

"THE ORIGINAL"

TEXAS CHAPTER

ANTIQUA OUTBOARD  
MOTOR CLUB, INC.

David R. Reinhartsen  
Founder

# Texas Chapter News



VOLUME 6, ISSUE 3

JULY 2019



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## Snell Brothers Have Been Reunited

By Tom Oncken

As you may recall from our January 2019 issue of Texas Chapter News, I notified our members of the passing of Albert Snell of Jasper, Texas in November 2018. At that time, Albert's twin brother, John, remained under the care of Magnolia Manor Nursing Home in Port Arthur as a result of a bad reaction that he had suffered due to bypass surgery sometime earlier. Now, it is with great sorrow that I must notify all of you that John Snell passed away on April 28, 2019 and he has been reunited with his brother in the Jasper City Cemetery in Jasper, TX.

John was born on November 17, 1932 and was a graduate of Jasper High School. He enlisted in the United States Army in 1953, and retired as a Master Sergeant. Then he continued to serve our country for another 20 years while in the U. S. Army Reserve. John later retired from the Texaco Refinery in Port Arthur after 35 years of employment where he had held a supervisory position.

John and his brother, Albert, shared a true passion for outboard racing. When I joined AOMCI and our Texas Chapter in 1989, the "Snell Brothers" were the experts regarding vintage outboard racing. Their special love of all vintage Mercury racing engines made them the guys to go to if you had any questions about the old Mercury outboards. I must admit that John and his brother are responsible for infecting me and my son with the Mercury racing bug. As a result of their influence, this "OMC" and "Indian" guy owns several vintage Mercury outboard motors including a Mark 20H, Mark 40H, and a "Super 10" Hurricane Cruiser. Their influence on my son has led to a small collection of Mercury outboards in his home including a NOS Merc 25SS and a pair of

Mark 30H race motors. A colleague of the Snell Brothers and long time Texas Chapter member, Ron Carbaugh, was very instrumental in our obtaining many of those outboard motors over the years. Thanks, Ron!

I must admit to this date, that if you show me a handful of photos of John and Albert, I would not be able to point out which one was John and which was Albert. Unfortunately, that is my personal loss. Perhaps if I could have spent additional time with both of these true southern gentlemen, I may have developed the skill to identify one from the other. Regardless, the Texas Chapter has lost some very valuable members over this past year, and I hope we always remember our Texas Chapter legends, "The Snell Brothers".



John Edward Snell, 86  
November 17, 1932 to April 28, 2019

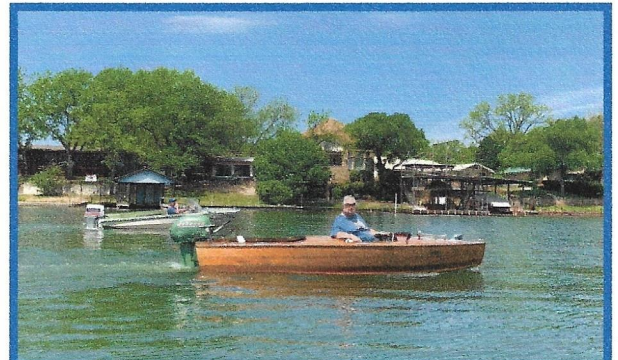


# Spring Wet Meet at the Heart of Texas Lake Resort in Burnet, Texas

By Tom Oncken

Mother Nature had her way with us during this annual meet scheduled from April 12th through April 14th. Those who decided to arrive early on Thursday enjoyed boating in some beautiful weather during Friday. All of those who chose to arrive late on Friday had a good time Saturday visiting with fellow members while watching it rain as the temperature dropped. The weather pattern was really strange particularly on Saturday as a circulation was spinning waves of clear skies in between repetitive bands of cold rain. At first, it would be storming and the next minute it would be clearing. Unfortunately, a constant clearing did not occur until later on Saturday afternoon after temperatures dropped into the mid-50's. Some boaters did not even bother to launch.

