

RiversWest News

We inspire people to build and use low impact boats

President's message



Pardon me if I sound a bit like a stuck record (for those who know what that was). Once again I have been overwhelmed by the resourcefulness and talents of the members of RiversWest. As I write this, our 2023 Family Boat Build was completed just last week. More on the event inside. There was nothing particularly unusual about this year, except that one week before the event, it became obvious that we had no place to hold it! We had planned to use the Green Anchors event tent as we did last year. That tent was demolished by the snow last winter, and its replacement was delayed by several breakdowns and other issues.

With just a week to change course, we went to “Plan B” which was a “tent city” we erected in front of a drastically rearranged RiversWest shop. We put out a call for 10X10 pop-up picnic canopies and volunteers to move everything possible off the shop floor. In the end, members came up with 3 more canopies than we could use and we completely rearranged the shop in a day. Our helpful neighbors at Green Anchors cleared out extra space for us. None of the families even knew about the emergency.

It is especially gratifying to see the kids getting such joy and sense of pride creating a boat from a pile of wood in just two days. This year, one builder was a bit older. In his retirement, he had talked often of wanting to build a boat. His family discovered the Family Boat Build and made it happen.

One of the most difficult jobs I have at RiversWest is talking with the many people who offer various materials, plans, books, and boats. Mostly, these offers are welcome and greatly appreciated, but we can't accept everything that is offered. Too often, the offers come about because someone never quite fulfilled their dream or ran out of time to finish. It is heartbreaking to have to say that we can't finish that boat their loved one dreamed of building. It serves as a reminder of the importance of deciding what we want in life, and of getting on with it.

On a personal note, my wife and I have been thinking along those lines. We have decided we need to be nearer to salt water—it gets in your veins. I have notified the RiversWest board that I cannot stand for re-election as your president for another year. We expect to move somewhere along the Salish Sea in the next few months.

I am excited for new adventures, but my one real regret in leaving the Portland area is that I will be leaving RiversWest. It has been incredibly rewarding to serve you. - **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 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. In the new shop, this is more important than ever, as the building space is 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 are posted in the shop. Abbreviated guidelines and information are on page 11.

We are still 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 shop provides many other opportunities to get involved. Please contact Mitch West at president@riverswest.org if you are interested.

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

SPLASH-IN was held on SATURDAY, APRIL 22 at the Sauvie Island boat ramp near Hadley's Landing / Wapato Park. Turnout was light (John Ost, Charlie, Craig, Ralph) but it introduced some members to a new area. An unanticipated surprise: many anglers were also there that day.



FIRST AND THIRD SATURDAY OPEN HOUSE AND DEMO'S

HAND CUT MORTISE AND TENON JOINT DEMO

by John Bousma

Demonstration covered layout, taping, marking, sawing, chiseling, and fitting. More information on the Youtube channel (url at bottom of page)



HOW TO REMOVE RUST FROM FERROUS METAL

by Mike Simmons

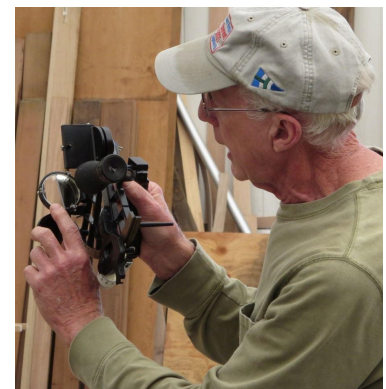
Mike provided a demonstration on rust removal showing the setup and chemicals required. Materials are easily acquired (rebar, electrical wire, 12 volt DC power supply, plastic bucket, tap water, and "Arm and Hammer" washing soda, and "Scotch Brite" pads). Detailed instructions were given to attendees. Ask Mike or a member for a copy if you missed it.



INTRODUCTION TO CELESTIAL NAVIGATION

by Bill Gould and Mitch West

This demo explained the basics of taking sights on heavenly bodies with a sextant, use of chronometers to accurately record the time of the sight, and application of Nautical Almanac and tables to determine one's latitude and longitude when in open ocean. Despite widespread use of GPS, it is always advisable to be capable of finding one's position when crossing an ocean using celestial navigation. The Riverswest library has many books on the subject.



Send your demo ideas to **Bill Gould** to schedule it.

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



FAMILY BOAT BUILD 2023 - by Chuck Stuckey

Even with a big challenge, this year's event was another big success. We were hoping the new event space at Green Anchors would be ready in time, but unfortunately they had equipment issues that required us to go to "Plan B". We used individual pop-up tents for each family, with two families in the Shop. The kits went together well with only a few minor touches on the grinder. The families all worked well & had a great time.



One of last year's boats returned as this year's display boat. It's builder, young Senate, even had his skiff in the "New Launchings" section of the latest issue of "Wooden Boat" magazine.



