

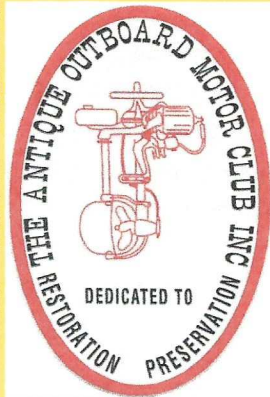
"THE ORIGINAL"  
TEXAS CHAPTER  
ANTIQUA OUTBOARD  
MOTOR CLUB, INC.



# Texas Chapter News

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## Annual Spring Wet Meet at Lake LBJ in Kingsland, Texas

By Tom Oncken

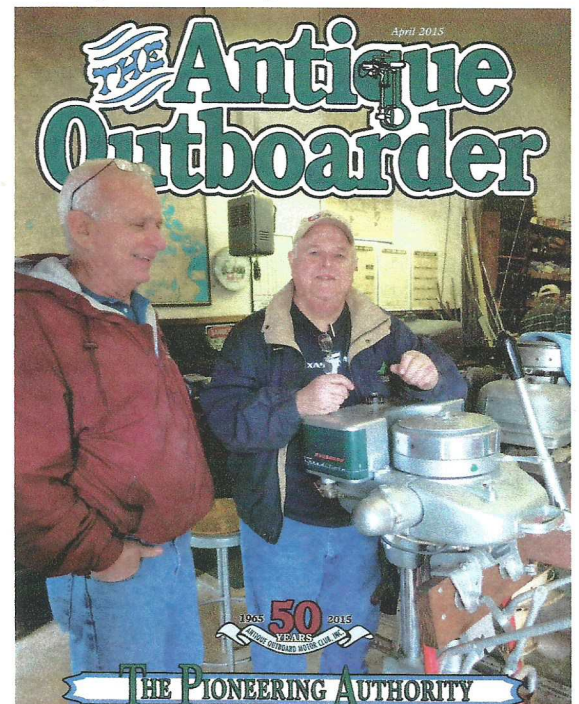
As most of you are aware, the weather in the State of Texas has been totally unpredictable since the beginning of the year. Where we have had serious droughts statewide over the past several years, this year we are receiving record rainfall totals. As a result, weather has been playing havoc with our outboard motor fun as the weatherman continues to hit and miss with his predictions of rain. This was the case again for our annual "wet" meet held from April 17<sup>th</sup> through 19<sup>th</sup> on beautiful Lake LBJ in Kingsland, Texas.

We managed to have a great time anyway as we played with our toys between a few rain showers. Those in attendance included the following: Adam and Susan Finn; Chip and Marilyn Rathbun; John and Cindy Slator; Al and Katie Smith, along with daughters Addison and Abigail, Al's brother James, and his sister Sarah; Joe McCauley, Cornelia Kuffner and Finn; Carlton Callahan and Pat; Meatball Murray and Carolyn; Louis Rothermel; Peter Schultz; Tom Oncken; Darrell Beaulier; John Plato; Alan Bischoff; Dennis and Sharon Schmidt; and Sarah and Richard Kairis.

Louis Rothermel invited me to ride with him on Friday morning. When we left Houston, the weatherman said it was "mostly cloudy" at Hobby Airport, but the sun was actually shining brightly. As we made the trip across I-10 to US 71, clouds began to accumulate. It actually began sprinkling by the time we stopped in Spicewood to visit our favorite barbecue restaurant, Opie's. After a number of trips to the butter bean pot and a rack of pork ribs, we were off again to Kingsland.

Upon arrival, we noticed that the rain had stopped again and we visited with those who had played on the lake earlier in the day. Shortly afterward, several members decided to leave and visit their favorite Mexican food restaurant for the Friday evening meal.

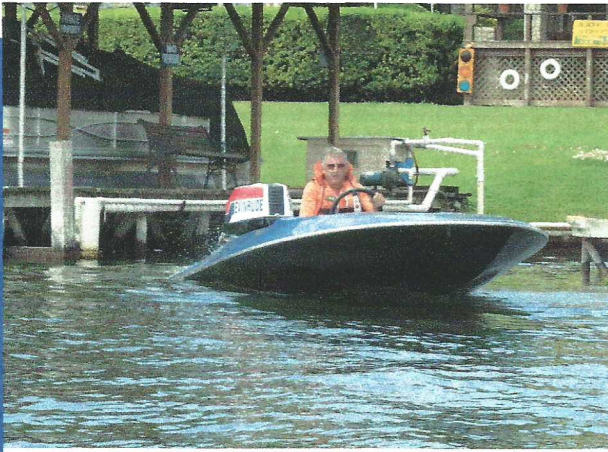
Saturday morning was a little brisk, but more or less dry. Members started putting in boats and running all over the lake. Darrell Beaulier was out on the water in his Carlson boat powered by its mighty Evinrude Super Strangler looking for a challenger. Dennis Schmidt



The April issue of The Antique Outboarder featured the Texas Chapter's annual Houston swap meet on its cover with long-time member Tom Oncken in the center and John Plato on the left. Louis Rothermel's nicely restored Evinrude Speeditwin dresses up the photo.



