

Spring 2021

Rivers West News

We inspire people to build and use low impact boats

President's message

The days are getting longer, warmer and more conducive to getting back on the boat! I hope everyone is as excited about that as I am!

I'm also very happy to announce that RiversWest and the Willamette Sailing Club will be holding the Family Boat Build in 2021. This is exciting news!

It will be a scaled back event in order to provide physical distancing for our builders and our fully vaccinated boatwright/mentors. Our plan is to build a maximum of 6 boats under the usual large tent. That event is scheduled for August 7 & 8. Get it on your calendar. More info page 8. Our annual meeting will be held at 5:30 PM at Willamette Sailing Club on August 7th. We'll have a beer, glass of wine, or a soft drink under the tents and we will have an abbreviated program. Our goal is to elect our officers and Board, have a brief financial recap, and then chit chat with our friends. We will hold the meeting outdoors, well spaced and with maximum safety in mind.



We're starting our Splash-ins earlier this year with the good weather. We've already had one on April 28. The weather cooperated but it was lightly attended. Not enough splashes, but we'll do better next time! Watch for announcements for future events. There was a suggestion that we schedule some of these for afternoons to keep the sailors happy. Or maybe we have a morning paddle & row and an afternoon sail? If you think that's a good idea, let us know. Please talk to any board member or officer. We want to know!

A Splash-In is a great way to meet up with other RiversWest members for a physically distanced, socially connected good time.

There is very good news from the Calm Water Coalition. The CWC was formed to help control extreme wakes in the Willamette River that are dangerous to structures, riverbanks, and people in small boats. RiversWest is a member organization of the CWC and has actively participated in the effort to change boating regulations on the Willamette. After years of work with the Oregon State Marine Board and the Oregon Legislature, the regulations have changed in the Willamette between the Hawthorne Bridge and Willamette Falls. This area is now off limits to wake surfing and there are enhanced regulations for towed watersports. Watch for new signage at launch ramps with these new regulations. For a brief video overview of these changes:

<https://www.oregon.gov/osmb/boater-info/Pages/Willamette-River-Rules.aspx> This action will increase the safety of small boats plying this stretch of the Willamette River.

Come join us for a Zoom Open House: 1st & 3rd Saturdays, 9:30 AM. For now, you will have to bring your own coffee and donuts. In the mean time - Stay safe!

Mark



Message from the Board

RiversWest MEMBERSHIP - The combination to the shop will be changing sometime mid-April. If you haven't renewed your membership, this is a good time to do it. That way you won't lose access to the shop. If you are a 2020 member but haven't renewed because you are trimming every expense due to the pandemic, contact John Whitehouse and he'll fix you up.

SHOP USE RESPONSIBILITIES - RiversWest is an all volunteer organization. We have no paid staff. As a member, you have access to the boat shop. With that privilege comes the responsibility to clean up after yourself and respect the tools and equipment.

- All extension cords must be unplugged, coiled and put back where they are stored.
- Horizontal surfaces should be swept clean.
- The shop floor should be swept after every use.
- The dust collector barrel should be checked before and after every use. If it is nearing the "full" line, empty it into a contractor's bag which is nearby. If you have a green bin at home, the dust can be recycled there. If you don't, leave the bag near the collector and someone will recycle it.
- If you don't know how to use a tool or piece of equipment, please contact John Ost to arrange a tutorial.
- Any non-functioning tools should be reported to John Ost, the Shop Manager.

Please keep in mind that our Shop Manager is a volunteer. John is not paid. By cleaning up after yourself you make his job much easier.

One final reminder: In order to keep our shop open, RiversWest must comply with Oregon Health Authority and CDC guidance. Face masks are mandatory within the shop.

ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTIONS - RiversWest will hold its Annual Meeting on Saturday, August 7, 2021, 5:30 PM at Willamette Sailing Club. This meeting will be outdoors, physically distanced, under the Family Boat Build tents. Refreshments will be served. The program will be brief. We will have an update on RiversWest and elect our slate of Officers and Board.

