

SPRING 2017

RiversWest News

Inspiring people to build and use low-impact boats



PLAN AHEAD, EXHIBIT YOUR BOAT IN THE RIVERSWEST BOOTH - JANUARY 2018 AT THE EXPO CENTER'S PORTLAND BOAT SHOW



President's Corner



Spring is just around the corner and after the very wet winter that we all have been through this year it will be very welcome. In January, the club was part of the annual Portland Boat Show in our usual spot. You will be able to read an article about it elsewhere in this newsletter. Thank you to all who volunteered for booth duty and to John Ost, Mark Ramsby, Charlie Ehm and Craig Bryant for

displaying their finely crafted boats.

On February 4th we arrived for normal first Saturday to a most unwelcome reception. The first person to arrive found the shop door not fully closed and the lock missing. Due to the fact that the lock was not cut and left on the ground makes us believe someone had the combination. The crux of the story is, we had between \$1000 and \$1500 in tools stolen. It seems that anything requiring more than one person to lift was left alone. The door lock hasp has been revised and of course the combination changed. We also have added some security changes and recorded serial numbers and marked RiversWest identification on remaining items as well.

Several members have made donations to a tool replacement fund set up by our Treasurer Craig Bryant, thank you to all for your generosity. Anyone who would like to donate; your gift would be most welcome and we can provide a receipt for tax purposes.

Saturday February 4th was also the evening for our annual membership dinner at the Rose City Yacht Club. Thank you to Chuck Stuckey for arranging the use of their clubhouse. There was no shortage of great food and drink, but unfortunately the group was smaller than it has been in years past. As President I had the pleasure to award some gifts to a group of members who contribute a large share of their time for many of the club's activities. Thanks again to John Ost, Mark Ramsby, John Whitehouse, Art Wilson, John Bouwsma, Randy Torgerson, Craig Bryant and Chuck Stuckey for all of your time and

efforts on behalf of RiversWest.

The shop has been busy in spite of the winter weather. Art Wilson and John Ost have been mentoring a young student, Theo, on his stitch and glue Ozona pram. Several members have also been working on finishing off the Salt Bay Skiff which has been the club's sample boat for the Family Boat Build. Thank you to Mark Ramsby, John Ost, Charlie Ehm and Bruce Goodrich for getting this boat looking ship-shape.

On February 4th we arrived for a normal first Saturday, to a most unwelcome reception....we had between \$1000 and \$1500 in tools stolen.



Be sure to mark your calendar for April 22 for the club's annual swap meet in the shop parking lot. Have any tools or boat equipment you would like to sell? Bring it down to sell or donate to the club for us to sell. You may even find that special item that you need for your own boat or collection.

I would like to remind anyone who would like to help with the kits for this year's Family Boat Build to please contact Chuck Stuckey. We should be starting to cut parts near the end of April. There is always a need for help and we will be doing two extra boats this year, a total of 16.

Finally, we will be having the first of two messabouts at the Vancouver Lake Sailing Club in May. This is the second year their club has graciously opened their club area for our use for the day. They have a great boat launching area as well as opening their clubhouse to

use for our lunch. Be sure to bring your boat for a fun outing, emails will be sent to all for time and date.

Happy Boating and don't forget to stop by the shop on first and third Saturdays.

Russ Smith



A Great Source for Small Outboards

Chuck Stuckey

I recently bought a 2.5 horse 4 cycle Suzuki outboard (DF2.5 S) from an outfit in San Diego called Porta-Boat. You will recognize them as the builder of the boat that folds and lays flat. Suzukis have a very good reputation, are water cooled and produce the lightest 4-stroke outboard ever built...only 30lbs! The best part is Porta-Boat had far and away the best price and the motor was delivered to my door, no taxes and free shipping. They also handled the warranty registration.

If your curiosity is getting the best of you, go to their website:

www.porta-boat.com



COVER:

A most animated discussion between RiversWest exhibitor Mark Ramsby and an unknown visitor at the 2017 Portland Boat Show.

