

Fall 2021

RiversWest News

We inspire people to build and use low impact boats

President's message



Despite the turmoil in our little world and the larger one, RiversWest remains strong. When you read this, we will be deeply engaged in a move from our Pier 99 shop to Green Anchors. Look inside for more on this. While we have been able to think of little else since early summer, it is worth noting that which is normal—and exceptional. In early summer, we had just about finished the kits for the Family Boat Build. We had to vacate the shop in a hurry and take everything with us that we needed for the event. The kit parts were finished in home workshops around Portland. Thanks to Chuck Stuckey and a cast of volunteers, the event came off without a hitch, even as we were without a home for Rivers West.

Many thanks are due to our partners in this—The Oregon Youth Sailing Foundation and Willamette Sailing Club. See the story inside.

Thanks to the foresight of RiversWest leadership before my time, we have weathered the pandemic (so far) in good financial shape. We had been saving for some time, knowing a move was coming. It arrived quite suddenly, but we were ready.

Many years ago, I built my first boat from a kit on the concrete floor of my carport. I had few tools, no workbench (or even a sawhorse), and limited skills. A neighbor noticed me trying to shape plywood frames with a keyhole saw. He took pity on me, and in five minutes, we finished the job on his band saw. If RiversWest is to support the creation and use of small, low impact watercraft, we need to be that neighbor with the band saw.

So, why Green Anchors? Our savings for the expected move would not buy us land with a shop. A commercial shop lease would have cost more in rent than our boat builders could afford. We needed to find a place where we could use our savings effectively. By investing in improvements at a space on Green Anchors' site, we will continue to offer aspiring boat builders a space, tools, and expertise at prices ordinary people can afford. It is in the central Portland community of Saint Johns. Green Anchors is a community of artisans, builders, and makers of all kinds, and as Matt Stein, one of the Green Anchors owners said to us on our first visit, "we are all boat people here". We chose Green Anchors in part because we could make it work, but also because it is an ideal place to grow Rivers West. Soon, we will be able to stop holding our breath and get back to the business of boats. I can't wait!

Mitch



Message from the Board

RiversWest MEMBERSHIP - The combination to the shop has been changed 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 after it reopens. 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 until further notice.

ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTIONS - RiversWest held its Annual Meeting on Saturday, August 7, 2021, 5:30 PM at Willamette Sailing Club. This meeting was held outdoors, physically distanced, under the Family Boat Build tents. There was an update on RiversWest move and we elected our slate of Officers and Board.

GETTING INVOLVED- If you have been looking for a way to get more involved at RiversWest contact Mitch West, President.

John Bouwsma has stepped down as Secretary and is acting as "interim" until the slot is filled.

THANK YOU!

The RiversWest Board



New Home for RiversWest

After searching for and finding an affordable location in a central Portland community near the water, the RiversWest board voted on September 28 to accept the terms offered by Green Anchors. Located on the down river side of the St. Johns Bridge, adjacent to Cathedral Park (8940 N. Bradford St.). After negotiating a number of points in the lease agreement and signing, the move began on October 9. To fit out the site, we purchased two shipping containers that flank a 25x40 foot smooth concrete floor which will become our new shop, storage, and library, with the slab being used for boat building. We will move our materials directly into those containers. After installing a tensioned fabric structure (essentially a very robust and durable tent) over the entire site, the new shop will open to our boat builders. Green Anchors is a 7 acre eco-industrial park with "green and creative tendencies" on a former WWII shipbuilding site. They promote "the development of local and environmentally beneficial business, products, technologies, and art." Some of our neighbors are as varied as tiny home builders, beekeepers, metal fabricators, Sprinter converters, and design/solar/hydro/construction firms. We had been unable to access our current Pier 99 shop while we waited for the structural engineering assessment commissioned by the Pier 99 owners. When that was completed they concluded that the lower level was stable allowing us to enter the shop to remove our tools, boats, and other possessions. To be clear, reopening the shop for member use at Pier 99 was not an option, hence the need to relocate. We felt the timing was right to relocate to a facility where we would be in control of our destiny. Pier 99 may be repaired, it may be sold, or it may be demolished – all possibilities with no timeline.