CALL FOR CANDIDATES - If you have been looking for a way to get more involved at RiversWest, this is the time to do it. If you are interested in being a candidate for an office or the Board, please contact Mark Ramsby.

John Bouwsma is stepping down as Secretary. John needs the time to move to a new home. Mark Ramsby is stepping down after three years at the helm and is a candidate to stay on with the Board. Mitch West is a candidate for President.

THANK YOU!

The RiversWest Board



Building hints and tips

Keeping your caulking fresh by Craig Bryant

I rarely use all of a tube of caulking, and I really hate throwing away the partially empty (or should we call it partially full?) tube. And it is always great when I have a project needing a bit of caulk and find that I already have some on hand, saving a trip to the hardware store.

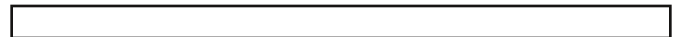
So, how to keep the caulk fresh in the tube? I have tried jamming all sorts of things in the end of the tube (nails, dowels, ...) and using those little caps that come with some tubes. But nothing seemed to work for very long. Then I found a tip (somewhere...) about using wax.



So, the idea is to get a toilet wax gasket – the kind with the plastic liner so it will stay intact for some time – and when you finish your caulking job, jab the end of the tube into the wax a few times to force wax into the end of the tube. I also add a little caulk condom (Red Cap) as a secondary air barrier – may or may not be needed. With this method, I can use a tube of caulk easily a year or more after I first opened it. And the wax gasket lasts for a lot of caulking jobs.



One more tip – some caulk tubes come with a dispensing tube that unscrews from the main body. This is an entry for air, and no amount of sealing the business end of the tube will help, so when I first open one of these, I unscrew the dispensing tube and put caulk on the threads (see pic) unless I think I will be using the entire tube in one go.



“If a man is to be obsessed by something, I suppose a boat is as good as anything, perhaps a bit better than most.”

– E. B. White



Favorite Tools: My Dust Collection System by John Bousma

About 5 years ago a friend of mine died of lung cancer which he attributed to wood dust, though most likely this was not that cause, it motivated me to get serious about dust collection in my home shop. My dust collection strategy has several parts. First, I have a regular dust collector with an upper and lower bag, parked outside the shop in a small shed connected to a 4" PVC pipe running overhead in three branches that can be shut of individually with slide gates.



The branches go to my large machine tools, including the lathe, chop saw, belt sander, band saw, and router table. There is a 30 gal. garbage can next to the collector with a lid that acts as a moderately effective cyclone. It collects about 5 times as much as the bag collector. I call this my "Dust Sheriff" as it is assisted by my Dust Deputy.

The Dust Deputy is a small cyclone attached to my Fein shop vac. I attach it to my hand sanders, power plane, and to a dust pickup for my power carving setup. On rare occasions I also use it to vacuum dust and shavings from the top of tools and the floor. Using the Dust Deputy reduces the load on the vacuum cleaner, itself, putting most of the dust into a small metal bucket that I can empty into my green recycling bin. One caution: Do not use a plastic kitty litter bucket to collect the dust. See photo, below (right), of kitty litter bucket collapsed by vacuum.



Continued on next page

The third part of the system is a homemade recirculation fan and air filter. It is powered by a large squirrel cage blower salvaged from a furnace. Through the Internet, I bought the primary and secondary replacement filters for a Jet air cleaner and incorporated it all into a box. On the lower of the two speeds it moves about 1200 CFM. The high speed would probably shred my filters.

Of course there are still some places where dust can collect, for instance in front of the lathe when I am sanding, so I also use a good dust mask. And once a year or so I put everything away and take my leaf blower in and blast all the dust that has collected (in spite of my best efforts) out the door into the driveway. Since my shop is the garage, and is too full of shop stuff to get a car in, my wife's car is in the driveway. If you have a similar arrangement I would recommend moving the car before using the leaf blower.



