

"THE ORIGINAL"

TEXAS CHAPTER

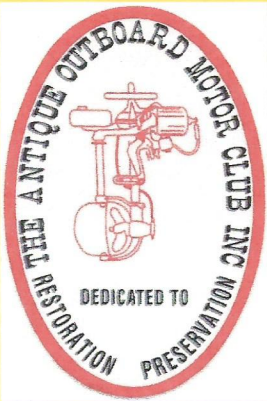
ANTIQUE OUTBOARD
MOTOR CLUB, INC.



Texas Chapter News

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Happy New Year Texas Chapter!!

By Tom Oncken

As we begin a new year of outboarding, our Texas Chapter celebrates its 50th anniversary this year as the first and oldest of all chapters in AOMCI. The exact starting point of our chapter is difficult to pinpoint; however, it is generally accepted that our chapter's starting point occurred at about the same time as "The Great Race" held on Lake Dallas near Dallas, Texas on August 20, 1966. This was the first of our club's wet meets, with Dave Reinhartsen organizing and hosting the event. With that in mind, perhaps we can have a formal birthday celebration for our Texas Chapter later this year.

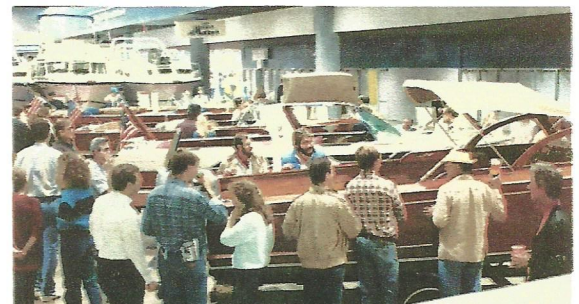
In closing out business for 2015, I wish to thank Di Johnson for his service as Vice President over the past four years. His years of service and commitment to the Texas Chapter are greatly appreciated. He has also served as our webmaster for the Texas Chapter web site. Doug Samstag has graciously accepted the webmaster position and I have assumed the Vice President's job. I hope Doug and I can both live up to the standards as set by Di.

On a sad note, we lost two of our long-time Texas Chapter members last year. Don Dwiggins of Atkins, Arkansas passed away on February 23, 2015 and Johnnie Reid of Austin, Texas passed away on November 20, 2015.

Don served as our Texas Chapter President from 1998 through 2000 and then served as AOMCI First Vice President from 2001 until 2002. Don's legacy includes our annual Lake Catherine State Park wet meet held near Hot Springs, Arkansas. I have submitted a belated "Markings" article about Don which will appear in the April 2016 issue of The Antique Outboarder.

Until a few years ago before he began losing his eyesight, Johnnie Reid restored a great number of antique outboards with a special touch. I believe I still have one of Johnnie's restorations in my personal collection. I do not know very much about Johnnie's past, but would be willing to help someone submit a "Markings" article in his honor. If you are interested in authoring an article, please contact me and let's see if we can get it in before the February 10th deadline for the April 2016 issue of The Antique Outboarder. We will need photos to support the article, so begin looking for a few photos of Johnnie soon.

Once again, the Texas Chapter of AOMCI has been invited to co-host an exhibit with the Southwest Chapter of the Antique & Classic Boat Society, Inc. at the Houston International Boat, Sport & Travel Show. The event is being held in the NRG Center in Houston, Texas from January 8th through January 17th. As in the past few years, Adam Finn and Di Johnson are handling arrangements for this show. If you have any questions about the exhibit, feel free to contact them. If this year is anything like last year, it is an excellent exhibit space in the main lobby near the ticket sales booths. So, come out and help us celebrate our 30th year in this show.

