

Summer 2022

RiversWest News

We inspire people to build and use low impact boats

President's message



As I write this, we have just wrapped up another successful Family Boat Build. Special thanks are due to Chuck Stuckey, who, year after year makes sure we don't forget anything. And thanks to the members who turned out to build the boat kits, and at the event, to guide 8 families to complete their boats in just two days. Once again, I want to acknowledge our landlords and neighbors at Green Anchors. This year, we held the boat build under the community tent at Green Anchors. As the event drew near, Rivers West volunteers worked with the team at Green Anchors to erect the tent. For the event, we had the use of a 40 X 80 tent, perfectly sized for the event. Thank you Green Anchors!

2022 has been an “interesting” year so far. The period of January through March was at times a grueling slog to get the new shop covered, walled, and ready to use. Later this spring, we began to see real potential, as we were at last able to sort out our belongings and organize the shop. Most of the work to create the Family Boat Build kits was done at the shop. As of this writing, we have a new industrial dust collector setup and new lights in the machine room, and lights ready to go into the library and tool room. No boat shop is ever finished—they evolve forever, but we can call it done for now.

Once again, I can't thank the members of RiversWest enough. None of us have ever done a project quite like this, but collectively, we had the skills and the energy to see it through. Every call for volunteers turned out all the help we needed and more. Challenging times make it all the more rewarding to serve as your president. We will be holding our annual members meeting in September—details to follow. We will elect officers for the next year, and we have some openings if you want to become more involved. Contact me (president@riverswest.org) if you are interested.

On a somber note, in the past months we have had to say goodbye to two members and friends of RiversWest. Chester Jung was an avid woodworker and boat builder from the Bay Area who moved to Portland in 2017, and almost immediately joined RiversWest. He built several boats with other members and if a call went out for volunteers, Chester would be there. We were saddened to learn that Chester passed away rather suddenly at the end of March. John Whitehouse served for many years as a member of the RiversWest Board. He was an artist and craftsman, creating some of the nicest boats we have seen at RiversWest. Less than a month after Chester's passing, John suffered a major heart attack, and died a few days later. They will be missed. We are reminded to appreciate our friends at RiversWest.

That was the long President's message. Here is the short one: **The shop is done! Come build a boat.** Join us at the shop on every first and third Saturday for demos, boat stories, and friendship. Tell your friends! - **Mitch West**



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 as before, current members will have complete use of the library, tools, and club resources after the required orientation. Members desiring to build a boat on-site will 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. In the new shop, this will be more important than ever, as the building space will be shared, rather than having dedicated building bays.

Specifics on shop use will evolve as we learn what works. The old rules, like picking up and sweeping up still apply, and will be spelled out as we learn how to make best use of our new shop. Refer to the complete guidelines on page 4.

Annual Meeting and Elections – Our next annual meeting will be scheduled for the late summer/early fall. At this time, we are planning an outdoor, in-person meeting and potluck dinner open to all. Watch for an e-mail notification when it is scheduled. While we will elect officers at the annual meeting, the board may admit new members as needed.

We are urgently in need of 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 new shop will provide many other opportunities to get involved. Please contact Mitch West at president@riverswest.org if you are interested.

April open house



June - organized and painted; space for boat building on slab



Upcoming Shop Demonstrations

Using a Tormek tool sharpening "system".

If you've been wondering how to use the shop's Tormek sharpener to quickly and effectively sharpen your chisels and planes, attend this demo by Mike Simmons on August 6 at the RiversWest open house, starting at 10 am.

Scarfiging plywood sheets. Mitch West will demonstrate traditional scarfiging using a hand plane on August 20 at the RiversWest open house starting at 10 am.

Future demonstrations (not yet scheduled):

Upcoming Wooden Boat Festivals

Port of Toledo, Aug 19-21, located on the Yaquina River, about 12 miles from its mouth, inland from Newport;

<http://www.coots.org/mb/Toledo/index.html>

Wahkiakum, Cathlamet WA, Aug 13 in the Elochoman Slough Marina on the Columbia River; <https://wahkiakum.us/events/wooden-boat-festival/>

Summer Splash-ins

None scheduled; watch for announcements

Shop rental rate schedule

The introductory rate shall be calculated as follows:

Monthly rent = \$50 + \$1 x (Length x Beam)

Electric power is included. Minimal use of small, radiant heater to aid epoxy curing will be allowed while the user is in the shop. Space heaters will not be allowed.