Smug Mug for Your Photos

The photo gallery on the RiversWest web site has been completely revamped, using an on-line service called Smug Mug. This has allowed us to organize the photos in hierarchical folders for easier access. We have also added many photos to the galleries, including pictures of various RW events, boats built by members, and photos from many of our demos and workshops. To access this new 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@pobox.com

John: john@bouwsma.net



Notes from the RiversWest library by Bruce Goodrich

First of all thanks to John Bouwsma for photographing the book titles; if you are looking for a specific title just go to the RiversWest web site and click on gallery. Then browse to find the books in the library. Most of us are stuck at home and doing more reading, so finding a book from home might be useful.

Speaking of more reading, we are always looking for new additions to our great nautical library. If your bookshelf is overflowing, please consider donating some to our library. We need titles about boat building, design, maintenance, and repair; also cruising, sailing, rowing, sea stories, etc., etc.

However, please do not donate any Wooden Boat magazines unless you have # 239 and 244 which we need to make a complete set. We have too many extras at this point and will be looking into letting them sail away possibly by selling, donating, or at some point, recycling.

Happy Reading!

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



ONGOING ACTIVITIES AT RIVERSWEST DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Virtual Open House Meetings on Zoom

We had to replace our usual bi-monthly open House events with a Virtual Open House using Zoom. These will occur, as with the REAL Open House meetings, on the First and Third Saturdays of each month, and will start at 10:00. We will send out a link a few days before the meeting. All you have to do is click on the link and follow the instruction on the screen. It helps to have a video camera on your computer, phone, or tablet but isn't absolutely necessary. You will need to have a speaker and microphone, and of course they have to be turned on. Everyone is welcome, you do not need to be a member.

The turnout has been impressive; we are typically getting around 20 member at each one. In recent months we have shown several videos from Off Center Harbor, who is graciously allowing us to show them as well as giving a huge discount to any of our members who subscribe to their library of boat building videos. We have also had demonstrations by several members, including special shop tricks, favorite tools, tips on building lapstrake boats, methods of getting boats on top of cars, and more. We have more lined up for the coming year. These include more shop tricks such as methods of holding down work on a bench, methods of storing tools in a cabinet, silver soldering, sharpening, and anything else we can think of or that someone is willing to volunteer to do. We can either use the Share Screen function in Zoom, or you can send a slideshow or video to Craig Bryant and he will manage it from his computer. Shop tours are always interesting. We would welcome anyone who is willing to either walk around their shop with a phone

camera and Zoom, or to take a series of photos and present them as a slide show.

Boat Shop

The Boat Shop is open for use, with some restrictions. Our policy on Boat Shop use is posted on our web site <https://www.riverswest.org/> and is also posted in the shop.

Library

The library is open, however there are limitations when returning books. There is a box on the table by the library with instructions. Please put any returned books in the box with a sticky note giving the date of the return. We will return the books to the shelf after 10 days.

Board Meetings

Our board meetings are also being held virtually. If you would like to attend, they are generally held after one of our virtual open House meetings using the same link. All members are welcome.

Rental Bays

The rental bays are open for use, but again, we ask that anyone using them follow the rules laid out for the Boat Shop. Cost is \$150/month full bay and \$75/month half bay. Full bay is 10'x23' with lighting and electrical power.

There is currently a bay available to rent. Build your dream at RW.



Demos

We have been able to hold Demos and shop tours during our Virtual Open House meetings, virtually naturally! We have watched Mark Ramsby do lamination with fiberglass between layers of wood and Craig Bryant demonstrating a fixture used with a planer to flatten a warped board. Lacking a demo we have been watching videos from Off Center Harbor, who have graciously allowed us to show their videos during these meetings.

Membership

We are offering free 2021 memberships to any 2019 and 2020 members who have been financially affected by the COVID crisis. Contact John Whitehouse for more details at johnwhitehouse1@msn.com

Family Boat Building and Portland Wooden Boat Show

Family Boat Build is scheduled for August 7 and 8.

