

AUTUMN 2016

RiversWest

We inspire people to build and use low-impact boats

News



*Craig Bryant at Vancouver Lake Messabout
see pages 3 and 5*



President's Corner**Russ Smith, President**

Fellow Members,

When this edition of the newsletter goes to print we will be into the start of autumn. It has been a busy summer for many club members getting out on the water with freshly tuned craft.

On May 26, the club held the annual messabout at Henry Hagg Lake, near Hillsboro, Oregon. We had a good turnout of members with boats and more food in the potluck lunch than we could consume. The weather was especially hot so the lake was very busy with boats and swimmers.

In June, the first of two messabouts at the Vancouver Lake Sailing Club.

The weekend after July 4th, the club, in co-operation with the Willamette Sailing Club, held the 7th Annual Family Boat Build. As usual, we had a great group of enthusiastic participants. On Sunday afternoon, all 14 boats got their first taste of water. (We also had a number of member's boats on Sunday available for viewing at the Portland Boat Festival, held at the same location.) A special word of thanks to all members who assisted the families with their boat construction. Chuck Stuckey, former President of RW, is the person responsible for this event since inception and a mere thank you is really not enough. Thanks also to John Whitehouse for his organization of the boat festival portion of the weekend.

The first weekend in August we held the third messabout this year, again as guests of the Vancouver Lake Sailing Club. The weather was much nicer than the previous one in May and in the afternoon there was great wind for sailing. Thanks you to Kevin Kote for

coordinating this event. Kevin is a member of both RiversWest and the Vancouver Sailing club. We hope to hold other events next year at this venue.

On Labor Day weekend we had the opportunity to have a booth at the Art in the Pearl in downtown Portland. It was great success, judging by the amount of interest from the crowd. Thanks to all members who worked shifts at the booth. Special thanks to John Whitehouse for making this event happen and to John Bouwsma, Craig Bryant and Dick Dewey for putting on demonstrations over the 3 days.



This fall we are looking for two volunteers to take over key positions in the club. Stu Whitcomb would like someone to take over coordination of the Portland Boat Show booth in January. He will assist the volunteer with the needed information.

Also, next year, we will need a new education coordinator as Randy Torgerson would like to hand over that responsibility over to new to leadership. I am sure that Randy would be glad to advise anyone willing to step into that

position.

A sincere thank you to both Stu and Randy for all of their hard work to make RiversWest a better organization.

Welcome to new members who came aboard this summer. I hope they help RiversWest grow stronger and more beneficial to the community. In November, we will be holding our annual planning meeting for next year, so be sure to check our website for the exact date and location.



Art in the Pearl

John Whitehouse

This year RiversWest had a new show. We were invited to give demos of boatbuilding and display finished boats at Art in the Pearl over Labor Day weekend. It turned out to be very successful. In three days, there was not a moment when our booth was not busy with people. We knew before the show that we were low on brochures, so ordered 250 new ones. By 2 pm the second day, those were gone and we were updating old brochures with our new PO box number. We estimate we gave out 400 brochures, plus signed up many new folks for the Family Boat Build and our email list.

Art in the Pearl is a show of art and crafts from around the country, with over 100 juried artists. It has been named one of the top 10 Arts and Crafts Festivals in the country and it takes place every year in the North Park blocks of Portland. RiversWest was one of about 10 crafts organizations giving demos, including other woodworkers, metal workers, sculptors, etc. (for more information see <http://www.artinthepearl.com/festival-information/artists-demonstrations/>).

Russ Smith gave demos of oar making (although he found it difficult to make progress, since so many people wanted to talk with him). John Bouwsma demonstrated box-making and dovetail joints. Craig Bryant had an eye-catching display of making bird-mouth spars, plus pics of the Annie B, and Dick Dewey discussed his models for building a South Pacific-style strip canoe. Also helping out immensely with booth duty were Mark Ramsby, Hugh Logan, Charlie Gripp, Bruce Goodrich and John Whitehouse.

Although it was a holiday, and many people had travel plans, RiversWest had a very successful, fun-filled showing, and we expanded our outreach into the community. Plus, it was just a good time!



COVER: August 2016 Vancouver Lake Messabout

SCAMP is an 11'11" rugged micro cruiser design, for the hardy sailor.

Designed by John Welsford; it was built by RiversWest member Craig Bryant.

