

"THE ORIGINAL"

TEXAS CHAPTER

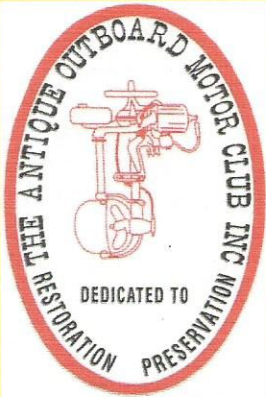
ANTIQUE OUTBOARD
MOTOR CLUB, INC.



Texas Chapter News

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A New Year's Message for 2017

By Tom Oncken

It is really hard to believe that another year has passed by and the New Year has already arrived. The officers of our chapter hope that you all had a very Merry Christmas and wish you a prosperous new year ahead. May peace and good health be with you throughout this year.

As our chapter begins its 51st year in the Antique Outboard Motor Club, Inc., I wanted to reach out to our current membership and ask for your help.

You all should be aware that anyone who is a member of the Texas Chapter must also be a member of the Antique Outboard Motor Club, Inc. The Texas Chapter is not a club, but is actually a subsidiary of AOMCI which is incorporated as a 501(c) organization in Florida. If your membership in AOMCI has expired, or is about to expire, I am asking that you please consider re-joining or renewing that membership as soon as possible. If our Texas Chapter includes individuals on our roster who are not members of AOMCI, we jeopardize our right to exist as a chapter of AOMCI, and could lose our charter as a result. If you need help getting your membership reinstated or renewed in the AOMCI, I would be very happy to assist you in any way that I can. Please feel free to contact me directly. My contact information is printed on the back of this newsletter.

With that said, another thing I have noticed is that the Texas Chapter is shrinking in size. At the turn of the century, our Texas Chapter membership rose to a high of 238 members. I still have a roster from 2000 that shows this number, and all individuals listed on that roster were also shown in the AOMCI roster. When I received my last Texas Chapter roster, membership is now only 97 members. We have lost several members over the past few years due to their deaths. Other members took on new interests and simply decided not to renew. This is not just a problem in the State of

Texas. The nationwide trend in AOMCI has also been one where the average age of a member is nearing retirement age and recruiting new younger members has become somewhat difficult. If the organization is to survive, we must attract new members, and we must retain existing members.

So, here is my New Year's challenge to all of you. Try to convince 2 people to join AOMCI this year. If half of us can convince 2 people to join and the other half convinces only 1 person to join, our Texas Chapter membership would increase to around 242 members which would be an all time high.

You may ask, "Where do I find these people?" That answer is much more simple than you may realize. We will be participating in the 2017 Houston International Boat, Sport & Travel show in NRG Center from January 6th through January 15th. If you volunteer to work at our exhibit, you can talk to the visitors. We will have applications available there. If you collect cash and hand them a receipt, I will use my PayPal account to sign them up with AOMCI and will use my personal checking account to send Chip the appropriate dues for the Texas Chapter.

If you are like me, you probably have friendly neighbors that look in your garages to check out your old toys. Sign them up like I did Jerry Ball last year. If people call you to discuss old motors, invite them to join like I did Royce Strickland last year. It is really not all that difficult.

AOMCI has resurrected the one-year membership as of the end of last year. A one-year membership in AOMCI is \$40 and the Texas Chapter is \$10. Collect \$50 for a one-year membership into AOMCI and its Texas Chapter. AOMCI membership for 2 years is still \$70 and Texas Chapter is \$20. Collect \$90 for a two-year membership into AOMCI and its Texas Chapter. This saves the new member \$10 if they pick the two-year option

over the one-year. We are definitely not the only people collecting old outboards in our 5 state region. Let's find some of those other antique outboard motor nuts and sign them up.

The primary sales pitch that I use is *The Antique Outboarder*. Where else can someone learn about older and antique outboard motors? This is where you can point out that our quarterly publication is "*The Pioneering Authority*" when it comes to old outboard motors. It is a well prepared and professionally edited magazine, and is not just some old photocopied pages thrown together haphazardly.