There will be no Wooden Boat Show during the FBB or public entrance to the boat building event this year, but we will be building a reduced number of boats. Physical distancing for our builders and full vaccination for boatwrights and mentors will be required.

Messabouts / Splash-ins

We are still getting together on the water while physically distanced (but socially connected). Watch for announcements in the spring and summer.

Crater Lake Boats Still Available

We are still looking for good homes to adopt the remaining two Crater Lake Boats. We hope that these boats will have a new life somewhere, they are beautifully designed and built, with solid mahogany planking. These boats would make truly luxurious cabin cruisers.

They can be viewed underneath the ramp leading to the Hawthorn Bridge, at SE Salmon and SE Water Streets. If you want to get a close look inside the fence, please contact a board member.



FUND RAISING OPPORTUNITIES by Craig Bryant

Capital Campaign

Since the plan for the new bridge across the Columbia River is out, with a deadline for acquiring land of October, 2024, we have a more more specific goal for raising money to find a new location. Our Capital campaign is more important than ever. See below for several ways you can contribute.

Amazon Prime

As an Amazon Prime member you can request a matching donation of 0.5% of each purchase from Amazon to go to the non-profit of your choice. This will cost you nothing; the entire cost is borne by Amazon.

1. Sign in to smile.amazon.com on your desktop or mobile phone browser.
2. From your desktop, go to Your Account from the navigation at the top of any page, and then select the option to add a charity.
3. Type in "RiversWest Small Craft Center"

Fred Meyer

Fred Meyer has a program similar to Smile.Amazon.com. All you have to do is 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 get 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.

Direct Donations

Direct donations may be in cash or in goods. Over the years we have had many members downsize prior to moving 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. We had our annual garage sale in August. Following that we have been selling some things 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.



Steve Najjar donating his partially finished boat.



Boat Review Feature:
Ashes Solo Day, 15' Single Canoe
 by Mark Ramsby

Overview:

The Solo Day is designed as a fast, light, minimalist single canoe. At 15' OAL and 29" overall beam, 27" waterline beam, its asymmetric hull slips through the water with very little resistance. With the seat mounted at a height of 6-1/2", the boat is easily propelled with either single or double paddles. The narrow beam means that it is very efficient but it does give up a little stability. The stability is more akin to a kayak than most canoes. At 240# displacement, the draft is 3-1/2"



"The boat has everything it needs and nothing it doesn't"

The plans are complete, clear and accurate and include station patterns. The boat goes together easily. Sanding and finishing of the tumblehome adds some handwork to the construction of the boat but the payoff comes when paddling. The pronounced tumblehome provides ample clearance for the paddler's lower hand.



"Long & lean, the Solo Day on the beach"

I chose this design as I wanted a smaller, lighter canoe for day trips and lightly burdened camping. I was also drawn to the 'minimalist' ethic of the boat. Building with 3/16" rolling bevel cedar strips allowed a total weight of only 32# even though I opted for full breasthooks with fiberglass reinforcement and a double layer of 4 oz. glass below the waterline.



"A double paddle or single paddle is very efficient"

Paddling Observations:

When fully burdened - my 155# plus 65# of gear - the boat tracks like it's on rails and is very efficiently propelled. Lightly loaded, the boat requires continuous correction to track well. A well-practiced 'J' stroke will provide efficient propulsion.

(Continued on next page)



A lightweight beginner will be less happy with directional control, especially for long, lightly loaded passages. If you want to use this as a lightly loaded day boat, consider adding a keel for better tracking as mentioned in the plans. This boat's long and lean, low profile is a distinct benefit in winds. It isn't as affected and isn't as prone to 'weathervane' as boats with more windage.