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



2017 Portland Boat Show

Russ Smith

January 10, 2017 the club moved into it's regular spot at the show. That night the Portland metro area was hit with 6"+ of snow. Due to problems getting to the Expo Center we did not man the booth on the first day.

Mark Ramsby brought his Port Townsend Skiff "Mojo", which is a true show piece. Craig Bryant returned to the show again this year with his Scamp, "Annie B". This beautifully crafted boat is always popular with visitors to the booth.

Charlie Ehm brought his naturally finished pond boat for the first time and John Ost brought his Salt Bay skiff rigged for sail. Art Wilson brought a new attraction to the booth. He set up a small pond and provided two radio controlled tugs for youngsters to try. It turned out to be very popular with the families who stopped at the booth. John Whitehouse's strip built canoe demonstration model was as popular as usual.

At the time of teardown on Sunday night the roads in the area were so icy and rutted that the show boats had to be squeezed into the RiversWest boat shop until later in the week.

Thank you to all the participants, volunteers in the booth, and also any of the bay tenants in the shop who may have been inconvenienced that week.



Tales from the RiversWest Forums

Edited by Mark Ramsby



A "Ruston Pulling Boat" Build - Posted by: John Radabaugh

John Radabaugh is building a skin on frame Ruston Pulling Boat. He has been documenting his progress on the forum so we can all follow along. Below is a narrative edited from his forum posts.

To see the complete narrative along with other discussions about boats and boat building, go to:

RiversWest Forums - <http://www.riverswest.org/forums.html>

Photo #1:

Current progress on a Rushton Pulling Boat I am building in my garage. The boat is skin on frame, length 14' 3", beam 42", design weight 45 pounds. I am going to cover it with ballistic nylon and a polyurethane sealer. The plans are from Dreamcatcher Boats in Vancouver BC.

A word about the plans - for \$40 you get the plans plus several online videos

that walk you through the build process. The videos are most informative, and I highly recommend them.

Photo #2:

Today I set the hull out on the driveway for a while so I could use my table saw. The floorboards are in place with tie wraps, and I have about 1/4 of them lashed in place. A slight problem - as I lash down the floorboards they want to pull the hull out of shape.

So, I am going to go ahead and install the gunwales and breasthooks next.

That should stiffen up the boat a bit. Then I'll go back and finish off the floorboards.

Photo #3

Here is a shot of current progress. The gunwales and breasthooks installed, the floorboard lashings completed. Next comes seats, and perhaps risers for the oarlocks.



Salt Bay Skiff Completion Project - Part 1

Mark Ramsby

A couple of months ago John Ost became interested in an orphaned Salt Bay Skiff hanging in the rafters of the boat shop. He thought it would be a good idea to finish this boat and get it down on the dock to be used. John got a few other RW members interested in the project. Permissions were secured to finish the boat and work started by dropping it out of the rafters and then slinging one of the Lake Oswego Boats in its place to provide a building space.



On that first week, the dusty hulk was set on sawhorses in the shadow of the Hall Templeton, ready to begin its journey to the water. Five members are involved in the project: John Ost, Charlie Ehm, Russ Smith, Bruce Goodrich and Mark Ramsby. John Ost, who has extensive experience with the Salt Bays, is leading the project. He keeps the work organized for Thursday morning work sessions.

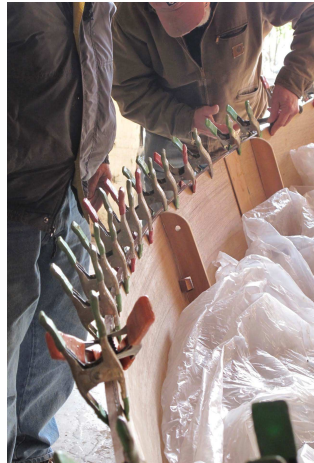
The Salt Bay is a simple work boat, a type called a "Flatiron Skiff". The boat in the rafters was the pattern boat for the annual Family Boat Build. Over time it had been put together, taken apart and put back together so many times that it eventually fell apart on the way to a Family Boat Build. A group of RW volunteers reassembled most it, but it was never finished.

