

# RiversWest

We inspire people to build and use low-impact boats

# News



**Meet Our New President  
Mark Ramsby, At the Helm!**



## The President's Corner



### Outgoing President's Message

Spring is finally here and the club is busy getting ready for the boating season. We plan on having a couple of messabouts this summer so check the website calendar for dates and location.

Chuck Stuckey is preparing to get started assembling the kits for this year's Family Boat Build. Anyone who would like to help, please call Chuck for days and times. He also needs volunteers on the weekend of the event, June 30, to help guide the new builders. There is also a Wooden Boat Festival on Sunday July 1st at the same location, so bring your boat for display.

We had our annual dinner meeting at the Rose City Yacht Club on Saturday April 14th and there was a full house. A young lady, Shelly Clazek, did a presentation about her family's around the world sailing adventures, which was most enjoyable.

The club also held the election of officers and board members. Mark Ramsby will be taking over the helm as President. We all know Mark will do a wonderful job moving the club forward and he has our full support. The other board members remained the same except for the addition of one new board member, Randi Whipple. Randi has skills in boat restoration and also as experienced sail maker. Welcome Randi, we look forward to your youthful perspective.

This is my last newsletter as President, I will remain on the board but plan to have a little more flexibility to travel. I would like to say thank you to all members for your support and especially to the board members for their advice and friendship, it has been much appreciated.

See you at the shop or on the water,  
Russ Smith

### Incoming President's Message

As we enter this new adventure together, I first want to thank my immediate predecessors. Russ, our past President: a man of integrity, inclusion and calm competence. I can only aspire to fill his shoes. Sal was the RW President that welcomed me to this group. He had a vision for RiversWest and boundless energy. I want to channel Sal's energy! Chuck Stuckey: our stabilizing and consistent guide at RiversWest and a mentor to all. We all benefit from the contributions of our members over the years. Together, we have the opportunity to build upon their successes.

In taking this job, there are three areas that I'd like to focus on. I hope that you want to go there with me.

First, enhance our educational program. John Bouwsma has a lot of Saturday morning demos lined up. Demos are the core of our educational program, free to all, and pack a lot of information into an hour. If you want to do a demo or teach a class, talk to John. Several of our members have mentored budding boat builders: John Ost, John Bouwsma, Chuck Stuckey and Art Wilson immediately come to mind. It would be great to formalize our mentoring. We all have things we can teach and things we want to learn.

Second, outreach to other boating organizations and businesses. I have begun to speak with maritime organizations and businesses to see how RiversWest might participate in the larger Portland maritime community.

Third, continue the search for a permanent home for RiversWest, and fundraising for that effort. Please look for the Capital Campaign article in this newsletter.

Thank you for this opportunity to serve RiversWest. My hope is that each of us will make RiversWest better than we found it. Whether you teach a class, give a demo, volunteer to make parts for the Family Boat Build or sweep up the shop, YOU make a difference! Each of us is a thread in the fabric that makes RiversWest a special place!

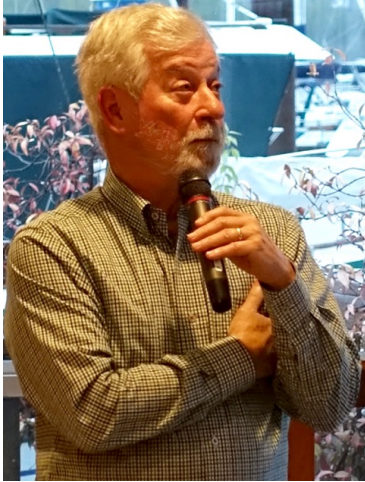
Wishing you fair winds and following seas!

Mark Ramsby



## Annual Membership Meeting

This year's Annual Membership Meeting was held later than usual, on April 14. The agenda included the election of the board and of officers, a fascinating speaker, several award presentations, a report on our finances, and a discounted sale of some RiversWest T-shirts, hats and burgees.



The program was MC'd by Chuck Stuckey, a former president and the coordinator of the Family Boat Build. He presented a congratulatory gift to Sadie whom he and Russ mentored in the building of her Nutshell Pram, a high school senior project. The gift consisted of a canvas tool bag with a brass nameplate with Sadie's name and the RW logo, a RW t-shirt, and a RW hat.