Chapter President Adam Finn, and First Lady Susan Finn arrived early on Thursday along with Joe McCauley, Cornelia Kuffner, and Chip and Marilyn Rathbun. These couples enjoyed dinner together at "Doc's" in Marble Falls on Friday night. The following morning, they began to launch and run around in their boats.



Chip Rathbun proudly running his 1942 Century wooden runabout powered by 1954 Johnson 25HP while Joe McCauley ran his Glastron with Stinger.

Dave Samstag did his fair share of running on the river on Friday with his Marchetti hydro with its nicely rebuilt Mercury Mark 58H outboard. Earl Gerloff with Jackie Johnson and their furry companion, June, brought their 19' Lone Star aluminum hardtop boat powered by its 1978 Evinrude 115HP. The V-4 was accompanied by a smaller 1957 Evinrude Sportwin for backup. I understand that Earl and crew spent the night in the Lone Star both Friday and Saturday while they were at the meet. These youngsters are true pioneers! I think I will stick with the condo.

Louis Rothermel and I traveled up on Friday with his boat in tow. Mike, Emma, Tommy, and Charlie Oncken followed us pulling Mike's little Elgin boat affectionately named "Jerry Rig" with a 1970's Johnson 15HP on the back. The motor was on loan from my neighbor and member, Jerry Ball (also former owner of the Elgin boat). We got a later start than anticipated, but we managed to stop in Spicewood and have our usual BBQ feast at Opie's. We arrived at Heart of Texas Lake Resort somewhat late, so we made a decision to wait until morning to launch the boats. That turned out to be a good decision.

Meatball Murray on the left in his 1965 Power Cat with twin Mercury Merc 1400s and Darrell Beaulier on the right in his 1965 Glastron-Carlson powered by 1972 Evinrude Super Strangler.



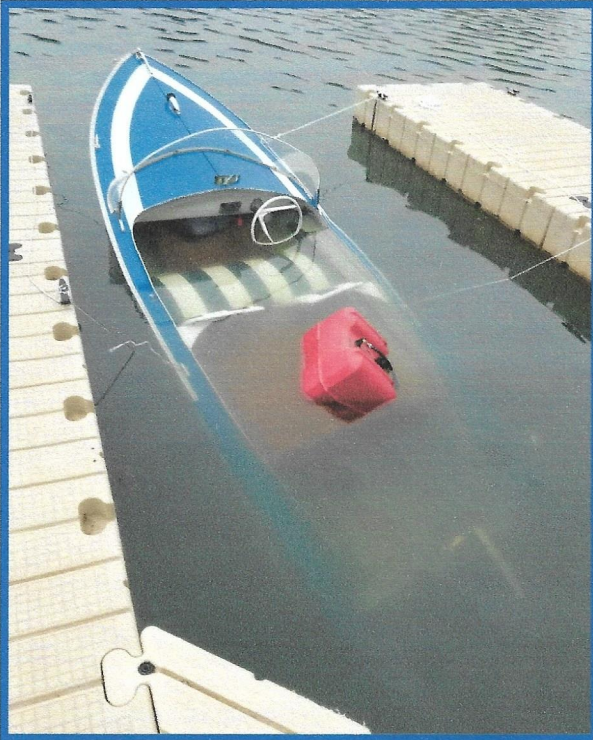
Several individuals arrived early on Friday and were able to enjoy the nice weather. Glenn and Lee Seureau brought their 13' Riviera Fowler duck boat powered by its 1977 Johnson 7.5HP and had it running again (see photo below)



Grandpa getting into trouble with Emma again trying to sneak some potato chips while at Opie's.



Saturday morning started out with a bad omen. As we got up on Saturday ready to go play, we looked out the window and noticed that Tony Robinson's boat looked a little strange. We could see the bow sticking up above the docks, but we could not see his outboard at all. We went quickly to the docks to discover that Tony's bilge pump had failed to run during the night, and as a result, the boat filled with water and his Mercury outboard was totally submerged.



