

FALL 2023

# RiversWest News

We inspire people to build and use low impact boats

## Presidents' message



Mark Ramsby and Chuck Stuckey

At the annual meeting, what we all knew from informal discussions was announced officially: our loyal president, Mitch West is resigning and moving out of the area to be closer to the water - salt water that is. After some discussion and a little arm twisting, two former presidents agreed to share the job for a year, so here we are: Chuck Stuckey and Mark Ramsby were elected along with Bill Gould as President-Elect. There are also several new members who have expressed a willingness to become more involved in the business side of RiversWest.

This past year saw a flurry of activity at the shop; all in all it was a good year for building boats. The shop floor is packed full of boats under construction (featured later in the newsletter) and one mezzanine is also filled with boats. We must be doing something right. A full shop means revenue - a commodity that will never be too much.

One of our goals for the winter is to finally install a crane to raise and lower boats stored on the mezzanine. Russ Smith and Ralph Cohen are working on a design to be built in-house.

Thoughts also turn to the Portland Boat Show in January. Yes we'll be there and our booth will be amazing as always. Russ has asked for our usual booth and he will shortly begin to set out a plan and suggest boats to display. Of course, we will need folks to staff our exhibit, so stay tuned.

All of us need to say a hearty "thanks" to Mitch. He did a spectacular job as President. He oversaw the lease with Green Anchors, got us a good deal on our shop floor, purchased the right tent, and organized getting it erected - all with good spirits. We will miss him, but also wish Mitch and his wife, Anne, happy house hunting on the water.

### - Chuck and Mark



**Message from the Board - "Thank You for all you do for RiversWest"**

RiversWest Membership – If you are on the fence about joining RiversWest, or you have been waiting for a boat-building opportunity, now is a great time to re-engage. We are offering building spaces to members only. Access to the shop is controlled by a key card system, and current members have complete use of the library, tools, and club resources after the required orientation. Members desiring to build a boat on-site pay an additional charge to use the shared building space.

Shop Use and Arrangements – RiversWest is an all-volunteer organization. As always, no one is assigned to keep the shop and shared spaces clean. That is the responsibility of members working in the shop and is more important than ever, as the building space is shared amongst all builders. Specifics on shop use will evolve as we learn what works. The old rules, like picking up and sweeping up still apply, and are posted in the shop. Abbreviated guidelines and information are on page 12.

We still need a volunteer willing to serve as Secretary. After serving in that role for many years, John Bouwsma has stepped down, though we continue to press him into service. The shop provides many other opportunities to get involved. Please contact Bill Gould at [president@riverswest.org](mailto:president@riverswest.org) if you are interested. Bill is "point man" for such inquirers.

Board Meetings - Meetings are held at the Shop after one of the monthly openhouse events at approximately 11 am. Members are always welcome to attend.

**FUTURE OPEN HOUSE GATHERINGS AT THE SHOP**

In-person Open Houses are on the 1st & 3rd Saturday of the month; socializing at 9:00 AM and a program at 10:00, when scheduled. Coffee and donuts provided. Everyone is welcome; you do not need to be a member.

Please send ideas and program interests to **Bill Gould** for future sessions.

**Next Scheduled Programs -**

Nov. 4, Mitch West: Sailing Around the World

Nov 18, Mike Simmons: Types of handplanes and Their Uses

**OTHER UPCOMING, NON-RIVERSWEST, BOATING ACTIVITIES**

Nov. 25: Yaquina River After Thanksgiving Float (Coots)

Dec. 28: Flounder's Day Feast - Salem (Coots)

(For details on all above events and many more, check [www.coots.org](http://www.coots.org) website)



## FIRST AND THIRD SATURDAY OPEN HOUSE AND DEMO'S



### SHARPENING BLADES AND SAWS

by Mike Simmons

A Tormek sharpening system can handle all your tool sharpening needs - chisels, plane blades, knives, gouges, drill bits, scissors, etc. Specialized holding jigs are available that will give precise, repeatable results. RiversWest has a Tormek machines for member use.



Mike also gave a demonstration on saw sharpening and tooth setting. It just takes a lot of patience and a few simple tools and jigs. (photo, right)



### RIVERSWEST CHANDLERY

by Mitch West

In addition to oarlocks, the shop's chandlery has an assortment of screws and fittings at reasonable prices for members. For more information, ask the Shop Manager (Russ).