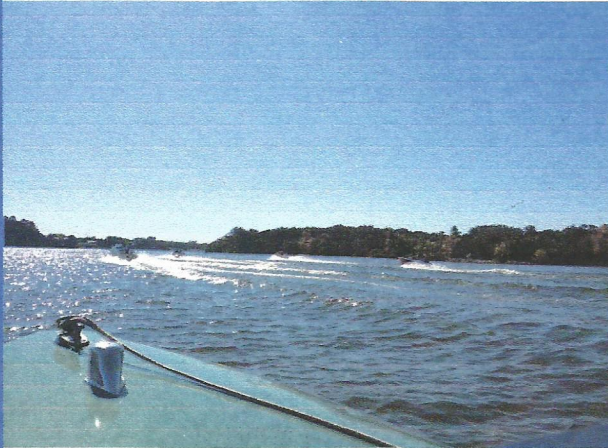


The first wooden boat exhibit in 1987 at the Houston Astrohall had one outboard boat, one antique outboard motor, and no railing system.

Annual Fall Wet Meet at Lake LBJ October 16-18, 2015

by Tom Oncken

Something incredible occurred during our wet meet on Lake LBJ from October 16th through October 18th it did not rain! Unlike all of our prior meets in 2015 that had been either threatened or postponed by sloppy or cold weather, the weather at this meet was perfect. There were sunny skies with barely a cloud appearing, high temperatures in the low to mid 80s, morning tem-



Check out that blue sky!! We had not seen much of this at wet meets in 2015.

peratures in the low 60s, light cool breezes throughout the day, and somewhat smoother water to run on. If you did not attend this particular meet, you really missed out. It could not have been nicer.

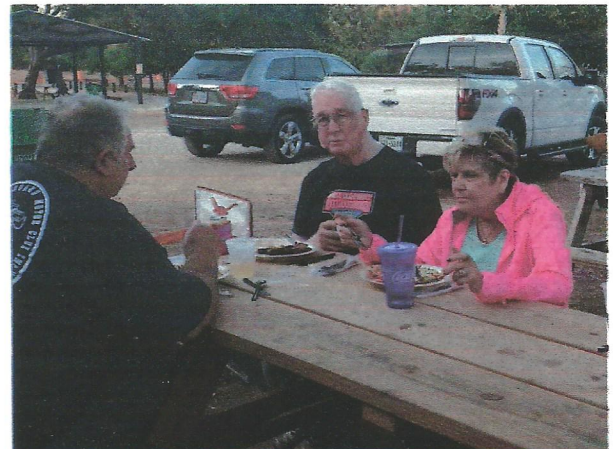
As usual, Friday was the arrival day with some members appearing early and running their boats, and others arriving later in the afternoon to sit in front of the cabins to visit with old friends. My wife, Cyndi, decided to accompany me to this meet so she could get away from the rat race in Houston. Our primary concern while making the trip was whether or not the forest fires in the Bastrop area would cause us delay during the drive up to the meet. The good news was that we never saw any flames or smoke on Highway 71; however, the bad news was the traffic. There was heavy congestion all the way from Pasadena to Spicewood. Of course, we had to stop in Spicewood to enjoy the cuisine at Opie's Bar-B-Q, one of Louis Rothermel's favorite hangouts. We ate in the restaurant so we could partake of the special butter beans that Opie's provides to dine-in guests only. We left stuffed and happy with doggie bag in hand, and then continued on our way to Kingsland. By the time we arrived at the Longhorn Resort, several members were taking off to visit their favorite nearby Mexican restaurant. It must have been very good because everyone returned with satisfied grins on their

faces.

We had a great attendance this year as 36 individuals made it to the meet including the following: Bruce Bethke, David Coffee Jr., David Sr. and Sylvia Coffee, Adam and Susie Finn, Gary Keeney, John Kremp and his son Johnathan, Stan Kremp, Joe McCauley and Cornelia Kueffner, Jerry and Rocky Lindamood, Joe and Nelda Moore, Meatball Murray and Caroline Holton, Tom and Cyndi Oncken, Chip and Marilyn Rathbun, Dave and Gail Reinhartsen, Louis Rothermel, Dave Samstag, Doug Samstag, Dennis and Sharon Schmitt, Peter Schultz, John and Cindy Slator, and last but not least, "Scott-Atwater Al" and Katie Smith along with their two beautiful daughters, Addison and Abigail.

