

RIVERSWEST

Winter



2012-2013

www.riverswest.org

RIVERSWEST IS A SMALL CRAFT CLUB, WHOSE MISSION IS TO ENCOURAGE A MATURE INVOLVEMENT IN THE RECREATIONAL BUILDING AND USE OF LOW-IMPACT BOATS.

President's Corner

Chuck Stuckey, RiversWest President

Here we are at the close of another year, and a very good year it was. Our participation in last year's Portland Boat Show was very well received. Many members took part in showing some of our nice boats to the crowds at the show, answered a thousand questions, and even signed up a few new members. The show was followed by our annual meeting at the Rose City Yacht Club. Good food and great conversations.

The highlight of the summer was again the Portland Wooden Boat Festival where we got to display the best of our member built boats--canoes, kayaks, and sailboats. The Family Boat Build was a big part of the show, see the article later in the newsletter. Something new this year was a get-together of past

"families" and their boats for a picnic at Blue Lake Park in Octo-



ber. Hot dogs and hamburgers, bright sun and warm weather made for a very fun afternoon.

We expect to continue next year with our popular classes, I think we had more this year than ever. A full description is contained in the article below. We are, as always, looking for ideas for classes that the members really want. If you have an idea for a good class, let us know and we'll try to work it in. The shop has been full all year with really nice work going on. For next year I look forward to getting more members involved in group activities with boats, helping with the kits for the Family Boat Build, and attending classes. Perhaps we'll even get around to having a much talked swap meet in the spring.

See you at the boat show in January.

Chuck Stuckey

PORTLAND BOAT SHOW

January 9th—13th, 2013

See us at the Expo-Center: BOOTH 734 in the sailboat section

Family Boat Build Summer 2012

Chuck Stuckey, President

Again this summer, July 6-8, to be exact, RiversWest participated with the Oregon Maritime Museum and the Willamette Sailing Club in hosting the Portland Wooden Boat Festival. The museum reports that over 1000 people walked thru on Sunday alone. Our main contribution was the Family Boat Build. Using the same design as in years past, the Salt Bay Skiff, we had twelve families each build a boat and launch on Sunday afternoon. As we continue to re-

fine the building process, the building went very well.

We always reserve a few "family" spots for organizations who use the boat and building process to further their own programs. The Friends of the Children was again represented as they were the year before.

Another boat was built in honor of Lt. jg Thomas Cameron, United States Coast Guard. Thomas was a recent graduate of the Coast Guard Academy and their flight school. He and his fel-

low crew members perished when their helicopter crashed in the Gulf of Mexico in late 2011. He was a 2005 graduate of Cleveland High School here in Portland. A group of his Cleveland classmates formed a "family" and built a boat to honor Thomas and another group of current students will finish it off with a killer paint job and then put it in the annual Cleveland High auction. We at RiversWest are particularly proud of that one.



Family Boat Build Reunion Picnic at Blue Lake Park

Chuck Stuckey,



On October 6th we gathered at Blue Lake park for a day of sailing, rowing and just showing off the boats finished by the “families”. There were six boats represented from the last two years family boat build. The wind was way too strong for the few boats that had built sail rigs to show them off. But that didn’t stop the families from getting out on the water and rowing around in the nice bright sun.



We look forward to having this become an annual event...

Some RiversWest members brought their boats as well, John Whitehouse brought two--a kayak and a canoe--and John Bouwsma brought his nice little sailboat.



RiversWest provided grilled burgers and hot dogs, beverages and snacks. Mike Simmons did a great job as grill master. We look forward to having this become an annual event as the number of boats built at the family build continues to grow. We are up to 27 at last count. Wonder where the rest are.

Pacific Crest Community School Builds a Salt Bay Skiff

Chuck Stuckey, President

In keeping with its non-profit mission, RiversWest has been recently assisting a group of middle and high school students while they assemble one of the skiffs. Unlike the Family Boat Build “families” who assemble one of our “kits”, these kids are making the entire boat from scratch, learning to read a set of plans and transferring lines to sheet stock, safely using our shop tools and the ins and outs of epoxy.