If you missed Mark Ramsby's demo on **Finishing - Sanding, Fairing, and Painting**, you can find it along with many other demo videos on the RiversWest YouTube channel.

Link to online demos: <https://www.youtube.com/@riverswestsmallcraftcenter257/videos>

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.

[www.riverswest.org](http://www.riverswest.org)





## FRENCH CRAFT ON THE LOIRE AND CHER RIVERS -

by Debra Goeks (translation from French)

These photos were taken while Ralph, Debra, and our spouses were on a recent bicycling vacation in the Loire Valley at Savonnières on the Cher River near Tours, France. We hope this short history is interesting to RW members.

People have navigated the Cher since the 5th century BCE, with the greatest development occurring from the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> centuries CE.

"*Gaillard*" (pictured, left) is a **Pillard**—literally, a looter or thief—is shorter and narrower than a barge, with approximately 50-ton capacity. This is a boat from the 18th century, rebuilt in 2015 with a steel hull and a wood superstructure, which gives it a traditional appearance. The **Pillard** is typical of the Cher, frequently in service from Berry to Savonnières. It is a single-hander, very fast. *Gaillard* is a replica of the boat shown above the Chateau of Chenonceau in a well-known drawing by Constant Bourgeois (1800). Dimensions: 15 x 3.23m; Displacement: 8,500 kg; Sail area: 70 m<sup>2</sup>.

The large triangular rudder [piautre, gouvernail] on the back of the boat functions both as a rudder and a centerboard to prevent the boat from crabbing. All boats on the Loire have a folding mast and easily dismantled shrouds to allow them to navigate under bridges. At the stern, there is a winch [windlass] which helps to raise or lower the mast or the sail. The burgee at the top of the mast serves as a wind indicator and identifies the boat (in addition to the name). The colors of the burgee indicate the boat's home village and the patterns suggest the owner's taste and character.

*Belle Passante* (pictured, right) is a **Charrière**, used as a ferry to cross the Cher before the bridge was built. This one was rebuilt in 2018 based on an 1842 plan found in the Departmental Archives. The hull is wood-clad aluminum; planking is pine and ribs are oak. This reconstruction is identical to the last ferry of the **Charrière** type constructed by Gallais, the river boatworks at Savonnières. She served for 10 years before the construction of the suspension bridge in 1852.

This boat is rated for 12 passengers but it was also used as a service boat by the city of Savonnières to clear weed jams on the dams and below the watermill, and to evacuate and resupply people in the event of a flood.



Dimensions: 13.4 x 2.2m; Draft: 0.32m; Sail area: 25 m<sup>2</sup>





**Pucelle** (center boat in photo to left) is a small flat-bottomed, all-purpose boat. She was built in 2009, without a cabin. Oak planks and ribs. Her form is inspired by 16th century boats used to transport all types of merchandise.

Dimensions: 10.3 x 2.6m; Displacement: 1,400 kg; Sail area: 35 m<sup>2</sup>

**Dame Perinelle** (right boat in photo to left) is a 2009 reproduction of a medieval **Scute**. Ribs, planks, stem and stern post all oak. The design is based on the hypotheses of Francois Beaudoin, a nautical archaeologist, based on his studies of the wreck discovered in the Loire near Montjean-sur-Loire.

Rebuilt according to the medieval method using 1,500 wood dowels shaped with a plane. This was a service boat that transported construction materials (stone, wood, beams, sand, etc.) used to construct quays, levees and dykes. Dimensions: 15.8 x 3.6m; Displacement: 8,000 kg; Sail area: 40 m<sup>2</sup>

In the old system of navigation on the Loire River, it was by a convoy of barge boats (called a *Chaland*) with a few empty boats sailing near the convoy as “lighters”. When passing through a shoal, part of their cargo would be removed from the barges and transferred to the lighters, then returned to the barges once the shoal had been passed.

Typical boats range from 9m x 2 m, 1200 kg disp., 15 m<sup>2</sup> sail area to 15 m x 3.2 m, 8500 kg disp., 70 m<sup>2</sup> sail area. Goods transported included wine, timber, iron, coal, quarried stone, and gun flints downriver and salt, fish, and slates upriver.