On Saturday morning, members were invited to participate in a very special breakfast provided by Cornelia Kueffner consisting of a special skillet dish of potatoes, onions, and cheese. Marilyn Rathbun helped with some cut up fresh fruit. Everyone who participated was very complimentary of their early morning feast. What an unexpected treat! Thank you, ladies.

Since October 2015 marked the actual 50th anniversary of the Antique Outboard Motor Club, Inc., we were honored to have special visitors arrive at this meet on Saturday. Dave Reinhartsen, Founder of AOMCI, along his wonderful wife, Gail, decided to make a return to the Texas Chapter for the first time in over 20 years. Dave commented that the primary differences now versus then, were the very limited number of antique outboards versus the large number of



Chip Rathbun (left) visiting with Dave and Gail Reinhartsen.

classic varieties on hand, and a somewhat lighter amount of running time for boats on the water. He was impressed with the large turnout of ladies and other family members at the meet, as well as the great camaraderie of the members present, something that our Texas Chapter has been well known for since its birth in 1966.

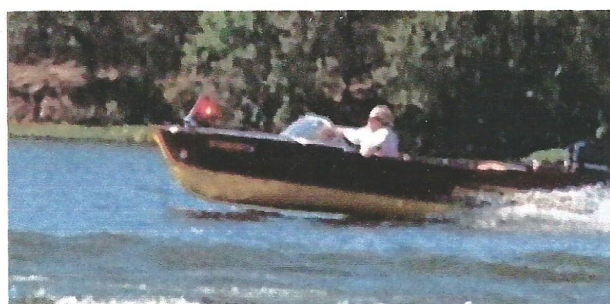
For the racing fans, Doug and Dave Samstag ran



their Marchetti hydroplane (above) with its 44ci Mark 58AH outboard, Dennis Schmitt ran his Marchetti hydro powered by his Evinrude 45ss race engine, and although not on a boat, David Coffee, Jr. took the opportunity to show off his Mercury Merc 25ss race motor that he acquired as a result of his participation in the Houston International Boat, Sport & Travel Show last January. I was told that David was on a fact finding mission.



Bruce Bethke (above) ran his 1968 SoonerCraft 17' fiberglass tri-hull powered by its original Chrysler 105HP outboard, Meatball Murray (below) ran his beautiful wooden Yellow Jacket



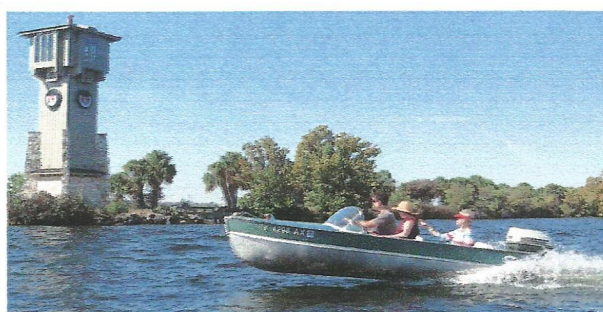
runabout with its vintage Mercury Merc 850, Chip

Rathbun buzzed around in his fiberglass 1958 Corson with its Johnson V-4, Jerry Lindamood ran his beautifully constructed self-made wooden Lindy Craft with its powerful Mercury 115HP, and



"Scott-Atwater Al" Smith brought his fiberglass Glaspar G-3 powered by (what else?) a 75HP Scott.

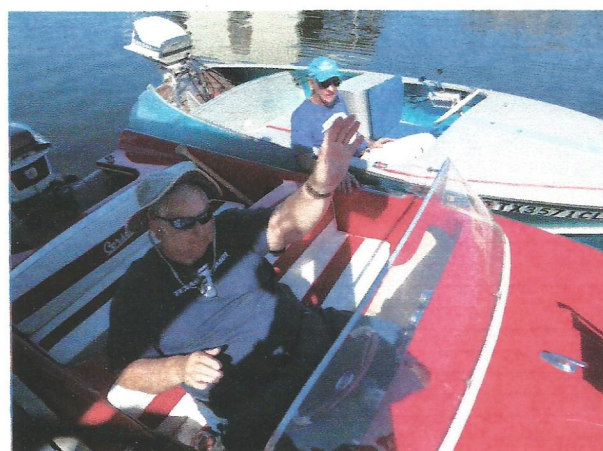
As usual, aluminum boats were abundant. Adam Finn ran his 1959 Alumacraft with its Johnson 40HP, John Kemp ran an aluminum boat powered by a low profile Evinrude 15HP, Stan Kremp



Taking a cruise in a home-built Lindy Craft.

