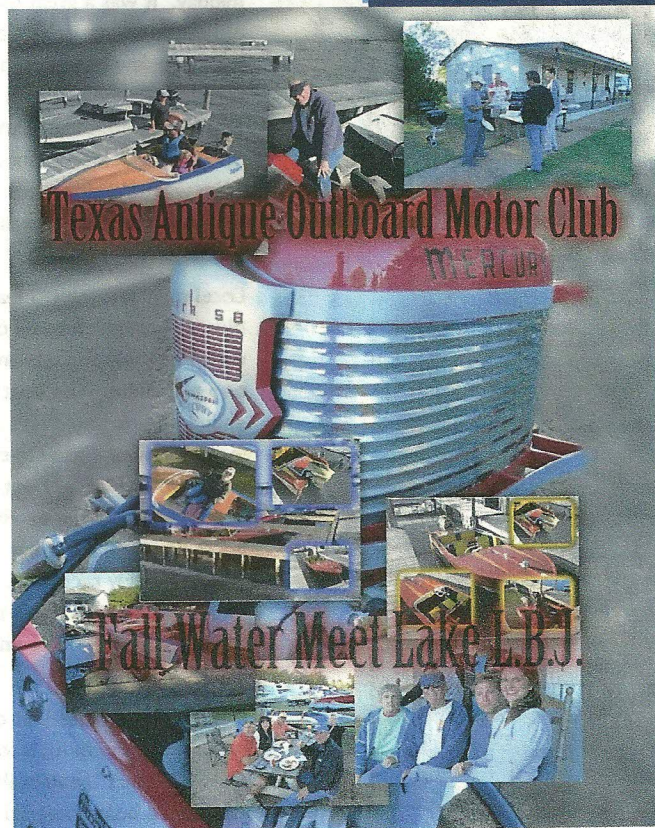
## Fall Meet at Lake LBJ by Adam Finn

Our Texas Chapter had its traditional annual fall wet meet at Longhorn Resort on Lake LBJ in Kingsland, Texas from October 17th through 20th. Kudos to David Coffee, Sr. for the cool collage poster shown to the right!

A few members began rolling in on Thursday for a longer weekend, with most arriving on Friday. Those that came on Thursday were treated with picture perfect weather and virtually no wind, so running the lake was a real treat. Louis Rothermel drove up late Friday afternoon accompanied by Tom Oncken and Gary Keeney. They stopped at Opie's BBQ in Spicewood on their way to Kingsland and consumed a belly full of BBQ. Friday afternoon, Joe McCauley's wife, Cornelia, treated club members to some excellent homemade apple pie that was darn good. Also Friday

evening, "Scott-Atwater Al" Smith, Al's brother James, and Michael and Erin Worley along with many other members came up for the weekend event.

Friday evening, members broke into different groups eating at various restaurants in and around town. John and Cindy Slator along with Dennis and Sharon Schmitt went to a long standing excellent Kingsland eatery known as Alfredo's Mexican Restaurant, which has great fish tacos along with all of the standard Tex-Mex fare. Ed Bachman, Peter Schultz, Bruce Miller, and Clinton Russell, along with yours truly, went to the Blue Bonnet Café in Marble Falls, a short twenty-minute drive from the resort. Blue Bonnet has been in business since 1929 serving up great diner food and scratch made pies with meringue topping a mile high. All are really good and we all left stuffed.





Dennis and Sharon Schmitt in their Glen-L "Squirt" powered by Mercury.



Joe McCauley with his Allison racer powered by Johnson Stinger



Jerry Lindamood's Glen-L Gentleman's Racer. This museum piece is powered by a marvelous Mercury Mark 78 outboard.

Chip Rathbun, Joe McCauley, and wives went to The Dock in Marble Falls. Joe said the seafood served is some of the best.

Friday evening after dinner, most of us sat around talking about old times. Sitting in the rocking chairs in front of the cabins, Louis Rothermel and Tom Oncken shared great old stories with David Coffee, Sr. and Jr., Clinton Russell, Peter Schultz and others about some of their greatest outboard finds in the last 20 years. We listened in amazement to some of the great acquisitions they had made and the characters involved.