Shop moving team (several missing):
Day's end at the new shop

This move required a lot of volunteer help and RiversWest members were there when needed. Signing the lease marked a major step getting us back to the reason we exist—boats and boat building. The new space is smaller than our rambling Pier 99 layout, but also more efficient. The roofs of both containers will provide storage for club boats, Family Boat Build templates, tools, and supplies. The final layout will no doubt continue to evolve as we find out what works—or doesn't. The photos on page 5 represents our ideas. Thanks to Mark Ramsby for this scale model to test that plan. It told us that we could make this space work. Most importantly, the containers will house virtually all our tools, workshops, and the library and chandlery. That leaves the entire concrete floor for boat projects. Boats will need to be built on support frames with wheels, so that they can be moved out of the way when the builders are not present, or are working on something that doesn't require access. RiversWest old-timers know that this mirrors the operation at the Oaks Park location. Working cooperatively, we can have as many as 7 or 8 boats under construction in the space.



New Home for RiversWest (con't)

There will be no space wasted by posts, or by a "bay" that is bigger than needed. The charge to members will be based on the size of their boat. We will doubtless have to learn what formula works. It will be as inexpensive as we can make it and still pay the rent.

One container will house nearly all the major woodworking machines. The chop saw station and the tablesaw will have permanent homes, while the other tools can be rolled into an open area, connected to dust collection, and used as needed. There will be enough workbench and storage space to complement the machine operations.

One end of the second container will be the "tool room", where there are workbenches, hand tools, a sharpening station, and storage for tools, fasteners, shop supplies, etc. A wall will divide the "tool room" from the other end of this container. Protected from dust, the "clean" end will be the the chandlery cabinet and the library.

In time, we may decide to add space. We have the option to build a loft (much like the ones at Pier 99) between the containers. This will depend on what we learn about our needs.

The Green Anchors site offers us great flexibility and a place where our members can get back to boats and boat building. As we get up and running, members will need to report back—what works and what doesn't.

Meanwhile, we will be working to tap into the Portland communities who need RiversWest, but don't know it yet.

Models of the New Shop by Mark Ramsby

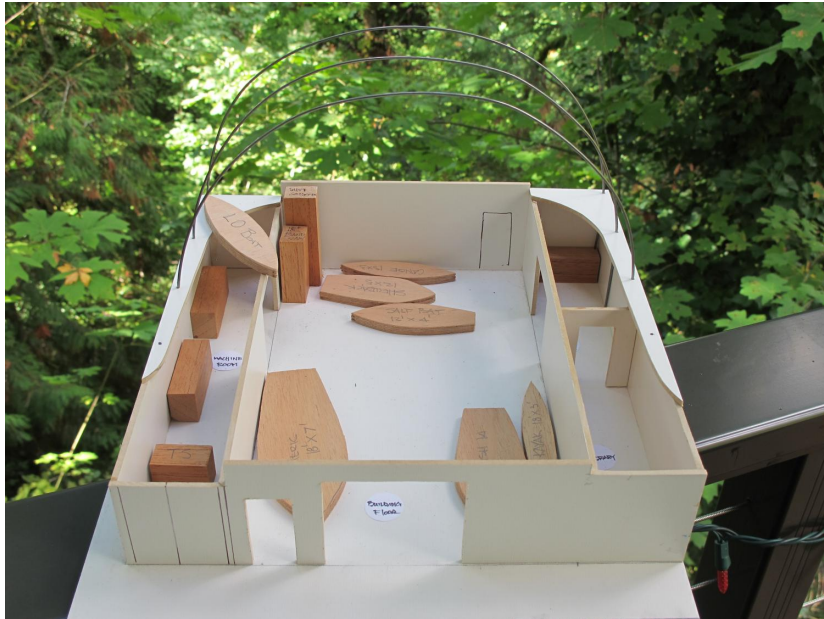
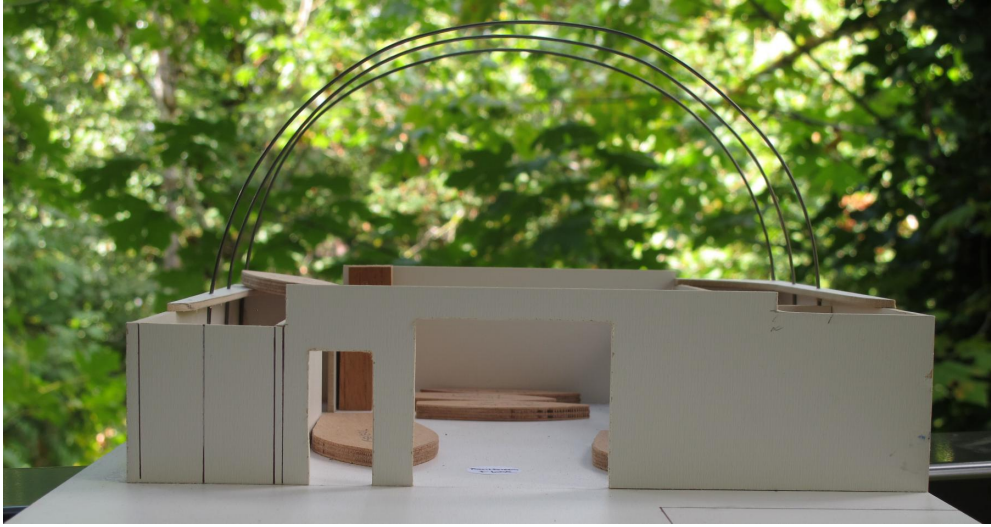
Here are a few photos of the new shop scale model (next page). For reference, the boat on top of the tool room (center right photo; on top of left container) is the outline of one of the Lake Oswego Boats - 15' X 3' 6" approx. Shown on the building floor are: 15' X 3' canoe, Shellback Dinghy, 14' X 5' Candlefish, Salt Bay, 18' X 2' 6" kayak, 18' X 7' generic sailing/power boat.