Adam Finn and crew checking out the sights on the lake.

scooted along the water with his Alumacraft powered by a Mercury Mark 25, Joe McCauley gave tours in his Feather Craft Vagabond with its 1960 Scott 40, and John Slator had some fun in his Lone Star boat with a 1983 Johnson 35HP outboard. Joe also brought his 10½' Feather Craft with a 1957 18HP Johnson rigged to it. To drive



Chip Rathbun and Joe McCauley are ready to play.

from the front, he attached an unusual PVC pipe tiller extension to the motor. I understand that the little boat played a trick on Joe and made him take a quick swim at one point.

Two of the less fortunate members at this meet included Peter Schultz and me. Peter was enjoying a run in his Alumacraft boat powered by a beautiful blue Mercury Mark 30 outboard. Unfortunately, something went terribly wrong as the Mark 30 physically blew out a sparkplug. Thank goodness for paddles, huh Peter?? I have nothing to brag about as I decided I should drive my



Some of the "Old" guard from left to right: Tom Oncken, Dave Reinhartsen, Joe McCauley, Meatball Murray, & Louis Rothermel.

wife's 2004 Trailblazer for this trip because my older Suburban was having some issues and I wanted to have fun without worrying about car trouble. Saturday morning, I volunteered to take someone to the other boat ramp to get their vehicle, but the Trailblazer would not start and I could not make it shift. Every mechanic shop in Kingsland was closed and I was beginning to think we were staying through Monday. Bruce Bethke came to the rescue as he discovered a shift cable clip had broken off of the transmission. With a little rigging, he was able to tie the shifter cable back on with a pair of wire ties that allowed us to return to Houston to have the problem repaired permanently. Thanks Bruce! You certainly made my trip considerably better.

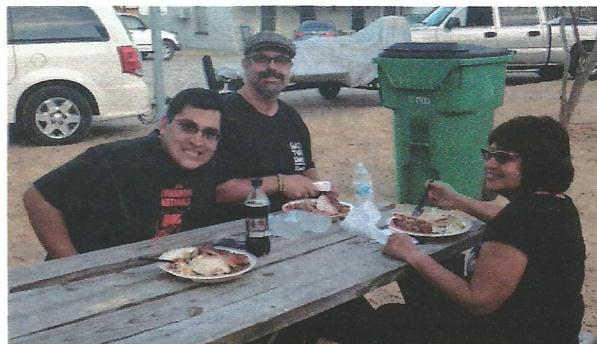


The buffet line for Bar-B-Q, side dishes, and various other goodies.

As usual, we had our Texas Chapter victory dinner on Saturday evening. Dave Reinhartsen explained that "victory dinner" was a term he initiated during the earliest meets to honor the success of those antique motors that actually ran during the meet (of course Peter and I had not been so victorious). An excellent Bar-B-Q dinner was provided by Adam and Susie Finn. For a nominal \$10 fee, the dinner included beef brisket, sausage, and turkey breast along with all of

the fixings to compliment the meal. Cindy Slator provided a fabulous cherry cobbler and Katie Smith and Dave Samstag's wife, Becky, provided excellent cookies. Being preoccupied with my car troubles, please forgive me ladies if I accidentally overlooked thanking anyone. You know that we guys would be lost if not for your participation and guidance.

Following dinner, Adam Finn addressed the members and discussed a few items about new



David Coffey, Jr., David Coffey, Sr., and Sylvia Coffey enjoying a great Bar-B-Q dinner.