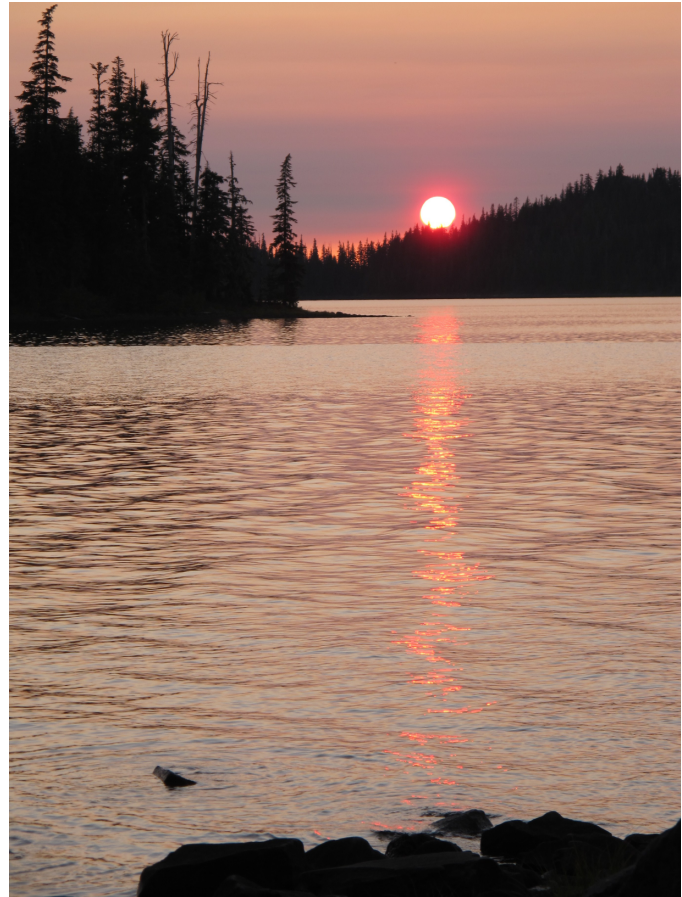
Summary:

The Solo Day is a delightful, lively and beautiful canoe. It's supposed to be for protected water and calm conditions, but in my experience it is quite capable of more in the hands of an experienced paddler. The hull shape is both beautiful and efficient.

The limitation to this design is only allowing lighter loading but that's what it's designed to do. If you want to load this boat beyond about 275#, my thought would be that you should choose a different canoe. Used within its design constraints, this canoe is a delight!

More information:

<https://ashesstillwaterboats.com/canoe-plans/ashes-solo-day/>



"End your day in a beautiful place"



RIVERSWEST BOARD

Officers:

Mark Ramsby, President:

president@riverswest.org

Craig Bryant, Treasurer & Web Mgr:

treasurer@riverswest.org

website@riverswest.org

John Bouwsma, Secretary, Newsletter, Demos

secretary@riverswest.org

Directors:

John Whitehouse, Membership Coord

John Ost, Shop Mgr

Bruce Goodrich, Librarian

Mitch West, Donations Coordinator

Chuck Stuckey, Family Boat Build

Russ Smith

Bob Meehan

Steve Najjar

Mike Simmons, Board Member Emeritus

Art Wilson, Board Member Emeritus



Family Boat Build - 2013



reflections
through the
cabin
window...



MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION – Have you renewed for 2021? Mail in form (below)

Or sign up and pay with PayPal or credit card at website: <https://www.riverswest.org/join-us.html>

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 reference library 24/7.
 - Gives you access to building bays 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 two levels of Membership to RiversWest.

Membership Categories	Annual Dues	How did you hear about RiversWest?
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General Membership	\$75.00	
Youth (under 18) Membership	\$50.00	
College student w/ID Member	\$50.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> New membership		
<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal		
Name (first) _____		
Name (last) _____		
Address _____		
Address _____		

- Facebook page
- RiversWest website
- Word of mouth
- Portland boat show
- Art in the Pearl
- I am currently a member
- Other

City _____	State _____	
Zip _____	Country _____	
Email _____		

Payment

Membership \$ _____

Additional donation \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Phone(s) _____

Please send check to

Emergency contact name _____

RiversWest Small Craft Center
 PO Box 19234
 Portland, OR 97280

Emergency contact phone number _____

