

# RIVERSWEST

Spring



2011

[www.riverswest.org](http://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*

2011 started off strong, beginning with our booth at the Portland Boat Show. I was there for several shifts, had some good conversations with visitors, and saw many RiversWest members attending and interacting. Our display boats were very well received. One visitor said "you guys have the prettiest stuff here", a comment echoed by many others. I couldn't agree more.

The annual meeting was held this year at the Rose City Yacht Club on February 12th. Very well attended, I know we had over 50 people as it seemed every chair was taken. Ample pizza, salad, beer and wine was provided. Board members helped with the set up and clean up. Special thanks go to Russ Smith and Bridget Bayer for running the galley. The program was a special tribute to Sam McKinney, one of the founding members of RiversWest. Very enjoyable listening to half a dozen members give personal accounts of Sam's adventures on and about boats. A special thanks goes to Peter Wilcox for arranging the program. A very nice evening.



The very successful Family Boat Building week-end that we did last summer at River Fest will be repeated again this year. As some of us expected, River Fest (the City of Portland event on the downtown waterfront) will not be repeated this year. That doesn't stop us, however, as the Willamette Sailing Club has offered to have the event at their facility on the Willamette. This year we will again partner with the Oregon Maritime Museum to put on the event. We are planning for ten families this year, twice the number of last time. The Family Boat Build will be one part of what is billed as

Portland's version of a Wooden Boat Festival over the week-end of July 9-10, 2011. The Maritime Museum will have several booths with kid friendly activities. The Antique and Classic Boat Society will have a display of their beautiful boats, and the Willamette Sailing Club is thinking of having some sailing demonstrations. Hopefully all with music, food and beverage. More on this as it time goes by, be sure to check in on the website and watch your e-mails.

## RiversWest Summer Activities

First Saturdays:	Hall Templeton Repairs	9:30 on
Third Saturdays:	Maritime Skills Workshops	9:30 on
Every Tuesday	Hall Templeton Repairs	1:00 on

*Additional times to be decided at these sessions*

### ***Building a Boat at RiversWest: Two Women’s Firsthand Experiences***



wanted to start kayaking in a boat she had built herself. After trying a number of wooden kayaks she chose to build the Redfish King. This boat was slightly bigger than she wanted, but the designer, Joe Greenley, reconfigured it to 17'. She has a full-time job as a Chiropractor, and she is building with cedar strips, so her boat is taking longer. She has been working on it for 4-5 years already, and also moved into Riv-



Most boat builders start as woodworkers and then come to boat building. Both Claudia Holdegger and Sue Sandford are building kayaks as their first significant woodworking project. Both came to RiversWest because they needed space to build, having heard about RW through the grapevine, and are sharing a single bay in the shop.



they had no trouble due to lack of maintenance, or lack of help setting them up or making their cuts. There was almost always someone there to help them if they needed it. They both enjoyed the convivial atmosphere of working in an environment where other people were also working on boats. One of the major benefits they reported was the advice they got from other members, but they always felt free to make their own decisions.



Each of them has enclosed her space with sheets of polyethylene. Sue has been a whitewater kayaker for many years. When she retired from her career in finance she decided she wanted a wooden

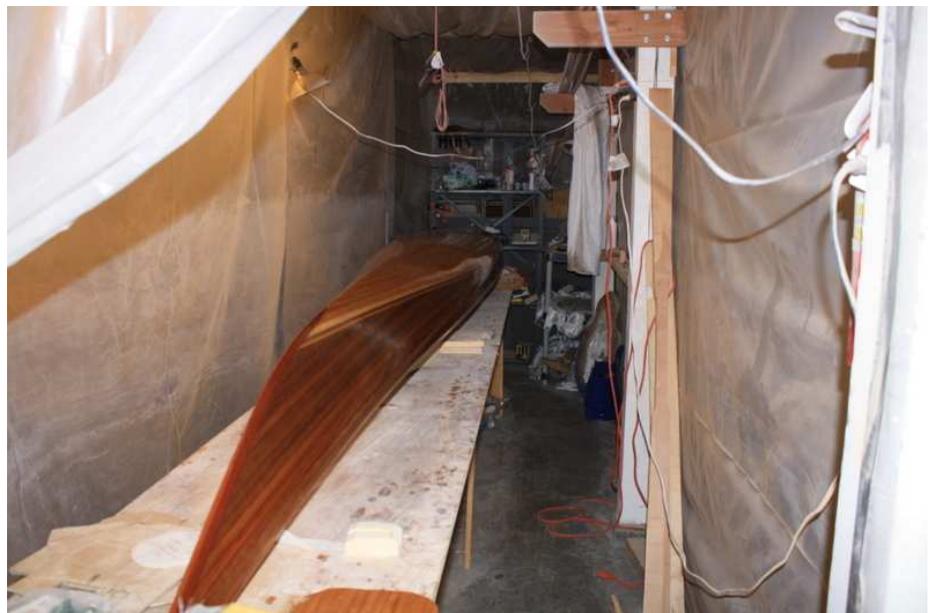
ersWest in December, when her friend’s garage became unavailable.

Neither Claudia nor Sue used the large power tools in the shop very much, but when they did

The biggest problems they had working in our shop were with heat and light. The Shop Committee improved the wiring so they were able to install more

sea kayak for lakes, rivers, and the San Juans. She chose a 14’ Arctic Tern stitch-and-glue plywood kit from Pygmy. She began the boat last December and is hoping to launch it before the end of this summer.

Claudia had only done a little kayaking but a lot of rowing. She



## ***Building a Boat at RiversWest Continued***

lights and use small space heaters in their enclosed work spaces. This combined with fast setting epoxy hardener enabled them to work through the winter.