Longhorn Resort rental and reservation policies as well as the next meet to be held on Lake LBJ in Kingsland on the weekend of April 8, 9, and 10, 2016. Afterwards, Adam thanked Doug Samstag for graciously volunteering to assume the task as our Texas Chapter webmaster. Thanks Doug, we appreciate your assistance with the web site. I, for one, could not handle that job.



Katie and Abigail Smith at the victory dinner.

Officer elections for the 2016-2017 term were discussed. Adam announced that he and Chip Rathbun would be continuing as President and Secretary/Treasurer respectively in 2016 since there were no other nominations for their two positions by the due date given for submissions. Di Johnson had already given notice that he would not be seeking re-election as Vice President. As a result of a light submission of nominations for the Vice President position, the Texas Chapter members will have to put up with me (Tom Oncken) as your next Vice President

beginning in 2016. (Note: A confirmation vote was subsequently taken at Louis Rothermel's Houston swap meet in November to formally elect Adam, Chip, and me as the officers for the upcoming term from 2016 through 2017.)

Dave and Gail Reinhartsen were introduced to the members at the conclusion of the victory dinner. Dave gave a brief heartfelt address. It was good to see him back with the Texas Chapter where he belongs. It has been too long, Dave.

Customarily, most of the boating activities are done by Sunday morning with maybe a few

energetic exceptions. After the usual handshakes, hugs, and various goodbyes, members starting making their way back home.

I would like to offer a special thanks to Dave and Gail for taking their time to come to this special 50th anniversary meet so we could share in the celebration of AOMCI with them. Keep in mind that in 2016, we are celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Texas Chapter. The first ever wet meet was held near Dallas, Texas in August 1966, and Dave has proclaimed that meet as our chapter's official beginning. From my perspective, it has been one heck of a ride.

22nd Annual Houston Swap Meet November 13th - 15th, 2015

By Di Johnson

Individuals who attended the 22nd Annual Louis Rothermel Houston Swap Meet included the following: Host Louis Rothermel, Co-Host Tom Oncken, Tom Ashe, Jerry Ball, Mark Betner, Alan Bischof, Carleton Callahan, Allan Carter, David Coffey, Jr., David Coffey, Sr., Tom Croasdale and Pat Nichols, Dave DeMoia, Weldon Eklund, Adam Finn, E. J. Fournet, John Graf, Lloyd Greer, George Gustafson, Bruce Henderson, Dan Jarvis, Di Johnson, Captain Gary Keeney, Stan Kremp, Dan and Wanda Kubecka, Dominick Leva, Bob Macaluso, Brenden Macaluso, Joe McCauley and Cornelia Kueffner, Harold McGuire, John McRae, Bruce Miller, Meatball Murray, Mike Oncken, John Platou, Chip Rathbun, Rich Reich, Clinton Russell, Howard and Annie Sandoz, Mark Schmidt, John Slator, Ed Slominski, Al Smith, Grant Taylor, and Vince and Cole Whelan. [We apologize if we overlooked anyone as most of these names were taken directly from the official sign-in sheet. Other names were retrieved from our failing memories. At last count, we recorded 49 individuals in attendance at one time or another.]



Over 20 years ago, these two young fellows fought with a stubborn Mercury outboard at the Houston meet. Check the end of this article to see Dave DeMoia's photo of their reunion in November 2015.

After some early bargaining and trading on Friday afternoon, John Slator, Adam Finn, Stan Kremp, Joe McCauley with his bride Cornelia Kueffner, and Di Johnson headed to the Jax Grille in Bellaire for burgers and more.

We had very nice weather, neither too hot, nor too cold, and things resumed on Saturday morning with Louis hosting coffee and donuts.

Louis opened up an unoccupied bay for us to display in, but compared to past years, there



were considerably fewer motors from our members to ponder. Even though Louis and Tom picked up motors from two local marine dealers,



there was a lot of outside open space left over.

John Slator and Di Johnson set up early and were able to move some motors and accessories to new homes. Di Johnson sold three motors and brought his fine looking Mark 58-powered 1957 Feather Craft. On Friday, Joe McCauley helped Di get the bugs out of his plagued dead magneto resulting in a good solid spark. Yea!!