Darrell Beaulier and his Carlson powered by Evinrude Super Strangler



launched his Cyclone hydroplane powered by its Evinrude 45ss outboard. They were joined by Joe McCauley and Finn with the May Fly III powered by its Johnson Stinger.

Dennis Schmidt running his Evinrude 45ss powered Cyclone hydro



Adam Finn was giving tours in his nicely painted Rexcraft aluminum boat with its Johnson 35hp. Although it has been a while, Louis Rothermel brought his Stauter boat powered by its 1943 Evinrude Storm Boat Motor. It was nice to see that old 50hp Evinrude back on the water again.

Meatball ran his Yellow Jacket wooden runabout powered by a Merc 850 and it looked great ziping along the lake. Peter Schultz came prepared this year as he ran several different outboards on his Aluma Craft boat.

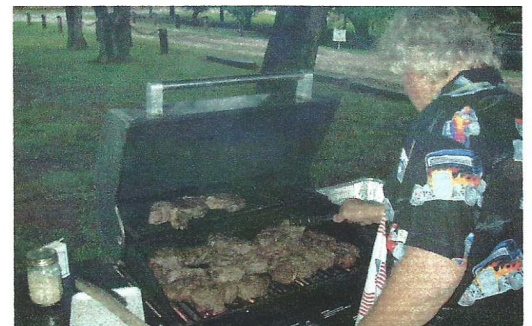
Adam Finn's Rexcraft aluminum boat with 1959 Johnson 35hp



Addison Smith in the driver's seat of May Fly III

Last but not never least, Chip Rathbun had his Corson boat powered by his 1958 "Four-Fifty" Johnson V-4 running all over the lake. The boat's finish was a little unusual as Chip had to drive on an oiled roadway on his way to the meet and the dirty oil stuck all over those bright white sides. Hopefully, a little washing detergent took off the oil when Chip got home.

The Longhorn Resort has built a large new covered pavilion with concrete floor where we setup for the evening steak dinner. The weather finally took its turn as it rained heavily while Meatball was cooking the steaks. Winds blew hard out of one direction and then reversed from the other. For the most part, we all moved into several of the hotel rooms so our food would not blow away. We wish to offer our usual sincere "thanks" to Meatball for preparing the steaks to perfection. Also, we thank the wonderful ladies (Susan Finn, Cindy Slator, Sharon Schmidt, and Cornelia Kuffner) who prepared baked potatoes and salad for the dinner and also offer a special thanks to Cindy Slator for the great dessert. Although the weather on Sunday morning was good, most members had hauled out their boats late Saturday evening. Checkout was at 11:00AM and most members were on their way home by then. Fortunately, the weatherman was wrong most of the time and we were able to have a lot of fun on the water during the weekend. Great fun, great food, and great friends; what more can you ask for?



Chef Meatball preparing dinner. Yum!!



# Keels & Wheels Concours d'Elegance May 2nd and 3rd, 2015

By Di Johnson

Texas Chapter members who entered boats in competition at the 2015 Keels and Wheels Concours d'Elegance classic car and boat show were as follows:



Robert Macaluso showed his 1957 16' Crosby Capri, powered by a 1963 Evinrude 40hp Lark. I thought the show's judges lost their minds when this beautiful craft did not bring home a trophy.



In the manner of accolades, Robert and Donna Black and their stunning Aristocraft, powered by a 1957 Johnson Golden Javelin 35hp, won Best in Class of Contemporary Outboards.



Di Johnson with his 1972 Glen-L 8' Hydro "Miss Merc" and its 7.5hp Mercury KG-4 also was applauded Best in Class of Late Classic Outboards.



At Tom Oncken's suggestion, we urged Keels and Wheels Chairman, Bob Fuller, to contact and invite the owners of a scale model of the USS Arizona Battleship to display their unique craft. Accordingly, the 36 foot "scale model" proved to be quite an attraction at the show.

