

## COLUMBIA-WILLAMETTE CHAPTER ACBS

# THE HULL TRUTH

[www.cwc-acbs.org](http://www.cwc-acbs.org)

JULY  
2026

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**Top (left):** Wiping off rain water was a frequent activity at the Whitefish Woody Weekend boat show in Montana. **Top (right):** "Second Kiss" was on dry-land display for the Whitefish Woody Weekend. **Bottom:** "Wood Duck" represented the campaign to re-elect Catherine McMullen at the July 4 parade in Canby, OR.

## ON THE ROCKS by Sandee Barr

Three CWC boats and three couples traveled 600+ miles in June to Whitefish, MT, to participate in the Whitefish Woody Weekend boat show. **Jim and Sharon West** towed their '66 Century "Classic Plastic" along with **Michael and Bree West** and their '66 Century "In the Red." Also part of the adventure was "Second Kiss," a '53 Chris Craft belonging to **Bob and Wendy Nelson**.

One boat didn't make it to the marina (see article "My Latest 'Oops' Moment" on Page 3), so it was displayed on the lawn. Jim's boat made it to the marina, but refused to start again. A tow was needed days later to return to the launch site. That left Michael's boat, but "In the Red" seldom left the docks due to the wet weather. Wiping down boats was a frequent event. The Lodge at Whitefish Lake provided well-trained dock hands, an event tent for group gatherings, fine food, and more. It's a great event to attend, with or without a boat!

Some people celebrate the Fourth of July at the lake or the beach, or another getaway. **Jack Coulter and Cheryl Wyborny** used their 17' Tollycraft "Wood Duck" to be a float in the 4th of July parade in Canby, OR. Cheryl is volunteering with the campaign to re-elect Catherine McMullen, Clackamas County Clerk. The campaign was looking for a vehicle to participate in the parade and Cheryl suggested riding in a classic boat. The parade itself was more than a half mile long and the route was about a mile in length. "Wood Duck" was decked out with the candidate placards and Catherine rode on the aft deck waving and passing out miniature frisbees with her campaign logo. Several other campaign volunteers walked along side. The crowd was very enthusiastic about the candidate, and the boat received some thumbs, too. "Wood Duck" was in the West Linn Old Time Fair parade on July 11, and will be in the Gladstone parade on August 1 as well. Doing your civic duty can be fun!

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we find ourselves in the heart of the boating season, it's hard not to appreciate what a wonderful summer we've enjoyed so far. Our chapter has already hosted several outstanding events, and there are plenty more still to come. One highlight was our cruise from Willamette Park to Oregon City on a beautiful summer day. Members enjoyed a leisurely run upriver, followed by lunch at the Rivershore Bar & Grill. The return cruise back to the launch was just as enjoyable, with plenty of boat traffic reminding us that summer on the Willamette River is in full swing.

Another recent success was our participation in the West Linn Old Time Fair with our CWC-ACBS Boat Show. We had a great turnout of classic and antique boats on display, and it was wonderful to see so many members sharing their passion for preserving and enjoying these beautiful pieces of boating history. Events like

these not only showcase our boats but also help introduce our hobby to the public and inspire future enthusiasts.

Looking ahead, there are plenty of exciting events on the horizon, so be sure to check the Chapter calendar and make plans to join us. One of my personal favorites is the Lakeside Classic Car and Boat Show on July 24th -25th at Tenmile Lake. With the poker run, antique fair, live music, barbecue, and of course a fantastic collection of classic boats and cars, it's always a memorable weekend. So don't be shy, come out and be part of the fun before this boating season passes you by. I look forward to seeing you on the water!

-Michael Sheets, CWC-ACBS President

## CWC-ACBS 2026 CALENDAR

*Informal lunch every Thursday 11:00 AM at the Portland Yacht Club. Contact Jim West at 503-422-8104*

*Watch your email for messages from "membership@acbs.org" for updates on events*

### JULY

**7/18** – Cruise from Gleason Boat Ramp to Puffin Restaurant at Port on Camas/Washougal. Contact Jim West 503-422-8104.

**7/25-26** – CWC-ACBS Lakeside Classic Boat Show. Contact: Doug Shone, 707-483-3311.

**7/31 - 8/1-2** – Payette Lakes Boat Show. McCall, Idaho. Contact: Bill Roberts, 714-269-5203.

### AUGUST

**8/5** – Cruise Willamette River from West Linn Willamette Park to Champoege Park for BYO-picnic. Contact: Jack Coulter 510-387-0240.

**8/13** – Pearl Girls lunch. Portland Yacht Club. Contact: Sandra Bakke, 503-502-6449.

**8/15** – CWC-ACBS BOD meeting.

**8/15 - 8/16** – Coeur d'Alene Antique and Classic Boat Festival. Contact: [inlandempireacbs.net](http://inlandempireacbs.net)

**8/22** – Cruise from Gleason Boat Ramp on the Columbia River to participate in the "Smile Parade." Picnic lunch TBD. Contact: Jim West 503-422-8104.