Motors offered for sale by Bowden Marine of Humble, TX.

Motors offered for sale by Gibbs Marine of Houston, TX (Gibbs was closed on December 31, 2014).

Joe McCauley and Di Johnson working on Di's nice Mercury Mark 58 mounted on his 1957 Feather Craft.



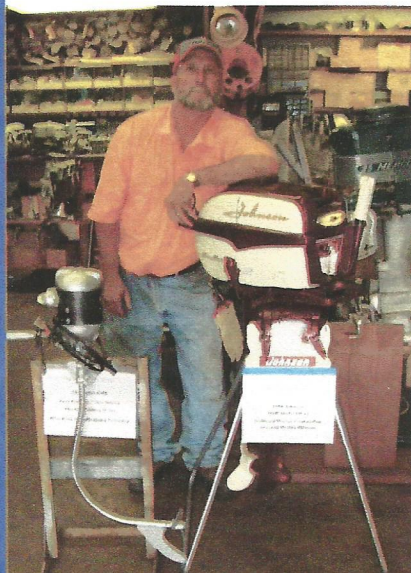
Vince and Cole Whelan brought a Dallas, Texas manufactured plywood-constructed "Continental" outboard runabout powered by a 1956 Evinrude Big Twin 30hp outboard. No sale, but a lot of looky-loos and at least one inquiry.

Joe McCauley brought his 10½' shiny Feather Craft powered by an 18hp Johnson. It was a good thing that the sun was not shining too brightly. The glare would have been blinding.

Other guys that brought stuff were David Coffey, Jr. and Dominick Leva. Dominick brought motors in a miniature trailer towed by a Smart Car. Actually, Dominick returned to his home in Austin on Friday night so he could bring additional motors on Saturday morning. Way to go, Dominick!!

Jerry Ball wowed everyone with his enthusiasm as a fired-up new member. He showed off his immaculately restored 1958 Johnson 18HP Sea Horse and a one-of-a-kind restored 1935 Minn-Kota electric trolling motor that he rescued for \$5.00 from a scrap heap. Really cool!!!

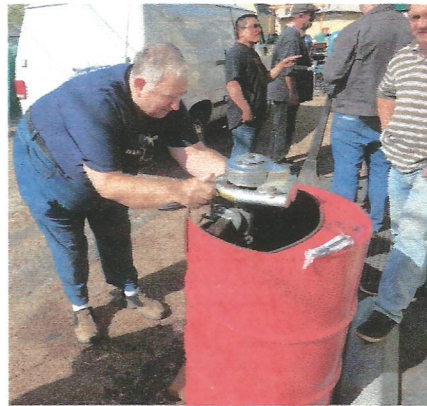
Jerry Ball of Pasadena, Texas, proudly displayed his two motors at the swap meet. The Johnson is also appearing at the 2016 Houston International Boat Sport & Travel Show.



Chip Rathbun had an exceptional display of older outboard motors. His nicely restored 1939 Evinrude Mate ½HP and 1938 Johnson MS-38 1.1HP were incredibly well done. Chip ran the MS-38

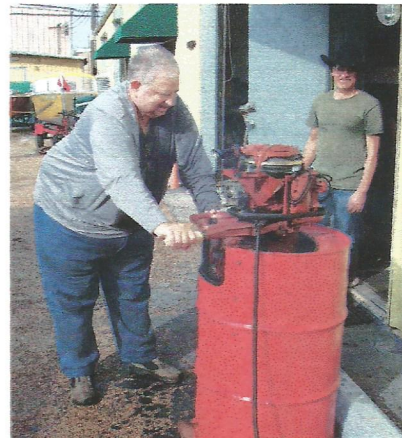
(affectionately referred to as a "sausage tank" motor) and it purred like a kitten. Great job

Chip! Several members drooled as they passed Chip's exhibit which also included a 1939 Elto Cub ½HP in its original shipping box.



Chip running his 1938 Johnson outboard. Beautiful restoration!