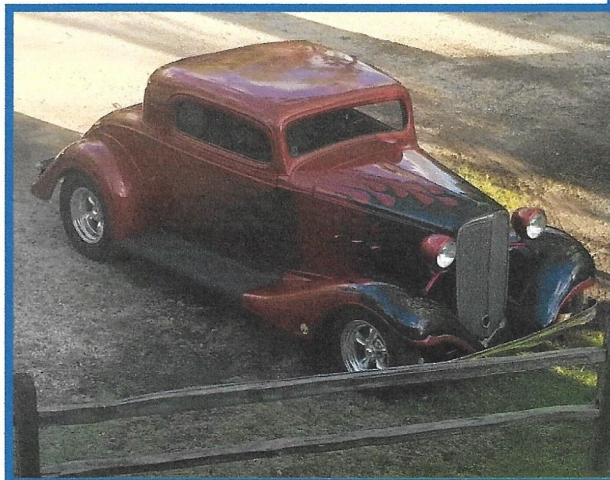
If not for the ropes holding the boat to the docks, the boat may have gone to the bottom. I would like to commend a number of members who ran down to the docks and immediately began their rescue of Tony's boat. Trailer straps were placed beneath the boat and between the two sides of the docks. While Tony got into the boat and bailed with a bucket, the helpers cranked on the straps to slowly lift the rear of the boat up out of the water. Ironically, Tony flipped the switch to the bilge pump, and although the battery, bilge pump, and entire outboard were under water, the bilge pump started pumping again. Somewhat miraculously, the sides of the boat eventually were lifted high enough that the boat started floating again and the bilge pump finished the job. After loading the boat back on its trailer, it was obvious that Tony's boating for the weekend was over as he began efforts to drain water out of the motor's powerhead. The last thing I noticed was water still dripping from the distributor. Needless to say, Tony had a great deal of work ahead of him. By the time we were finished with saving the boat, the weather began to look ugly.



After the rescue, a great number of us went to the local Crazy Gals diner for breakfast hoping to return and start boating. Unfortunately, by the time we got back, the wind picked up, rain began to fall, and temperatures began to drop. The rain was sporadic, so we got an opportunity to look at the things that John and Cindy Slator brought to sell at the meet, and we got an opportunity to visit with our members and bond with each other, but nobody was rushing out to run their boats.

Glenn Seureau spent a little time traveling down the river in his duck boat searching for some of Tony's items that had floated away during the boat incident. Our thanks to Glenn as he was successful in recovering the items lost.

As usual, Meatball Murray along with Caroline Holton, who live just down the road in Kingsland, brought a number of boats and vehicles over the weekend. With Meatball, you never know what is going to show up in the driveway and this year was no exception. He and Caroline drove up on Saturday in a beautifully restored vintage hotrod roadster. What a great car!







Two beautiful restorations by Jim Lancharic. On the left is a 1945 Gale Products 5HP Sea King and on the right is a 1957 Mercury-built 5HP Wizard WH6A.

Jim Lancharic was accompanied by his daughter, Natalie Lancharic, and they brought a couple of Jim's restored outboards for display. Since the covered area between the condos was not being used as our Saturday dinner spot, it proved to be a nice safe place to display Jim's motors. Jim, we were very happy to see you in attendance and you did a great job on those two outboards!

A few brave souls decided to run their boats on Saturday. James Smith (Al Smith's brother) ran a Feather Craft aluminum boat powered by a McCulloch-built Sears 75HP outboard. Bruce and Mary Miller along with their grandson, Ian Guynes, braved the crummy weather in their 1973 Sea Ray 17' fiberglass boat powered by its original Merc 115. Joe McCauley was also seen

James Smith taking the Feather Craft for a ride in spite of the weather.



scooting around in his Stinger powered Glastron fiberglass boat. Earl Gerloff and Jackie Johnson decided to take their Lone Star for a run as well. The unsettling weather kept some of us from even launching our boats. Mike Oncken, Louis Rothermel, Jim and Rosalynn Norbeck, and Steve Seale elected to leave their boats on the trailers.