Russ, as the outgoing president, was presented a gift from the club by Mark Ramsby, the incoming president. His gift was two books about Maine Lobster Boats, one mainly informational, the other on constructing models of these boats.

The new board was elected, mainly consisting of the same board as before. Everyone who volunteered for the board was elected unanimously—in keeping with our inclusive attitude. We do have one new board member, Randi Whipple, who has been very active in working on her boat in one of the rental bays. The rest are listed on the back page of this newsletter.

Our speaker was Staci Clazek, a new member, who spoke about her and her family's life cruising. She was born while her parents were sailing around the world and she has been living the cruising life ever since. Her talk was in part a heartfelt tribute to her father who had passed away about two weeks before.



As a special perk for people attending the meeting we sold hats, burgees, and T-shirts for the reduced price of \$15 each.



## Introducing John Ost

John Ost is the new RiversWest Shop manager. We all know John as a very enthusiastic builder and our expert on converting the Salt Bay Skiff, from the Family boat Build, to sail. But what many of us do not know is how extensively he has personally shared his expertise with many members of our club.

John helped Dave and Sam Dunlap paint their FBB boat after the 2016 FBB, then convert it to sail, including building mast, rudder, and the sail.

He helped Charlie Gripp build a Bolger Elegant Punt, completed in 2017, and coordinated with Randi Whipple to learn to use the RW sewing machine to make the sails. This boat was completed in 2017, and was featured in a previous RW Newsletter when Charlie rowed and sailed it from Astoria to Portland.

He also assisted Torin Lee in finishing his FBB boat and converting it to sail. With Randi's help they also made sails for this boat.

John and Art Wilson acted as co-tutors to Theo Tannahill, an 8th grader who built an Ozona Pram as a senior project. This included rudder, dagger board and sailing rig.

John has been volunteering at Catlin Gable In addition to building two Salt Bay Skiffs with the middle school students, he has been attending a weekly after-school boat building club.



Last year they built a Stephenson Amphora. He also helped the shop teacher, Ric Fry, restore two derelict trailers for use with the Salt Bay Skiffs. John organized the final permanent assembly of our Salt Bay Skiff pattern boat, now named Sunshine, owned by RW. This is an excellent example to take to the FBB and other events to show what we are about, and is a highly useable boat as well!



Along with Charlie Ehm, John organized restoring the Lake Oswego on the dock to being useable.

John's interest in boats started in 1975 with the purchase of a used aluminum drift boat. He was an elementary school teacher in Hornbrook, CA at the time and used it to fish the Klamath River. After two years as a teacher he decided to change professions. He moved to San Jose, CA to take training as a medical technologist. Completing the one year course, he was hired by a hospital in Chico, CA. It was there he and his wife, Helen, raised their two children, a boy and a girl. The boat went with them and provided the focus of many family outings. His son married and moved to Portland, OR and his daughter married and moved to McMinnville. When he retired in 2005, after 30 years in hospital work, he and Helen decided to move to Portland so they could be near future grandchildren. John, an avid cyclist as well as a rower, decided he wanted a sailboat when he saw an old Mechanics Illustrated article on "How to Convert a Drift Boat to a Sailboat". He had heard about RiversWest as an ideal club for do-it-yourself wooden boat builders, but RiversWest was still at Oaks Park then and did not have an active class to offer. In 2011, Chuck Stuckey announced the first Family Boat Build, featuring the Salt Bay Skiff. John liked the design and signed up. That's how John built his first boat, the Red Maid, which he later converted to sail. When Russ Smith announced his retirement as president and shop manager, John accepted the job of shop manager. John has three major goals to help continuing the resurgence of membership in RiversWest: First he and Mark Ramsby wish to move aggressively on finishing the newly acquired John Gardner Dory Skiff (See photos, page 6). They will be announcing a monthly schedule of work days and how to volunteer for the building project. Secondly, because of his seven year history of owning the first sailing version of the Salt Bay Skiff in our club, he will continue to mentor other people in making the conversion of boats built original as rowing boats. Finally, he will encourage use of the boats on the dock.



