

Winter 2017

RiversWest

We inspire people to build and use low-impact boats

News



A High School Senior Working on Her Senior Project with the Help of Several RiversWest Members (See article on Page 3)



The President's Corner Winter 2018

RiversWest has been helping serve the Portland metro area for over 30 years. Many members, such as myself, have come to the club with some basic woodworking skills but while working alongside veteran RiversWest members we have had the opportunity to learn the techniques required for small boat building.

The club's boat shop provides a space for many new members to learn the proper use of hand and power tools. We also offer spaces for rent to build or refurbish a boat and there are almost always senior members nearby to ask for advice.

The Family Boat Build, which has been a very successful event the past 8 years, has introduced many people to small boat building. Some of the participants have later joined the club to either improve their Salt Bay skiff or just learn more skills associated with boat construction.

This past year, the club has formed a committee to search for a possible new home for RiversWest. The group, led by Mark Ramsby and Rick Hendon, has also developed a Capital Campaign Fund for us to acquire a new site should a suitable location be found. We are optimistic about the future and are reasonably sure that someday our present location may be in jeopardy if the Interstate Bridge renovations come to pass.

The annual dinner for 2018 will be a little later this year so watch the website for date and location. The Family Boat Build will be on June 30-July 1, 2018 instead of the middle of July. Anyone who would like to help with the kit building please contact Chuck Stuckey. We hope to have a couple of messabouts and also a spring swap meet, the dates are yet to be determined.

Finally, thanks to all members who contribute time and effort to make RiversWest a successful organization. I encourage all readers of this newsletter to stop by on our 1st and 3rd Saturday Open House to join in the conversation and bring a guest.

All the best for 2018

Russ Smith , President, RiversWest



Russ, Chuck Stuckey, and Mark Ramsby enjoying a convivial glass of beer at the Port Townsend Wooden Boat Show



ANOTHER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT BUILDS A BOAT

In early September, Sadie, a senior at Pacific Crest School, reached out to RiversWest with a request that we help coach her in building a boat for her senior project. After a couple of false starts trying to pick the right design, she settled on the larger of the Nutshell Pram designs by the great small boat designer Joel White. Chuck Stuckey volunteered to be her coach and Russ Smith, always eager to help jumped in as second coach. Sadie began building in earnest in late October and has been steadily marching on with hopes of being done by early January. The way things are going, she should make that easily.



She started with an old ladder frame from an earlier Shellback project, cut out the station molds and set them in place. The bow and stern transoms together with the mid-frame make up the building frame. The planking

came next, but that required the scarfing of 6mm plywood--her first real challenge, it proved a challenge to Chuck and Russ as well, (but that's another story). With the planking in place, the boat was ready to take off the building frame in mid-November. Next steps are the fitting out, cutting in the dagger board trunk, making seats, etc. and the endless sanding and painting. The parts of the sail rig not integral to the boat may wait until spring.



Sadie has been the perfect student. In order to complete her project she has learned to read plans, transfer scale numbers to full size points on the stock, bevel to a changing angle, and mix epoxy, etc. In building she has used a Skilsaw, saber saw, table and chop saw, the jointer and a whole tool box of hand tools. At each step she readily took instruction to ensure safety first and a good product. She only had to be shown once and ALWAYS cleaned up after herself. Enthusiastic, always on time, and follows through on suggestions.

Chuck and Russ have much enjoyed the experience and will stay with it until the Nutshell is finished.



Building the Shellback Dinghy

Mark Ramsby

I had been thinking about building another boat for a while. I wanted a small boat for oar and sail. It would also be nice to give clinker ply construction a try as it was something I hadn't done. Joel White's Shellback Dinghy was a handsome little boat and I kept coming back to it. At 11'-2" X 4'-5" it was just about the size I was after and its 90# hull weight was reasonable too.

The construction of this boat starts with the stem and frame laminations. The laminated CVG Fir parts are key to building a lightweight and very strong hull. The initial phase of work was making these laminations, temporary frames and all the parts that could be made in advance with the shop in it's "normal" configuration.

Once all of these parts had been made, I scarfed and the hull panels cut them to pattern. The transom was laminated from a single Khaya plank.

A strongback from another project was recycled by cutting to length and then adding the pieces to hold stem and transom in place. Supports were added for permanent and temporary frames. It was placed on feet that allowed it to be moved around as needed.



The Shellback's planking consists of a single 12mm bottom plank with three 6mm strakes on each side. Planks are fitted and beveled to allow full contact between lapping planks, then the plank extended slightly at the lap to provide a very strong thickened epoxy connection. At the bow, gains are cut into the strakes to allow them to flush with one another at the stem. The transom completes the hull.



Once the hull was formed, it was taken off the

molds and placed in an upright position. Gunnels, breasthook and knees were added. A scuppered in-wale was fitted to further stiffen the boat. Mast step and thwarts were fitted to the boat and the other parts: daggerboard, daggerboard box, rudder, etc. were finished. Spanish Cedar (which is neither Spanish nor Cedar) was chosen for thwarts due to its combination of lightweight and strength. Khaya was used throughout for mahogany parts that were to be finished bright.

Paint and varnish followed and the boat was finished with George Kirby Jr. 'Maynard Bray White' on the exterior and System 3 San Juan Tan for the interior. Eight coats of varnish top the bright parts.

With the hull completed, the boat was moved outdoors and spar making began. Spars were spruce with a varnished finish. Once the spars were finished, they were leathered along with the mast partner and sculling notch. I invited Chuck Stuckey, owner of another Shellback, over for a little "deck sailing." He made some recommendations on how things could be improved in the rigging which really worked well. I can hardly wait to get it in the water once the weather again turns warmer.

