

SUMMER 2016

RiversWest

We inspire people to build and use low-impact boats

News



Charlie Ehm's
Pond Boat
see p. 5



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

Fellow Members,

Summer is finally here and RiversWest members have been quite busy getting their boats ready for the water. On Sunday, June 26, we have our 4th annual Messabout at Hagg Lake. This has always been a successful and fun event due to the efforts of Sal DiGrande, our past president. Thank you, Sal.

Chuck Stuckey, our Family Boat Build director, has been working at a steady pace putting the kits together for the 7th annual F.B.B on July 9 & 10th at the Willamette Sailing Club. He has had many members step up to help out cutting and shaping the many needed parts. He also needs members on that weekend to provide any guidance the families might need. We have many members with boat building experience that can be passed on to some of these novice boat builders. The families always have a great time and it is a most memorable experience. This event is a good example of the value RiversWest brings to the community.

The club had a new essabout in May at the Vancouver Lake Sailing Club. Kevin Cote, who is a member of RiversWest as well as the V.L.S.C., organized the event and our thanks go out to him.

Unfortunately, the weather wasn't the best but it was still a fun experience. There will be a follow-up event at the same location on August 6th, so we hope that more members will be able to attend. Vancouver Lake is a great place to sail or row and they say the winds can be quite challenging at times.

We have been working in the boat shop to clean up and dispose of some unneeded items. Our swap meet on June 11th

had a decent turnout. The club was able to sell a few items, and members as well as non-members were able to sell personal tools and equipment. Thank you to all who participated and a special thank you to John Whitehouse and John Bouwsma for all their work on behalf of the club's equipment sales. We have purchased a new planer this spring which is a valuable tool in any boat shop. We have also purchased dust collection equipment to make using the tools a cleaner operation. All we need is time and effort to complete the project.

Currently all our bays are rented and members have been busy sprucing up their boats for the coming season. Anyone interested in renting a bay in the future should get on the waiting list.



Randy Torgerson, our Education Coordinator, will be scheduling workshops and demonstrations for this fall. Anyone interested in teaching a skill or doing a demonstration please contact Randy. Thanks out to Randy for all his time and effort to make these classes happen.

RiversWest is an organization with talented members who are willing to share their knowledge to anyone who wants to learn a new skill. I would like to encourage all our members to spread the word about the value of what our club has to offer.

Looking forward to a great summer on the water. Please be safe, whether it is in the boat shop with tools or boating on the river or lake. Be sure to spread the word about our open house on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays to get more people to join our conversation.

Russ Smith



In Memoriam: Loren "Pete" Hillman

Loren "Pete" Hillman crossed the bar on May 25, 2016, a week shy of his 94th birthday. Pete was a lover of small boats and followed their histories and sailing activities with great interest. He became a RiversWest member back in the Oaks Park days, and kept up with the yearly maintenance of his old lapstrake inboard runabout while regularly racing his Snipe as a member of the Willamette Sailing Club.

He leaves his two daughters, Leslie of Portland, and Hilary of Hudson, N.Y. Leslie, a staff member of Catlin Gabel School, played an active part in the very first Boat Build project held jointly between Catlin Gabel School and RiversWest.



Pete was a generous member and friend to RiversWest over the years, and indeed to the Portland maritime community as well. He will be sorely missed by all of us. Funeral arrangements will be forthcoming.



COVER:

Charlie Ehm's Pond Boat

Designed and built by Charlie based on a Bolger Nymph

See article on p. 5

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



Boat Built as 8th Grade Project

Ellia Baldwin, a 14-year-old student at the Cedarwood Waldorf School, stopped in at RiversWest on a First Saturday last Fall with many questions about different boat building methods—she had decided to build a boat as an 8th grade project! After talking it over, Ellia decided that stitch-and-glue was the way to go. She needed a mentor to help out, so I volunteered.



Ellia went on the internet to find a design, and settled on the Passagemaker Dinghy from Chesapeake Light Craft. Construction began in December with the purchase of the marine plywood. Ellia was working in the sun room of her mother's house, barely any bigger than the boat itself. Step one was to scarf two full sheets to two half sheets, which she did mostly with a hand plane. Then she laid out all the parts and sawed them out with a jig saw. We moved to my shop for

the main assembly, where we had more room (and spilled epoxy was less of a problem). In March, Ellia presented her partially

completed project to her school to high praise from her teachers and classmates, and then kept right on working. The hull is now complete, ready for final sanding and painting. Next she will build the rudder, daggerboard, and rigging. Ellia has shown remarkable persistence and initiative in working on this project. When complete it promises to be a very serviceable boat!