For more information: <https://www.bateliersducher.net/copie-de-le-port-de-savonnières>

*Modern weekenders* - cabins on the water (photo, right); Another reproduction (photo, below)

Photos and editing by Ralph Cohen



## ANNUAL MEETING AND POT LUCK DINNER

Beautiful weather at Green Anchors brought out a crowd on September 16, helped by fried chicken with all the "fixings" and more than enough side dishes and desserts prepared by attendees. Some business was conducted including electing the Board slate, Chuck expounding on Mitch's successful and productive tenure as President and passing the paddle (in lieu of a gavel) from Mitch to Chuck and Mark (Co-Presidents).



## 43rd ANNUAL PORT TOWNSEND WOODEN BOAT FESTIVAL by Bruce Goodrich

A great time was had by all wandering in, over, and aboard 300+ wooden boats while also attending classes, demonstrations, and so much more.

I was really pleased, along with my son and 1st mate Josh, to display my recently acquired boat. It is a Sam Devlin design 16' *Nancy's China* named **Salto** and built by Devlin Boatworks in 1984. An interesting note on the origin of the name *Nancy's China*: In the early 80's during Reagan's presidency, he instituted a rather hefty luxury tax on things like boats and trailers. Sam thought the average American should be able to afford a decent boat for less money than Nancy Reagan had just spent on the new White House china, \$792 per place setting.

It was really fun to be berthed alongside six other Devlin designed boats of various shapes and sizes. Several of the RW guys attended Sam's class where he rolled out his new book that I acquired for our RW library (and had Sam sign it). It is titled Devlin's Boat Building Manual: How to Build Your Boat the Stitch-and-glue Way, 2nd Ed. He mentioned **Salto** in his talk as a smaller boat example and that he has built stitch-and-glue boats 50' and larger.

A few memorable highlights included Josh and I attending a rousing Sea Chantey "sing along" on Friday night. There were at least a dozen RW guys and family members at the festival. Nine of us gathered at the AJAX cafe for a delicious meal on Saturday evening. Finally, on Sunday afternoon, most of the boats exited the festival and did a wild sail by that **Salto**, Josh, and I enjoyed immensely!!



## TAPAS, PART II - ADDED MOTOR WELL, PAINTED, AND LAUNCHED by Rick Hendon

I used the HEMPEL (Denmark) two-part epoxy paint system throughout, three undercoats and two finish top coats, and found it easy to apply and sand and tough when cured. You'll notice a bit of orange peel on the hull...I could never seem to make it go away, but I don't mind it.

Finally got some time in the boat and she's a delight. The 5hp motor is overkill but the extra juice may be welcomed at some point in docking (or avoiding docking!). My tiller line steering system still needs some tuning, or rather the thrust vector needs adjusting. With her slack bilges, when upright, **TAPAS** is very slender waisted and therefore easily driven. At slow idle she makes three and a half knots. At about one-quarter throttle she makes hull speed!...just a pleasant and relaxed engine burble and away she goes at over six knots. More power just makes her squat.

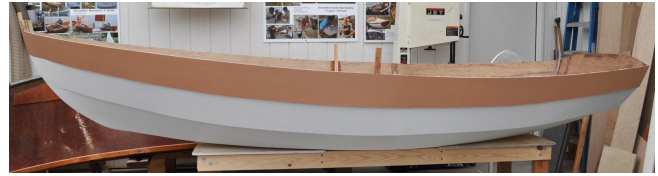
What a marvelous Geezer project! Many thanks to all the R'Westers for your encouragement and friendship.





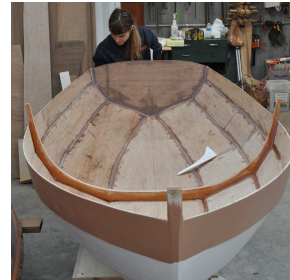
### BOATS CURRENTLY BEING BUILT IN THE SHOP

**Shellback Dinghy** - Designed by Joel White, builder: Bill Gould (photos right)



Planking complete, framing underway.