For the more computer savvy individuals, there are also a pair of valuable web sites available to all members of AOMCI and the Texas Chapter. A wealth of information appears on those sites and a great number of people are available to contact in order to discuss any particular restoration job. Please take a little time this year and try to help your club and chapter grow.

There is one last topic that I would like to address. At the end of this year, the Texas Chapter will once again be seeking nominations for chapter officers, as we do every two years. I have not discussed this topic with Adam; however, I know that by year-end Adam will have served as our President for 6 consecutive years and he has

done an outstanding job in my opinion. I do not know if he is planning to run again, but I will quickly point out that I will not seek the President's position should Adam decide not to accept nomination for another two-year term. I have served in that position at least 3 times since 1989 and I will not take that office again. If health allows at year end, I am open to another term as Vice President. Consideration should also be given to Chip Rathbun. Chip has served as our President for 2 years followed immediately by Secretary/Treasurer for the last 6 years. Like Adam, Chip has served as an officer for a long time and has also done a great job. I do not know if he is considering accepting nomination for another two-year term.

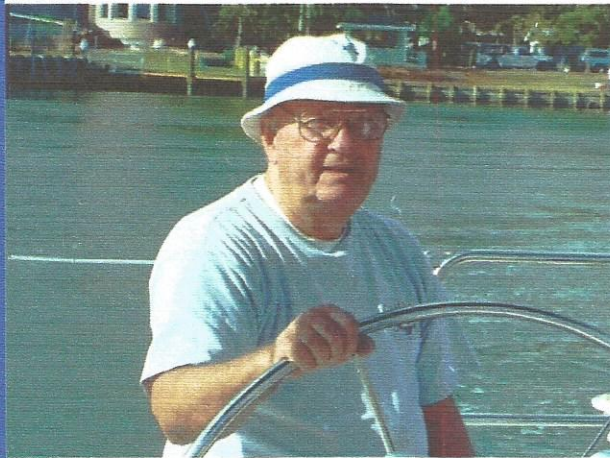
I only decided to bring this issue up so the members can be aware of the pending election at the end of this year. If someone is interested in taking a turn in one of the offices, please let any one the three of us know. This could be your opportunity to take a turn at running the Texas Chapter.

I believe that I have rambled on enough for now and will give it a rest. I look forward to seeing all of you at an event sometime this year. If you have not participated in a while, please come on out and have some fun with us. I do not think you will be disappointed.

Kendall Arthur "Gus" Gustafson

In Memoriam by Tom Oncken

1924 — 2016



It is with deep regret and a heavy heart that I have to inform our Texas Chapter members of the passing of another of our more prominent members who regularly attended our Lake LBJ wet meets. Gus Gustafson passed away on September 8, 2016 at the youthful age of 92.

I did not know Gus well; however, it was not difficult to see that he had a serious need for speed based on the boats and motors that he ran at our meets. I read in his obituary that he was racing one of his boats at 70 miles per hour while in his 90's. I can assure you that I saw him scooting around in some powerful boats at our meets.

Gus was born in Meriden, CT on September 18, 1924. You may not have been aware that Gus attended Mercersburg Academy and joined the Navy during WWII. He served from 1943 to 1952 as a fighter pilot. After his hitch in the Navy, he graduated from the University of Alabama with a Bachelor of Science in Aeronautical Engineering and a Masters in Engineering. He put his degrees to work when he became employed by Chance Vought (later known as LTV Aerospace) in 1951 assigned to missiles and spacecraft. He retired from LTV in 1985 as the Deputy Director of the Anti-Satellite Program which was a successful missile program designed to "intercept and destroy" orbiting satellites. A few years later, he was recognized as a Distinguished Engineering Alumni at the University of Alabama for his good work.

Gus was an avid sailor, hunter, skier and enjoyed racing outboard motor boats. Family time



was incredibly important to Gus. He was active in the Boy Scouts of America where his three sons earned the title of Eagle Scout.

