

WINTER 2016- 2017

# RiversWest News

Inspiring people to build and use low-impact boats



FAMILY BOAT BUILD, July 2016, see “Cover”, pg 3



**President's Corner****Russ Smith, President**

**Another year comes to a close here along the shores of the Columbia River. The club has been busy this past year with messabouts at Hagg Lake, west of Hillsboro, OR and two events at the invitation of the Vancouver Lake Sailing Club. We**

**hope to do two more at Vancouver Lake in the upcoming year and possibly some rowing excursions down the Willamette and Columbia Rivers as well. Keep an eye out for announcements.**

In July, the club had the 7th annual Family Boat Build in co-operation with the Willamette Sailing Club at their location which was a perfect spot for our 2 day event. All of the families had a great experience and were able to launch by mid afternoon on Sunday. The Family Boat Build was part of the Portland Wooden Boat Festival on Sunday with a number of beautiful boats for viewing along with live music, food and a beer garden. The boat build happens because of the many members of RiversWest who volunteer their time to assemble all the parts needed and to lend assistance to the families during the weekend. Our sincere thanks go out to the members of the Willamette Sailing Club for all their work and partnership in this annual event.

The boat shop bays have busy and have stayed rented most of the year with many types of projects underway. The membership has been growing and we are also starting to see some younger members involved which is a good sign for the club. A word of thanks to members John Ost and Charlie Ehm who have been busy this fall cleaning and doing maintenance of some of the club boats stored down on the dock. Their goal is to encourage more members to

make use of these classic boats which lie dormant.

Members Mark Ramsby, John Bouwsma and Chuck Stuckey have been designing and installing a dust collection system for the shop power tools. This project will go a long way to improving the overall shop cleanliness and efficiency. Thank you to all involved for all their time and efforts.

There were workshops given during year at the boat shop which covered bronze casting, wood turning, slick making, line splicing and seat caning. Anyone interested in learning a new skill or would like to demonstrate a particular method of construction or finish, please send an email to the club's site.



Randy Torgerson, our current Education Co-ordinator, who has done such an excellent job organizing these classes and workshops has decided it's time for someone else to take over so he can pursue personal boat projects. Our sincere thanks to Randy for all his time and hard work in this position. Anyone who might be interested, please let John Bouwsma know. I am sure Randy would be glad to offer advice to any new volunteer.

Finally I would like to say that the club is doing very well and we have many ideas planned for next year. We have many talented and well educated members who have stepped up to help the club thrive. We need new faces to be involved in the running of the club for it to move forward. Thank you to all members for their time and efforts.