**Maine Coast Peapod** designed by Joel White (14' x 4'7"); builder: Weston Landis. Molds are set up (photo below)



**Point Comfort** - Designed by Doug Hyland, builder: Mark Ramsby (photo below)

23' X 7' Chesapeake Deadrise Boat based upon Doug Hyland's Point Comfort 23 design. Planking complete; fairing in process.

(The link, below, goes to the RiversWest forum with Mark's detailed posts including photos:  
<http://riverswest-forums.266.s1.nabble.com/Point-Comfort-23-td527.html> )



**Annapolis Wherry** CLC kit (20'), builder: Thom Shapton. Assembled, epoxied, primed. (photo left)





**Auk** - designed by Iain Oughtred; builder: Mitch West

*Auk* is Iain Oughtred's name for the design, but it seems just right for a tender to our trawler, *Puffin*. She is 8' x 4' x 19"(!) deep, and a moderately hefty 100 lb. The rope fender will help preserve *Puffin's* topsides. The stainless brackets to starboard fit Weaver davits so she will ride on her side across the stern. Note that the bow eye is almost at the waterline. Any higher, and she would swerve wildly under tow.



**COMING  
JANUARY 10 - 14  
THE ANNUAL  
PORTLAND BOAT  
SHOW**

**GET IT ON YOUR  
CALENDAR**

**MEMBERS NEEDED  
TO ATTEND OUR  
BOOTH AND TALK  
WITH THE PUBLIC  
ABOUT RIVERSWEST**

Family Boat Building  
sign-ups begin at the  
show. Cost remains \$450  
per boat



## SHOP UPGRADE

### LUMBER RACK ADDED ONTO THE MEZZANINE

by Russ Smith

The rack is completed and for any member who might be thinking about building a strip built style of boat, there is a great assortment of Western Red Cedar strips available at a huge discount. Some of the strips have already been machined into thin widths with a bead and cove machined on the edges. Anyone interested in these strips should contact Chuck Stuckey who purchased the whole assortment from the estate of the late John Whitehouse. There is also an assortment of other types of planking that was donated over the summer that members can purchase at very low prices.



*Organizing the wood stored on the mezzanine*



***Many "thanks" to all the members that contributed articles and photos for this issue.***



## Shop rental rate schedule

The new rate starting June 1 or 6 months after lease begins shall be calculated as follows: Monthly rent = \$50 + \$1.25 x (Length x Beam). Electric power is included. Minimal use of a small, radiant heater to aid epoxy curing will be allowed while the user is in the shop. Space heaters will not be allowed. Storage rate for small boats is \$15/month.

The shop manager is Russ Smith. For questions or problems, text Russ at 360-606-9675 or email Russ at [fitzsmith67@gmail.com](mailto:fitzsmith67@gmail.com). Contact Russ to obtain a copy of the rental agreement or to discuss the start of your boat building project.

Note: Signed leases have a fixed rate for a 12 month period or shorter, if requested by leasee. Rents are due on or prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> of each calendar month; if a lease is signed during the month, the rent will be pro-rated for the remainder of that month and initial payment will be for the pro-rated period plus the next full month, due when the lease is signed.

## Rules for Shop Use, Boat Building, and Safety

The liability waiver we all signed with our membership should always be viewed as a starting point; we owe some responsibility to each other as well. The tools and power equipment the shop provides are for all to use. Please use them properly; not doing so is dangerous and the resulting damage, if any, is expensive for all of us. And remember a clean shop is a safe shop. Our policy on Boat Shop use is posted in the Shop. Members or renters can obtain a key for access.

## RiversWest Boat Shop Notes - October 2023 by Russ Smith

The Shop is getting busy with build projects so it is helpful for members who use any equipment in the Shop to clean up afterwards.

Any items in the Shop that need attention, please text or email Russ @ 360-606-9675 or [fitzsmith67@gmail.com](mailto:fitzsmith67@gmail.com)

If you take a chair out to rest or listen to a demo, please fold it up and put it away; plans are in the works for a chair storage rack.

We have quite a bit of donated lumber and it has been moved onto the new storage rack.

Members: Please do not drop any stuff in the shop arbitrarily; please ask the Board if it would be of value to the club. We don't want to be accumulating other peoples "free" items; we don't need to add clutter to the Shop floor.