"Kids Build-a-Boat" was again a big hit with all kids wanting to work with tools and wood; how-



ever, event organizer and Texas Chapter member, John Platou, also included the newly added "Kids Build-a-Motor" in his program. John, assisted by chapter member, Alan Bischof, guided over 150 pairs of little hands to construct the 8' dinghy pram, and to disassemble and reassemble an Evinrude 5hp motor several times.



This is a 36 foot long 1:20 scale model of the USS Arizona Battleship BB-39. It actually runs on a pair of 25hp OMC sail drive engines. Remarkable!!

As usual, "Kids Build-a-Boat" receives lots of attention.

First Year "Kids Build-a-Motor" was also a big hit.



Girls over boys seemed to favor messing with the motor. Some kids didn't want to leave our work tent, content to stay with the tools and our coaches. Free tickets were issued to each participating child, and a pair of brothers were the lucky winners of the subsequent drawing held at the end of the show. Official launch and pick-up was held at John Platou's swimming pool, in Crosby, Texas. Way to go kids!!!

Three cheers for John, Alan, and the other dedicated coaches that helped all day Saturday and Sunday. Their dedication is extraordinary.



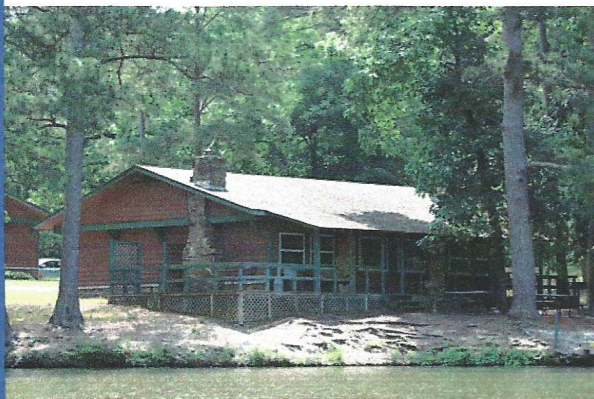
Brothers trying out their new boat in John's pool.

## Annual Lake Catherine Wet Meet May 15th Through 18th, 2015

By Di Johnson

and off for most of the weekend. Rain returned Sunday as folks headed out. The main social get together consisted of a lake side dinner in Hot Springs, Arkansas on Friday evening.

Lake Catherine State Park has some great cabins in the woods. The scenery is absolutely magnificent!



Those folks who attended the meet included Dennis and Sharon Schmidt, Jon and Kenna Wiggins, Damon and Gloria Johns, Dave and Becky Samstag, Doug Samstag, Steve and Andrew Samstag, Brenden Macaluso, Frank Simon, John and Cindy Slator, Andy Zawacki, and Nick Dimaiio with his guest. Forgive me if I missed anyone as we did not have a designated club reporter on site this year. Photo credits are given to Steve Samstag (Dave and Becky's son from South Carolina) and Dennis Schmidt.

Reports from the gang indicate that it rained on



The Samstag Clan enjoying a meal at the meet.



Andrew Samstag getting ready for his first ever Hydro ride while Grandpa Dave looks on.



Members enjoy a Friday dinner in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

Check this out. Andy Zawacki brought his beautiful tunnel hull pickle fork hydro with a 1971 55hp Chrysler. The boat is Hal Kelly's Aquarod design from 1971 plans and was built last year. Andy named it "Blew Bayou" and it is 16 feet long and weighed 215 pounds before



all of its hardware was installed. A few photos appear to the right for you to examine this interesting hydro a little more closely.



Here is Dave Samstag running his Marchetti hydro with 44ci racing motor built by Doug Samstag.



Andrew was checking out Uncle Doug's Hydro "Top Kick" with its Merc 25ss race engine.



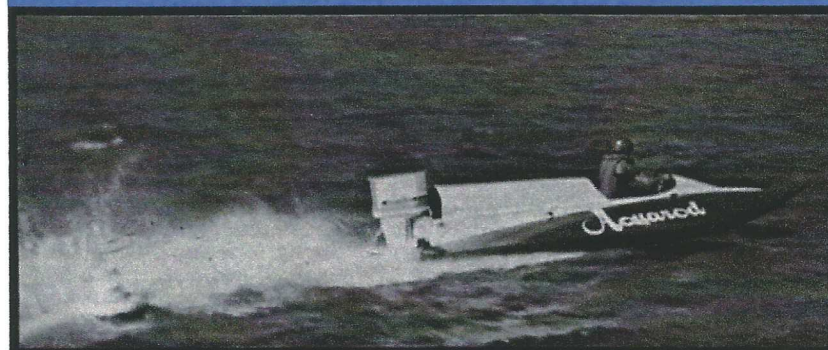
Andrew Samstag taking a turn with his "Clemson University" themed Starcraft boat with its 1963 Mercury 200 rated at a screaming 9.8hp.