The shop manager is Russ Smith. He can be reached by email at fitzsmith67@gmail.com and 360-606-9675. Contact Russ to obtain a copy of the rental agreement or to discuss the start of your boat building project.

Note: the introductory rate will be in effect for the next 4 months. It will be evaluated after that and adjusted, if necessary. 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 1st 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 lease is signed.

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



Rules for Shop Use, Boat Building, and Safety - by Russ Smith

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, for 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 on our web site <https://www.riverswest.org/> and will also be posted in the shop. Members or renters can obtain a key for access.

- Eye protection recommended
- Hearing protection recommended, especially in container space.
- Use dust collection even for small procedures.
- Scrap wood in to wood scrap bin, NOT the garbage can.
- Clean up machines after use.
- Sweep up work area after use.
- Use rip fence for ripping material or miter gauge for crosscut but never both together.
- No freehand cutting on table saw.
- No re-sawing of rough logs on bandsaws without fabricating a sled to hold material.
- Members not familiar with any machine, ask for guidance from shop manager or another experienced member.
- Containers have no wood frame for mounting cabinets and other item to the walls. Every fastener hole is an avenue for water intrusion, and reduces the value of our investment. The board will establish a streamlined process to review and approve necessary installations.
- For problems with the shop, call or email shop manager, contact info posted by shop entry. As we set up the shop, members are encouraged to identify issues and opportunities so that we may quickly make our space more useful.
- No permanent electrical connections may be made using extension cords. In a steel structure, damaged insulation on cords can be lethal. Turn out lights and roll up any extension cords used daily.
- Our electric service is un-metered, and is included in the lease. To maintain this arrangement, space heaters are not to be used in the shop. Small radiant heaters may be used to cure epoxy or for other operations that are temperature sensitive.
- All boats under construction must be mobile. Builders will need to provide a wheeled building platform. When not actively working on the boat, it must be stored as compactly as possible near the back of the concrete work floor. Move project out of the way and clean up the immediate area when finishing for the day.
- Limited amounts of plywood can be stored vertically in a designated area, if marked with builders name.
- Flammable liquid containers placed into flammable cabinet when not in use.
- Solvent or oil soaked rags placed into a metal lidded can or better, removed from the shop.



The Family Boat Build is back! - by Chuck Stuckey

June 2022 saw the return of our most favorite event. While there were no builds at all in 2020 and a much abbreviated FBB in 2021, this year's event saw eight families build their Salt Bay skiffs at our new location at Green Anchors. The staff at GA erected a huge canopy for our event (with a little help from RW members) giving us plenty of room with our shop just yards away in case we needed it to make "adjustments", which we did not. The great support from the folks at GA extended to clearing out much of the debris in their lagoon so the families could float their boats Sunday afternoon with five families partaking and all with no leaks!



Editor's note: Unfortunately, I could not have more of the engaging photos taken during Family Boatbuilding in this newsletter due to file size limitations. Please check out more photos on the RiversWest website in the Gallery under Family Boatbuilding 2022.



The kit building process took place at the new shop with several members pitching in to help - of course the regulars like Russ, Mark, John B., and Mitch doing what they always do and two new members who really helped. Thanks go to the old gang and also thanks to new members, Bill Gould and Larry Palmer who were a big help and seemed to enjoy it. The kits went together well and therefore the boats did, as well. We also had plenty of RiversWest members on hand all weekend to help out, as needed. The members had a nice social hour after each day and the overwhelming sentiment was job well done and “we’re back”! With our new location, setup and teardown was the easiest it has ever been. See you all next year about the same time and maybe we’ll build ten boats.