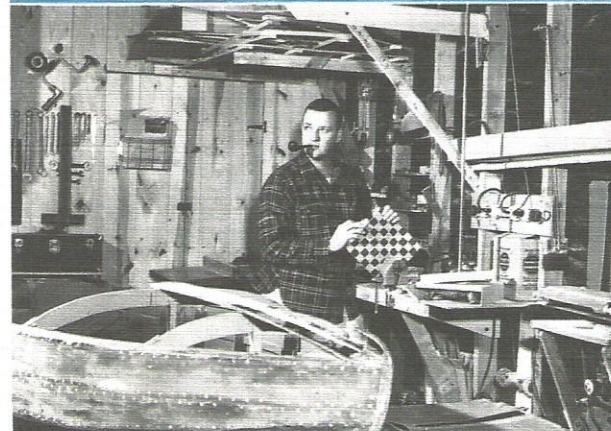
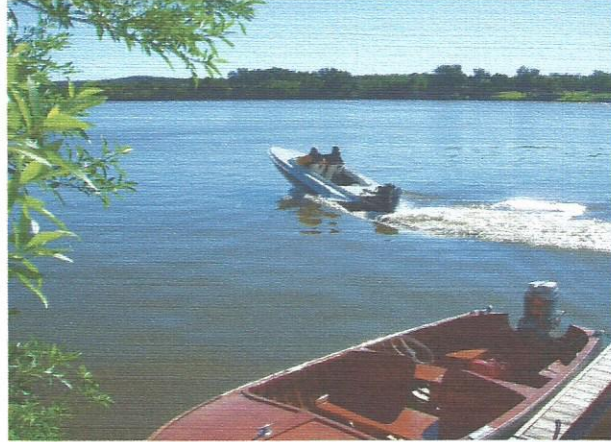


It is obvious that the term "Putt-Putt" does not apply to Gus' boats as shown in the above photos.



Gus at the Saturday Afternoon victory dinner at one of the Lake LBJ meets.

We offer our condolences to Gus' son and past President of the Texas Chapter, George Gustafson. George, we hope you will continue to come to the meets and bring some of Gus' toys with you. It just will not be the same unless someone is scooting across the water at high speeds.



In reference to the top three photos on the right side:

1. Test It.
2. Move away from the docks.
3. Haul butt!

Proof that Gus worked on boats other than racers in his younger days.

Kingsland Fall Wet Meet

October 14 — 16, 2016

By Tom Oncken

By all accounts, we had another successful and enjoyable meet on Lake LBJ this past October. The weather turned out to be especially agreeable, much more so than we had seen at all other meets during 2016. Some members arrived on Thursday to get a head-start on the festivities.

Cornelia Kueffner and Marilyn Rathbun started things off right on Friday morning by providing a fine breakfast. Then, Adam Finn in his Alumacraft boat, Chip Rathbun in his Corson boat, and

Adam Finn looking Presidential for the trip to Ink's Lake Dam.



Joe McCauley with Jerry Lindamood in Joe's Power Cat boat (all powered by Johnson outboards) took a trip up to Ink's Lake Dam via the Colorado River.

Chip Rathbun in front with Joe McCauley and Jerry Lindamood running next to him.



Many of us arrived later throughout the day on Friday, April 14th, and broke up into groups later in the evening to enjoy a meal at our favorite restaurants. Louis Rothermel had invited me and Jerry Ball to accompany him to the meet. To assure our successful arrival to the meet, he decided to rent a pickup to pull his Stauter boat powered by its 1943 Stormboat Motor. Of course, we had to make our usual pit stop at Opie's Bar-B-Q in Spicewood, Texas. The food was excellent as always; however, we were a bit disappointed that they had run out of the usual fantastic butter beans that they usually serve and substituted pinto beans instead. Pinto beans were good, but we really craved butter beans. Maybe next year.