## Library News by Bruce Goodrich

Check out the new titles added to the library through Russ Smith's donation. The Librarian will remove duplicate titles to make them available to giveaway at the Portland Boat Show as we did last year.

To access the "card catalog", from the RiversWest website, click on "library" from the home page to access the 700+ books in the RiversWest library. You can search for a specific title by entering the title, author, or specific groups such as Sea Stories or Nautical History. When the book you are looking for pops up, click on it and see info about the book. We also have 160+ boat plans in the library flat files; information is also accessible from the website. ***We are always looking for donations!***



### Membership Benefits -

by Mark Ramsby

For \$75 per year I have access to a well equipped shop full of machinery. That means that my tiny shop doesn't need a jointer, planer or a large bandsaw. Also, discounts:

- Crosscut Hardwoods: -10% on most purchases\*
- Shur-Way Lumber: Contractor pricing
- Woodcraft (Tigard): -10% on most purchases\*
- U.S. Distributing: Trade pricing

Each year my lumber and tool discounts are always worth more than my membership. It's like getting the membership free.

\*Most corded tools and certain fixed price items are not discounted.

### Smug Mug for Your Photos

The photo gallery on the RiversWest web site is organized in hierarchical folders for easier access, including pictures of various RW events (e.g. Family Boat Build and Splash-ins), boats built by members, and photos from many of our demos and workshops. To access this archive of photos just go to the Gallery tab on the RiversWest web site. Here is a quick link to the photos:

<https://photosriverswest.smugmug.com/>

If you have photos that you would like to see on this site please let either Craig Bryant or John Bouwsma know.

Craig: [craigb@riverswest.org](mailto:craigb@riverswest.org)

John: [john@bouwsma.net](mailto:john@bouwsma.net)



## FUND RAISING OPPORTUNITIES by Craig Bryant

### Capital Campaign

We had to tap our capital fund to purchase and outfit the facilities at our new location. To stay on a firm financial footing, it is important to replenish those funds and continue to build a reserve for future improvements and expenses. See below for several ways you can contribute.

### Direct Donations

As you plan your annual charitable giving, please think of RiversWest. We strive to make small donations stretch and accomplish a lot. Direct donations may be in cash or in goods. Over the years many members have downsized and moved to retirement homes or smaller houses and apartments. We have often been the beneficiaries as they have thinned out their tools, boats, and materials. While we welcome these donations we have to be careful about what we accept - especially now. We have sold some items on Craig's List, some to members, and items we haven't been able to sell, we have made available to members, free of charge. Cash donations are always appreciated; please go to our website:

<https://www.riverswest.org/donation.html>

### Fred Meyer

You simply have to sign up; the entire cost is borne by Fred Meyer. You must have a Fred Meyer Rewards account to set this up. Need to sign up for a Fred Meyer Rewards account?

<https://www.fredmeyer.com/account/create??redirectUrl=/account/communityrewards/>

Once you have a Fred Meyer Rewards account, you can link your account to RiversWest. At the end of each quarter, RiversWest will receive a donation from Fred Meyer based upon your purchases.

To set up the matching donation, follow this link:  
<https://www.fredmeyer.com/signin?redirectUrl=/account/communityrewards/>

Sign in and select "RiversWest" as your designated non-profit. It's that simple.

Do you have questions?

<https://www.fredmeyer.com/topic/community-rewards-frequently-asked-questions>

**This does not affect your rewards, but is on top of it.** It is a charitable donation to qualifying non-profits from Fred Meyer.

### Donate your Bottles and Cans to RiversWest

RiversWest has become a BottleDrop approved non-profit. Go to our website for more info:

<https://www.riverswest.org/bottledrop.html>

## RIVERSWEST BOARD

### Officers:

Mark Ramsby/Chuck Stuckey, **Co-Presidents:**

[president@riverswest.org](mailto:president@riverswest.org)

Bill Gould - **President-elect**

Craig Bryant, **Treasurer & Web Manager:**

[treasurer@riverswest.org](mailto:treasurer@riverswest.org)

[webmaster@riverswest.org](mailto:webmaster@riverswest.org)

"Open" (John Bouwsma interim), **Secretary**

[secretary@riverswest.org](mailto:secretary@riverswest.org)