Over the past seven weeks, the boat has slowly come back to life, a few hours at a time. In order to finish it, the crew inventoried the parts to be made. Rub rails, keel, skeg, thwarts and back seat along with its support. An outer stem needed to be made. Most of the materials were available in the boat shop.

There was donated mahogany which made the rub rails, keel and skeg. Thwarts and outer stem were made from pine that was surplus from the Family Boat Build. The back seat and its support were made from scraps in the shop.



The group decided to make a couple of minor modifications to the basic boat. The transom was fitted with a reinforcement to allow the use of a small outboard motor. That support was designed to allow the back seat to be removable. A cleat was fitted to the seat top to position it and a latch will be fitted to hold it closed. The enclosed space beneath can be used for storage of



small items. Hardwood oarlock blocks were fitted to the newly faired sheer and rub rail assembly. There was a good discussion of positioning these, which may lead to an improvement for this year's FBB kits. Nearing completion, attention turned to finishing. Lively discussions were had about the merits of water-based painted finishes vs. oil-based painted finishes vs. oil. Since the boat had a nice mahogany sheer, the decision was made to oil the interior and rub rail, then paint the exterior of the boat with oil-based enamel for maximum durability.

One Thursday morning the crew started by sanding the hull and countersinking screws in preparation for fairing. The morning ended with fairing of screw holes and scratches.



The following week the hull was sanded smooth and primed. The fairing had shrunk slightly in the deeper fills and needed to be lightly faired a second time. This created an opportunity to do a fairing demo the following Saturday, which was informal and well-attended. Several members took their turn at fairing.

The following Thursday morning, Saturday fairing was sanded smooth and primed. After tacking off the hull,

this coat was applied with a foam roller and tipped off with a foam brush. When the lights were shut off, the boat was ready for a first coat of paint the next time the group meets.

Watch this space for the second installment, which will document the completion of a Salt Bay Skiff.



RiversWest Annual Meeting - February 4, 2017***John Bouwsma***

As in previous years, this year's Annual Membership Meeting was held at the Rose City Yacht Club. We started off the evening with dinner, which was lasagna, bread, salad and cookies, all washed down with beer, wine, or soft drinks. The meeting was opened at 7:00 by President Russ Smith.

We began with a Treasurer's report from Craig Bryant. We were pleased to receive some excellent corporate contributions this past year. A grant was arranged by John Bouwsma from Intel, his former employer, for \$1800. Another grant arranged by Mark Ramsby for \$4000. In addition we received corporate contributions for the FBB. The Family Boat Build made some money last year, exact amount still undetermined, depending on split with WSC which has not yet been negotiated. Our bank account is up approximately \$7000 from last year.

John Whitehouse reported on membership. We had 80 members last year, a record in recent history. 30 members have paid so far for this year--a good number this early in the year, considering that our new policy is to run all memberships from the first of the year to the first of the year.

Russ Smith gave the President's Report. First he summarized the activities of the past year, which included our Swap Meet, FBB, two messabouts at VLSC, 4 newsletters, and excellent attendance at numerous demos and workshops. Attendance at First and Third

Saturday open house events was also up. Russ passed out special awards to 8 members for outstanding services to the club. All were given tool aprons with the RW logo and their name sewn into the fronts:

- 1) Randy Torgerson
- 2) Chuck Stuckey
- 3) John Whitehouse
- 4) Craig Bryant
- 5) Mark Ramsby
- 6) John Bouwsma
- 7) Art Wilson
- 8) John Ost

Next, Russ was presented with a boat hook in recognition of his excellent service as President for the past year. He can use this to fend off pirates if the need arises.

