

"THE ORIGINAL"

TEXAS CHAPTER

ANTIQUA OUTBOARD  
MOTOR CLUB, INC.

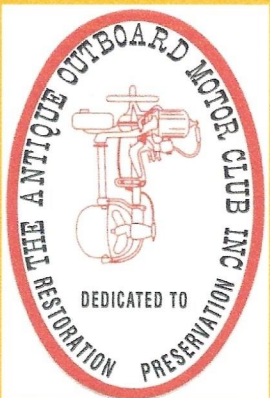
David R. Reinhartsen  
Founder

# Texas Chapter News



VOLUME 6, ISSUE 2

APRIL 2019



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## Spring Has Finally Sprung!

By Tom Oncken

It looks as if our Texas Chapter has survived another cold and dreary winter and I am sure that you are all looking forward to a couple of our upcoming events now that spring has arrived. Our usual spring trip to the Heart of Texas Lake Resort is scheduled for April 12th through April 14th. We moved it up by one weekend as compared to last year so that we would not interfere with the annual San Jacinto Day celebrations during the weekend containing April 21st, the day that our beloved state won its independence from Mexico during the final battle of San Jacinto.

We are also scheduled to hold our annual wet/swap meet on Lake Houston on June 8th. John Platou has arranged for us to have use of the community center, boat ramp, and docks for the meet. I am hopeful that the swimming pool will be available this year. As you may recall, Hurricane Harvey caused some considerable damage to the pool and repairs were not completed timely enough to hire life guards to work during our meet last year. Details and contact information are provided on the last page of this newsletter for each of these upcoming events.

Our chapter stayed busy during the winter as two of our members assured that we would have something to do. John Platou was instrumental in helping the ACBS Southwest Chapter by providing an entertaining exhibit at the Houston International Boat, Sport & Travel Show in early January. I have to apologize to John because unlike last year, I was not able to assist him this time because I was not feeling well. Tony Robinson and his lovely wife, Andrea, invited us into their home again in March to enjoy the 2nd Annual Lipan Swap Meet. I offer sincere thanks to Tony and Andrea for bringing a swap meet back to

northern Texas. It is wonderful to have some events spread out so that members from all over the state can attend. Please refer to the articles contained later in this newsletter to see how things turned out at the boat show and at the Lipan swap meet.

Now, I want to address a slightly different topic. I am personally concerned about the membership levels in our international club as well as our Texas Chapter. Many of us are becoming somewhat elderly (present company included) and our membership is beginning to dwindle. Frankly, some of our members have passed away, while others have simply lost interest and discontinued being a part of our group.

I want to encourage all of you to identify some potential new members and invite them to attend our meets. Obviously, we cannot have members of only our Texas Chapter because we are a subsidiary of AOMCI, so I am asking that you attempt to sell the club and not just our chapter to all potential new members. There is no rule that states that we cannot invite family members, friends, and acquaintances to our meets. Hopefully, once someone attends that has not known about us, they will decide to give it a try and see what this big family is all about.

I also would like to encourage some of our members to write an article for this paper, or our web site, or The Antique Outboarder. Joe McCauley is doing an excellent job in writing articles for our international magazine, and hopefully I am not boring everyone to death with my articles here and on the web; however, it might be refreshing to hear from somebody new. Why not give it a try? You could become a star!

# A Brief History of our Participation in the Houston Dealer Boat Shows

By Tom Oncken

For those of you who have not heard the story, in mid-1986 I assisted Robert Holmes of Holmes Boat Works in Houston, Texas and one other owner of a Holmes fishing boat in the creation of the first wooden boat club in Texas. We named it "Wooden Boat Owners Association of Texas" and used an anachronism of "WeBOAT" to describe what we did with our wooden boats.

We needed some way of attracting some new members, so we approached the Boating Trades Association of Metropolitan Houston (BTA) to see if we could participate in one of their future dealer boat shows. The BTA President at that time was Ken Lovell and he told us that he would be glad to see if he could work us in, but he did not think it would happen until January 1988 because the next show had already been finalized for 1987.

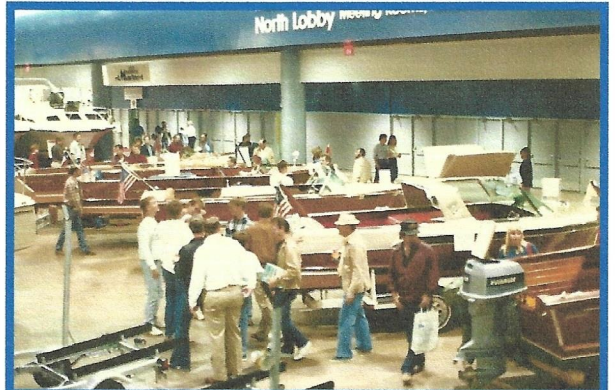
One morning while I was at work, I received an emergency telephone call from Ken Lovell to inform me that one of his vendors scheduled to exhibit sailboats in the center of the Astrohall had withdrawn from the show at the very last minute. This had occurred three days prior to the opening day of the January 1987 boat show, and he wanted to know if we could fill the spot. Well, we had a small membership, but a lot of determination, and we managed to locate six wooden boats for this first-ever organized wooden boat exhibit.