1943 Evinrude 50HP Stormboat Motor modified for civilian use.



In my opinion, the stars of this meet were the kids that participated. John Plato brought his grandson, Jack Toole, along with the Mini-Most boat that the two of them had built together. With only a very few embellishments, this is



Jack Toole running his Evinrude powered Mini-Most while Grandpa (John Plato) supervises.

essentially the same boat that John Plato and Alan Bischof have children build each year in the Kids-Build-A-Boat exhibit at the Houston area boat shows. Jack ran his boat quite a bit; however, he was very generous and allowed other kids to take a run or two in his boat. It takes a special kid to do that.



Possibly in her later teens, one of the slightly older kids, Lee Seureau, took a turn in Jack's boat. Lee really appeared to be having a blast!

After an untimely death in the family last year, we were very excited to see Johnathan Kremp and his little sister, Sarah Ann Kremp, come to this meet. Their mother, Nina Kremp, along with grandparents Stan and Donna Kremp, brought the children as an honor to the memory of their father. I know that John would have been thrilled to see the two of them having such a great time riding in boats and later fishing from the docks. If I recall correctly, I believe the fish actually cooperated with them. It was an absolute pleasure watching those two children enjoying themselves so much.

Last, but never least, Addison Smith and her younger sister, Abigail Smith, made an encore appearance at Kingsland. Although my memory is questionable at times, I do not recall Scott-Atwater Al and Katie Smith failing to make it to one of these Lake LBJ meets, and they always bring the girls with them. Before you knew it, Addison and Abigail bonded with Sarah Ann and played games together. Johnathan also bonded with Jack and perhaps even got a turn in Jack's boat. I cannot thank all of the parents enough for bringing their families to the meet. It gives a re-

markable dimension to our Texas Chapter meets that I do not think other chapters have. Things like this make our Texas Chapter very special.

Saturday started off with breakfast prepared once again by Cornelia Kueffner and Marilyn Rathbun; however, this time several members chose to visit "Crazy Gals" diner in downtown Kingsland for breakfast. Gentlemen, we need to coordinate with Cornelia at the next meet so that she and Marilyn do not make too much for breakfast. Hopefully, they will forgive us for missing out on this special meal. We promise to do better next time ladies!



Dennis Schmitt has some of the neatest toys! Here he is giving a ride to Stan Kremp in his Sea-Doo Speedster.

After breakfast, it was time for the bigger kids to play in their boats. There was a special moment this year as Jerry Ball got his first ride ever in a wooden outboard motor boat. Further, Jerry had never been in a boat powered by a 50HP World War II Stormboat motor with an open flywheel.



Louis Rothermel preparing to give Jerry Ball his maiden voyage in a wooden outboard runabout.

Peter Schultz brought his Alumacraft aluminum boat powered by an Evinrude outboard. This year he actually was able to run all day without incident. In prior years, some of his outboards failed on him. If I recall correctly, those were Mercury outboards. Did I get that right, Peter?



Peter Schultz running his Alumacraft powered by Evinrude outboard. Nice ride, Peter!

Meatball Murray made an appearance in his newest ride. If you recall last April, Meatball had just purchased a nice 1940 Ford Pickup hot rod. He has added a very nice Ford Mustang to his collection of vehicles. Including his Yellowjacket boat with its 1961 Merc 700 Mercury kicker, Meatball had a pair of sweet rides at this year's meet. (See the following two photos.)

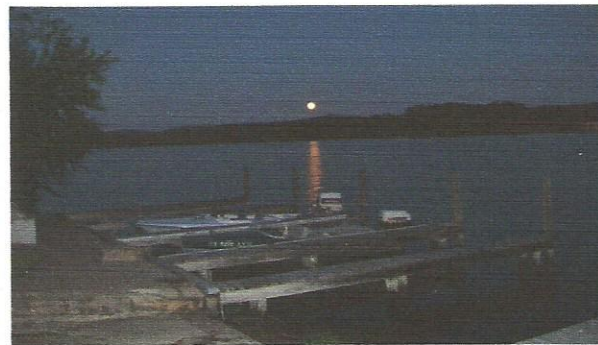


As you all know, Joe McCauley has a thing for fast boats. It was no surprise when he brought his 1965 Power Cat powered by a 1986 Johnson 75HP outboard. Looking at the photos below, you will notice the difference between cruising speed and when Joe pushes the throttle handle down.