The photo (top right) is an elevation view of the front of the building. Two 40' X 8' container to the left and right with a 10' high stud wall between the two containers on each end of the building floor.

The next photo (center right) shows the layout: Machine room in the container to the left; the container to the right contains the Library and Chandlery at the forward end of the container with the tool room directly behind it; 25' X 40' concrete Building Floor between the two containers. In this layout the only tools on the building floor are the 18" bandsaw and a dust collector.

The last photo (bottom right) shows the proposed type tent installed by another Green Anchors tenant. The fabric structure will form a 40' X 40' full enclosure over the entire shop.





The 2021 Family Boat Build by Chuck Stuckey

While the pandemic dealt us a major blow it did not knock us out. In the height of 2020 summer we were forced to cancel our wonderful annual event. We concluded that it could not be done safely. So along comes this summer and we were once again faced with the hard choices—cancel again or do the best we could. And in typical RiversWest fashion, we found a way.



Continued on next page



After a lot of talk and watching carefully the best health advice we could find, we decided on a limited and more controlled event. We restricted the event to seven families, down from our usual 12, spaced it all out the best we could, and required all volunteers to be fully vaccinated. The response was wonderful, filled up immediately, and everyone seemed to have a great time. One family even came back from a previous year to build a second boat. And just last week we got an inquiry “can we sign up for next year”.

So, watch the website for information on the [2022 Family Boat Build](#).

(Many thanks to Meg McGill for most of these photos)



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



Building hints and tips -

"Decks in Plywood: Not as easy as it looks" by Mitch West

You see a mostly fine looking boat with a deck forward. You know it to be the work of a master designer. You notice that the sheer is "just OK". Not the work of art you would have expected.

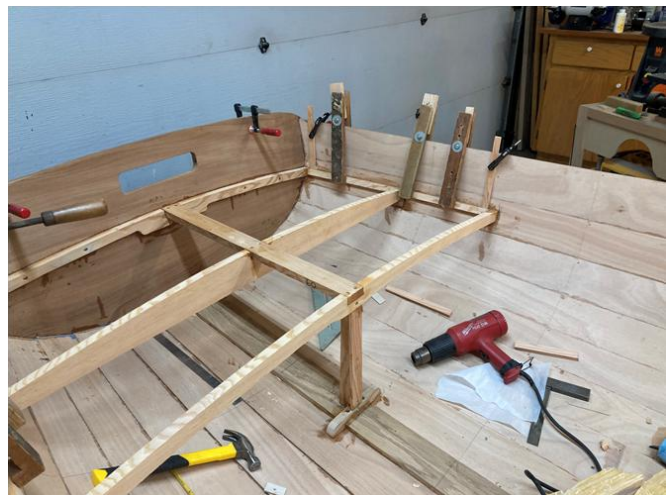
You are finishing off the decks on your project boat. You've cut the deck panel to shape. When you press it down to the deck beams and sheer clamp (or riser) where the deck meets the sheer, it develops a great bow or hump along the centerline. Push down here, it pops up there. There are not enough nails in the world to make that panel flatten out.