The principal of the school, Becky Lukens, puts it this way:

“Since the second week in September, RiversWest has been offering us the rare opportunity to learn how to build a boat. Chuck Stuckey, Russ Smith, and Mike Simmons are our able instructors. Under their patient and persistent guidance, ten middle and high school students are learning many basic wood working and shop safety skills while having a really good time. The opportunity to learn these hands-on skills, build something to be proud of and be a member of a productive group is becoming more and more diffi-

cult for young people at this time. This experience is a perfect example of its continued importance.

Children learn best in small groups, with a good teacher instructing in a relevant way with immediate feedback. Pacific Crest students are having this remarkable experience thanks to the great guys at RiversWest. Their Salt Bay Skiff will be donated to the schools auction, but with all of their youthful energy there is also talk of a building a fleet.”

Maritime Skills Workshops

John Bouwsma, Secretary

This past year the Maritime Skills Workshops and Demos have really taken off. They have proven to be very popular with both members and non-members.

We started with a Slick workshop (slicks are huge chisels used for such things as roughing out keels on boats and large joints in timber framing, [Fig. 1-2]) We made these out of car springs, shaped the metal and had it heat treated by the car spring people, and we made long handles.

This was followed in March by a Cedar Strip demo presented by John Whitehouse using small models he had built for the purpose, showing this process in all stages [Fig. 3]. Also in March we had our second Oar workshop. This was so popular the first time that we repeated it, and will most

likely repeat it again next year. We built beautiful, gracefully curved oars to Pete Culler’s design.

In April Jim Litton demonstrated several methods for sharpening plane blades and chisels. This is a useful skill for all woodworkers, but is especially relevant for people attending the slick and plane making workshops.

Later in April we had a Plane Making Workshop, in which we made the blades out of O1 tool steel and heat treated them in a very accurate kiln donated by Jim Litton. Then we made the plane bodies out of hard maple, also donated by Jim. This workshop was so popular that we have repeated it already, in October of this year, [Fig. 4].

In June Ralph Cohen led a workshop on making wooden

cleats, [Fig.5]. He had made all the cleats for his own boat, and came prepared with scalable dimensions for several different cleats, as well as patterns and a written step-by-step procedure.

We plan to repeat most of these workshops again next year, as well as others suggested in the Annual Planning Meeting. One of the suggested workshops are paddle making, including traditional canoe paddles and both traditional and Greenland style kayak paddles, [Fig. 6]. We will probably also hold a second spar making workshop, a repeat from last year. Any other ideas are very welcome! Simply contact any board member. (See last page for contact information).

2012 Maritime Skills Workshops

Your ideas are very welcome! Simply contact any board member.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5



Fig. 6

RiversWest
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RiversWest Small Craft Center Inc.

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Membership Form

RiversWest is a non-profit membership organization whose mission is to encourage personal involvement in the construction, recreational use and history of low impact boats.

Members receive: The RiversWest newsletter; Access to RiversWest boat shop (add space rent for project); Access to RiversWest boat building education programs; Invitation to all RiversWest boating and social functions; Right to vote for RiversWest officers and board members; Chance to be involved with RiversWest board if you so desire; Opportunity to volunteer and help with activities; Discounts at Crosscut Hardwood, Woodcrafters and Tap Plastics.

Our main support is the dues and donations from our members. Whether or not you are active at the shop or in our other activities, we hope you will want to support our advocacy for low-impact boats and boating in the Portland area. The more members we represent the more we have to say about the future of the programs that affect the boating we love and our planning for the future. Also see our web site at www.riverswest.org.

Please return the following with your check to the address above.

New member Renewing member Change of information Additional donation

Name..... Home phone.....

Address..... Day/Cell phone.....

City/ST/Zip..... E-Mail.....

Dues: Youth (17 and under) \$30.00 General Membership \$50.00

Donations: \$50.00, \$100.00, \$250.00, other \$ _____.

Dues and donations to RiversWest qualify for tax deductions. Ask your tax advisor

New members please note: To keep the maintenance of our membership list as easy as possible new membership dues received on or before June 30th are good for the current year, if received after June 30th count for the current and next year.



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Please check your membership status; RiversWest needs your support.