RiversWest Small Craft Center

Open House - First and Third Saturdays

Our boat shop is open to visitors on the first and third Saturday of every month. Stop by in the morning and have a free cup of coffee and a donut. Take the opportunity to meet the members who are a



friendly group of boating enthusiasts. We will take you on a tour of our facility which includes our wood shop, boat building spaces which are available for members to rent and our livery of boats. You can even browse through our extensive lending library including our collection of WoodenBoat Magazines.

Boat Shop

Our boat shop is equipped with the necessary equipment to build your boat. Many members who are building their boats at home take advantage of our complete wood shop, saving the cost of renting or purchasing their own tools. Fellow members can provide free advice and helping hands when you need it.



Bay Rentals

Our boat shop is configured with bays that members can use for restoring or building their dream boat. Available for rent on a monthly basis, these bays, 10 x 23 feet, offer a dedicated



workspace with light, electrical power and immediate access to our wood shop. And best of all, there are plenty of friendly and experienced craftsmen available to offer advice on the techniques of building a boat.

When you're a member of RiversWest, you don't need to be a shipwright, own a shop full of tools or have a large space at home to build your dream boat. We have it all.

riverswest.org



Handy Tools

John Whitehouse

One of the old definitions of the word “handy” is something that fits the hand. One of the handiest tools I own is a Porter Cable model 343 random orbital sander. In ten years, I’ve used it on at least eight or nine boats, doing everything from sanding down the cedar strips to removing paint from a kayak (see photo). The only thing that wears out is the Velcro pad that holds on the sandpaper. The first time it wore out, sandpaper discs started flying off the tool and I thought it was ruined. Replacement pads were available online, but they cost almost as much as the tool itself. So I resorted to buying Velcro in two-inch strips and glued it to the old pad, right over the old Velcro. This worked and kept the sanding pads attached for a few more years.

But now replacement pads are cheap at Home Depot and other places. I’ll bet I’ve replaced the Velcro pad at least four times and the sander keeps going strong. In that time I imagine I’ve gone through five or six hundred sanding disks. The best part of the tool though, is that it’s handy. It fits my hand perfectly, unlike other makes and models of sanders (including later models by Porter Cable). Even when I’m lying upside down in the bow of a canoe trying to sand those inaccessible spaces!

Of course, sanding generates a lot of dust. The little dust bag that comes with the sander works okay, but the best solution is a shop vacuum. I’ve modified the dust port so a standard vacuum hose fits, and I keep a small 5-gallon vacuum on wheels trailing around behind me. “Wally” is a German-made vacuum on wheels that just sucks up the dust. I keep it supplied with both a filter and a paper vacuum bag. When I’m sanding down a new cedar boat, Wally fills up a bag pretty quickly. Then it’s a simple matter to shake the fine cedar dust into plastic containers, and I have an excellent source of cedar wood flour for thickening epoxy.

I’m always using measuring tools when building boats. One of the more recent ones I’ve discovered is a simple plastic Vernier caliper from Harbor

Freight. It cost only a few dollars, and I don’t worry about having to take good care of it, so I’m always using it, and finding more uses all the time. It’s great to be fairly precise when cutting or planing wood. But now that my eyesight is not so young, I find it useful to measure the thickness of bolts, dowels, sheet metal, or whatever else I’m working with. I find this tool indispensable.

One last tool that simply fits my hand is a Stanley low-angle block plane. I got the model 60 (G12-060) new from the UK. Not only does it feel right, it has a side-to-side adjustment lever for the blade angle that doesn’t come on my other Stanley block planes. Handy in more ways than one.



1. Kayak paint removal 2. Random orbital sander on “Wally” 4. Vernier caliper 3. Low-angle block plane

Fall Workshop Schedule

Slick Making

September 24th,
9:30 AM to 4:30 PM

Mike Simmons will lead us in making a boat-building slick. You will either pre-build your handle or shape it by hand in the workshop. You will also layout, cut, drill and grind the blade and finally heat-treat it. If you don’t know what a slick is, imagine a 2-1/2 inch wide chisel. Class fee is

\$30 members and \$40 non-members; the material cost is \$10. The minimum number of students is 2 and the maximum is 6.

Bronze Casting Session

October 8th, 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM

Mike Simmons and Randy Torgerson will host a bronze casting session for experienced casters. In the morning we will mold in sand and in the afternoon we will cast bronze. Class fee is \$30 members and \$40 non-members; the material fee will be \$8/lb. of bronze used in your casting. The minimum number of students is 2 and the maximum is 6.

When you sign up, please include your prior casting experience.