Starting at the bottom of this photo, six boats were placed in a row beginning with a 16' Correct Craft, three larger Chris-Crafts, a Century Sabre Gull Wing, and an 18' Holmes outboard fishing runabout.



We managed to place all six of the boats in a line next to the larger powerboat displays. This was incredibly hectic since we were arriving on Friday afternoon and the show was due to open at 11:00 AM on Saturday morning. We were totally unprepared for a show like this. We did not have tables or chairs, we did not have guardrails, and we did not even have membership applications.

To say that we were playing this by ear is a gross understatement. We did not have a clue how this was all going to work out. Fortunately, a couple of the boat owners were retired and were able to babysit our unprotected boats during the day while I was at work. I was available to cover the exhibit during the evenings and on weekends.



Notice in the photos above and below that people were able to touch and lean over the sides of our boats. In those days, cigarette smoking and the drinking of "Dome Foam" (beer) was permitted in the building and all around our boats.



As the show progressed over that first weekend, it was really exciting to be a part of it. People were thrilled to see the old wood boats and at times I almost felt as if some of the neighboring dealers were not happy that we were there as their potential customers remained gathered in our exhibit instead of looking at their inventory.

The only negative part of that first-ever show is that we did not have a railing system around our boats to protect them, so visitors to our exhibit could come up to our boats with lit cigarettes in hand and beer purchased at the show. They would lean over the sides of the boats and spill beer inside and create a slight panic from some

of our inboard owners as cigarettes were held near the gas tank vent openings on the sides of their boats. Ultimately, this is what led to the one problem we had at our first display at the 1987 Houston International Boat Sport & Travel Show.

On the next Monday morning, I received another call from Ken Lovell. It seems that the owner of the 16' Correct Craft ski boat in our exhibit saw the Fire Marshall while watching his boat and asked him if the BTA had insurance on our boats. When asked why, the boat owner told the Fire Marshall that he had seen several of the visitors near his boat holding their cigarettes close to his gas tank vent on the side of his boat and he had concerns that this could cause a fire, if not an explosion. When questioned about whether or not his gas tank was empty, the owner replied that it was not and the Fire Marshall went nuts.

Upon bringing the boats into the show, we were never told that the boats could not have gasoline in their tanks. Accordingly, all six boats had some gas in their fuel tanks. As a result of the discovery, we were instructed to come to the show on Monday night to empty the gas tanks. We had to do this after the show closed and after all customers had left the building. Imagine how I had to scramble to locate someone to get a 50 gallon drum (or two) and some type of pump so we could empty gas tanks beginning at about 11:00PM on Monday night.

Unfortunately, the issue got more complicated. We were informed that we could not drain gas tanks within the building because it would be a serious fire hazard for the dealer's boats and for the building. So we were told to take each boat out into the parking lot to drain the gasoline. We were in the middle of the Astrohall, and we had to push each boat down a long aisle to get to the parking lot. We were not able to drive in.

The Correct Craft was a single axle trailer and the boat was light, so it was not too much of a problem. My Holmes boat is an outboard boat with twin 12 gallon gas tanks, so I was able to disconnect the fuel lines, plug the tank openings, and physically carry the two tanks out to my truck in the parking lot. The other four boats were all larger inboards with tandem axle trailers. Can you imagine the fun we had pushing those big rigs down the aisles and out into the parking lot one boat at a time? Once we emptied a boat's tank, then we could go in for another. What fun! We got the job completed at around 2:00AM and then went home to get some sleep. In my case I had to go to work the next morning and then go

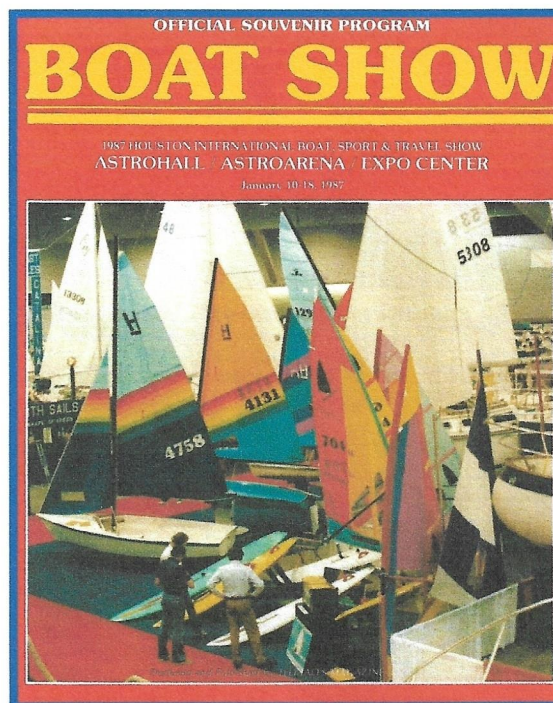
back to the show again after work. As you can imagine, I was worn out by Tuesday night.