Glenn and Lee Seureau riding with Louis as they storm the beaches of Lake LBJ.

Saturday evening, Adam and Susie Finn arranged a Bar-B-Q buffet from one of the local restaurants. The cost was \$10 per person and nobody went home hungry. Dessert was a specially decorated cake in honor of our chapter's 50th anniversary in AOMCI. The atmosphere was perfect as the meal was held in the newly covered picnic area, and as it got dark, the waterfront view was beautiful.



This is the view from the picnic area where we had our meal. You could not ask for a better ending to our day.

Almost everyone left on Sunday by the 11:00am checkout time. A few stayed a while to take a final run in their boats. It was hard to leave when the weather and the water were in such great condition. We hope for a repeat next April.

23rd Annual Houston Swap Meet

November 11 — 13, 2016

By Tom Oncken

On one Sunday sometime back in 1993, several Texas Chapter members got together at Louis Rothermel's shop by chance. If I recall correctly, it all started with John Hoyler who had just moved down to Texas from Michigan, and John was totally infected with the antique outboard motor collecting bug. During one workweek, John touched base with Louis, and the two of them decided to invite me and a few others to meet at Luther's Bar-B-Q for lunch on the following Sunday. After the meal, we traveled over to Louis' shop to look at some of his old outboards. As a rookie in the club, I felt like I had entered a museum. There were strange motors there that I had never seen before. The next thing you know, a barrel was filled with water and we began tinkering with a motor. Imagine my surprise that the old "piece of junk" actually ran.

1993 Participants from left to right:

John Hoyler
Don Carmichael
Tom Oncken
Don's Girlfriend
Tony Ireman
Ron Carbaugh

[Photo taken by
Louis Rothermel]



This particular gathering was nothing formal and it was never written about in the Texas Chapter newsletter; however, it did inspire Louis to invite the entire Texas Chapter membership to a meet at his shop on November 20, 1994. Billed as the "Houston Tech/Swap Dry Meet", 13 individuals attended including Roy Bailey, Don Carmichael, Tony Cloud, John Hoyler, John Long, Brenden Macaluso, Robert Macaluso, Jerry Martin, Mike Oncken, Tom Oncken, Louis Rothermel, Phil Siegel, and Frank Simon. That meet's success marked the official start of the Houston Swap Meet that has occurred every year since. In the past 23 years, the meet has grown and now starts on Friday while ending on Sunday.

Our 23rd annual Houston Swap Meet was once again a great success. Attendance was down a little from prior years; however, 42 individuals came to the meet over the three day period. Those who attended included Louis Rothermel (Host), Tom Oncken (Co-Host), Tom Ashe, Jerry Ball, Darrell Beaulier, Mark Betner, Alan Bischof, Tony Cloud, David Coffey, Jr., David Coffey, Sr., Louis Dement, Dave DeMoia, Tim Dugan, Weldon Eklund, Adam Finn, E. J. Fournet, John Graf, Bruce Henderson, Di Johnson, Gary Keeney, Morten Lovstad, Bob Macaluso,