Ten families signed up - a full sell-out, again, but one family backed out due to an injury. The condition of the "beach" at GA was unsatisfactory for launching; next year we'll try to figure out how to shuttle the boats to the ramp at Cathedral Park. Thanks goes out to all the RW volunteers who made this another successful build.





FBB boat photos by Meg McGill and Ralph Cohen



See many more FBB photos at the website under "Gallery/FBB/2023"



ST. JOHN'S PARADE (May 13, 2023) by Mark Ramsby

In order to announce ourselves to the St. John's neighborhood, in May, RiversWest participated in the St. John's Parade. Russ towed his boat while displaying "Sunshine", the club's Salt Bay Skiff on the roof rack. The sides of the pickup were adorned with RiversWest and Family Boat Build banners. Chuck, Bill, Bob and Mark walked alongside to answer questions and give interested people business cards. An announcement was made introducing RiversWest and inviting people to the Family Boat Build at two locations along the parade route.

Thanks to Mark, Chuck, Bill and Rob for walking in the hot sun.



ONGOING and FUTURE ACTIVITIES AT RIVERSWEST

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. Everyone is welcome; you do not need to be a member.

Please send ideas and program interests to a Board Member for future sessions.

Next Scheduled Program -

July 15: Finishing demo by Mark Ramsby

OTHER UPCOMING, NON-RIVERSWEST, BOATING ACTIVITIES

Jul. 8: Hagg Lake Messabout near Forest Grove

July 14-16: Pacific City Dory days

July 29-30: Great Oregon Steam-up in Brooks

Aug 5-6: 2nd Great Oregon Steam-up in Brooks

August 9-12: Astoria Regatta

Aug 12: Wooden and Classic Boat Show in Cathlamet

(For details on all above events and many more, check www.coots.org website)

Next RiversWest Splash-in site, place, and date for summer TBD, possible choices include Lake Vancouver and Cathedral Park.





RIVERSWEST VOLUNTEERS HELP ERECT NEW GREEN ANCHORS EVENT TENT

Members have turned out over the past few weeks to help assemble the 13 tent arches and in the past week have been a significant force positioning the arches on the wooden beams atop of columns. As of 6/29, all the arches were set. Mitch reports: "Thanks to all who helped out. Big shade next year for the Family Boat Build!"

Bill and Mitch in the man-lift, Mark on the guyline on 6/29.



BOATS CURRENTLY BEING BUILT IN THE SHOP

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

Scarfing planks for the bottom and side

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. Bottom planking is underway.

(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. Cleanup prior to glassing. (photo left)





Auk - (7' 10" x 4' 2"), designed by Iain Oughtred, builder: Mitch West

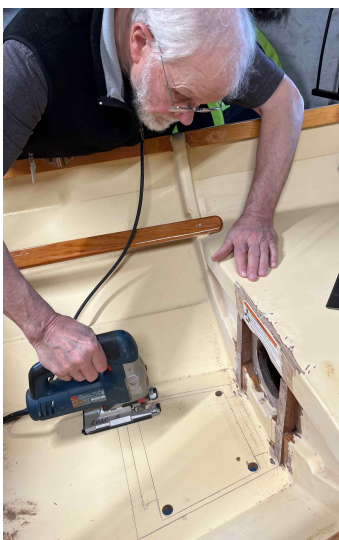
Auk is both Iain Oughtred's design and the name this tubby little dinghy will carry aboard my tubby little trawler, "Puffin". Seemed appropriate. Planking complete; turned for cleanup, framing, fitting out, and finishing. The hull is primed with one coat of epoxy primer. This helps to see what needs fairing, and allows the use of epoxy fairing compound that can't be used over paint.

Prior to priming, the sheer strake and transom were sealed with penetrating epoxy, so any drips or bleed-through of white primer aren't permanent.

MODIFICATIONS/UPGRADES - ADDING A MOTOR WELL FOR A JOHN DORY by Russ Smith

When I built my boat some 7 years ago there was an option drawn by the designer for a motor well. Since I have not been using the boat very much because of my lack of sailing training, I thought the motor might be a good option. The plan called out 3/8" plywood for the box walls with a double layer where the motor clamps on. I also thought it would be a good idea to be able to lift the motor in case of grounding. I made a sliding section with runners inside that allows the motor to be raised. The box is re-enforced with 1" square Mahogany corner pieces inside and around the base. The box is epoxied to the bottom and secured with bronze screws through the bottom up into the base.

After the initial test launch I had a new issue; the tiller interferes with the motor housing. Chuck Stuckey lent his 2.5 hp motor and in the first sea trial the boat moved very easily through the water, but using a shortened tiller was a real challenge. After many member consultations and suggestions as well as looking at a system from 1910 in "Wooden Boat" magazine, I developed a rope steering system that is attached to the gunwales around the motor. It has only been driveway tested so far, but I plan to test in the water later this week - fingers crossed!