Needless to say, I was the only outboard boat owner in this first exhibit, and the only antique outboard that was displayed was hanging on the back of our family fishing boat. It was my father's 1947 Johnson TD-20.

Over the following years, we have had one or more old outboard motors in each exhibit. We signed up a member a few years later in January 1989 that owned a wooden boat powered by a 1943 Storm Boat Motor. You guessed it. It was Louis Rothermel. Shortly after that, I joined AOMCI and became addicted to old outboards.

In the late 1990's, I convinced our WeBOAT membership that it would be very beneficial to merge our club into the newly formed Southwest Chapter of ACBS. The obvious improvements were liability insurance and a classy international magazine. I continued to run the boat shows until 2001, at which time I decided that 15 years was long enough, so I turned the reigns over to the Southwest Chapter. The rest is history.



This is our family fishing boat powered by a 1984 115HP Evinrude at that time. The back up kicker was its original 1947 5HP Johnson Sea Horse TD-20.

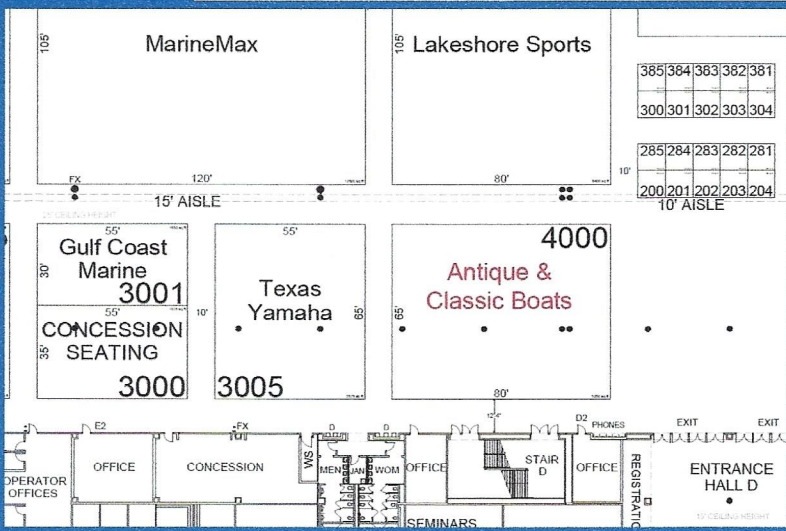
The program from the January 1987 Houston International Boat, Sport & Travel Show

# 2019 Houston International Boat, Sport & Travel Show

By Tom Oncken

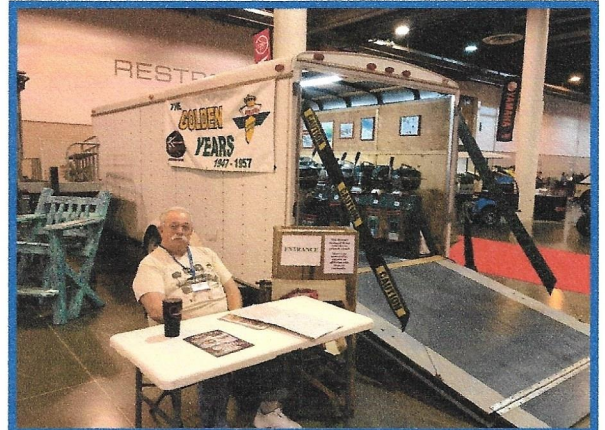
The Southwest Chapter of the Antique & Classic Boat Society was once again invited to provide an exhibit of vintage boats at the 2019 Houston International Boat, Sport & Travel Show held in the NRG Center next to the Astrodome. As has been customary for every year since taking over this annual exhibit, the Southwest Chapter of ACBS invited members of the Texas Chapter of AOMCI to provide outboards for the display.

John Graf once again volunteered to bring his large trailer containing his exquisite collection of restored antique Mercury outboard motors. John also was present during the entire show while he allowed unknown individuals to freely walk through his collection. Unless you have personally worked the entire 10 day show for every hour of each day, you probably do not realize the extent of John's contribution to this show. I fully understand the amount of effort it takes and I would like to offer my special thanks to John.