Plywood in the thicknesses used for small boats is very flexible, but only in one plane at a time. Try this: Get a sheet of printer paper. Make a cylinder. Just roll it up. Now curve the ends of the cylinder in to make a wine barrel shape. Do not crimp, cut, or fold. Nope. Can't be done. In paper as in plywood, you can only bend it in one plane. Decks are usually crowned slightly, to make light framing stronger, let water runoff, and make a boat look like a boat. Stick planked decks can use tapered, bent, and edge-set planks to follow both sheer and crown. When a crown is built into a plywood deck, the deck becomes a segment of that cylinder you made. The crown and the shape of the topsides in plan define the shape of the sheer. The king plank (on the centerline) must be straight, starting at the top of the camber on the aft-most deck beam and landing at the stem. Frequently, this makes the sheer appear to dive downward to the stem—what is known as a

"powder horn sheer". Some quite revered designs such as classic runabouts and sport fishermen have this. Some designs that are widely panned also have it. Plywood decks will be a segment of a round or oval shaped tube. Tweaking the amount of camber or even the shape of the curve (circle, oval, parabola...) provides more options at the expense of building simplicity. Skilled designers can work wonders, but in the end the plywood deck has to be flat in one plane.

The only way out of this trap is to eliminate the "crown"—then you can bend it to follow the sheer in profile. Some designers have done this. It just looks awkward in a different way—and weakens the deck.

Below are some photos of my current project boat that illustrate the issues. This boat was drawn by Iain Oughtred, who everyone knows is incapable of drawing an awkward boat. The boat has flotation chambers in bow and stern. He dropped the decks below the sheer, so as not to define its shape. In addition, the forward deck is angled so that it does not cross any plank laps in the topsides, making construction easier. Still, fitting in that cylinder segment has some challenges.



(Decks in Plywood, continued)

Aft, the strakes are quite straight and the sheer curves only slightly. The cambered deck looks right at home. Note that the unsupported center deck beam is not cut to follow the camber on the underside, adding strength just where it is needed.



Fitting the deck panels is almost trivial. The riser at the hull has only an almost imperceptible curve.



At the bow, things get tricky. This is a planing sailing dinghy. The bow sections are extremely full above the waterline to prevent nose-diving. Note the arc of the riser that appears to hump up in the middle and dive down to the stem.

This is the correct intersection of a cylindrical deck segment and curving topsides. If the decks were at the sheer, this would make a "powder-horn". Note: there are scoring cuts on the riser, in two dimensions since, even at only $\frac{1}{2}$ by $\frac{3}{4}$ inch, Douglas Fir would not take this extreme bend. To be clear, when the deck panels are cut to match the topsides curve, the shape of the riser is produced with no bend in the plywood.



All this preserves the sheer, but it creates a bit of a "broken-back" look in the interior. The side benches are straight, and land on the float chamber bulkhead. From there, there is a sharp upturn to arrive at the appropriate point on the stem. Viewed from the side, Oughtred conceals all evidence of this behind a lovely sheer, but the physics of plywood decks will be obeyed.

What can you do with this information?



Decks in Plywood (conclusion)

If you are building to plans, make and use a camber template with the centerline clearly marked. Every deck beam must match the curve of the rest.

If you find that a deck panel won't lie flat on the riser, beams, and king plank, back up and find out why. In truth, you can survive just a tiny bit of this—maybe 1/8 of an inch. Much more, and you will create hard spots when you fasten the deck down, or worse, leave it floating above part of the frame structure. Sooner than you imagine, the deck will fracture at these points.

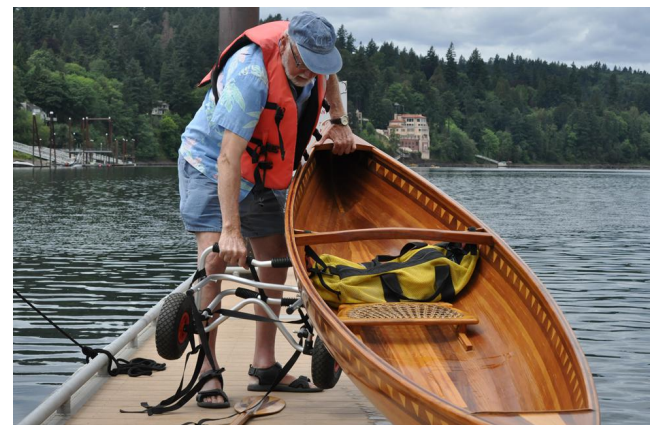
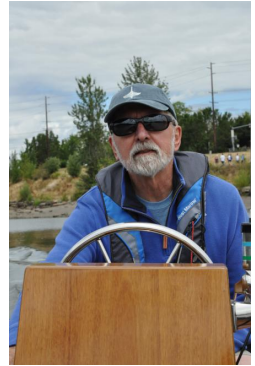
If you enjoy improving on a designer's work, tread carefully. Chances are that your new deck and your new sheer will not meet. Redrawing the camber of individual deck beams produces a structure that cannot be built in plywood.