## Capital Campaign 2017/2018

Rick Hendon

In early 2017 Rick Hendon proposed that RiversWest really needed a permanent home and we should raise some money if we were to realize that dream. He offered to co-chair a committee to make it happen. After approval from the RiversWest Board, a small group of us gathered in April of 2017 to discuss what we needed to do. That group consisted of Russ Smith, John Bouwsma, Chuck Stuckey, Rick Hendon and Mark Ramsby. We were later joined in the effort by Art Wilson and Steve Najjar.

Over the next few months, the core group met with the executive directors of Center for Wooden Boats in Seattle, NorthWest School of BoatBuilding and the Oregon Maritime Museum. We were encouraged by all to pursue the RiversWest dream.

Fast forward to today, and we have contacted several communities along the Willamette River. We are close to achieving our initial fundraising goal of \$20,000. As of this writing we have received:

\$ 4,570 Individual Member Contributions

\$ 2,800 Individual Non-Member Contributions

\$ 500 Corporate Contributions

\$11,500 Trusts

\$19,370 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN TOTAL

RiversWest thanks you for your generous donations to this fund. We all have to remember that this is a marathon, not a sprint, so we will be fundraising for a long time. If you wish to contribute to the Capital Campaign, donations may be made via check or credit card. If your employer has a matching contribution plan, please use it!

## Workshops and Demos

We have an exciting schedule of Workshops and Demos for the coming year. Our main focus is on shop safety in using the power tools in our shop. But we also have several on general woodworking techniques, and boat related techniques. Here is the schedule, which is also available on our website, at [www.riverswest.org](http://www.riverswest.org)

Name	Leads	Date	Description
1 Table Saw Safety and Fixtures	Russ Smith	4/21/18	Tool Demo
2 Router Safety	Randy Torgerson	5/5/18	Tool Demo
3 Lofting	Steve Najjar	5/12/18	Hands on: Each participant lofts a scaled down Herreshoff skiff on foamboard.
4 Router Jigs and Patterns	Randy Torgerson	5/19/18	Tool Demo
5 Bandsaw Safety and Techniques	John Whitehouse	6/2/18	Tool Demo
6 Varnishing Demo	Mark Ramsby	7/7/18	Demo
7 Sharpening	John Bouwsma, Randy Torgerson, Mike Simmons	7/21/18	Hands-on and Demo: Oil stones, water stones, sandpaper on glass, diamond stones. Chisels, plane irons, carving tools, misc. Participants are encouraged to bring in items needing sharpening.
8 Jointer	John Whitehouse	8/4/18	Tool Demo
9 Hollowing	John B, Mark R	8/18/18	A workshop where everyone brings the tools they use to make concave surfaces, as in oars and paddles and demonstrates their use.
10 Oars/Paddles	Charlie Ehm, Mark Ramsby		Format and date TBD
11 Drill Press	Mike Simmons	9/15/18	Tool Demo
12 Sander	Mike Simmons	10/6/18	Tool Demo
13 Skin on Frame	John Radabaugh	10/20/18	Demo
14 Hand Tool Joinery	John Bouwsma	11/2/18	Hands-on, Specific joint TBD; probably through mortise and tenon



## New Boat

We recently received the following e-mail:

I have a stalled wooden boat project and was wondering if you or one of your members were interested in it. It is a stretched version of John Gardner's semi Dory at 15-6 long. The hull is complete, thwarts, frames and centerboard trunk are in, the outside has been glassed and epoxied. I have a centerboard and doug fir mast started along with extra wood and epoxy. It's all free, just looking for someone interested in finishing it. I was a professional wood boat builder years ago so the work has been done correctly.



We have formed a small team to begin completing this boat. We are not sure yet what we will do with it when it is finished, but it seemed like too good an opportunity to pass up, and several members have expressed an interest in working on it. So far the team consists of Mark Ramsby and John Ost. You are more than welcome to join them!



## Family Boat Build Coming Up

This year's Family Boat Build will take place on the weekend of June 30-July 1. We moved it from the weekend after the 4th of July to the weekend before, to avoid conflicting with people's summer plans. The location is the same, the Willamette Sailing Club.



This year we will be building 12 boats. We only have three positions left so if you are interested in building a boat please contact Chuck Stuckey at [chuckstuckey1@gmail.com](mailto:chuckstuckey1@gmail.com).