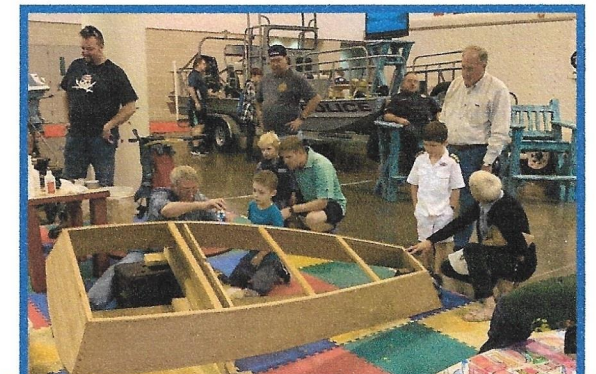
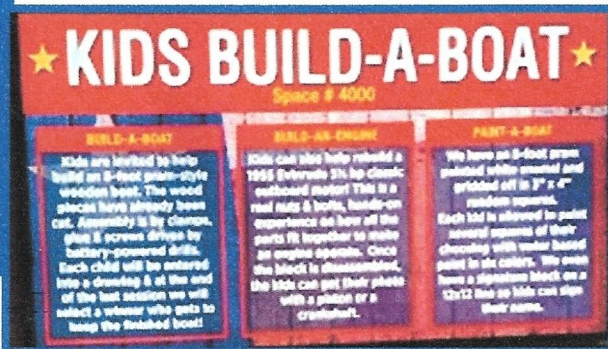
John Platou, a member of both organizations, volunteered last year to take over preparation for the annual boat and motor display, and he did a remarkable job of setting up the exhibit this year. One change from the past several years is that the exhibit was moved from the front lobby to a big space within the boat show just inside the main entrance to Hall D (see the above diagram).

John worked very hard to put together a slightly different exhibit than in past years. This year's display not only included vintage boats and outboards, but also included "Kids Build A Boat", "Kids Paint A Boat", "Kids Build An Engine", a couple of vintage automobiles, and an area for the City of Houston Lake Patrol. In prior years, John and his helpers held the kids events inside the show while the vintage boats and outboards were out in the front lobby.



John Platou and Alan Bischof created the Kids Build-A-Boat exhibit many years ago and have become legends at the Houston boat shows.

A sign located outside in the main lobby area.



Alan Bischof showing kids how to build a boat.



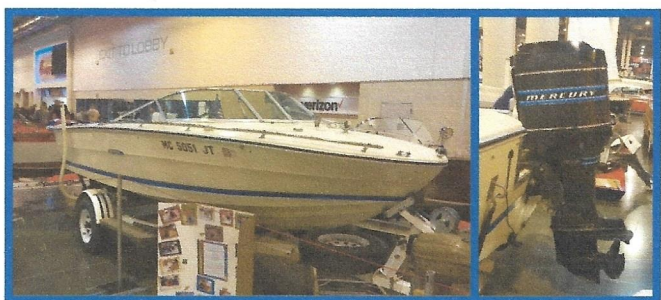
John Platou on the left standing next to the "Kids Paint-A-Boat" and Robert Taylor standing on the right next to the "Kids Build-A-Boat".

John and Alan subsequently added the "Kids Paint A Boat" and "Kids Build An Engine" which has given them even more to supervise. I was very pleased to see that John and Alan received some much needed help with the kids exhibits. Robert Taylor, Darren Baird, and the Norbeck/Urban-Norbeck clan volunteered to assist.



John Platou's granddaughter, Emma Bayless, is supervising several children at the ever-popular "Kids Paint A Boat" attraction.

There were a variety of boats in the display this year. A pair of nice wooden inboard boats were shown including a nice Chris-Craft runabout and Bob Germany's 1948 Higgins Deluxe Runabout 19'. Shaun Boardman displayed a homebuilt wooden sailboat with its mast and sail extended. Adam Finn displayed his 1958 Rexcraft 15' aluminum boat powered by its 1959 Johnson Sea Horse 35HP. Bruce Miller displayed his 1973 Sea Ray 17' fiberglass boat powered by its 1973 Mercury 115HP outboard as shown below.



John Platou instructing a couple of young ladies in the rebuilding of an outboard engine.



A young mother helps her children work on the "Kids Build A Boat". They were later surprised to learn that they had won the drawing to own this boat. Way to go, Mom!!

As has been customary over the past few years, wooden outboard runabouts overwhelmed the exhibit again this time. The following eight wooden outboard boats were displayed: Robert Black's 2005 Aristo Craft Torpedo 14' with its 1957 Johnson Golden Javelin; Darryl Hurst's 1963 Proske 15' with its 1964 Johnson V-4 60HP; Morten Lovstad's hand-built Flats Skiff 18' with its 2016 Evinrude 60HP E-Tec outboard; Robert Macaluso's 1957 Crosby Capri 16' with its 1963 Evinrude Lark 40HP; Jim Norbeck's 1960 home-built boat with original 1959 Evinrude Lark 35HP; John Platou's 1960 Cruisers Inc Holiday Runabout 16' powered by 1960 Evinrude V-4 Starflite 75HP; John Platou's 1950 hand-built hydro with a greenhead Mercury on the back; and Jack Toole's hand-built Mini-Most 8' with its 1984 Evinrude 6HP. Actually, Darren Baird and his family displayed their hand-built Mini-Most 8' as a work in progress. Darren and his sons are still in process of building the boat and hope to have it available for display at a future boat show. Now all they have to do is find a motor for it.