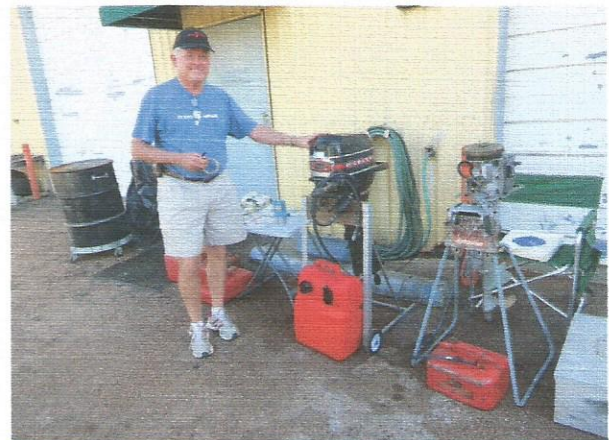
Brenden Macaluso, Joe McCauley, Harold McGuire, Scott Pearse, John Plato and grandson Jack Toole, Chip Rathbun, Rich Reich, Joe Rome, Howard Sandoz, Mark Schmidt, Pete Schultz, John Slator, "Scott-Atwater Al" Smith, Glenn Seureau, Royce Strickland, Leonard Sturm, Ray and Dot Watson, and Bob Witt.

Activity started out a little slow on Friday morning, but quickly picked up by midday. Several of our members soon began the wheeling and dealing of their outboard motors and parts. Around noon, Louis Rothermel took up a collection for lunch and bought some fantastic hamburgers from Pete's Finer Meats nearby. Pete's burgers make MacDonald's quarter pounder look more like a kid's happy meal.



Glenn Seureau cheerfully buys a new toy.

After an afternoon of visiting and trading, Adam Finn and a couple of others decided to take their usual trip to the Jax Grill.



Di Johnson displaying his items for sale.



Tom Ashe from Louisiana displays a nice model MS Johnson in its case plus a few other items.

Saturday morning started out a lot busier than Friday did. Louis had the coffee and donuts ready and it was not long until motors and parts were set out for sale and motors were being run in the test barrel. Several members commented that there were not quite as many motors for sale or trade this year as in previous years.



Tim Dugan showing how it is done. He ran this very nice 1958 Johnson 3HP along with several other motors that he had brought with him.



Louis Rothermel with his new Elto Ace and David Coffey, Jr. with his new Evinrude Speeditwin

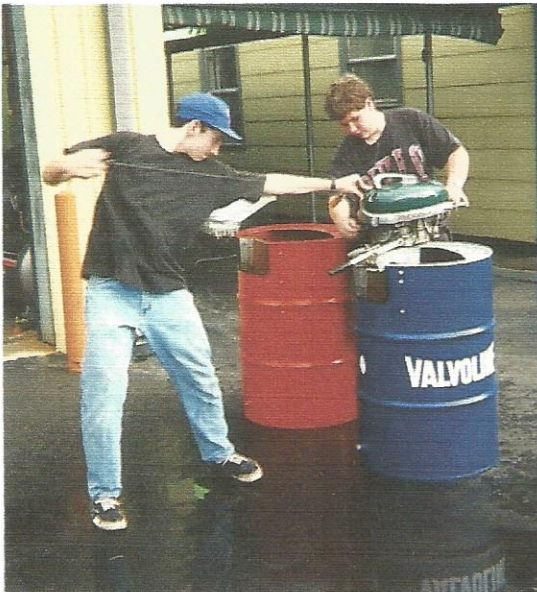
Although activities were not scheduled to end until 6:00pm on Saturday, most of the attendees took off early this year and only a few remained after 2:30pm. Regardless, the few of us that stayed enjoyed a quiet afternoon of visiting and playing with motors.

Louis Rothermel and Tom Oncken took up the lunchtime collection just after noon and made the trip to Pappas Bar-B-Q for the buffet-style meal for which this meet has become famous. Lunch was \$10 per person for all-you-can-eat brisket, sausage, potato salad, coleslaw, pinto beans, and other condiments supplied by Pappas. If anyone left hungry, it was their own fault.