Chip performed above and beyond the call of duty on Saturday when he assisted Stan Kremp in making his Johnson 18HP outboard run properly. Stan had to buy a "parts motor" from the Gibbs Marine offerings so he could appropriate some ignition parts from its magneto plate to resurrect his Johnson. When Chip was finished, he had that motor purring also, and Stan had a big grin as he carried it back to his vehicle.



Chip was busy this weekend as he made Stan Kremp's 1957 Johnson 18hp purr like a kitten as Dominick Leva watches.

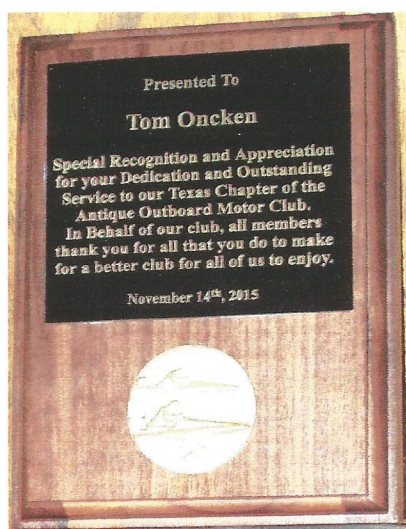
Several motors took a turn in the run tank, including Di Johnson's 1968 Merc 110 9.8hp which now runs, but needs new fuel lines – drat that ethanol!!!

We wish to thank William Bowden of Bowden Marine and Gibbs Warley of Gibbs Marine for displaying a large batch of motors for sale at this year's swap meet. Bowden Marine offered ten outboards, two Mercury gas tanks, and a set of cowlings for a Merc 500. All sold with exception of three outboards and the cowlings set. Gibbs Marine offered sixteen outboards (a couple were bare bones parts motors), some parts catalogs and other literature, and a few extra props and prop nuts. The only things remaining were two TD-20 Johnsons and the box of extra props and nuts.

For lunch on Saturday, Louis and Tom Oncken organized the collection and hosting of a true Texas BBQ feast for \$10 per person which included sliced brisket, savory sausage, beans, potato salad, and coleslaw. Cornelia Kueffner brought a delicious layered apple dessert which really classed-up the place. She also brought a cherry compote-type dessert on Friday that was also delicious. Great fare always tastes better outside. Oh... don't we all love the aroma of BBQ and 2 cycle motor smoke in the afternoon?

After lunch, Texas Chapter President, Adam Finn, gave an update on finances, recent events and activities, and future events. We held an election of chapter officers voting in incumbents Adam Finn as President and Chip Rathbun as Secretary/Treasurer for a third term. Tom Oncken was

voted in as the new Vice President and was then honored by Adam for his contributions to the chapter as the newsletter guru (see the plaque on the left). Adam also passed thanks around to Louis Rothermel and Tom Oncken for organizing this meet.



Adam acknowledged Morgan Ziller (not in attendance) for donating his 1956 10HP Evinrude for our raffle on Saturday. The lucky winner was Brenden Macaluso. We raised \$155 for the motor which was added to our chapter treasury. Thanks Morgan.

Things began to wind down earlier than normal on Saturday afternoon due to a much thinner crowd than in previous years. A handful of individuals stayed until closing at 6:00PM and shared stories and tales from the past.

Attendance on Sunday was also very light. Tom Oncken helped Jerry Ball rebuild a carburetor on a 1957 Johnson JW 3HP that he had purchased at last year's meet. Before you ask, of course it ran perfectly. Joe McCauley worked on a Mercury Mark 20 and a 1957 Johnson JW 3HP that he had purchased the day before from the dealer displays. Louis Rothermel spent some time tinkering with his 1946 Mercury KD-4 6HP that he

had purchased from the Bowden Marine offerings. Primarily, Louis removed mud dauber nests from behind the front cowling and spent some time degreasing the old motor. She looked pretty nice when he was through. A few other individuals came by and looked around, but had no motors they wanted to work on.

For lunch on Sunday, we finished off the leftover barbecue and fixings from Saturday's feast. Add that to all of the stories that were shared over the weekend, Sunday became an appropriate end to a great gathering.