The weather changed late Friday evening when a cold front blew in about midnight with some gusty winds and a little rain. We awoke Saturday morning to a blue bird sunny day with morning temp around 50 degrees. It was definitely jacket weather until all warmed up to the low 70's by midday. It was a great day for old outboarding. John Slator put out a few outboard motors for sale along with a cadre of miscellaneous outboard parts. A mid 1955 Johnson 10hp was sold along with various other parts that exchanged hands.

Local member, John "Meatball" Murray brought 3 boats of which one was for sale and two to exhibit. The boat that ended up being sold was a cool looking Power Cat with twin early 1960's Mercury outboards. One of the exhibit boats was a rare Feather Craft 1950's Fire Fly racer that Meatball says he is going to restore and soon have on the water.

Dennis Schmitt was first out on the water with his 8 foot Glen-L "Squirt" hand-built racer style boat powered by an early 1950's Mercury. Chip

Rathbun then went on the water in his 1958 Corson with one of the best looking 1958 Johnson 50hp "FAT FIFTY" motors around. Both Dennis and Chip were racing around in circles like on a dirt track raceway oval.

John Slator motored around with his newly acquired RED 1952 Arkansas Traveler with Mark 58. This boat had a top-notch restoration with the best of new style items put on this older craft with rear cockpit steering.

Joe McCauley brought his race ready Allison powered by a Johnson Stinger 75hp. Joe's "May Fly III" was pushing in the mid 60mph range up and down the lake way. Just the last few inches of the craft were touching the water.

Jerry Lindamood had one of the prettiest boats on the water with his beautiful wooden Glen-L Gentleman's Racer that he did one heck of a job building. The boat was most impressively powered by a beautifully restored sunset orange Mercury Mark 78. Jerry had acquired the motor in as-is condition from John "Meatball" Murray sometime in the recent past, and it looks and runs just as it did when it came from the factory.

George Gustafson ran his high-speed race style fiberglass rig powered by a serious horsepower newer competition V-6 outboard. This boat was loud and definitely fast. It was cool to see it make high-speed runs with an enormous "rooster tail" trailing behind it.

Dave Samstag ran his small racing hydroplane boat. His son, Doug, unfortunately ran into mechanical problems on both motors he brought to run on his hydroplane craft. Peter Schultz brought an aluminum boat to run a few different outboards. Due to many of his

motors sitting up for long periods, Peter ran into a little trouble keeping the motors running.

Stan Kremp, along with his son, John, and his grandson, John Jr., came up for the day Saturday with his nicely restored 12 foot Alumacraft R model powered by a Mark 25. The boat ran for a while and then kicked out for some reason. Eric and Gail Peterson ran around in their new style Carlson powered by a Mercury 115hp. Saturday afternoon, member Carleton Callahan came to the meet with a 1957 19 foot aluminum Lone Star cabin cruiser. It was a cool big old boat powered by a 1970's Johnson 75hp.

Saturday afternoon, a few of us went on a nice longer run down the east arm of Lake LBJ. Conditions were great for a nice cruise. I ran my 1959 Alumacraft with 40hp Johnson along with passengers Clinton Russell and James Smith. Bruce Miller was in his newly acquired early 1960's wooden Thompson that he picked up in Michigan and it pushed through the water just like a torpedo. Bruce took passengers Dave Samstag and Tom Oncken. Ed Bachman was running his beautifully restored Yellow Jacket with a 1957 Johnson Golden Javelin. What a great looking rig! Jack Stevens who came for the day from San Antonio hitched a boat ride with Ed on the Yellow Jacket.

Ed Slominski, with passenger Gary Keeney, ran his beautiful white Lyman powered by a Mercury Mark 59A that purred like a kitten. This boat and motor combination was a real looker. Along for this boat run were Dennis and Sharon Schmitt in their 8 foot Glen-L "Squirt". Sharon definitely gets the boater award for the day because she made the entire 1+ hour long boat trip in the

small 8 footer getting tossed around with boat wakes, etc. Go Sharon! Both Dennis and Sharon had headsets over their ears to guard against the little loud Mercury. They actually looked like something from outer space coming down the lake.

We all enjoyed one great day on the lake. Saturday, we had 40+ members that attended the meet. Early Saturday evening, Chef

Meatball, along with my assistance, cooked with two BBQ grills and served up grilled smoked sausage appetizers and a tasty dinner of grilled rib eyed steaks, baked potatoes with all the fix-ins, and a tossed salad. Cindy Slator topped off the meal with homemade cherry cobbler that was the best. No one left hungry.