Brenden Macaluso runs the family Yellow Jacket powered by its Mercury Mark 55 Thunderbolt outboard motor.

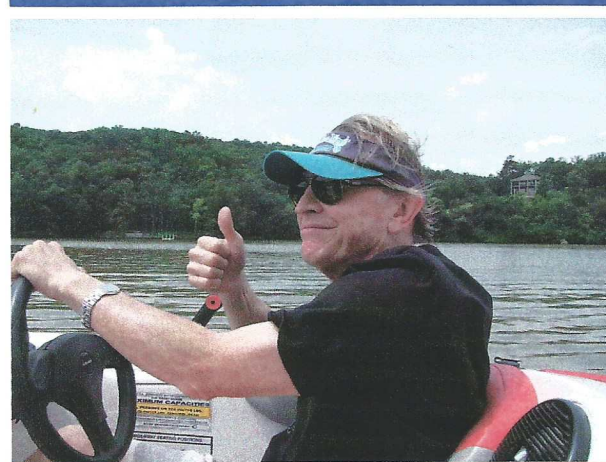


Andy Zawacki's Aquarod with 1971 Chrysler 55hp Outboard.



**Aquarod** Our mile-a-minute racer has key fun ingredients: speed, safety, easy construction.  
By Hal Kelly

From March 1971 Issue of Mechanix Illustrated. Look Familiar?



Dennis Schmidt giving us the A-OK!

"Also rans" without photos included Jon Wiggins running his Elto Ruddertwin which gave him minor issues last year when the gas tank drain plug fell out! He also ran his grandfather's green-jacketed 1948 Johnson 5 HP.

That brings us to the end of another fun-filled adventure in Lake Catherine State Park until next year. Everyone should make this trip at least once in their life. Hope to see you there in 2016!



# Lake Houston Annual Wet/Swap Meet

By Di Johnson

John Platou, Jeff Workman and Adam Finn prepared a fine wet meet (emphasizing "WET") event for Saturday, June 13, 2015. A few runs were made before the skies opened up late that morning. Luckily the Indian Shores Community Center building provided a big wrap-a-round porch for gabbing, a large indoor dining area for lunch, and clean indoor restroom facilities.



This is a great venue for our club and we could easily accommodate a much larger group. There is plenty of space for families to assemble. We ended up with right at 31 people which was great considering the weather.

Dock space was more than adequate and every boat could tie up to the dock or bulkhead. Some folks made morning runs keeping one wary eye on the skies including new member, Morten Lovstad, who ran his Kenner Craft powered by a Mercury Mark 30, but then decided to haul it out before lunch.

Adam and Susan Finn assisted by Clinton Russell served up a tasty lunch of grilled jumbo hot-dogs served with Susan Finn's excellent chili. Other fixin's included Fritos, watermelon,



Adam Finn directing traffic and making sure nobody went home hungry.

cookies, and drinks. A new item on the menu this year was a tasty local craft beer.

After lunch the heavens dried up a bit and more folks launched. John Platou brought a fleet including his Cruisers Inc with its 1960 Evinrude 75hp, but he kept it on the trailer in lieu of helping other folks with mechanical and structural fixes. In the water, John had his Jon boat with newer four cylinder Merc 25. Additionally, he and his granddaughter, Emma Bayless, had her Minimost hydro on hand with the 10hp Evinrude Sportwin. He also brought over the original 8' pram dinghy which is the finish-painted Kids-Build-a-Boat template and offered free rowing lessons.



Jeff and Laurie Workman brought their pontoon boat with a super-quiet newer model Merc 90hp 4-stroke and ran that boat throughout the day giving rides to all that wanted. That bimini top sure came in handy during some of the showers.

Jeff Workman did a beautiful job of restoring the lower cowls for my Mercury KE-7 and he delivered them to me at the meet. What a superb metal craftsman! Thanks Jeff, those cowls look great!



Bob and Brenden Macaluso launched Bob's beautiful Crosby with its Lark 40hp after lunch and made several fly-by runs hoping yours truly would capture that "One Shot" photo of all photos. That didn't happen due to my flummoxing with my camera zoom feature, but the boat



looked great and sounded nice on the water.