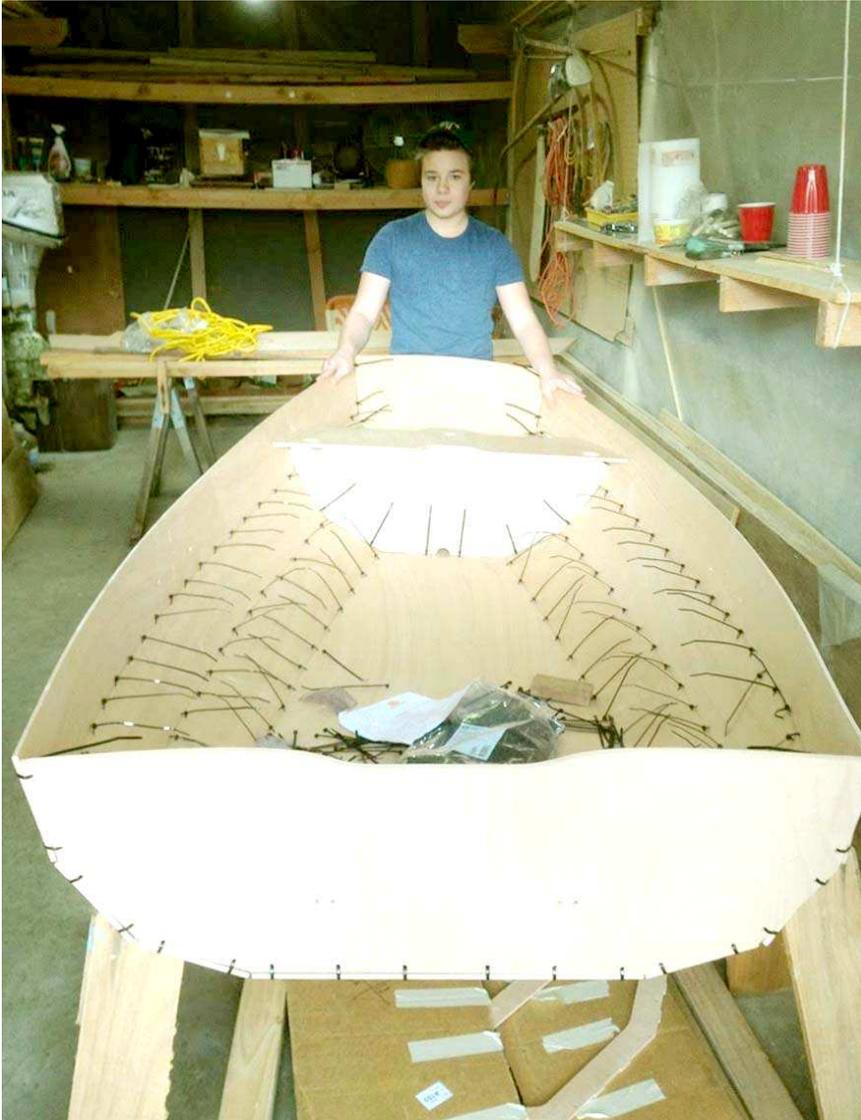
See you at the boat shop,

*Russ Smith*



## Another student builds at RiversWest Chuck Stuckey

Theo, an eighth grader at a local school, is building a pram for his senior project. RiversWest members, volunteering to assist as mentors, are Art Wilson, John Ost, and Chuck Stuckey. From the picture, you can see he is off to a great start. If all goes as planned, he will be finished by May--we all wish Theo luck.



### COVER:

A must see video, **"One Family's Experience"**.

Go to: [www.riverswest.org/2016-family-boat-build1.html](http://www.riverswest.org/2016-family-boat-build1.html)

## 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.**

[riverswest.org](http://riverswest.org)



**Tales from the RiversWest Website Forum****edited by: Mark Ramsby****My Favorite Part of Boat Building — Posted by: Charlie Ehm — September 16, 2016**

*"Of the many tasks to build a boat, none is more satisfying than planing down the gunnel assembly. In mere minutes and a blizzard of chips, a smooth curve is produced. Gone are the glue drips and squeeze outs. All that's left is clean, shaped wood that invites caress by eye and hand."*

To discover more about RiversWest Forums, here is our link: <http://www.riverswest.org/forums.html>

**New Boat Shop dust collection system installed****Chuck Stuckey**

A new addition to the shop will make us all a little healthier. Two really smart members, Mark Ramsby and John Bouwsma, designed and built a central dust collection system for the major tools. The table saw, planner, sander, and both bandsaws now have a direct line to the new system. A central six inch pipe with four inch drops to the machines, all feed back to our old vacuum, enhanced by a new cyclone. This should really reduce the dust and shavings in the shop. Also, the small collector under the table saw has been moved to the chopsaw and installed inside the cabinet next to it. These improvements need to be used to be effective. Mark made the blast gates for the big system, a small work of art by themselves. Chuck Stuckey, Russ Smith, and Mike Simmons all put in hours to help the project become a reality.



## Canoe Paddle Workshop

**John Bouwsma**



**A repeat of the Canoe Paddle Workshop was held on Saturday Nov 5.** It was co-taught by Randy Torgerson, John Whitehouse and John Bouwsma. There were five students, and everyone came close to finishing one paddle. No one anticipated having trouble finishing at home with what they learned in the workshop. We used blanks made in advance using clear, vertical grain Douglas Fir. Layout is the key to success in a project like this. After laying them out we began cutting out the rough shapes and the taper on the blade using the bandsaw. The sequence of cuts is important as some of the layout lines are obliterated with each cut. Then we reverted to hand tools; primarily rasps, files, planes and spoke shaves. The big belt sander came in handy as well. This is a class everyone always enjoys, and it will surely be held again.

## Annual planning meeting

**John Bouwsma**

**The RiversWest Annual Planning Meeting was held on Saturday, November 12** in a meeting room at Rose Schnitzer Manor, arranged by Jim Litton. There were approximately 20 attendees for this very efficient meeting, run by President Russ Smith.

The first order of business was to find volunteers for several important positions that are about to be vacated. First, Russ Smith needed some relief from the Shop Manager position which he has been filling for the last year, along with being president. John Ost volunteered for this, and will be requesting volunteers to take responsibility for maintenance of specific machines. He has also asked for volunteers to help fix up the boats on the dock. If you are interested in helping with either of these activities, please contact John. Second, after being Education Coordinator for about 3 years, Randy Torgerson wants to be replaced. We concluded that it will take three people to replace him; they are Mark Ramsby to coordinate on-going demos and workshops, John Whitehouse to coordinate training sessions for the machines in the shop, and John Bouwsma to send out e-mails announcing the schedule. Chuck Stuckey offered to help out as needed. Next, Stu Whitcomb wants to continue editing the newsletters, but wants to be relieved of coordinating the Portland Boat Show, which he has been doing for nearly 10 years. A committee had to be formed for this too; Art Wilson is the lead,

assisted by Mark Ramsby to work on the layout of the booth, And John Bouwsma to coordinate volunteers and send out announcements to members.