Both of them are doing very careful work and have shown a surprising knack for working with wood and epoxy. They feel that they have learned some interest-

ing and difficult skills in the process of building their boats. Their kayaks are both works of art and they can't wait to get them out on the water.

## ***Hall Templeton Repairs***

The Hall Templeton is in many ways the mascot of RiversWest. It was built in the early days of RiversWest by member Bob Young and others. It has been used to give free rides at boat shows, and to demonstrate the concept of a Willamette River ferry service.

Two years ago the Hall Templeton was severely dam-



aged by the wake of a wake-boarding boat. The bottom came

loose from one of the frames, and during investigation we discovered rot in the gunwales and the plywood coming up to the sheer.

Board member Bob Meehan has volunteered to lead the project of repairing this boat. The repairs will consist of replacing the damaged frame as well as the rotted wood. The bottom will be reinforced with longitudinal battens.

While the Hall Templeton has mostly been rowed or powered by a small outboard, Bob Young has previously written an article about sailing the Hall Templeton as a cat ketch. He has provided drawings of two rigging plans, one original plan by the designer, Joe Dobler, the other a modification of that rig that he and the other

members cobbled together out of what was on hand at the time. As part of our Third Saturday Workshop Series, We are building a set of masts for this boat, so in



addition to the other repairs we will be building mast steps and mast partners for the originally designed rig.

Bob and his team are meeting at 1:00 every Tuesday to work on this project, and at other times as well as agreed at the Tuesday session. There is a lot of work to be done, and volunteers are badly needed to help out with this.

# ***Family Boat Building, July 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>, 2011***

***Willamette Sailing Club***

***\$350 per family***

***Each family will leave with a completed boat***

## Family Boat Building



Last year's Family boat building project was a huge success. It was a joint effort by RiversWest and the Oregon Maritime Museum. Five families successfully completed their boats and were presented with a set of oarlocks and oars. The design, both this year and last year, is the Salt Bay Skiff, designed by Bruce King. For more information on the design, go to <http://brucekingdesign.com/sbs.html>

This year we have an additional sponsor, the Willamette Sailing Club, and the event will be held on their grounds. Our goal is to build 10 boats; eight families are already signed up. This event is entirely open to the public; one of the best things about last year's event was the number of interested people who stopped to watch. The Willamette Sailing Club will have food and drink concessions.

Like last year, all the materials will be provided by RiversWest, and all the wooden parts will be pre-cut by RiversWest members, and provided in kit form. We have worked on our patterns and

the pieces will go together more easily than last year. Participating families will build their own boats with help as needed from experienced RiversWest members. Tools will be provided by RiversWest, and the families will have the opportunity to saw, plane glue, and screw, right down to the youngest family members.

While the Salt Bay Skiff can be either rowed or sailed, last year all the boats were built as rowboats. The same will be true this



year, but we will also build a sail rig to show how the boats can be converted later. It is not practical to build this boat as a sailboat in



one weekend, and the cost approximately doubles to do this.

The cost per boat will be \$350, again including oars and oarlocks. The event will be held on July 9-10, the weekend after the Fourth of July. If you have questions or are interested in building one of the two remaining boats please contact Chuck Stuckey at 503-287-2065. Otherwise everyone is more than welcome to come and watch.



### Third Saturday Maritime Skills Workshop Series

Towards the end of last year and member Randy Torgerson started a series of workshops at RiversWest that turned out to be wildly successful. The workshops focused on boatbuilding skills, and the intent was not that Randy be the expert, but that the group would learn together under Randy's leadership. Randy realized that most of the members of RiversWest have significant woodworking skills, but may never have done certain specific things. The cost of these workshops was just slightly more than the cost of materials, in order to reimburse RiversWest for consumable materials.

Randy's first workshop was on building oars. These were made from Alaskan White Cedar, and beautifully shaped from plans by Pete Culler. The final touch was sewing the leathers onto the looms.

Next Randy organized a series of workshops that culminated in building wooden planes. First was a workshop on cutting out



and shaping annealed tool steel maker's floats, marking knives, plane irons, and a set of right and left hand skew chisels. These were then hardened in an oven donated to RiversWest by member Jim Litton, quenched in used cooking oil, and then tempered.

This was followed by a workshop on making Krenov-style wooden



planes, using the plane maker's floats made in the previous workshop to fine tune the throats, and installing the plane irons.

The next workshop in the series was on paddle making. Participants could choose between making a traditional double-ended Greenland paddle or a standard single-ended canoe paddle. Unfortunately at this point Randy was offered a job in



San Diego, so this workshop was led by John Whitehouse, whose cedar strip canoe and paddle have been centerpieces of our Portland Boat

Show display for the past several years.

The most recent workshop, led by Steve Najjar, was a spar shaping demonstration. The goal this time was to coordinate with Bob Meehan's efforts to rehabilitate the Hall Templeton by building a main mast for it so it can be sailed. Two pieces of sitka



spruce were glued up to make a 4" X 4" blank 14' long. This was then tapered, then marked for 8 sides and power planed, then marked and hand planed to 16 sides, then rounded.

Subsequent workshops will be held on each Third Saturday until we run out of ideas or interest fades. Next in line is a repeat of the spar building workshop, then we will have a workshop on building a boat builders slick. Ideas for more workshops are welcome!



**RiversWest Board Officers**

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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](http://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 September 30<sup>th</sup> are good for the current year, if received after Sept 30<sup>th</sup> count for the current and next year.



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*Please check your membership status; RiversWest needs your support.*