

"THE ORIGINAL"

TEXAS CHAPTER

ANTIQUE OUTBOARD  
MOTOR CLUB, INC.

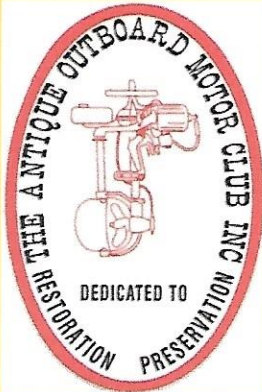
David R. Reinhartsen  
Founder



# Texas Chapter News

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I hope this issue of Texas Chapter News finds you all in good health and that the New Year is shaping up well for each of you. As usual in the past few months, I find myself a little behind in my work, so please be patient with me while I wrap up a few things in the following paragraphs.

Last year was an election year for our Texas Chapter, and after a plea for nominations for each officer's position, we received absolutely no responses. Adam Finn, Chip Rathbun, and I have each decided to accept another two-year term of office, but I must alert our chapter members that some of us are not getting any younger, and one or more of us may not be able to step up again in 2020. So, it would be a good idea to do a little sole searching and see if one or more of you would like to take a turn in office next time. I am currently serving as Vice President (and editor for a second time) and have served in every officer's position in the Texas Chapter since I joined AOMCI in 1989. I have enjoyed every minute; however, health is becoming a recurring issue with me, and I do not know what to expect in the upcoming two years. Hopefully, I will be fine.

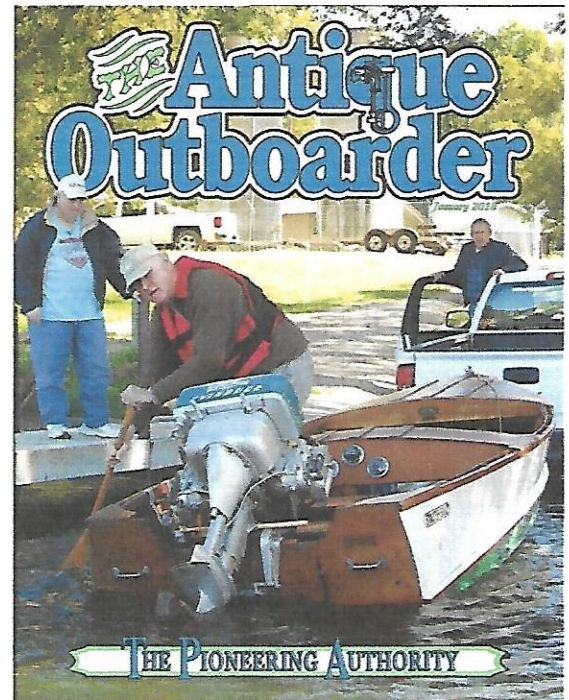
Another issue to start off the New Year is that many of our Texas Chapter members have memberships that have just expired. If you have any questions concerning your next due date, please feel free to contact Chip, Adam, or me as we all have access to the roster records. As is customary when renewing Texas Chapter dues, you must first be a member of the Antique Outboard Motor Club, Inc. (AOMCI).

As a chapter, we are only a subsidiary of AOMCI. Allowing chapter memberships without individuals having membership in the AOMCI threatens revocation of our Texas Chapter charter. As the first and oldest chapter in AOMCI, our officers will not chance our charter being rescinded. So, please renew your membership in AOMCI so that you can stay a part of our proud group. The quarterly issue of The

Antique Outboarder and the AOMCI website alone are well worth the expense of AOMCI dues. I always renew for two years at a time.

At this time, I want to offer my personal thanks to Tony Robinson who has decided to host a swap meet in March of this year at his home in Lipan, Texas. We have needed something like this in the northern part of the state to accommodate our members from that area. I personally encourage all of you to plan a trip to this meet. Details are on our web site and on the back of this newsletter. Please do your best to gather up some trade materials and bring them to this meet. Tony is hoping for a good turnout, and I personally would like to see it happen for him.

As a final note, I want to point out to all of our chapter members that a few of our members have graced the cover of the January 2018



issue of The Antique Outboarder. Someone caught Louis Rothermel launching his boat with me on the dock and David Reyna in the truck. What a great way to start the year!

Happy New Year to You All ! Tom Oncken

# 24th Annual Houston Swap Meet

By Tom Oncken

Well, we actually did it again. If you would have asked me 24 years ago while I was attending a lunch at a Houston Luther's Bar-B-Q restaurant if I thought there was any chance that our little get-together would occur for 23 more years, I would

have said you were absolutely nuts! Remarkably, on the weekend of November 10th through 12th, 2017, Louis Rothermel hosted his 24th Annual Houston Swap Meet.