A new look that John Platou added to this year's exhibit included two vintage automobiles. It is my understanding that a couple of past "Wheels and Keels" participants supplied the restored 1949 Ford Convertible Sportsman Woody and the 1957 Chevrolet Bel Air Convertible that were staged to appear as if they were tow vehicles. Very nice!!

A view of the northeast corner of the exhibit. Louis Rothermel's Speeditwin is in front of the 1949 Ford Woody that appears to be towing the 1948 Higgins. Check out Shaun Boardman's sail!



It appears that a 1957 Chevrolet Bel Air Convertible is towing Adam Finn's 1958 Rexcraft boat.



There were quite a few nice antique outboards on display on individual stands. I wish to thank Mark Betner, Adam Finn, Morten Lovstad, Jim Norbeck, John Platou, and Louis Rothermel for taking that extra time and effort to haul those motors to and from NRG Center. I apologize for not getting a photo posted of every outboard motor, but I did the best I could with the information that I had at my grasp. I only made one brief appearance at this year's show and I failed to take my camera.



The Houston Police Department was represented by the City of Houston Lake Patrol. Visitors to our exhibit really seemed to behave themselves.

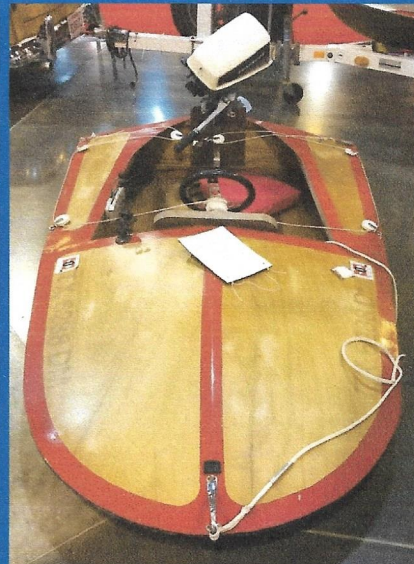
I encourage all members to contact John Platou now should you have an interest in helping him out in the 2020 boat show. Your participation can lead to some great acquisitions of cheap, if not free, old outboard motors. Ask Darren Baird about the new boat he acquired as a result of being at the show. I bet he is going to have a big smile on his face at every meet he attends.



Darren Baird standing next to his acquisition as a result of working the 2019 Houston boat show. He now owns a 1990 Starcraft with Mercury 60HP.



Morten Lovstad and 1968 Evinrude.



Jack Toole's Mini-Most.



John Platou's Hydro

# 2nd Annual Lipan Swap Meet

By Tom Oncken

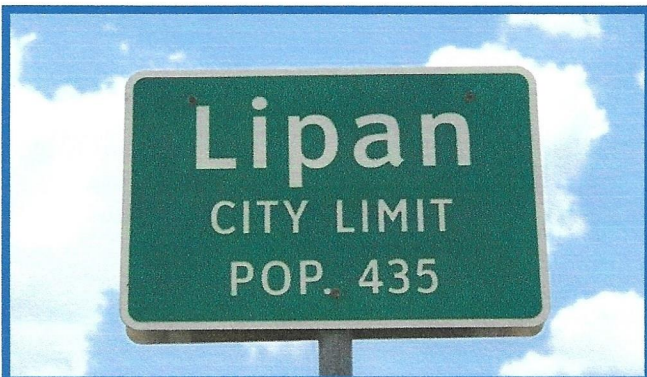
It is really difficult for me to believe that the 2nd annual meet at Tony and Andrea Robinson's home has already come and gone. For those of you who missed it, it's a shame you did not come and have some fun with us in Lipan on March 8th and 9th. If you are one of the individuals who sent Tony your RSVP and then did not show up, shame on you too!

As you may have noticed from an earlier article, I have had some medical issues and have not been up to par for the early part of this year. My son, Mike, invited me to ride to the meet with him and two of my grandchildren. Charlie came last year and became an AOMCI calendar star with his brother, Tommy, who attended last year, but stayed at home because of a field trip to the



downtown Houston aquarium. Their older sister, Emma, decided to come with us this time and witness some of the things that the boys talked about so much last year.

I do not know how we managed to do it, but we held this event on a weekend where the weather was fabulous for an outboard meet occurring in early March. It reminded me of the weather that we had at the December wet meet in Burnet late last year. Somebody was smiling down upon us. On our way to the meet, we stopped by the Natty Flats barbeque restaurant to show Emma the world's largest cedar rocking chair. After that brief stop, we drove the final few miles to Tony and Andrea's home. We arrived at 3:00 PM, so we could visit with any others who came early.



Charlie and Emma Oncken standing in front of the World's Largest Cedar Rocking Chair according to the Guinness world record folks.