Joel White's design was amazing. This set of plans is the best I've ever experienced. Everything fit. Everything went together just as he drew it. The recommended bevels were dead-on accurate. A very satisfying project! If you choose to build this boat, I suggest the book: "How To Build the Shellback Dinghy" by Eric Dow - it provides excellent guidance.



We have determined to show the community that we are serious and committed to the task of finding a better location for RiversWest, raising the first, “nugget” of funds from within the club’s membership. Many board members have pledged contributions of varying sizes and we’re off and running. It would be so helpful, in fact key to the club’s success, if the entire membership would reach deep and make whatever additional contribution we feel comfortable with. Please don’t feel as though, “I can only afford a little bit and it wouldn’t make much of a difference.” IT MAKES AN ENORMOUS DIFFERENCE! Every dollar raised internally is a statement of commitment to the success of our club and it enables Mark, Rick and others to go the community with a much stronger case for assistance. Think of it as YES WE CAN, money!

The board has also determined that it is time to raise membership fees from \$50 to \$75 per annum....not a sum that will make or break most of us, but in the aggregate, with about 80 members, it represents an additional \$2000. As we grow our membership, it will become an even stronger presence.

It all seems chicken-and-egg, I know, but with the internal commitments and contributions from the board and additional contributions from the general membership (yes, You!), plus a membership fee bump, all add up to the critical mass necessary to take the campaign to the next step, which is to solicit funding from foundations and outwardly focused Portland area businesses.

Workshops and Demos

We are working on a schedule for Workshops and Demos for next year. The schedule is not yet complete, but we expect to begin in February . We are focusing more on demos and especially tool demos, because we have determined that this is where the most interest lies. Tool training sessions will be approximately one hour long, mostly showing safe techniques, with an opportunity for hands-on in some cases. Other demos may last longer, up to 3-4 hours, and will be showing techniques for building specific things, with little opportunity for hands-on. Workshops will usually be 3+ hours, with a main focus on the hands-on experience for all participants. Here are some of the things we have come up with already. Please let us know if you would like us to add anything to this:

Tool Training:

Bandsaw
Table saw
Drill Press
Jointer
Planer
Router Jigs & Fixtures
Router Table

Demos:

Skin-on-Frame: Demo of a few of the basic techniques
Oars: Using a composite method,
Cartopper loading assist

Workshops:

Lofting
Hollowing
Joinery
Tool Sharpening



Zakkendrager Update

Ralph Cohen

It has been almost seven and half years since launching “Zakkendrager” – a Redwing 21 Pilothouse motorcruiser. In that time we had many enjoyable hours on the waters extending from Portland to Camus, to Oregon City, and to Longview – not the most exotic destinations (still hoping to rectify) but 600 hours of enjoyment with friends and family including two visits to the Family Boatbuilding Weekend.

She was launched with the essentials finished but the interior not entirely finished (and it still isn't...). John B suggested I submit some update photos of the additions since launch day.

Zakkendrager is hauled and inspected every two years at which time the bottom is re-painted and engine maintenance is performed. Since she remains in the water year round, I wanted to comment on the condition of the West Systems epoxy and fiberglass bottom. It

is still perfect. No signs of deterioration or waterlogging.

Interior modifications have included drawer fronts, cabinet doors, fold down work surface, mahogany fiddles, bookshelf, dish shelf, dock line locker, laminated wooden captain's chair (2nd hand from Office Liquidators), kerosene heater, VHF, and a tachometer.

Exterior includes canvas cockpit enclosure, deck mounted anchor chocks, and anchor rode locker.

It seems like a boat is never completed.



Zakkendrager being lifted over the roof of Ralph's house 7 1/2 years ago



Zakkendrager today



MEMBERSHIP NOTICE:

If you have not yet renewed your membership, this would be a great time to do it!

The membership fee for adults remains at \$50/year. UNTIL the end of December. After that it goes up to \$75

- 1. We are asking everyone who uses the shop to sign a liability waiver.**
We may have your signed waiver, but we still need the membership payment .
- 2. Memberships run from the first of the year and expire at the end of the year.**
Your payment will keep your membership current through the end of the year.

Membership entitles you to the use of the shop, the opportunity to rent a boat-building bay, group activities, reduced-rate classes throughout the year and discounts

Volunteer Opportunities at RiversWest

If you are looking for a way to become more involved in RiversWest, here are some ideas:

- 1. We are looking for an Education Coordinator to organize classes and workshops.** Randy Torgerson has been doing this for several years and needs to move on. This should not be hugely time consuming but will have a big impact on RiversWest's visibility in the community, and our ability to serve the community.
- 2. Newsletter Coordinator:** Stu Whitcomb has been doing this for at least 10 years, but for health reasons he will not be able to continue. John Bouwsma is standing in for now, but we need a permanent person in this position. There will be few constraints on your creativity in the layout, and in the articles and photos.
- 3. Volunteers to help build the kits and help the families at the Family Boat Build next summer.** No experience needed!
- 4. We will need volunteers to help staff our booth at the Portland boat Show in January.** This is a great opportunity to meet other members and learn about the club.

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 Board

- Officers:
President: Russ Smith
president@riverswest.org
Treasurer & Web Mgr: Craig Bryant
treasurer@riverswest.org -
website@riverswest.org
Secretary: John Bouwsma
secretary@riverswest.org
Directors:
Membership Coordinator:
John Whitehouse -
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Chuck Stuckey
Bob Meehan
Steve Mahoney
Art Wilson
John Ost
Mark Ramsby
Auxiliary Board Members:
Steve Najjar
Michael Simmons

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
- Invitation to all RiversWest boating and social functions
- Access to all RiversWest educational programs
- 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 _____

E-mail address: _____

Youth (17 and under) \$50 General Membership \$75

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

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www.riverswest.org