**8/30** – Lake Oswego Boat Show. Sundeleaf Plaza. Contact: Lake Oswego Heritage Council, 503-635-6373.

### SEPTEMBER

**9/2** – Cruise Columbia River to BYO-picnic on Government Island. Contact: Jack Coulter, 510-387-0240.

**9/4 - 9/6** – Port Townsend Wooden Boat Festival. Contact: [festival@woodenboat.org](mailto:festival@woodenboat.org).

**9/4 - 9/7** – Dry Rot Boat Show & Events. Priest Lake, Idaho. Contact: [inlandempireacbs.net](http://inlandempireacbs.net).

**9/10** – Pearl Girls lunch. Portland Yacht Club. Contact: Sandra Bakke, 503-502-6449.

**9/10 - 9/12** – Century Boats 100 Anniversary Boat Show. Manistee, Michigan. Contact: [tmiklos4@yahoo.com](mailto:tmiklos4@yahoo.com).

**9/13** – Cruise. Launch Willamette Park Portland, cruise Willamette River to Columbia River to St. Helens. Lunch at Plymouth Pub. Contact: Jim West, 503-422-8104.

**9/13 - 9/20** – ACBS International Boat Show. Port Huron, Michigan. Contact: ACBS Headquarters, 315-688-2628.

**9/19** – CWC-BOD meeting.

## PT 658 READY FOR SUMMER by Jack Coulter



**Above:** The PT 658 being moved into position alongside the barge to reinstall torpedoes and 40mm anti-aircraft gun.

Following a roughly six-month drydocking, PT 658 is ready to cruise the Willamette and Columbia Rivers. CWC Members **Don Cameron, Jack Coulter, Ian Harding, and Todd Verboort** are also part of the PT 658 volunteer crew donating many hours of work during the overhaul and recommissioning. The boat was drydocked last fall for routine maintenance, repairs, and preventive maintenance. During the drydocking, approximately 125 feet of hull planking were replaced, including two lower planks on the transom and deteriorated wood at the bow. The drydocking process included removing the four torpedoes and the 40mm anti-aircraft gun along with small arms and other small items on display.

Since the torpedoes and 40mm Bofors auto cannon are heavy items (approximately one and two tons respectively), an outside crane service is required. In mid-June, Clark Caffrall and WCT Marine and Construction, Inc. provided the crane and services needed to move PT 658 and reinstall the torpedoes and 40mm cannon back on board after the boat was relaunched. Of the four torpedoes onboard, three are unarmed training torpedoes on loan from the Naval Undersea Museum Keyport, WA, and the fourth is a cutaway torpedo owned by Save the PT Boat, Inc.

In early July, PT 658 volunteers started the three Packard V-12 engines for the first time since the drydocking to test out a newly refurbished heat exchanger, new hull valves, overhauled sea water pump, and several new hoses and fittings. PT 658 is now ready for outings on the Willamette and Columbia rivers this summer.

Save the PT Boat, Inc. is fortunate to have generous support from donors and local services as well as dedicated volunteers needed to plan and execute the complex tasks associated with operating and maintaining such a historic vessel. For more information about PT 658 visit [www.savetheptboatinc.com](http://www.savetheptboatinc.com).

## MY LATEST "OOPS" MOMENT by Bob Nelson

Recently, I worked to fix the temperature gauge and temperature sensor sending unit on the 1956 Chrysler Hemi engine in my '53 Chris Craft U-22. This involved turning on the key to get power to test the gauge and sensor. I was able to determine that both worked but, unfortunately, not together. I finally replaced the temperature sensor on the engine and it worked. The gauge read 180 degrees while placing it in hot water. Pulling the sensor out the hot water, the reading on the gauge slowly dropped. Returning the sensor to the hot water showed that the gauge went up to 170 degrees. The water had cooled down some. Eureka- the temperature gauge and sensor were working! I finished installing them and closed the engine cover. Task completed.

Two days later (after driving 13 hours towing my boat to Whitefish, MT), I confidently launched my boat only to find that it would not start. After two hours of troubleshooting, I replaced the coil and still did not have spark leaving the coil. The only thing left was the Pertronix electronic ignition system. Fried! After the Montana boat show where the U-22 was on dry land display, I pulled my boat back home over 600 miles and ordered a new ignitor from Pertronix and explained to them what had happened. The tech informed me that it is possible for the ignitor to burn out in as little as 4 to 5 minutes with the key turned on and engine not running. The parts arrived quickly and were installed with a just bit of tinkering. The engine now starts at the first turn of the key.