Well, that's all for this year. Our 22nd Annual Houston Swap Meet was another success. We look forward to doing it again next year, if Louis and Tom are up to it.

Remember the photo on page 5 of the two determined Mercury repairmen? The end of that story is as follows:



The above photo of Mike Oncken and Brenden Macaluso was taken by Dave DeMoia of Beau Bridge Louisiana. Thanks Dave!

Both of these young men have come a long way over the past 20 years. Mike Oncken is married with three children and is employed as a Building Engineer with Jones Lang LaSalle in the Medical Center. Brenden has degrees at the University of Texas at Austin and the University of Houston, and serves as Shop Director at Common Motor Collective in the downtown Houston area. Both of these young gentlemen remain very busy in their private lives and cannot spend the quality time with their old outboard motors like they used to. Unfortunately, family, work, and paying the bills comes first now (sound familiar?). It was good to see them both at Louis' meet this past November. Hope to see you again next time, guys.



SINCE 1966
"The Original" Texas Chapter
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Upcoming Events for 2016

61st Houston International Boat, Sport & Travel Show — January 8 through January 17, 2016

This marks the 30th year that the Texas Chapter of AOMCI has participated in the dealer boat show held in Houston, Texas. By the time this newsletter reaches you, we will have already assembled our display for this year; however, we invite everyone to come by the NRG Center and see the exhibit shared with the Southwest Chapter of ACBS and spend some time visiting about old boats and old outboard motors. Over the years, we have exhibited our boats and motors in the Houston Astrodome, George R. Brown Convention Center (Houston Summer Boat Show), Astroarena, and currently, the NRG Center (formerly Reliant Center). Contacts: Adam Finn (713) 823-4091 and Di Johnson (281) 682-0968.

Lake Conroe Wet/Buy/Sell/Swap Meet — March 12, 2016

This is a one day event at Lake Conroe on Saturday, March 12th, 2016. The meet will be held from 9:00AM to 5:00PM at Stow-A-Way Marina located at 13988 Calvary Road, in Willis, Texas, 3.5 miles west of Exit # 97 on I-45. We will gather at the large covered pavilion next to the boat launch. Free boat launch and boat slips are available at the marina for our members. There is also a full-service convenience store on the site. Bring your boats to run and bring motors to display, sell, or trade. David Coffey, Sr. is hosting this meet and will be providing lunch for a token \$5 per person. Stow-A-Way Marina's primary telephone number is (936) 856-4531. Contact: David Coffey, Sr. (281) 831-9146. David's email address is sunliner53@me.com.

Spring Wet Meet at Lake LBJ in Kingsland, Texas — April 8 through April 10, 2016

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. We plan on having boat cruises and a picnic style dinner on Saturday evening. Longhorn Resort is located on the water and provides comfortable cabins with kitchens. There is plenty of dock space and slips available. For more information, visit their web site at www.longhornresort.com. To make reservations, contact Longhorn Resort at (325) 388-4343. We hope to see you there.

Annual Lake Catherine Wet Meet — May 11 through May 15, 2016

Come out and experience the picturesque beauty and steep canyons that surround Lake Catherine State Park in Hot Springs, Arkansas. Enjoy the incredible natural beauty of this area while spending some fun time with other club members. While you are there, don't forget to make a side trip to "downtown" Hot Springs and experience the original health bath attraction of the area. The state park cabins are very well appointed, quite nice, and comfortable. Our club has reserved 12 cabins for this meet so don't wait too long to make your reservations for a cabin. Cabins rent from \$87.00 to \$107.00 per night depending upon their style and/or size. There is a 30 day cabin cancellation policy requirement at the state park to avoid being charged for one night's stay. Our reservations for the 12 cabins will expire on April 1st, and that is no April Fool's joke either, so call and make your reservations as soon as possible. The ranger station address is 1200 Catherine Park Road, Hot Springs, AR 71913. To make your reservations, please contact the rangers at the state park by calling (800) 264-2422 or by email at lakecatherine@arkansas.com. Don't miss it!!