As I recall back in 1993, Louis Rothermel and John Hoyler called me and suggested that we go out for lunch on Saturday at a Luther's near Louis' shop. Ron Carbaugh, Tony Ireman, and Don Carmichael got wind of our plans and decided to join us. My 13 year old son, Mikey, came with me and Don brought along his girlfriend. The eight of us had a nice little meal and decided to go over to Louis' shop to look at his toys. I believe that John Hoyler actually put Louis'

little Neptune Mighty Mite in a barrel and ran it. Little did we know that our one afternoon get-together would blossom into a full three-day event with the 25th anniversary looming later this year. My, . . . time flies when you're having fun!

As is customary, Louis had the coffee prepared and some donuts on hand to greet the Friday morning arrivals. Attendance is always a little light on Friday mornings since it is more of a travel day for many of our members. Surprisingly, quite a few individuals showed up by noon and old outboard motors popped up quickly. Tony Robinson and Ben McCauley made the trip from

A nice batch of motors showed up early for the meet. Members quickly moved in for the kill.



the northern part of our state and brought quite a few motors for sale and trade. Unlike most Fridays in the past, some serious trading actually occurred on Friday afternoon before members headed to the Jax Grill for their evening meal.

Saturday was its usual productive day. Many came early and set up some displays for show and others brought items to swap and sell. Louis

had the donuts and coffee ready as usual.

John Platou provided a special edition of "Kids-Build-An-Engine" at this year's meet. Of course, the "kids" were a little older than usual. John



helped a number of members with some of their projects on Saturday afternoon. The activity was infectious as various members began helping each other working on their treasures.

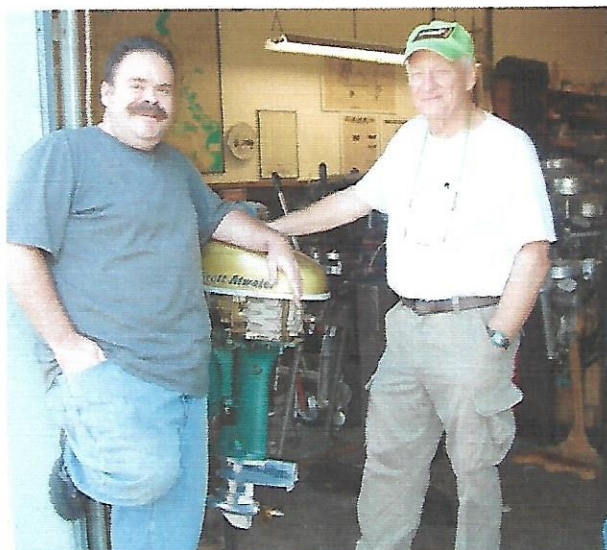
By noon everyone was questioning when the Bar-B-Q was going to arrive. That was the motivation required to make a trip to the local Pappas Bar-B-Q down the street to pickup our normal Saturday feast. \$10 provided all-you-can-eat brisket, sausage, and sides. Without a doubt, nobody left the table hungry.

Weldon Eklund brought a number of fantastic older engines for display. They included a 1923 Elto Model A Ruddertwin, Caille Liberty Twin, and an Evinrude Fold-up. "Scott-Atwater Al" Smith brought his prize Scott-Atwater Green Hornet race engine. He had searched for years for this special outboard and finally secured one for his collection.



This 1923 Elto Model A Ruddertwin was one of several exceptional outboards seen at the 24th Annual Houston Swap Meet.

Later this year, Louis is going to attempt his 25th Anniversary Houston Swap Meet. If you have any suggestions for extra things to do during that three-day event, please let Louis know. This meet has become something special for our local chapter, and it would be nice to do something extra special to commemorate our 25th anniversary. Please send in your suggestions and/or ideas. We are hoping for a record attendance to thank Louis for 25 years of bliss.



"Scott-Atwater Al" Smith (left) showing off his new find . . . a rare Green Hornet! Joe McCauley (right) admiring an unusual piece of racing history. Nice!

Another first for this meet came on Saturday afternoon when everyone started leaving around 3:00pm. It was somewhat quiet for the last three hours of that day.

Sunday began with coffee and donuts, and a handful of individuals came to work on some of their toys. Louis makes his workshop and all of its related equipment available to help members solve any problems that have been causing them difficulty prior to the meet. There are always a number of experienced repairmen available for input on projects as well. The remaining Bar-B-Q from Saturday's covered Sunday's lunch as well.