### Directors:

Bruce Goodrich - **Library Manager**

Bill Gould - **Education/Demos**

Mark Ramsby - **Outreach**

Russ Smith - **Shop Manager**

Chuck Stuckey - **Family Boat Build**

Mark Ramsby - **Donations Coordinator**

Ralph Cohen - **Newsletter Editor**

Mike Simmons - **Board Member Emeritus**

John Bouwsma, Bob Meehan, Steve Najjar -

**Directors at Large**



**MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION – Almost time to renew for 2024. Mail in form (below)**

Or sign up and pay with PayPal or credit card at website:

**MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

Your membership in RiversWest will enable us to keep working toward our goal of making low impact boats and boat building available to anyone who has an interest.

**In addition, membership to RiversWest:**

- Provides you with a subscription to the RiversWest newsletter
- Gives you access to RiversWest shop and boat building book and plans reference library 24/7.
- Gives you access to building spaces 24/7, at an extra monthly fee
- Gives you access to RiversWest boat building workshops and demos
- Gets you invited to all RiversWest social functions
- Gives you a vote for RiversWest board members and officers
- Enables you to get involved with the RiversWest board, if you so desire
- Gets you discounts at some local building suppliers, e.g. Crosscut Hardwoods
- RiversWest dues qualify for tax deductions - consult your tax advisor

There are four types of Membership at RiversWest:

<b>Membership Categories</b>	<b>Annual Dues</b>	<b>How did you hear about RiversWest?</b>
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- Family Membership (2+ using Shop) \$100.00
- General Membership (one person) \$75.00
- Youth (under 18) Membership \$50.00
- College student w/ID Member \$50.00

- New membership
- Renewal

Name (first) \_\_\_\_\_

Name (last) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency contact name \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency contact phone number \_\_\_\_\_

- Facebook page
- RiversWest website
- Word of mouth
- Portland Boat Show
- I am currently a member
- Other

**Payment**

Membership \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Additional donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send checks/correspondence to**

RiversWest Small Craft Center  
 PO Box 19234  
 Portland, OR 97280





**FOR SALE:**

**1992 Klepper Aerius II Expedition double Kayak - \$2000**

I am the 2nd owner, first owner picked it up in Munich in 1992. Frame & hull are in great condition. Includes keel strips, expedition spray deck, 2 spray skirts & 2 cockpit covers, rudder, excellent LongHaul storage bags, sail rig (mast, main, jib, leeboards), original Klepper seats + Chesapeake LightCraft seats/backrests. Stored in the storage bags, and not used for several years. Used for camping trips around Vancouver Island & great for that; it really holds a lot of gear and is very sea worthy & stable. If interested, I can supply more pictures (it is the red one in the picture). Contact: [craigb@riverswest.org](mailto:craigb@riverswest.org)

**PLEASE NOTE:** RiversWest will run member ads for free. Maximum of approx. 100 words) and 1 small photo. Item must be a boat or boat building related. Send ad to the Newsletter Editor.



**FOR SALE: 11'8" x 5'0, Lug rigged pram, designed by Doug Hyland, built by owner.**

Materials: Kaya marine ply, Kaya lumber, Doug fir, Spruce, Teak. West System Epoxy, North Sails sail. Bronze hardware/fittings. Includes Mini Kota Electric motor, 12 volt battery, anchor, 8 ft. spruce oars, full cover & Easy Load trailer. Both boat & trailer are titled.

The "SYLVIA" is an excellent sailor and is extremely stable even in heavy winds. Rows very well is a great boat for fishing, sailing, rowing or motoring.

**\$3,000**, contact Dave Keller 503-320-0686

Email: [davidjkeller7@gmail.com](mailto:davidjkeller7@gmail.com)

**Crater Lake Boats Still Available**

We want to give ("for free") the two remaining Crater Lake Boats to a good home. We hope that these boats will have a new life; they are beautifully designed and built, with solid mahogany planking. The boats would make luxurious cabin cruisers. Dimensions are 39' x 11'6" with 2'8" draft. They are based on a 1936 William Atkin cabin cruiser design.

The boats are in dry storage and can be viewed beneath the ramp leading to the Hawthorne Bridge at SE Salmon and SE Water Streets. If you want to get a close look inside the fence, please contact a board member.