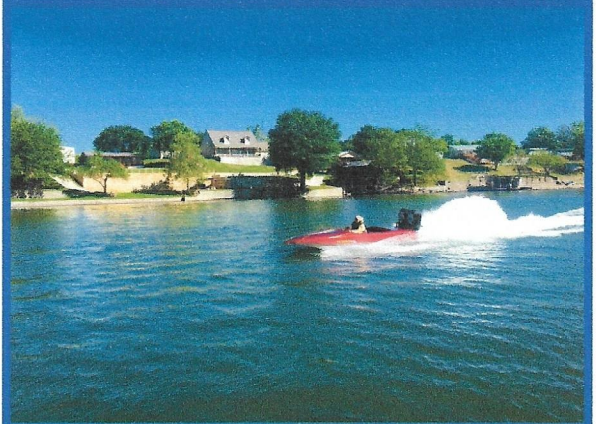
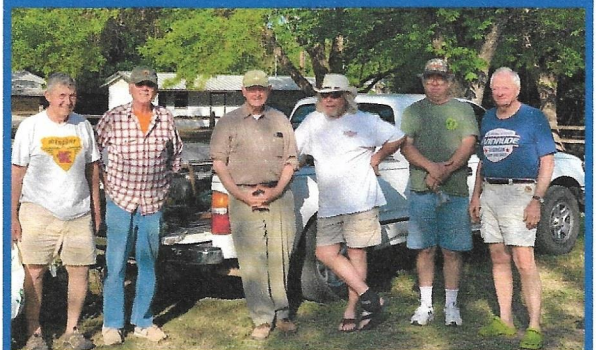
By the time the weather finally settled down, it was time to get the Saturday night dinner ready. For a contribution of \$10, Spyke's Bar-B-Que was the fare for Saturday afternoon. Our thanks

to Adam and Susan Finn for arranging for the late afternoon meal. Thanks to Cindy Slator for providing a great dessert and to the members who donated their condo rooms to host the meal since using the outdoor covered area was not very appealing with the wind and temperature at the time.

For those who did not leave early on Sunday, the weather cleared up and allowed those remaining to launch the boats and have some fun on the water. In spite of the generally poor weather for the weekend, we had a rather large turnout. If I counted correctly, we had 49 (50 if you count June, our outboard mascot puppy dog). Others in attendance not mentioned elsewhere in this article included the following: Greg Ganz, Andrea Robinson with foster children, Monica, Max, and Natalie, Scott-Atwater Al and Katie Smith with children Addison, Abigail, and Levi, Sarah Smith (Al's sister), Izaiah Rodriguez (Al's cousin), Abigail Urban-Norbeck, Victoria Urban-Norbeck, Holly and John Weimer, and Michael Worley. Please forgive me if I have overlooked anyone and accept my thanks for your attendance. Your presence is what this club is all about. The motors and boats are just toys to most of us and we like to share that experience with others.

That is all I have to offer for now. I hope you all plan to make it to the October meet at the Heart of Texas Lake Resort. We need to keep our fingers crossed and hope for better weather.

Dave Samstag, John Slator, Louis Rothermel, Meatball Murray, Jim Norbeck, and Joe McCauley



Meatball taking a run on the river. This just is not fair at all. Check out that Sunday sky!



# 7th Annual Lake Houston Wet/Swap Meet in Crosby, Texas

By Tom Oncken

On Saturday, June 8th, Texas Chapter members were invited to participate in the seventh edition of our annual wet meet and swap meet held on the shores of Lake Houston. Our thanks goes to John Plato for making arrangements for us to use the clubhouse facility, launch ramp, and docks at the Indian Shores Community Center once again.



David Coffey, Sr., John Slator, Craig Vilce, Jeff Guidroz, Adam Finn, Tom Oncken, and David Reyna.

As I recall, the weather was excellent for a day in June. As expected, it was very hot and muggy, but the skies were blue with light clouds. Forty-two individuals attended including Darren, Chris, and Alex Baird, Mark Betner, Randy Bowles, David Coffey, Jr., David Coffey, Sr., Adam and Susan Finn, Greg Ganz, Jeff Guidroz, Bruce

Henderson, Gary Keeney, Jeff Kubosh, Bob Macaluso, Brenden Macaluso, John Martin, Joe McCauley, John and Karen McRae, Jim and Rosalynn Norbeck, Tom and Cyndi Oncken, John Platou, Dan, Misty, Matthew, and Luke Peoples, David Reyna, Steve Seale, Glenn and Lee

Seureau, John and Cindy Slator, Royce Strickland, Robert Taylor, Abigail Urban-Norbeck, Thomas Urban-Norbeck, Craig Vilce, and Jeff and John Workman. What a great turnout!