Overall attendance for the three days was down as compared to the past few years. Louis Rothermel served as host while I tried to assist as a wounded co-host. Others in attendance included the following: Jerry Ball, Bill Bandy, Darrick Bub, David DeMoia, Weldon Eklund, Adam Finn, John Graf, Bruce Henderson, Ed Kilford, Helge Kjevik, Jeff Kubosh, Morten Lovstad, Brenden Macaluso, Robert Macaluso, Ben McCauley, Joe McCauley, Bruce Miller, Jim Norbeck, Mike Oncken, Kent Peters, John Platon, Chip Rathbun, Rich Reich, David Reyna, Tony Robinson, Clinton Russell, Howard Sandoz, John Schmitt, Glenn Seureau, John Slator, Al Smith, Robert Taylor, Thomas Urban-Norbeck, and Tyler Urban-Norbeck.



Jerry Ball finally catches Louis in a weak moment and manages to add a fine "Mae West" Waterwitch to his collection.



When was the last time that you saw a 1931 Elto Junior Quad 18HP at a Texas Chapter meet? How about never! Beautiful outboard!!



Tony Robinson, Mike Oncken, and Bruce Miller inspecting Bruce's rare Caille Liberty Twin. Based on their expressions, the Caille must have deposited something ugly in Mike's hand.



Another unusual motor to be seen at a Texas Chapter meet. This Caille Liberty Twin is owned by Bruce Miller.

# 2018 Houston International Boat, Sport & Travel Show in NRG Center

By Tom Oncken

For the first time since 1987 when the Wooden Boat Owners Association of Texas, Inc. initially displayed antique and classic wooden boats in the Houston Astrodome, there almost was no vintage boat display at the Boating Trades Association dealer show in January 2018. For the past seven years or so, Di Johnson, who represents the interests of the Southwest Chapter of the Antique & Classic Boat Society, Inc. has been in charge of the exhibit at NRG Center with valuable assistance from Adam Finn, President of the Texas Chapter of the Antique Outboard Motor Club, Inc.

Late last year when Hurricane Harvey made a mess of the city of Houston, Di Johnson's local area home was virtually destroyed by the storm while Di was in his east coast home. As a result, Di could not assume responsibility for a boat show while he had such an overwhelming chore to rebuild his Kingwood area home. Adam Finn sent out a plea to other members of ACBS to find someone to take over management of the exhibit space at NRG Center, but did not receive much of a response. So, Adam decided that he had done his part for the cause over the past seven years and decided to discontinue his efforts in operating the annual exhibit.

So, there was no antique and classic boat exhibit at the NRG Center this year, right? Well, actually, there was. There were a couple of special people who salvaged the exhibit for 2018.

John Platou, who is the original creator of the "Kids Build A Boat", "Kids Paint A Boat", and "Kids Build An Engine" exhibits over the past few years within the main body of the boat show, volunteered to take over the main lobby exhibit of antique & classic boats on top of the exhibits he has run for years. With little support from ACBS, John located boats, outboard motors, and other helpers to salvage the exhibit. On top of all of his efforts, John contracted the influenza bug and managed to operate his inside exhibits and the lobby exhibits while taking medications to fight off the effects of this year's deadly strains of flu.

To compound problems for John Platou, his usual helper, Alan Bischof, hurt his back and could not assist at all. A new AOMCI member came to John's rescue as Jim Norbeck and his family volunteered to assist John with the various "Kids" exhibits inside the show. I offer personal thanks and congratulations to Jim Norbeck and his older children including Victoria Urban-Norbeck, Abigail Urban-Norbeck, Thomas Urban-Norbeck, and Tyler Urban-Norbeck.

I really do not know how John Platou could have survived without the contributions of this family. This family of five covered the weekend "Kids" exhibits and assisted in covering the lobby as well. Very impressive ladies and gents!

The Texas Chapter and AOMCI were not done at this point. John Graf, longtime AOMCI and Texas Chapter member and past newsletter editor, volunteered to bring his sizable Mercury



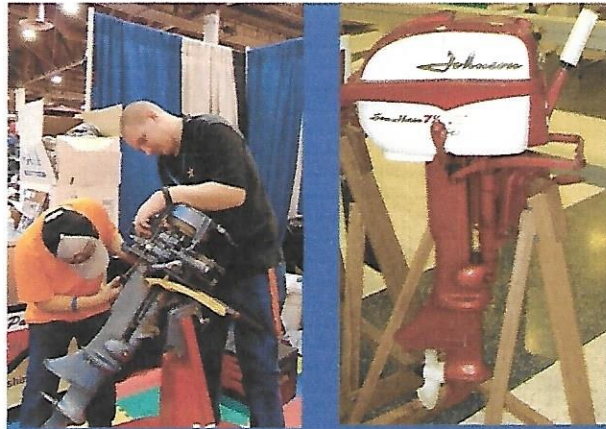
outboard trailer containing an amazing group of restored Mercury outboard motors. The trailer was setup so that the public could walk through the trailer and look at each outboard up close. My thanks and congratulations to John Graf also because he worked the main lobby exhibit for all ten (10) days of the show. Excellent job, John!