The accompanying boat show started on Saturday and really was in full swing on Sunday. Some really beautiful member built boats created quite a buzz. Let’s build, isn’t that why we’re here? Thanks to all who helped out. **Chuck Stuckey**



Herreshoff Pram - by John Ost and Steve Najjar

The build for this diminutive pram is based on John Gardener's interpretation of the boat as made in his book *Building Classic Small Craft* (ch.2 p. 16 – 29) and Steve Najjar's interpretation for glued lapstrake construction.

The strong back, molds, and 5mm plywood plank patterns were made by Steve Najjar; the hull planking was done by John Ost and Chester Jung using 6mm marine plywood; planks were beveled along their length to lie flat with gains cut at the ends to make the ends flush. Planks were joined along their length with thickened epoxy and fastened at the ends with ¾ inch #14 silicon bronze ring-shank nails.



Fitting out the hull was by John Ost, including gunwales, quarter knees, thwarts, floor, oiling, varnishing, and painting. All screws and bolts are silicon bronze. Bow-eye was galvanized, forged steel because John could not find a silicon bronze fitting.

Finishing consisted of four coats of Tung oil on the floor and thwarts applied with heavy duty Scotch Brite, wiping off excess thoroughly after 30 to 60 minutes with clean dry rags. All other surfaces were first sealed with Pettit 2018 wood sealer.



Varnishing was done with three coats of Pettit Captain's varnish. Painted surfaces were given one coat of Pettit EZ Poxy wood primer followed by three coats of Pettit EZ Poxy Topcoat with 3021 hardener for the outside of the hull top. The hull inside was top-coated with two coats of Miller exterior oil based enamel.

Design: Herreshoff 10 ft. Pram

Designer: L. Francis Herreshoff

Builders: Steve Najjar, John Ost, Chester Jung

Length: 10 ft., Beam: 44 inches, Depth: 16 inches

Weight: 95 # with floorboards



ACROSS THE BAR ...

John Whitehouse, a RiversWest member, passed away in April. He had been a member of RiversWest for 20 years and was on the board nearly as long, including Treasurer and Membership Coordinator. His previous careers included running an upholstery business



and an Intel technical writer, but his passions were art and woodworking. He painted in oils, sculpted in ceramics, and built some incredible boats. John enjoyed buying tools at garage sales to fix up for his own use or resale. His equipment was always kept in perfect condition; he was a mentor for many of us, both in terms of tool maintenance and woodworking techniques. John was an expert in cedar strip boat building. He built several canoes and a kayak, and also repaired a cedar strip rowboat by cutting off 1/3 of the aft end, built a new transom creating a new, but shorter boat. John made his own cedar strips, setting up a nearly commercial cedar strip operation. RiversWest has a large quantity of 18'-20' long cedar strips from his estate, that will be available to members. He led numerous workshops including oar making and cedar strip building, as well as bandsaw and jointer maintenance. His small, cedar strip canoe model is at the shop, showing all the stages of construction from attaching the strips through applying fiberglass and epoxy. We will use this model as a demonstration at boat shows and other events for years to come.

In addition to John's many contributions to RiversWest over the years, we will miss his positive outlook and quirky sense of humor. John is survived by his daughter.

(Remembrance provided by John Bouwsma)

RiversWest member, **Chester Jung** died on March 28, 2022 at the age of 78 in Portland,



surrounded by his family. He was born in Honolulu in 1943, moving with his family to San Francisco at age 7. He attended St. Mary's College and served in the Army in Vietnam from 1965 to 1967.

He was married to Elizabeth Yeagy in Lafayette, CA, raised a son and daughter, and moved to Portland in 2017.

Those who knew him said Chester was "a force of nature – loyal, trustworthy, ornery, and straight spoken." He cherished his family and was devoted to his children. He read voraciously and loved exploring the world with his family. He loved fly-fishing, mountain biking, woodworking, boat building, and home brewing. He was always open to conversation, made friends easily, and did unflinchingly for others.

Member John Ost remarked about several boats they built together: an Elegant Punt which Chester painted turquoise to use for fly-fishing, 14 foot and 15 1/2-foot skin on frame canoes, and 10-foot glued lapstrake, Herreshoff pram along with bent canoe paddles.