Other than swapping, selling, and playing in boats, the most important part of this annual meet is the luncheon. As usual, Adam and Susan Finn prepared the makings for excellent hot dogs, Frito chili pies, and fruit for dessert. Be sure to send your thanks to Adam and Susan because they do such a great job of preparing for this meet each year.

That completes my report for this event. I hope that everyone decides to come back again next year. Until next time, have a great summer!



Cyndi Oncken, Lee Seureau, and Cindy Slator relaxing while their husbands are out playing with the other boys.



Dan, Misty, Matthew, and Luke Peoples getting launched in their 14' 1955 Lone Star Malibu with 1974 Evinrude 40HP and 1974 Evinrude 2HP.



Greg Ganz in his 60's Glastron with Mercury 50HP.



Not sure if this was some serious trading going on or just members trying to stay cool in the shade.



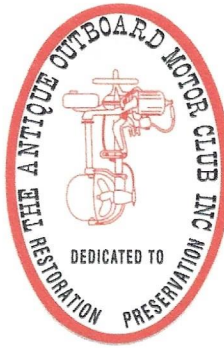


SINCE 1966

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

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## Upcoming Events

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

It will soon be time for our Fall wet meet at Heart of Texas Resort and we all have our fingers crossed hoping for better weather than we had in the Spring. 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 one of the more desirable locations for outdoor gatherings and they fill up quickly.

Contact Information: Ruth Ann Bowland — Work Number: [\(830\) 613-9269](tel:8306139269) / Cell Number: [\(512\) 756-7766](tel:5127567766)  
Meet Address: [408 Clen Oak Parkway, Burnet, TX 78611](http://408ClenOakParkway.com) / Website Address: [heartoftexaslakeresort.com](http://heartoftexaslakeresort.com)

### 26th Annual Houston Swap Meet — November 8-10, 2019

Louis Rothermel has once again volunteered to hold our final swap meet of the year at his shop in Houston. This will be our 26th presentation of this swap meet and we hope there will be more in the future. Originally, it was designed as a Saturday swap meet, but that changed quite a while back. We encourage members to come on Friday morning and stay until Sunday evening if possible.

Friday is usually the day of arrival and most individuals will show up throughout the day. Some selling and trading usually occurs, but the majority of the activity will fall on Saturday. We open at 9:00AM and Louis will provide coffee, soft drinks, and donuts on Friday morning for those in attendance. Lunch is usually handled by ordering burgers at a nearby deli and butcher shop called "Pete's Finer Meats". Pete's burgers are fantastic! We usually wrap things up by 6:00PM and several of our members will then travel over to Jack's Grill for dinner.

Saturday is the heart of the meet and we will start at 9:00AM. Louis will provide the usual coffee, soft drinks, and donuts. We usually order in lunch by 1:00PM from Pappas Barbecue for a \$10 per person fee for all you can eat. Throughout the day, we will be visiting, buying, selling, etc. Although you are encouraged to bring some motors for display, please help spice up the meet by bringing a motor or motors that you no longer want and any parts that you would like to share with other members. Louis usually mails out about 300 physical invitations to the meet encouraging non-members to attend as well. We will probably end the Saturday activity at 6:00PM.

Sunday is a work on motors day. Bring your motors if you want to clean them up or get advice on how to repair them. We will open again at 9:00AM with beverages and donuts and we will stay until 6:00PM if necessary, Lunch will probably be leftover B-B-Q. If you have never attended this meet, you do not know what you are missing. We hope to see you all there!

Contact Information: Louis Rothermel—Office Number: [\(713\) 783-6300](tel:7137836300)

Meet Address: [5910 Star Lane, Houston, TX 77057-7118](http://5910StarLane.com)

[Louis does not have a computer, so check our website if you desire electronic information and/or need email addresses]