Contact Chuck if you would like to help the families at the build also, we always need volunteers for that and there are never too many!

In addition, as before, we will be holding a Wooden Boat Show on Sunday, culminating in the launch of all 12 boats, probably round 2:00-300 pm. There will be live music, food, beer, and lots of completed wooden boats to look at, as well as the ones being built at the event. We would like to encourage everyone, member or not, to bring their wooden boat to this boat show. There is no charge to be in the Boat Show. If interested, please sign up by contacting John Whitehouse at [johnwhitehouse1@msn.com](mailto:johnwhitehouse1@msn.com).



**MEMBERSHIP NOTICE:**

If you have not yet renewed your membership, this would be a great time to do it!

The membership fee for adults is \$75/year.

- 1. We are asking everyone who uses the shop to sign a liability waiver.**  
We may have your signed waiver, but we still need the membership payment .
- 2. Memberships run from the first of the year and expire at the end of the year.**  
Your payment will keep your membership current through the end of the year.

Membership entitles you to the use of the shop, the opportunity to rent a boat-building bay, group activities, reduced-rate classes throughout the year and discounts on purchases at Crosscut Lumber and other shops.

***Volunteer Opportunities at RiversWest***

If you are looking for a way to become more involved in RiversWest, here are some ideas:

- 1. We are looking for an Education Coordinator to organize classes and workshops.** Randy Torgerson has been doing this for several years and needs to move on. This should not be hugely time consuming but will have a big impact on RiversWest's visibility in the community, and our ability to serve the community.
- 2. Newsletter Coordinator:** Stu Whitcomb has been doing this for at least 10 years, but for health reasons he will not be able to continue. John Bouwsma is standing in for now, but we need a permanent person in this position. There will be very few constraints on your creativity in the layout, and in the articles and photos.
- 3. Volunteers to help build the kits and help the families at the Family Boat Build next summer.** No experience needed!
- 4. We will need volunteers to help staff our booth at the Portland boat Show in January.** This is a great opportunity to meet other members and learn about the club.

**RiversWest Small Craft Center****Open House - First and Third Saturdays**

Our boat shop is open to visitors on the first and third Saturday of every month. Stop by in the morning and have a free cup of coffee and a donut. Take the opportunity to meet the members



who are a friendly group of boating enthusiasts. We will take you on a tour of our facility which includes our wood shop, boat building spaces which are available for members to rent and our livery of boats. You can even browse through our extensive lending library including our collection of WoodenBoat Magazines.

**Boat Shop**

Our boat shop is equipped with the necessary equipment to build your boat. Many members who are building their boats at home take advantage of our complete wood shop, saving the cost of renting or purchasing their own tools. Fellow members can provide free advice and helping hands when you need it.

**Bay Rentals**

Our boat shop is configured with bays that members can use for restoring or building their dream boat. Available for rent on a monthly basis, these



bays, 10 x 23 feet, offer a dedicated workspace with light, electrical power and immediate access to our wood shop. And best of all, there are plenty of friendly and experienced craftsmen available to offer advice on the techniques of building a boat.

**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.**



Youth (17 and under) \$50  General Membership \$75

Donations: \$50  \$100  \$250  Other\$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

Please return the following with your check to the address above,  
or sign up online at [riverswest.org](http://riverswest.org)

New member  Renewing member  Change of information  Additional donation

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Day/Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

#### Membership Benefits:

Members receive the RiversWest newsletter	Access to RiversWest boat shop and space rentals
Access to all RiversWest educational programs	Invitation to all RiversWest boating and social functions
Right to vote for officers and board members	Discounts at Crosscut Hardwood

**RiversWest Small Craft Center Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 19234, Portland, OR 97280**

#### Membership Form

RiversWest is a non-profit membership organization whose mission is to encourage personal

#### RiversWest Board

##### Officers:

President: Mark Ramsby

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

Treasurer & Web Mgr: Craig Bryant

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

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

Secretary: John Bouwsma

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

##### Directors:

Membership Coordinator:

John Whitehouse

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

Shop Mammager John Ost

Media Manager Randi Whipple

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

Chuck Stuckey

Bob Meehan

Steve Mahoney

Art Wilson

Steve Najjar

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