Member Charlie Ehm recalled that Chester not only fly-fished but also crafted bamboo fly rods which is a very skillful art, not just assembling them from kits. Coincidentally, Charlie and Chester both attended St. Mary's College.

Chester is survived by his wife, son, daughter, five grandchildren, and three siblings who all miss him dearly. The family can be reached at RememberingChesterJung@gmail.com (information from *Lamorinda Weekly*, May 11)



Re-establishing the RiversWest library at Green Anchors - by Bruce Goodrich

The library is now open in half of one of the shipping containers. It was painted and several overhead lights have been installed. The books are organized by subject and are housed in closed cabinets thanks to Charlie, Mike S. and Chester. We received several boxes of books donated by David Wagner and Art Wilson.

In addition, the boat plans were organized by Ralph and are housed in the flat file (9 drawers). The list of plans available are both on the website and in a yellow binder in the library. The searchable database in Microsoft Excel format is available from Ralph Cohen. There are approximately 100 sets of plans ranging from study plans to detailed plans available for checkout. Anyone intending to use a set of the shop's plans to build their next boat is responsible for paying the designer their royalty, if one is due.

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 (e.g. Family Boat Build and Splash-ins), 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: craig@pobox.com

John: john@bouwsma.net



ONGOING ACTIVITIES AT RIVERSWEST DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Future Open House gatherings at the Shop

The turnout at past, virtual gatherings has been impressive - typically around 15 members at each one. We showed videos from *Off Center Harbor*, who graciously allowed us to show them as well as gave a huge discount to any members who subscribed to their library of boat building videos and *"Tips from a Shipwright"* videos demonstrating traditional boat building methods. We also used the time to discuss and plan work parties.

Going forward, we are reverting to in-person Open House gatherings on the First and Third Saturday of each month, starting at 9:30 AM (socializing), with a program, when scheduled, at 10:00. Additionally, we will try to broadcast the demonstrations via Zoom. We will send out a link/announcement a few days beforehand. For Zoom, you just have to click on the link and follow the instruction on the screen. If you want 2-way communication during that segment you need a video camera and microphone on your computer or internet device. Everyone is welcome, you do not need to be a member. Please send ideas and program interests to a Board Member for future virtual and Live sessions. If you'd like to provide a program, we can either use the Zoom Share Screen function, or you can send a slideshow or video to Craig Bryant who will manage it from his computer. Shop tours are always interesting. We would welcome anyone willing to either walk around their shop with a phone camera and Zoom, or a series of photos presented as a slide show.

Board Meetings

Our board meetings have been held virtually. The decision to retain virtual or hold in-person is pending. If you would like to attend, they are generally held after an open House gathering. All members are welcome.



Willamette Falls - spring runoff



Schooner falls on hard times in the Multnomah Channel



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 are pretty good at making small donations stretch and accomplish a lot. 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 - especially now. 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. Cash donations are always appreciated; please go to our website: <https://www.riverswest.org/donation.html>

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 <https://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](https://www.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.



MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION – Have you renewed for 2022? 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 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	

- 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
- Art in the Pearl
- 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



Classified Ads

RiversWest will run member ads for free. It can be a maximum of 7 lines (half page width, approx. 40 words) and one small photo or 8 lines/no pic. Item must be a boat or boat building related.

Send your ad to the Newsletter Editor.

FOR SALE - 6" Jet Long Bed Jointer, Lightly used jointer w/ enclosed base, 6" dust port, 1 HP 115 VAC motor & mobile base. Purchased new & used in a heated home shop. Excellent condition. \$800 /\$700 with your RiversWest membership. Contact Mark: m.ramsby@comcast.net



RIVERSWEST BOARD

Officers:

Mitch West, **President:**

president@riverswest.org

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

treasurer@riverswest.org

website@riverswest.org

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

Demos secretary@riverswest.org

Directors:

Bruce Goodrich, **Librarian**

Mitch West, **Donations Coordinator**

Chuck Stuckey, **Family Boat Build**

At Large: John Bouwsma, Bob Meehan, Steve

Najjar, Mark Ramsby, Russ Smith

Ralph Cohen, **Newsletter Editor**

Mike Simmons, **Board Member Emeritus**

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.