Finally, we elected the board and officers. First, we voted that all current board officers retain their positions, then we voted to add Mark Ramsby and John Ost to the board. With deep regret we accepted the resignation of Stu Whitcomb; however he will continue to put together this newsletter.

The new board consists of the following people:

Russ Smith, President
John Bouwsma, Secretary
Craig Bryant, Treasurer
Chuck Stuckey
John Whitehouse
Jim Litton
Bob Meehan
Steve Mahoney
Art Wilson
John Ost
Mark Ramsby

Adjunct board members:

Steve Najjar
Mike Simmons



Theo's Ozona Pram Ready to Move Out

The cold weather became a serious impediment to progress on Theo's eighth grade, Senior Project, see "Another Student Builds at RiversWest" article by Chuck Stuckey in the Winter 2016-2017 RiversWest Newsletter. The System Three resin with the medium temperature hardener, supplied with the kit, from Bedard Yacht Designs, could not be used at the temperatures we were experiencing, in the Rivers West Shop in January and February. Until we could establish a stable temperature above 60 degrees F., we had to find an alternate glue for the project.

John Ost, my co-mentor for this project suggested we use West System 610. This glue, which cures at temperatures below 50 degrees F., is supplied in a caulking gun type dispenser that sends the two part resin-hardener thru a turbulence mixing nozzle to create the final blended glue. This glue served our needs so we could remove the plastic ties that were used for "stitching" the hull together.

The next construction steps required all the seams be reinforced with fiberglass tape and the structural bulkheads were to be installed with a strong filleting epoxide glue made with System Three epoxide. This would provide the thixotropic epoxide mixtures necessary for non-slumping fillets for the bulkhead and seat installation.

In order to use System Three epoxide for the chine reinforcement and bulkhead filleting glue. We had to pre-condition the resin and hardener to the working temperature of 77 degrees F. in an oven. This was accomplished by insulating a cardboard book box and adding a 60 watt light bulb, a duct fan and a duct thermostat. Theo was taught to correctly blend resin, hardener, colloidal silica and wood flour to create a smoothable, yet non-slumping, fillet for the vertical joints of the bulkheads and seats of the Ozona Pram.

On Sunday, March 19, we completed installation of all internal bulkheads, the middle seat, and applied the first epoxide seal coat inside the hull, see photo. We are slightly behind our original schedule. Transporting Theo from his home to RiversWest took time. Thus, he could only work on the hull on the weekends, even when the task of the day only required an hour or two working on the boat. However, with the arrival of daylight saving time and warmer weather of spring, the hull will be moved to Theo's home where he can complete the finishing of the hull and fitting hardware and rigging the sail. He will have after school hours, as well as weekend days, to complete building his dream sailboat.

Art Wilson with co-mentor John Ost



John Ost and Theo with his Ozona Pram, almost ready to flip the hull.

Swap Meet Saturday, April 22

We will be holding our annual swap meet/ garage sale at the RiversWest Boat Shop.

Everyone is welcome to set up a table to sell their excess items, tools, boat parts, boats, whatever. There is no charge to sell your things, but if you would like to donate a percentage to RiversWest, it would be greatly appreciated.

If you need a table, please bring one, however we will have plenty of chairs. This will take place outside in the parking lot, so if you anticipate an excessive amount of sunshine or the liquid sunshine, we have been having so much of lately, please bring your own canopy.

We plan to begin around 9:00.



RiversWest Board

Officers:

President: Russ Smith
president@riverswest.org

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

Secretary: John Bouwsma
secretary@riverswset.org

Directors:

Membership Coordinator:

John Whitehouse - membership@riverswest.org

Chuck Stuckey

Jim Litton

Bob Meehan

Steve Mahoney

Art Wilson

John Ost

Mark Ramsby

Auxiliary Board Members:

Steve Najjar

Michael Simmons

Newsletter: Stu Whitcomb
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.

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