RiversWest Forums: What They Are and Why You Should Use Them

Mark Ramsby

A few weeks ago an email notice came in saying there was a new message in a Forum string that I had started. That was surprising as I hadn't used the forum for a year and a half! A new member, Charlie Ehm, answered the question "Is this Forum worth saving?" His answer was "Yes." To prove it, he went on to author several more threads over the course of the next few weeks. Now there were two of us who were using the Forums! In the weeks since that "yes" from Charlie, I have asked several members about the Forums and found that only one even knew they existed. Since at least two of us think the Forums have value, I write this article in the hope that it will spark some interest and participation. More users = more interesting.

You might ask "What is a forum?" Glad you asked. A forum is an online conversation among those who choose to participate. It's a place to ask questions, give opinions and generally get together (when it's not a first or third Saturday morning). You might want to

take part by asking a question or voicing your opinions. To find the RiversWest Forums page, go to the RiversWest website, www.riverswest.org. At the top or bottom of most pages, there is a navigation bar that includes "Forums." Click on it and you are transported to the Forums. (A direct link to the Forums is: <http://www.riverswest.org/forums.html>.) You can read any of the threads (conversations). If you want to participate in a conversation or start a new one, you will need to go through a simple registration process. Forum etiquette asks that we are polite, and respectful of others and their opinions. It's a place to share knowledge and get your questions answered. It's a place to meet your friends when you can't be there in person and a place to meet new friends as well. It's kind of like our first and third Saturday mornings, but you have to bring your own donut...and it doesn't have to be a Saturday morning. I hope you can join us!



Membership Renewal Changes for 2016**John Whitehouse****NOTICE:**

It's time for all RiversWest members to renew their membership.

The membership fee for adults remains at \$50/year.

Two new items this 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 will now run from the first of the year and expire at the end of the year.**
Your payment will keep your membership current through 2016.

Many people renew at the Annual Membership Meeting in January. 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.

Make checks out to RiversWest Small Craft and mail to:

RiversWest Small Craft Center, PO Box 19234, Portland, OR 97280

Charlie Ehm's Pond Boat

Member Charlie Ehm has designed and built a very innovative small boat based on his experience with a Bolger Nymph. His finished boat uses 1-1/2 sheets of marine plywood, cost \$150 and weighs a mere 45 lbs. He has placed much more information on the RiversWest Forum (see facing page for more information on the Forums). If there is enough interest Charlie would be willing to teach a class on building this boat.

- No fiberglass, no chine block; sides fit tightly against bottom, reinforced with thickened epoxy
- Frames perpendicular to sides with small knees at bottom; no beveling required
- Simple oil finish on inside of boat for easy maintenance, spar varnish on outside
- Oar blades fit through handle slots in transom
- Double skeg for stability and to mount axle for wheels
- Moveable bolt-on oarlock sockets for adapting to different rowers

**John Bouwsma**

Seventh Annual Family Boat Build

Chuck Stuckey

This July 9-10 will be our seventh annual Family Boat Build, held at the Willamette Sailing Club as part of the Portland Wooden Boat Festival.

Wow, can you believe it—we have been hosting this wonderful family event for seven straight years now. While the first one, located on the riverfront in downtown, was a little shaky, what with parts not quite fitting right, the last six have been at the Willamette Sailing Club and have gone much better. We have worked out the bugs and the kits now go together smoothly. So smoothly, in fact, that last year we decided that we did not need the Friday night orientation session.

Fundraising last year went pretty well, with big contributions from the Zidell Corp. and the Greenbrier Companies. We will hopefully have their support again this year to go with our new sponsor, the Oregon Maritime Museum. Thanks to all of them, we have helped 62 “families” enjoy this fun event.

We are planning on building 14 boats this year and therefore could use all the help we can get to spread the word in the community. We will entertain requests from four groups or other non-profits to participate for free if this event fits their mission. A youth group from the Salvation Army was present last year as



well as a family from Friends of the Children. So if any member knows of a worthy group that might wish to participate, please contact me. I have already received several emails from members volunteering to help cut boat parts and help out at the event itself. Thanks to all who have, and we welcome more.