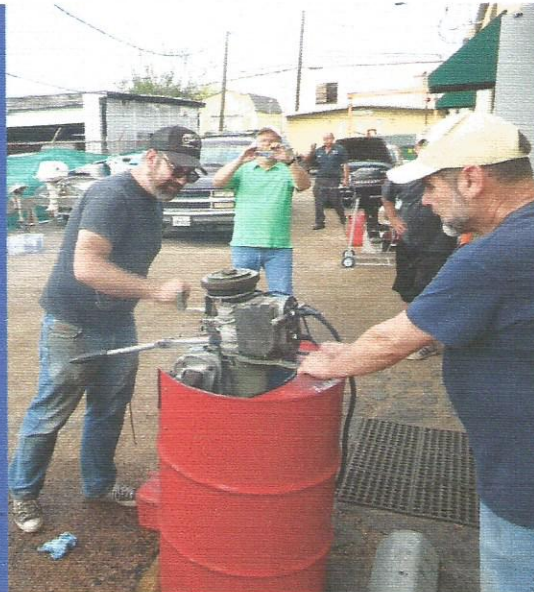
Sunday was our day to work on motors and we had the usual amount of people show up. John Graf had a Martin 20 that he needed to work on. It turned out to be stuck and needed additional time for the penetrating oil to work. I checked Jerry Ball's Sea King in his absence to see if it had spark. It did. Glenn Seureau had a stubborn Mercury water pump issue to figure out. Last, but not least, Louis had to reassemble a 1946 Mercury that he had taken apart at his last meet in 2015. We all worked on motors, ate leftover Bar-B-Q, and then picked up the meet site and returned it to a normal shop again. We left about 6:00pm as originally designed.

An Elto Ace was donated by Vin McMaster of Dallas and an Evinrude Speeditwin was donated by Chip Rathbun to be raffled after lunch. We asked for volunteers from the gallery to draw the winning tickets for the two motors. Louis Rothermel was the proud recipient of the Elto Ace and David Coffey, Jr. became the new owner of the Evinrude Speeditwin. Proceeds of the raffle sales were given to Chip Rathbun for the chapter bank account after completion of the meet.

Louis and I talked a little while at this past meet and have decided that we are going to attempt to host the Houston Swap Meet at least through its 25th anniversary if both of us remain in good health. So if you have any recommendations for any changes to the format, please let us know so we can prepare for the future.



Left Photo:
1994—Brenden Macaluso with Mike Oncken battling with an old Mercury.



Right Photo:
2016—Brenden Macaluso with Dave DeMoia. Brenden is still confident as he battles this old Mercury. Some things never change!



SINCE 1966
"The Original" Texas Chapter,
Antique Outboard Motor Club, Inc.

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Upcoming Events for 2017

Houston International Boat, Sport & Travel Show — January 6-15, 2017

Once again, the Texas Chapter of the Antique Outboard Motor Club, Inc. and the Southwest Chapter of the Antique & Classic Boat Society, Inc. have been invited to participate in the 2017 edition of the Houston International Boat, Sport & Travel Show. As in the past several years, the boat show will be presented in NRG Center next to the Houston Astrodome in NRG Park.

We welcome all members of the Texas Chapter to come visit us at the display which will again be located in the main lobby in front of the ticket booths. If you have any questions about the event, please feel free to contact Adam Finn and Tom Oncken at the telephone numbers listed above.

John Plato and Alan Bischof will also be heading up a booth within the boat show where they will present the Kids-Build-A-Boat, Kids-Paint-A-Boat, and Kids-Build-A-Motor exhibits. If you have never witnessed these events, we highly recommend that you go by and visit John and Alan as they work with the kids. Volunteers are always welcomed to assist with their exhibit.

The formal address of the NRG Center is 8400 Kirby Drive in Houston, Texas 77054. We hope to see all of you there!

Lake LBJ Spring Wet Meet — April 21-23, 2017

Just like our fall meet, the spring meet is another must to attend on Lake LBJ at the Longhorn Resort. Lake LBJ is a constant level lake that is more like a wide 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 and 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 more of your fellow club members. The Longhorn Resort is located on the water with comfortable cabins containing kitchens. There is plenty of dock space for our boats. To make reservations, please call (325) 388-4343.

Location: Longhorn Resort; 151 Melodie Lane; Kingsland, TX 78639