When we got out of the truck and began to visit with some of the other folks who had arrived, Tony dashed out of the house and seemed somewhat anxious as he greeted us and shook our hands. It seems that Tony and Andrea had made a decision earlier in the year to adopt a family of children. The children were supposed to arrive the weekend before the meet, but as you may have guessed, they arrived on Friday, March 8th, just before all of the guests for the meet began showing up. Ben McCauley has been Tony's wingman for the past two years, so he had it all under control for the time being while Tony was inside signing important documents to make his family larger.

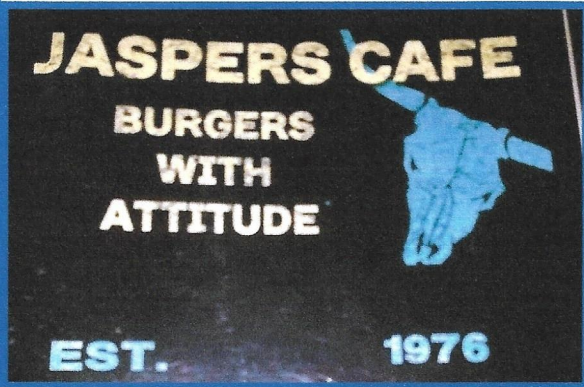
I cannot think of a more special beginning to our second annual Lipan Swap Meet. Tony and Andrea introduced us to their new family members including Max who is 13, Monica who is 16, and sister Ivy who is 18. If I remember correctly, the children will be foster children for six months before everything is finalized. I hope they have survived the weekend of older guys showing off old outboard motors, literature, and stationary engines. Max seemed to fit right in with most of our group while Monica, Ivy, and Andrea spent more time inside the house.

Ben McCauley had to go assist a relative with a broken down vehicle, so Tony finally came out and started directing the swap meet. He had two things planned for Friday night, which included

going out for dinner and then taking a trip over to Granbury to visit the historical light plant like we did last year. Emma was looking forward to seeing the big stationary engines at the light plant.

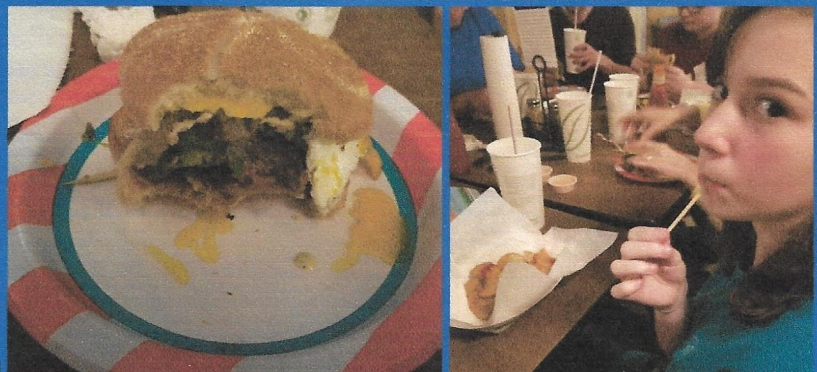
At about 5:00 PM, our group headed out for a special dinner. Tony borrowed a church bus to make the trip to dinner and then go to Granbury. Since Mike, the kids, and I were going to stay in Weatherford that night, Mike drove his vehicle and followed Tony. We traveled about 14 miles south of Lipan to the town of Bluff Dale, Texas. Our destination was Jaspers Café advertised as having "burgers with an attitude".

This sign was above the cash registers inside the café.



Jaspers is a quaint small café with a very large and exotic menu which is loaded with abundant choices. Tony was disappointed that I ordered a standard hamburger called a "Classic Burger". Most of the burgers were something unusual like a "Mac Daddy" that was overflowing with Mac-n-cheese blended with chili and venison sausage. Regular burgers were 100% Texas beef served on a Kaiser bun, but if you were adventurous, you could have Elk, Buffalo, Axis Deer, Boar, or Akauski Kobe (whatever that is). You also could order a Black Bean veggie patty (yuck!).

Regardless, I would go back in half a heart-beat because everything tasted great. My hamburger would have put a quarter-pounder to shame by weight. The onion rings were fabulous and I stole a French fry from my granddaughter and it was more like a potato wedge fried to perfection with some fancy dip that I could not describe to you. The bottom line here is nobody complained and everyone was stuffed when we left.