And remember, **we need ALL of our beautiful member-built boats on display at the Festival this year.**

Vancouver Lake Sailing Club Messabout

Russ Smith



RiversWest had its first messabout of 2016 on Saturday, May 21 at the Vancouver Lake Sailing Club. This was a new location for our club, made possible by one of our members, Kevin Cote, who is also a member of V.L.S.C. The V.L.S.C. is a well-maintained facility with easy access to ramp launch,

beach launch and dock space for loading gear. Unfortunately, the weather forecast called for rain which caused a poor turnout. There were quite a few members who turned out in support of the limited number of boats. We did get a chance to do some sailing and rowing before lunch, but the rain did appear as forecast to make the day earlier than scheduled.



Thanks to the members and the board of the Vancouver Lake Sailing Club for their hospitality. They opened their clubhouse to our pot luck lunch, which was very nice considering the weather. There is a second mess-about scheduled for August 6th, so please mark your calendar. Hopefully, the weather will be much warmer.



More of my Favorite Boat Building Tools

Randall Torgerson



In this second installment of my favorite boat building tools, I have brought out some power tools.

The first is the Dewalt Corded TrackSaw (PN:DWS520K, \$475.19, <http://www.amazon.com>). In the August 2016 issue of Fine Woodworking, (<http://www.finewoodworking.com>), Mark Edmudson reviewed several track saws. The track saws from Festool and Mafell were rated the best, and the one from Makita as best value. I have not used any track saw but the Dewalt and I have been very happy with it. I always brush dust off the track and the work piece before a cut and never had the track slip while cutting. To avoid cutting the table or concrete, I have two 4'x8' sheets of 1-1/2 inch rigid foam insulation from Home Depot that I put the work piece on. I use the track saw for any straight cut on sheet goods and long boards. The saw was an unbelievable time saver when I was cutting out the molds, bulkhead and transom for my Candlefish 13. I marked all the cut lines in red on sheets of plywood (so as not to

cut a centerline or water line by mistake) and then cut all the parts out. The process of pulling the trigger then pushing down and forward to start the cut was not natural at first but now I don't even think about it.

The second is the Rockwell Versacut (PN RK3440K, \$99, <http://www.homedepot.com>). The Versacut is a 3-3/8 inch circular saw, and don't let the name fool you—this is not a tool made by the Rockwell of years ago. This Rockwell Tool is from Positec Tool Corporation in China, a supplier of OEM and second-tier tools. I originally bought this saw to remove particle board as part of installing hardwood floors. I would use the bi-metal blade and cut the particle board into 1'x4' pieces and then pry them out. The small blade allowed me to steer around (most of) the nails holding the particle board down. Now I use the Versacut with a carbide blade for cutting curves in plywood. I used it to cut all the panels for my Candlefish 13. The V notch in the saw base is not exactly where the blade cuts, but a few practice cuts solves that problem.

Lastly there is my baby router, a Dewalt Compact Router (PN:DWP611, \$122.99, <http://www.amazon.com>). I mostly use the round over or a 45° chamfer bit. The router's small size allows me to easily route a round over on canoe gunnels. I used the 45° chamfer bit on the plywood panels before stitching the panels. The router has 1-1/4 hp and comes with a 1/4 inch collet. This router is more than a panel router but not a full size router; I would stick with small bits and leave the canoe bit to a full size router.

RIVERSWEST HAS A NEW MAILING ADDRESS.

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

DON'T GET LOCKED OUT! SEND IN YOUR SHOP SAFETY, LIABILITY WAIVER

We recently sent out a Liability Waiver for everyone to sign and return. On May 6, we changed the combination on the lock and sent it to all who had signed the waiver. If you did not receive the new combination, please contact John Whitehouse johnwhitehouse1@msn.com.

ONE MORE MESSABOUT THIS YEAR



Saturday, August 6
Vancouver Lake with
Vancouver Lake Sailing Club



RiversWest Board

Officers:
President: Russ Smith
president@riverswest.org
Treasurer & Web Mgr: Craig Bryant
treasurer@riverswest.org

Secretary: John Bouwsma
john@bouwsma.net

Directors and Coordinators:
Membership: John Whitehouse
membership@riverswest.org

Education: Randy Torgerson
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Director: Jim Litton
jlittons@yahoo.com

Tool maintenance: Steve Mahoney
Newsletter & Portland Boat Show:
Stu Whitcomb
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Auxiliary Board Members:
John Ost:
johnhelenost@msn.com

Michael Simmons:
michaelfsimmons@gmail.com

Steve Najjar:
juniperlandi@earthlink.net

**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
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 _____

E-mail 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.



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