MODIFICATIONS / UPGRADES (con't)

REPLACING GASOLINE OUTBOARD WITH ELECTRIC OUTBOARD by Chuck Stuckey

Although my Shellback dinghy is an excellent row boat (and a darn sweet little sailboat) I've felt a need for a motor as I use the boat as a tender to the family sailboat and sometimes the distance from boat to shore was a bit much. My first solution was a 2.5 hp Suzuki four stroke. That worked well but it had a few downsides. It was heavier than advertised, was difficult to move from the stern rail to the dinghy in the water, and was not easy for guests to operate. So I was looking for an alternative.

After a little online research I was ready to take the plunge to electric. First, I sold my Suzuki to Russ (on his boat we can both report it works great). Next I bought my set up: a 55 lb. thrust trolling motor, a 50 amp hour lithium battery, and a 12 watt solar charger. The whole package was just over \$400. The motor has a relatively short, 24 inch shaft - not one of those long things typical with trolling motors. It's called their "kayak" model, the brand is Newport, ordered from Amazon.



The solar charger is about the size of a sheet of paper with a controller built in to prevent overcharging. It works great and will top off the battery very quickly. The battery weighs only 10 lbs, about a third of what a lead acid battery weighs. All in all: a nifty little set up.

And it performs well. It has six forward speeds but on my first trial, I only used the first three. It is plenty fast enough for a spin around the marina. What a wonderful new, modern world it is.

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.

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

Note: The rate will be evaluated and adjusted in the future when 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 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 - July 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

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. We do not have a storage rack, but hopefully, we will before summer is over.

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.

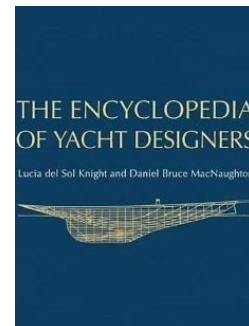
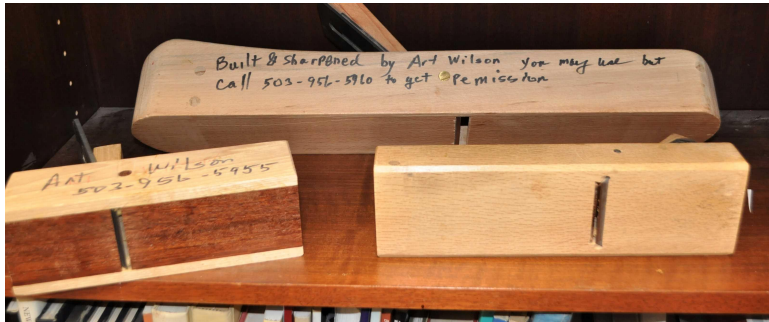


Library News - Good News from the library! by Bruce Goodrich

The library just gets better all the time and not just with books. Thanks again to Art Wilson's family for the gracious donation of books but also his collection of expertly crafted hand planes that he built and his 1/5th scale model of the Herreshoff 11-1/2' dinghy (photo below left). Art created a detailed step by step tutorial that includes instructions on the lofting, building forms & construction process. Be sure to check out these treasures!

Thanks, also, to Stu for his generous donation of the book: "The Encyclopedia of Yacht Designers". (photo below right)

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

John: 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:

Mitch West, **President:**

president@riverswest.org

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

treasurer@riverswest.org

webmaster@riverswest.org

"Open" (John Bouwsma interim), **Secretary**
secretary@riverswest.org

Directors:

Bruce Goodrich - **Library Manager**

Bill Gould - **Education/Demos**

Mark Ramsby - **Outreach**

Russ Smith - **Shop Manager**

Chuck Stuckey - **Family Boat Build**

Mitch West - **Donations Coordinator**

Ralph Cohen - **Newsletter Editor**

Mike Simmons - **Board Member Emeritus**

At Large: John Bouwsma, Bob Meehan, Steve Najjar



MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION – Have you renewed for 2023? 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:

Membership Categories	Annual Dues	How did you hear about RiversWest?
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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: Penobscot 14 Sailboat (\$5800)

Built 2021-2022. Balanced lug main (67 ft²), furling jib (19 ft²). Construction used Doug Fir, Western Red Cedar, Port Orford Cedar, White Oak, Sitka Spruce & Marine Ply. Arch Davis designer; 2 floatation chambers. Lapstrake marine ply planking screwed to the fore & aft stringers using silicon bronze fasteners. Rudder hardware by Port Townsend Foundry. Custom Trailex trailer with spare tire. Includes 8 ½ ft Shaw & Tenney oars & boat hook, SS anchor, 2 adult Mustang Survival life vests & 1 child's life vest. Contact Rick Connors; rckcjc3@gmail.com, 971-405-3602

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.

\$4,575, contact Dave Keller 503-320-0686
Email: davidjkeller7@gmail.com

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



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.