Paddle Making

November 5th, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

John Bouwsma, Randy Torgerson, John Whitehouse will lead a workshop on making a canoe paddle. Each student will start from a paddle blank and with instructions and demonstrations will end with a mostly complete paddle that they will finish on their own. Tools, wood, glues and finishes will be discussed. Class fee is \$30 members and \$40 non-members; the material cost is \$30. The minimum number of students is 2, the maximum is 6.



Wood turning demo

imagine a 2-1/2 inch wide chisel. Class fee is



Randy Torgerson

Summer 2016 Messabouts

Russ Smith

July 26— Hagg Lake Messabout

A warm day brought a large crowd to Hagg Lake. It made it rather challenging for rowers such as myself not to hit a person swimming. A great variety of food was brought by members to the potluck lunch and I am sure no one went hungry. Randy Torgerson brought his new boat for its initial testing. John Ost brought one of the Salt Bay Skiffs built in conjunction with Catlin Gabel School in Portland last summer for a test of the sail rig.



August 6— 2nd Vancouver Lake Messabout (see 1st in summer issue)

Saturday was the second messabout at the Vancouver Lake Sailing Club this year. Our club had the facility—with ample dock space and a comfortable club house—pretty much to ourselves. The morning was very calm but the wind came up in the afternoon which made for good sailing. Craig Bryant brought his Scamp “Annie B” which he and his wife Ann enjoyed for an afternoon sail. John Whitehouse brought his modified Wherry out for more sailing tests. John Ost returned with a Salt Bay Skiff rigged for sail. Overall it was a very enjoyable day on the lake.



Seventh Annual Family Boat Build

John Bouwsma



“ONE FAMILY’S EXPERIENCE”

A must see video of one family building their own boat and launching it at the 2016 Family Boat Build, then finishing it to perfection at home.

Go to - www.riverswest.org/2016-family-boat-build1.html



2016 Port Townsend Wooden Boat Festival

Mark Ramsby

The 2016 Port Townsend Wooden Boat Festival was attended by several members of RiversWest. Two members displayed their boats: Randy Torgerson had his recently completed Candlefish 13, "Fish Taco," at the dock, and Mark Ramsby had his PT Skiff, "Mojo" in the water as well. Russ Smith had his newly completed John Dory in Port Townsend, but not in the show, and Bruce Goodrich had his beautiful little sloop moored for the weekend at Boat Haven. Rumor has it that both boats were used over the weekend! Saturday Evening the RiversWest members gathered at Pigmy Kayaks for the 'Off Center



Harbor' happy hour at 5:00. We had Russ and his wife Sharon; Randy; Bruce Goodrich and his son Josh; a new member, Hugh; and me and my wife Meg.

This was a great wooden boat gathering with over 300 boats of every description on display. If you haven't attended, you might want to put it on your calendar for 2017.



ABOVE:

18.5ft **PT Skiff**, designed by Port Townsend Watercraft and built by RiversWest member Mark Ramsby.
LOA- 18.5', BEAM- 6'2", DRAFT- 15",
POWER- Suzuki 20hp 4 stroke

LEFT:

14' (stretched) **Candlefish 13**, designed by Sam Devlin and built by RiversWest member Randy Torgerson.
POWER- Suzuki 15hp 4 stroke



RiversWest Board

Officers:

President & Shop Mgr: Russ Smith
president@riverswest.org

Treasurer & Web Mgr: Craig Bryant
treasurer@riverswest.org

Secretary: John Bouwsma
john@bouwsma.net

Directors and Coordinators:
Membership: John Whitehouse
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Education: Randy Torgerson
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Tool maintenance: Steve Mahoney

Auxiliary Board Members:
John Ost:
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Steve Najjar:
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publicity@riverswest.org

**RiversWest Small Craft Center Inc.
P.O. Box 19234, Portland, OR 97280**

Membership Form

RiversWest is a non-profit membership organization whose mission is to encourage personal involvement in the construction of small recreational wooden craft and their accessories.

Membership Benefits:

Members receive the RiversWest newsletter

Access to RiversWest boat shop and space rentals

Access to all RiversWest educational programs

Invitation to all RiversWest boating and social functions

Right to vote for officers and board members

Discounts at Crosscut Hardwood

**Please return the following with your check to the address above,
or sign up online at riverswest.org**

New member Renewing member Change of information Additional donation

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Home phone _____ Day/Cell phone _____

Email address _____

Youth (17 and under) \$30 General Membership \$50

Donations: \$50 \$100 \$250 Other \$ _____

Annual dues and donations to RiversWest qualify for tax deductions. Ask your tax advisor.

RiversWest Small Craft Center, Inc.

P.O. Box 19234

Portland, OR 97280

www.riverswest.org