Dan and Misty Peoples brought their Port-a-Boat and assembled it before our very eyes with many helping hands. The transom clamps on his 1955



Johnson 10 hp would not straddle a newly beefed-up transom plate, so John Platou dashed home, made a marine plywood replacement, and then Dan launched without further problems.



Jeff Workman's friend, Dennis Panofsky, brought his Lone Star boat with a 1956 Johnson 15hp that



needed a part which was missing in order to make it run. Once again, John Platou came to the rescue by robbing the part from the 10hp on Emma's Minimost and away launched Dennis!!



Richard Kairis discussing a few bargains with John Slator.

John Slator brought some motors, controls, assorted parts, and gas tanks. Seems like I almost always need something in John's parts pile.

David Coffey, Jr. and Sr. were both on hand with Junior enthusiastically offering assistance to all. David, Jr. also showed off his newly acquired 1970's vintage Mercury 25ss racing motor.

Tom Oncken rivaled John with a truck load of motors, parts, and shrouds he claimed were part of his downsizing efforts. Member Mark Todd took home many freebie items that Tom offered to any good home. Tom's friend, Jerry Ball, was



Tom Oncken ran his version of the television show, The Price is Right. "Come on down!" was the call as others moved stuff from Tom's truck to their vehicles.

intently interested in all the happenings and was fired up about our motor hobby.

Other members were present but boatless and/or motorless including Rich Kairis, Todd Cook, Captain Gary Keeney, Mark Betner, and yours truly armed with my un-mastered Fuji camera. Alan Bischoff, our senior Kids-Build-a-Boat coach, was also on hand to enjoy the festivities.

For the boatless, there was plenty of friendly gabbing and visiting. Spouses Cindy Slator and Susan Finn caught up and shared stories about the recent Lake Catherine meet. It was just a nice day to just sit and relax. A good time was had by all in spite of the pesky rain showers.





**SINCE 1966**

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

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### **Di Johnson, Vice President**

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(281) 682-0968 Cell**

### **Chip Rathbun, Secretary/Treasurer**

**(469) 549-1879 Home  
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## **Remaining Events for 2015**

### **Texas AOMCI Fall Wet Meet on Lake LBJ — October 16-18, 2015**

Just like our spring meet, the fall meet is another must to attend at Lake LBJ at the Longhorn Resort.

Our fall meet is scheduled at Lake LBJ at the Longhorn Resort in Kingsland, Texas. Meet dates are Friday, October 16 through October 18, 2015. Lake LBJ is a constant level lake that is more like a river surrounded by a lot of natural beauty in the heart of the Texas hill country. This meet is both a great wet meet with plenty of time to run your old boat and motor, as well as a sell/swap meet, so 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. This meet is enjoyed by all and a great chance to get to know some of your fellow club members better. The Longhorn Resort is located on the water with comfortable cabins with kitchens. Go to their website to gain more information and photos at [www.longhornresort.com](http://www.longhornresort.com). For reservations call: (325) 388-4343. Longhorn Resort is located at 151 Melodie Lane, Kingsland, TX 78639. If you like the outdoors, fresh air, good food, and great company, you cannot afford to miss this meet. You will not be disappointed.

### **Louis Rothermel's Sell/Swap Meet — November 13-15, 2015**

This dry meet has traditionally been attended by members from Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Mississippi, and all over and is looked forward to by many in our club. Louis Rothermel is a former Vice President of the International AOMCI, a longstanding member and past officer of the Texas Chapter, and has been a great host of this annual sell/swap meet or over 20 years.

Bring your old outboard motors, parts, boats, vintage toy outboards and boats, vintage fishing equipment, and anything related to outboard motors. Bring boats, motors, or any related items that you would like to sell, trade, display, or repair and you are guaranteed to have three days of fun. Louis makes his well-equipped machine shop and run tank available for all members to fix, tune, and run motors. Several professional outboard service and repairmen will be on site and can help with your restoration problems. On Saturday each year, we cater in a traditional Texas BBQ lunch from Pappas Brothers for a very nominal fee. Hotels for out-of-town visitors will be listed at a later date or you can call Louis now. As always, the address of the meet is 5910 Star Lane, Houston, Texas 77057. Contact Louis at (713) 783-6300 if you have any questions.

Each year, Louis mails out over 300 invitations to individuals, dealers, and anyone else who has shown an interest in selling or trading old outboards and related items. If you know someone you wish to invite, please send the information to Louis so he can add them to the annual invitation list. We hope to see you all there.