When you see that “just OK” sheer from a famous pen, understand what went into it.

Or, like me until now, you can build boats without decks!

Summer Splash-in

July 20 on the Willamette River at the Milwaukee ramp/basin - Bruce, John, Mark, and Charlie.





Long-time RiversWest member Peter Wilcox participates in trial run of the *Frog Ferry*

***Frog Ferry* Coming to the Willamette?**

[October 14, 2021] I was at Cathedral Park this morning to take a surrogate *Frog Ferry* run into downtown. It required just twenty-five minutes at 22 knots to Riverplace! RiversWest has a dog in that game with our early demonstration ferries, efforts to start a “central city circulator” ferry system downtown, and our success getting the 2008 ferry feasibility study completed which helped *Frog Ferry* get started!

It’s exciting to imagine RiversWest being at Green Anchors and on the ferry stop...starting in about a year.

Peter Wilcox

More information on the ferry service and the actual 65 foot long, 70 passenger ferry that is planned to travel as far as Vancouver, WA at this link: <https://frogferry.com/about/service/>

MOVING DAY: Oct 9, 2021



A second team of eight members assembled on 10/16 and continued to disposition, move, or relocate what remained at Pier 99. Many thanks!



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



Sights cruising the Willamette River

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.



ONGOING ACTIVITIES AT RIVERSWEST DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Virtual Open House Meetings on Zoom

We continue to hold a Virtual Open House using Zoom. These occur, as with the REAL Open House meetings, on the First and Third Saturdays of each month, and start at 9:30 AM (socializing), with a program at 10:00. We 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 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 15 members at each one. Over the past six months, we have shown 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 and "Tips from a Shipwright" videos demonstrating traditional boat building methods. We have had demonstrations by several members, including shop tricks, favorite tools, tips on building lapstrake boats, methods of getting boats onto car tops, shop tours, and a demonstration of the Shop Bot - a computer controlled router. We have more lined up for the coming months. Please send ideas and interests to a Board Member. 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 also 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 currently closed and being moved to the new site. Reopening will be announced as soon as possible. Our policy on Boat Shop use is posted on our web site <https://www.riverswest.org/> and will also be posted in the shop when it reopens.

Library

The library is currently closed and being moved. When it reopens, there will still be limitations when returning books. There will be 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 not available for use while we move. We will make them available, again, as soon as possible at the new site. We ask that anyone who will be using them follow the rules laid out for the Boat Shop. Cost is expected to be about the same as it was at Pier 99. Lighting and electrical power will be included.



FUND RAISING OPPORTUNITIES by Craig Bryant

Capital Campaign

We have 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 end of year 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://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.



Steve Najjar donating his partially finished boat.



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 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	<input type="checkbox"/> Facebook page
Youth (under 18) Membership	\$50.00	<input type="checkbox"/> RiversWest website
College student w/ID Member	\$50.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Word of mouth
<input type="checkbox"/> New membership		<input type="checkbox"/> Portland boat show
<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal		<input type="checkbox"/> Art in the Pearl
Name (first) _____		<input type="checkbox"/> I am currently a member
Name (last) _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Other
Address _____		
Address _____		
City _____ State _____		
Zip _____ Country _____		
Email _____		

Payment

Membership \$ _____

Additional donation \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Phone(s) _____

Emergency contact name _____

Emergency contact phone number _____

Please send checks/correspondence to

RiversWest Small Craft Center
 PO Box 19234
 Portland, OR 97280

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

Classified Ads

RiversWest will begin running classified ads, free for members, in the next edition of the quarterly newsletter. Ads can be a maximum of 3 lines (half page width, approx. 25 words) and one small photo. Item must be a boat or boat building related. Send ad to the Newsletter Editor.

Crater Lake Boats Still Available

We want to give ("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 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.

RIVERSWEST BOARD

Officers:

- Mitch West, President:
president@riverswest.org
- Craig Bryant, Treasurer & Web Mgr:
treasurer@riverswest.org
website@riverswest.org
- "Open" (John Bousma interim), Secretary,
Demos
secretary@riverswest.org

Directors:

- John Whitehouse, Membership Coordinator
- Bruce Goodrich, Librarian
- Mitch West, Donations Coordinator
- Chuck Stuckey, Family Boat Build
- John Bousma
- Ralph Cohen, Newsletter Editor
- Bob Meehan
- Steve Najjar
- Mark Ramsby
- Russ Smith
- Mike Simmons, Board Member Emeritus