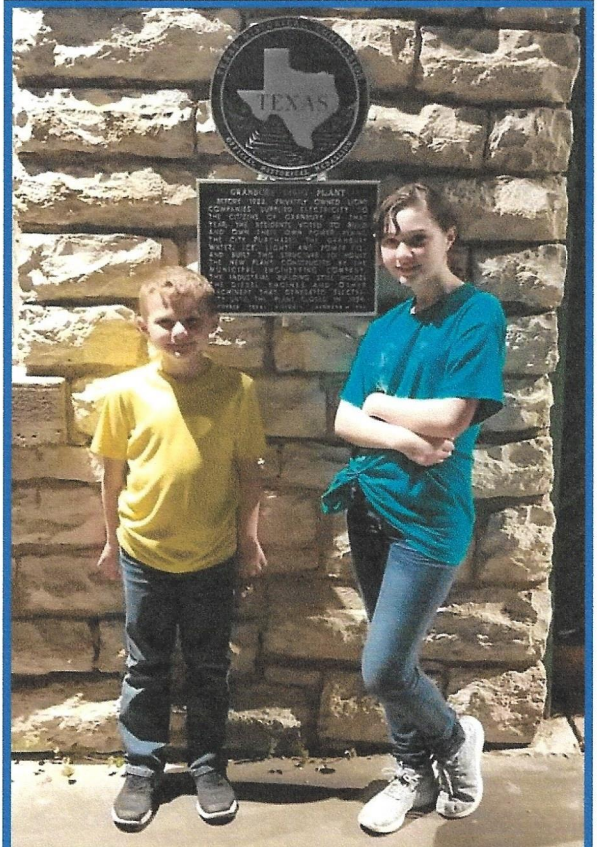


Check out the size of this burger!

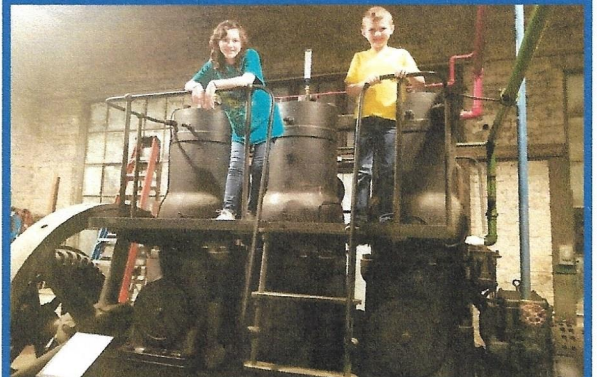
"Stay out of my fries!"

I am not sure if Tony has any other surprises when it comes to eating establishments, but it is going to be really hard to beat Jaspers. So, if we have a third Lipan swap meet, you know who gets my vote for our Friday night meal.

Even though we all probably felt like it was time to lay down and take a nap, we all regrouped at the church bus and headed to Granbury which is east of Bluff Dale by about 15 miles. Several individuals went with us this year that had not gone last year to the power plant. Although I had been there before, I had no problem going again because those large stationary machines inside the Granbury Light Plant are magnificent.



"Come on Dad! Do we have to take this boring picture?" Charlie and Emma Oncken posing in front of a State of Texas Historical Marker.

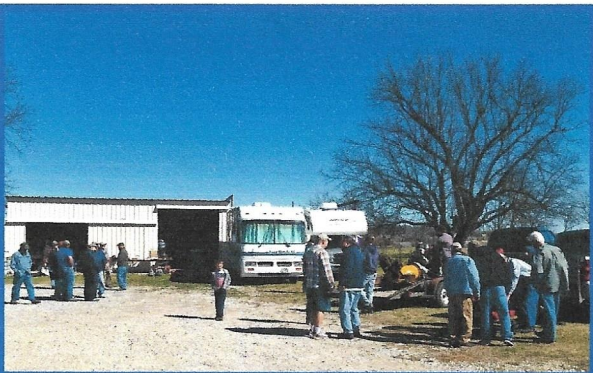


Emma and Charlie Oncken standing on the walkway attached to the three cylinder diesel engine.



Tony gave the complete tour of the Granbury Light Plant which involved cranking up some of the air compressors and firing up one of the big diesel engines. If you want to know more about the engines housed in this plant, just refer back to last year's articles in The Antique Outboarder and Texas Chapter News. The repeat trip was once again a blast. Friday came to an end and the van returned to Tony's house while Mike took us to our hotel in Weatherford.

After taking the kids by a nearby IHOP the next morning, we once again traveled to Lipan. A crowd had already arrived and it was a great turnout. John Slator, Rich Reich, and Steve Seale stayed overnight in Tony's motorhome and Ed Bachman and Bruce Miller stayed in Bruce's camper after the Granbury trip the previous night.



Activities started early and attendance was good on Saturday morning. Check out those "blue" north Texas skies! Winter really gave us a break.

I wish to thank a very special guest at this year's gathering. Our Founder, Dave Reinhartsen, made an appearance and actually took some of the photos seen in this article. Thanks, Dave. It was good to see you at a meet again.

A few of the Granbury Flywheelers made an additional appearance this year. Ronnie Barton, John Maltby, M.J. Parker, Jack Wesley, and Allan Wright were in attendance and brought along some of their neat toys. M.J. brought his



Ronnie Barton attended for the second year in a row and ran his little "stationary" engine. This little engine seems to putt-putt with little effort.

trailer with a 471 Detroit Diesel on board. That monster ran loud and strong.