There's a lesson here: if you are working on an engine with Pertronix ignition, first remove the positive wires off of the coil before leaving the key on. Also, be sure the wire from the key to the coil is positioned so it cannot touch a ground. I hope my mistake may save you from doing the same.



## FEATURED BOAT: PETALUMAHOGANY by Don Cameron



Featured this month is a 1950 17-foot Mercury utility model, powered by a 6-cylinder Gray Marine Phantom six-112, and built by Mercury Boat Co. in Burbank, CA. Its owners are CWC members **Don Cameron** and **Sheri Feinstein**.

The story of this boat really begins back in the 1950s, when Sheri's father, Ellis Feinstein, was a young man who fell in love with the wooden boats of that era. Fast forwarding to years later, to about 1982, Ellis found and bought the Mercury and took on the hobby of rebuilding it to its former glory. He was committed enough to fly to Maine and take a boat-building course to achieve his goals.

Also during this time, Ellis was busy building an international antenna company in Medford, OR, so it wasn't until the late 1980s that this restoration project was fully underway. After many

stops and starts, including buying additional project boats, Ellis completed his work on the Mercury in 2008.

When he had time in his busy schedule, Ellis would take the Mercury out to Lake of the Woods near his home for a long afternoon cruise. Unfortunately, by 2010 Ellis had health issues and the boat remained idle in a friend's barn on the way to the lake. In 2017, Ellis passed away and his boat was pulled out of storage for display at his memorial service.

After another eight years in the barn, the Mercury was acquired by Sheri and Don. They found that the long period of dry storage had not been kind to the boat. It seems that a sizable rat had made it his home. Although the upholstery was undamaged, the electrical wiring, fuel lines, and vacuum lines had been chewed and

destroyed. In addition, Don pulled out four large loads of papery rats-nest fluff from under the floorboards. When Don remarked to a neighbor, "I wonder where all this paper came from?" the neighbor responded, "Probably your owner's manual and registration!"

Six months of cleaning, polishing, and repair have brought the Mercury back to life. It made its post-renovation debut on Lake Simtustus with the CWC this past May.

Today, in its third incarnation, the boat is named "Petalumahogany," in honor of Ellis' hometown of Petaluma and the Mercury's beautiful wood construction. "Petalumahogany" should provide many hours of cruising pleasure on the waters in the Pacific Northwest.



## ON THE LOOP by Mike Stevens

Linda and I have been exploring the Chesapeake Bay and then headed up the Potomac River for the 250th celebration in our nation's capital. The Chesapeake Bay is North America's largest estuary with 11,000 miles of shoreline and hundreds of quaint towns and marinas to explore. We motored counterclockwise and visited towns like Onancock, Oxford, Chrisfield, and St. Michaels. While they all have their own style, these towns consistently have friendly folks, good restaurants, welcoming marinas, and access to bike rides, pickleball, and stores for provisioning.

A four-day stop in Annapolis was fascinating. It's the starting place of our Navy, home to the Naval Academy, and a delightful place to visit.

Our trip to Washington, D.C. for the 4th of July proved to be a remarkable experience. Friends from Idaho joined us, and we toured the Mint, the Capitol, and the new spy museum. Of course, the fireworks on July 4th were spectacular. (See photo at right.)

Following this stop, we're hustling north to passing through the C&D



canal to Delaware Bay and around to Atlantic City. This will be the only open-ocean travel we've done since leaving western Florida. Then it's north on the Hudson River to Troy, New York and the westward start of the Erie Canal. The adventure continues!



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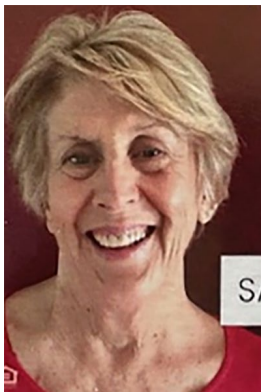
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## THE TRADING DOCK

**For Sale:** Tandem axle boat trailer. Electric brakes on both axles. Unknown manufacturer. Currently has a Chris Craft Sea Skiff 23-foot boat on it. Spring suspension. Adjustable bunks. Will be available this summer. Located in Vancouver, WA. \$1,900. Contact Doug Shone at 707 483-3311 or [1956boater@gmail.com](mailto:1956boater@gmail.com). (See photo top right.)

**For Sale:** 1946 Chris Craft 17' Deluxe. This boat has been completely restored with new 5200 bottom, interior, wiring, chrome, rebuilt engine sitting on a single axle trailer. \$29,950. Contact Jim at 360-735-5680. (See photo bottom right.)

**For Sale:** 1947 Chris Craft KBL engine, available soon. This engine has been rebuilt, replaced crank, new pistons, rare aluminum intake/exhaust manifold, rebuilt carbs, rebuilt 6-volt generator, gear driven raw water pump, Pertronix ignition. \$10,995.00. Contact Jim at 360-735-5680.





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