Sunday morning was another beautiful day with a few members

making some morning runs on the lake. By noon on Sunday, everybody had loaded up and was back on the road heading home. We all enjoyed a great weekend of boating and cannot wait for our Spring Lake LBJ wet meet to be held next April 3rd through the 6th. We hope to see you all there.



George and Gus Gustafson make a run with their hydro with V-6 Mercury.

## 2014 Event Calendar

### **January 3-12 2014 - 58th Annual Houston International Boat, Sport & Travel Show at the Reliant Center in Houston, Texas.**

Since 1987, the Texas Chapter of AOMCI and the Southwest Chapter of the Antique & Classic Boat Society have shared exhibit space at the dealer's annual boat show in Houston. Originally held in the Astrodome, the show has since been relocated to the Reliant Center next to Reliant Stadium and the Houston Astrodome. The show should be under way by the time you receive this notice, so come down and see the exhibit containing some beautiful wooden boats, classic boats, and displays of our old outboard motors.

### **February 1, 2014 - David Coffey's Wet Meet on Lake Conroe**

David Coffey, Sr. is putting on a wet meet between 8:00AM and 4:00PM on the north end of Lake Conroe in celebration of his son's birthday (David Coffey, Jr.). This is a one day meet to be held at the Stow-a-way Marina & RV Park, which has a full service retail store. Hot dogs with all of the fix-ins along with bottled water will be served. There is a large covered pavilion and club members will be permitted to use the launch ramp and boat slips

for free. There is also plenty of room for us to conduct a buy-swap-sale area on the side.

If you have any questions or will be attending, please RSVP by calling David, Sr. at (281) 831-9146. Stow-a-way Marina & RV Park is located at 13988 Calvary Road in Willis, Texas and their telephone number is (936) 856-4531.

So, bring your boats and old outboard items for sale or trade and enjoy a day with us on Lake Conroe.

### **April 3-6, 2014 - Spring Wet Meet on Lake LBJ in Kingsland, Texas**

Lake LBJ is a constant level lake that is surrounded by natural beauty in the heart of the Texas hill country. This meet is both a wet meet with plenty of time to run your old motors as well as a swap/sell meet, so feel free to bring any motors or parts that you may want to sell. We plan on having boat cruises and a picnic style dinner on Saturday evening.

Lodging is available at the Longhorn Resort located at 151 Melodie Lane in Kingsland, Texas. Longhorn Resort is located on the water with comfortable cabins containing kitchens. There is plenty of dock space and slips available. For reservations, contact Michelle Lawrence at (325) 388-4343.

This has become a well attended

meet for both Spring and Fall, so you can tell that we are treated very well at the Longhorn Resort. We hope you decide to attend and join in on the fun and meet with other club members. You will not be disappointed.

### **May 3-4, 2014 - Keels & Wheels Concours D' Elegance at Lakewood Yacht Club in Seabrook, Texas**

This is the 19th annual show originally named Wooden Keels & Classic Wheels held at the Lakewood Yacht Club in Seabrook, Texas. Over time, the name was changed to allow for boats made of different materials to be included in the show.

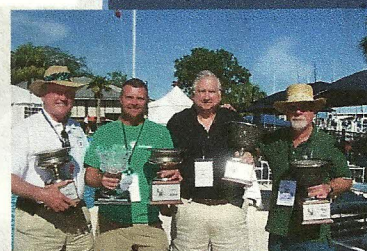
This event easily attracts over 15,000 visitors each year and has antique and classic boats, cars, as well as outboard motors on display to the public. If you would like to display at the show, contact your Texas Chapter officers for more information.

### **May 14-18, 2014 - Lake Catherine State Park in Hot Springs, Arkansas**

If you do not mind traveling and enjoy beautiful landscape and wildlife, this is the meet for you.



Master Chef, John "Meatball" Murray, hard at work. He grills a great steak.



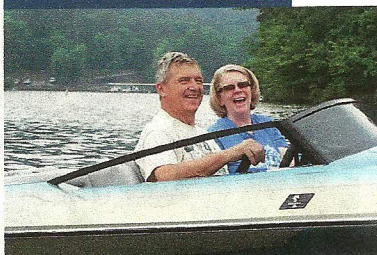
Di Johnson, Jeff Workman, Chip Rathbun, and Jerry Lindamood showing their trophies from last year's Keels & Wheels show. Are you up to the challenge?