Several events were planned. First, the Annual Membership Meeting will again be held at the Rose City Yacht Club, date to be worked out by Chuck with RCYC. The target is to have the meeting in the first or second week of February. We have decided to hold two Messabouts at the Vancouver Lake Sailing Club, as we did last year, and to skip having one at Hagg Lake due to the logistical difficulties of getting there, launching at a very crowded boat ramp, and the size of the crowds. We also believe it is to everyone's benefit to forge relationships with other boating groups. The Family Boat Build was a great success again, and the Willamette Sailing Club has asked us to build 15 boats next year--they will make the space available. We are planning to have another garage sale in the spring, most likely in early April, exact date still TBD.

Finally, we decided to request people renting bays to pay their rent using PayPal, as this simplifies the process for everyone. However, to cover the fees associated with PayPal we are raising the rent for a full bay from \$145/month to \$150. A half bay will be \$75.00.



**2016 RIVERSWEST Retrospective****Stu Whitcomb**

***A RiversWest retrospective of what our members have accomplished, as captured by our roving cameramen.***

**1.** Woodturning demonstration, **2.** Finished product, **3.** Paddle making class, **4.** Passing the critical eye, **5.** Nana launch ready, **6.** Launched **7.** Salt Bay Skiff rigged, **8.** Salt Bay Skiff demo, **9.** John Dory beached, **10.** John Dory in her element, **11.** Strip built beauty, **12.** Family Boat Build skiff just launched, **13.** Pond Boat with wheels, **14.** Pond Boat's designer/builder, **15.** Candlefish, **16.** PT Skiff, **17.** Cosine Wherry Mod, **18.** SCAMP scrutiny, **19.** SCAMP action ready, **20.** SCAMP underway. **Most boating photos were taken during RiversWest Messabouts.**



## Serious About Springer Tug Boats

Art Wilson

This past year I was introduced to the world of radio controlled (RC) model boats. One species of RC model boat was suggested to me as a very affordable tug. I found Portland's Doyenne of RC model boats, Aimee Eng, who suggested I build a Springer Tug Boat. If you want more information about this boat, its history, how to build it, etc., just Google, "Springer Tug Boat."

I got serious about Springer Tugboats a year ago, when I gave my granddaughter, Caroline, a complete Tugster kit. Caroline proved to be the perfect granddaughter. She built most of that boat. She picked out the paint scheme and did the finish job. In the photo, she is with her finished Springer tug, named Cleo.

Now, once the tug is built, what can you do with it? First, and foremost, it is a tugboat designed to tow model barges. Each August, Aimee Eng coordinates a regatta sponsored jointly with the Portland Model Power Boat Association (PMPBA) at Tualatin Town Center Lake.

She organizes the tugboat tow competitions. In this event the tugs tow a barge from a loading dock, through a buoyed obstacle course to the delivery dock. This event is timed, penalty minutes are added for hitting or bypassing buoys, and the winner is the lowest time through the course.

The second activity is the Springer polo match. The match is between two teams of two or more Springer tugs trying to push a standard women's water polo ball through an upright goal at either end of a 40 to 60 Ft. long pool or float defined area in a lake or larger pond. It's sort of like water soccer with eighteen-inch model tugboats. This is a rough-and-tumble sport, with tugs banging into each other to dislodge the ball from the spring-style, doorstop arms projected from the bow push arms on the bow of all Springer tugs. We staged two polo matches at the Tualatin Town Center Lake with two boat teams this summer. We hope to have more Springer Tugs participating during the scheduled Float season of the PMPBA in 2017.

The third function a tug can perform is the rescue of disabled boats. This is particularly helpful when my Tippy Canoe T-37 RC model sailboat gets becalmed. Of course other power RC model boats run their onboard batteries down or the boat ends up with its radio control transmitter inactive, etc. That's when it's great to have a model rescue tugboat.

Finally, when a Springer Tug gets moving at hull speed it is a truly a beautiful sight. The bluff bow and rectangular hull shape creates a perfect trough, with the distance between the crest of the bow wave and the stern wave equal the length of the tug's water line.

*If you are interested in acquiring a Tugster kit, give Art Wilson a call at 503-956-5955.*



**RiversWest Board**

**Officers:**

**President & Shop Mgr: Russ Smith**  
president@riverswest.org

**Treasurer & Web Mgr: Craig Bryant**  
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**Secretary: John Bouwsma**  
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**Newsletter: Stu Whitcomb**  
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**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 involvement in the construction of small recreational wooden craft and their accessories.**

**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                            |

**Please return the following with your check to the address above,  
or sign up online at riverswest.org**

New member  Renewing member  Change of information  Additional donation

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Youth (17 and under) \$30  General Membership \$50

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

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

**RiversWest Small Craft Center, Inc.**

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www.riverswest.org