Others displaying outboard motors at this year's show included John Platou with his 1960 Evinrude collection as well as a pair of small boats and motors, Mark Betner showed quite a few of his nice original Johnson and Evinrude collection, and Morten Lovstad showed his nice Elto Fold-Up Motor along with his award winning flats skiff that he personally built. Jim Norbeck and family also brought a few outboards for display as did I.



A portion of John Platou's 1960 Evinrudes.



Left: Tyler Urban-Norbeck watching a young builder.

Right: Mark Betner's pristine original 1958 Johnson 7.5HP



Tom Oncken's motors along the rail with three more 1960 Evinrudes supplied by John Platou.



Victoria Urban-Norbeck helping little ones build a boat.

The exhibit had only one inboard boat, a 1946 Chris-Craft Special Runabout shown by ACBS member, Mike Friesel. Otherwise, this exhibit was mostly outboard motor boat themed this year. AOMCI and ACBS member, Robert Macaluso showed his 1957 Crosby Capri with its 40HP Evinrude Lark. David Coffey, Jr. displayed his 1956 Lyman lapstrake powered by Mercury Mark 58. AOMCI and ACBS member Darryl Hurst displayed a pair of Proske outboard boats to show a "before" and "after" restoration view. Morten Lovstad was a hit at the show with his self-made flats skiff. Customers would come out of the boat show disappointed after not finding a flats skiff in the show only to get excited to see Morten's creation. They all were shocked to learn that it is made of wood and not a plastic hull like modern boats.



Thomas Urban-Norbeck showing that it is so easy, he can do it blind folded!



Morten Lovstad's self-made flats skiff.



Darryl Hurst's Proske outboard boats showing "before" and "after" views.



**SINCE 1966**

**"The Original" Texas Chapter,  
Antique Outboard Motor Club, Inc.  
David R. Reinhartsen, Founder**

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## **Upcoming Events**

### **New Spring Swap Meet — March 9-10, 2018**

This new swap meet is being sponsored by Tony Robinson at his home in Lipan, Texas. Lipan is about 18 miles from both Granbury and Stephenville and 50 miles west of Fort Worth. It has been years since we have had a wet or swap meet in northern Texas, so here is our opportunity to branch out to the north again.

Tony lives on the edge of town on 1.26 acres and has a shop area that is great for hosting a swap meet. He also has a large test tank to run motors. The dates that he has picked are Friday, March 9th and Saturday, March 10th. The meet would primarily be a one-day meet on Saturday; however, anyone is welcome to come in on Friday. Tony plans to serve an exceptional catered BBQ lunch on Saturday the 10th at a cost of \$10 per person.

Tony is passionate about our hobby and is excited about putting on this meet. I encourage all of our members to do their best to support what we hope is Tony's 1st Annual Lipan Meet. It is important that you please RSVP directly to Tony if you plan on attending so he can be prepared for everyone. The club thanks Tony for stepping forward and putting on this meet.

Contact Information: Cell Number: (817) 320-4278 — eMail Address: FARMALLM39@icloud.com  
Meet Address: 126 Sears Street; Lipan, TX 76462

### **Lake LBJ Spring Wet/Swap Meet — April 20-22, 2018**

Just like our fall meet, the spring meet is another must to attend; however, the meet location has changed as a result of the sale of the Longhorn Resort in conjunction with an anticipated demolition of the cabins that we once occupied. The spring meet will still be held at Lake LBJ, just at a new location northward up the Colorado River at The Heart of Texas Lake Resort. 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 and/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 better get to know some of your fellow club members. The Heart of Texas Resort is located on the water with comfortable cabins with kitchens. Go to their website to gain more information and see numerous photos of the resort at heartoftexaslakeresort.com.

For reservations, please contact Ruth Ann Bowland at her work number (512) 756-7766, and if no answer, you can call her cell number (830) 613-9269.

The Heart of Texas Lake Resort is located at 408 Glen Oak Parkway, Burnet, TX 78611.