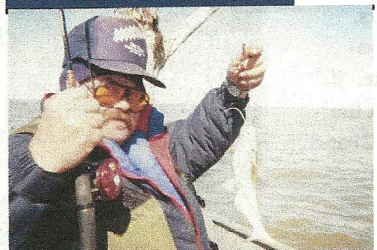
Lake Catherine State Park.



Some of the guests at Lake Catherine State Park.



Dave and Becky Samstag enjoying Lake Catherine.



Robert Harris doing a little fishing.

This annual wet meet held in the beautiful woods and on the shores of Lake Catherine is always a favorite. It goes without saying that this is the most scenic of all of the meets we attend each year and is well worth the effort to attend.

To reserve a cabin, contact the ranger station at Lake Catherine State Park by calling (800) 264-2422. The park address is 1200 Catherine Park Road; Hot Springs, AR 71913. Reservations must be made by April 1, 2014 to guarantee your spot. Be sure to ask for the cabins reserved by the Texas Antique Outboard Motor Club. You will be amazed at the wildlife that comes to visit the cabins.

Activities and dinners are still being planned and will be covered in a future newsletter. We hope you decide to join us.

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

A relatively new meet, this one day outing will be our 3rd meet held on Lake Houston which is approximately 20 minutes drive from downtown Houston. Three of our club members live on Lake Houston and serve as our hosts.

The meet is held on the south end of the lake at the Indian

Shores Community Center which is air conditioned and sits on 1.5 acres of beautiful water front. It has a nice boat ramp, picnic tables, shade trees, and an overall nice setting for our meet.

We will be grilling jumbo hot dogs with homemade chili, chips, cookies, and bottled water being served for lunch.

There is a pier and plenty of room to dock your boat. It is suggested that you bring bumpers to cushion your boats at the docks.

The official address of the Indian Shores Community Center is 20719 Appaloosa, Crosby, Texas 77532. Please contact John Plato at (832) 473-8928 if you have any questions or need some directions.

**October 2014 - Fall Wet Meet on Lake LBJ in Kingsland, Texas**

Our fall wet meet is very similar to the spring wet meet. A specific date and other details will be provided sometime after the April spring wet meet is completed.

**November 7-9, 2014 - Louis Rothermel's 21st Annual Swap/Sell Meet**

This annual meet is always well attended and highly anticipated by our members. Louis Rothermel and Tom Oncken

are long-term members who have hosted this meet for the past 20 years.

Members are encouraged to bring old outboard motors, parts, and related outboard and boating paraphernalia to sell, trade, display, or repair. Louis also encourages you to invite anyone you know who is interested in selling old motors and parts to the meet.

This is a three day event. Friday is usually set-up day. We send out for hamburgers for lunch on that day. Saturday is the heart of the meet. A lunch is brought in from Pappas BBQ for a minimal fee, usually \$5 per person. It comes with sliced beef brisket, Czech sausage, potato salad, ranch beans, coleslaw, and condiments.

Sunday is "work on motors" day. If you wish to bead-blast parts or clean-up or work on a motor, Louis and Tom are willing to assist on Sunday. Louis has a full service shop with parts washer, blast cabinet, lathe, drill press, and an abundance of tools and parts.

For out of town members, a number of local hotels are conveniently located nearby. The address of the meet is 5910 Star Lane; Houston, Texas 77057. Contact Louis at (713) 783-6300 if you have any questions or need additional information.

**In Memoriam**

**Robert Lloyd Harris  
May 19, 1949 - September 25, 2013**

It is with great regret that I must notify members about the passing of a long-time member of the Texas Chapter, Robert Harris ("Bob" to some).

In the time I knew Robert, he was a simple country boy who enjoyed our hobby and shared his toys and outboard knowledge with anyone who cared to spend time talking with him about old outboard motors.

We were notified about Robert by his daughter, Jan Leggett. When I requested some information about Robert from Jan, she sent me a very nice heart-warming article written by a daughter about her father. I could not compete with her writing, so I am encouraging all of you to watch for her article in the Antique Outboarder. It is



very special and I hope our magazine editor decides to publish it in full. Please accept our condolences Jan. We know you miss your Daddy.

Tom Oncken