Ben McCauley obtained a Martin "60" while at the meet that appeared to be "stuck". As it turns out, it was not stuck in the traditional way where the piston rings seize to the cylinder walls. This time, it was the old "mud dauber" bandit at work.

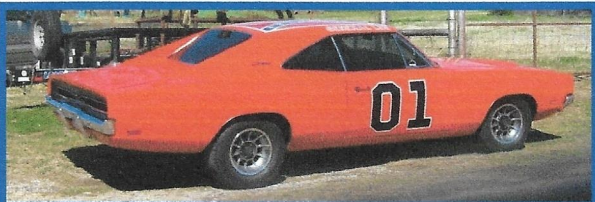


Charlie Oncken showing Emma and Mike how to repair an old Martin motor.

Saturday dinner was again from Natty Flats BBQ restaurant in Lipan. There is one thing I can say about Tony's annual meet, it is a great place to go if you like to eat great food. The table was set with brisket, ground brisket, some ribs, potato salad, and all the other things you would expect of a Texas feast including some great desserts.

I have not yet confirmed that Tony will be having a 3rd Annual Lipan Swap Meet, but I am hopeful. If I am able, I would like to do as we have with Louis' annual meet and mail out a physical swap meet notice. If you have any people you would like to add to that list, I am open to building a file for it. Future member prospects are welcome.

Again, I want to thank the whole Robinson clan for sharing their home with us. Thank you Tony, Andrea, Chase, Ivy, Monica, and Max! We all appreciate the time and effort you all managed to put into this swap meet this year.



Dierk Roberts drove up in this Dukes of Hazard "General Lee" replica. It was a gorgeous car, but alas, Daisy Duke did not come with him. Darn!

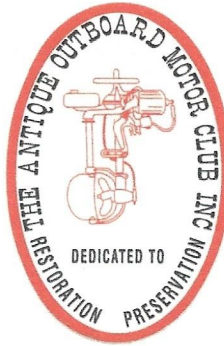


SINCE 1966

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

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## Upcoming Events

### Spring Wet Meet at Heart of Texas Lake Resort — April 12-14, 2019

It is going to be difficult to beat the wet meet we had in Burnet, TX late last year, but we are going to see if we can get lucky twice in a row with good weather. This wet meet has proven to be great for running your boats and outboards. There are cabins, condos, campsites, and a very nice launch ramp with plenty of docking slips for our boats. Some members like to arrive early on Thursday. We will have our usual picnic style lunch on Saturday night at the pavilion between the condos. If you have not done so, we recommend that you make your reservations soon because Heart of Texas Lake Resort is a very desirable location for gatherings.

Contact Information: Ruth Ann Bowland — Work Number: [\(830\) 613-9269](tel:8306139269) / Cell Number: [\(512\) 756-7766](tel:5127567766)

Meet Address: [408 Glen Oak Parkway, Burnet, TX 78611](https://www.heartoftexaslakeresort.com) / Website Address: [heartoftexaslakeresort.com](https://www.heartoftexaslakeresort.com)

### 7th Annual Lake Houston Wet/Swap Meet — June 8, 2019

The 7th annual summer meet for the Texas Chapter will be held on Saturday, June 8, 2019 from 8:00AM until 5:00PM. This one-day boating/sell/swap meet is on Lake Houston, a 14,000 acre reservoir and a mere 20 minute drive from downtown Houston. The meet is held on the southeastern side of the lake at the Indian Shores Community Center. This facility is a lodge style place resting peacefully on 1.5 acres of beautiful waterfront. Features that provide an excellent site for our meet include an air conditioned clubhouse (with indoor restrooms); easy slope, double-wide boat ramp; picnic tables; and shady trees. A long pier and adjacent bulkheads provide for docking, but be sure to bring extra boat bumpers or cushions in order to protect your boat. Also, remember to bring your boats, motors, and other stuff that you want to sell and/or swap.

This event has turned into a great relaxing family meet, so feel free to invite guests. For lunch, we'll be grilling up some great hot dogs with all the fixin's for a nominal cost per person. To facilitate a head count for lunch, please contact Adam Finn by email or phone before the event (include the total # in your party). John Platou is the primary contact for this event at [\(832\) 473-8928](tel:8324738928) or email him at [john.platou@yahoo.com](mailto:john.platou@yahoo.com).

Texas Chapter member and host, John Platou, lives on the lake and will lead us on a boat parade. Like always, make sure that you have the normal state-required safety gear on your boat along with your registration. Our invited lunch guests include the City of Houston Lake Patrol officers. Anyone coming from out of town can make reservations for a reasonable cost at the Best Western Plus, a 15 minute drive from the event at (281) 852-5665. Mention that you are with the Antique Outboard Motor Club.

Location: Indian Shores Community Center Clubhouse; 20731 Appaloosa Trail; Crosby, TX 77532

### Fall Wet Meet at Heart of Texas Lake Resort — October 18-20, 2019

Tentative date for our annual fall wet meet. More information will come in the July newsletter.