

RIVERSWEST NEWS

WINTER



2008-2009

www.riverswest.org

RIVERSWEST IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION WHOSE MISSION IS TO ENCOURAGE PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT IN THE CONSTRUCTION, RECREATIONAL USE AND THE HISTORY OF LOW-IMPACT BOATS.

President's Column

Jim Litton, RiversWest President December, 2008

For RiversWest, 2008 was marked by success, in several venues, and disappointment, in others.

On the upside, one of our most notable achievements was the rebuilding of our website. Responsive to requests for improvement, Randy Torgerson took on this formidable task. Now, not only does our website introduce RiversWest to the boating community and create a professional first impression, but it helps all of our fellow club members to communicate better with one another. In addition, our newly improved website (www.riverswest.org) promotes our interest in amateur boatbuilding and invites those interested to tour the boat shop and become involved.

Improved shop facilities and boat building activities are some of the other successes that we are proud of this year. Let me mention a few.

The shop rental spaces have been humming with exciting projects. Members have been using a variety of building techniques that span the gamut from stitch and glue to strip construction. Others have completed handsome kit boats. Early on, RiversWest's boat shop was opened to the general public once a month, every third Saturday morning. This open house became so popular that the visits now occur twice a month, every first and third Saturday

and often the boat shop is open every Saturday. First time visitors stop in when the doors are open and they see the hubbub of activities going on inside.

Woodworking skills are not the only boatbuilding skills we promote. Casting your own bronze hardware comes in handy for that traditional look. October saw a hands-on class where students were involved in all of the steps required to cast bronze. Please read on in the newsletter about how that was accomplished.



RiversWest now has a dramatically improved library, located in the shop. Chuck Stuckey expanded our library by building and donating our bookcases. Steve Najjar and Steve Mahoney sorted and organized our periodicals, charts, boat plans and "how to" books. Imagine having these resources at your fingertips, before you begin

your project.

All project work and no play, is not the RiversWest way. In June, we joined another small boat club called the "Coots" for a mess-about.

In September the membership rallied for our annual Wooden Boat Show. This year it was held at our Small Craft Center at Pier 99 in North Portland Harbor. Again, see the pictures of the show activities in this newsletter.

As I said earlier, we have experienced a few disappointments as well.

Our application to the Metro North Portland Enhancement Grant for capital improvements to our shop was not successful. This may be, in part, due to the reality that Pier 99 will be torn down in a few years, to make room for the approaches to the new I-5 bridge.

Another disappointment was our inability to implement a boat livery program. We learned that RiversWest must have on-the-water activities first, in order to generate interest in a boat livery program.

Here are a couple of ideas are being considered:

-Rowing and dinghy sailing after the first and third Saturday open house sessions.

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Portland Wooden Boat Show , September 2008

John Bouwsma



- RiversWest hosts the 2008 Portland Wooden Boat Show**
1. Robin ghosting his ferro-cement dinghy.
 2. Crew awaiting launch.
 3. Mark's skiff, maiden voyage. Cabin's coming soon.
 4. Steve's traditionally built canoe; RiversWest burgee.
 5. Boat Show overview.
 6. Julian's strip built canoe.
 7. Youngest builders preparing for a test sail.
 8. Hall Templeton underway with all aboard.
 9. John's intricate inlay work.
 10. Passing by, we pressed this home built into the show.
 11. Dennis's nautical details.



President's Column continued from front page

Jim Litton

-Have weekly boat rides and river keeping trips and invite people to join us in the Hall Templeton, in kayaks or dinghies. By joining in river keeping activities, we can officially take responsibility for maintaining our stretch of the river and have fun too.

Yes, 2008 has been a busy and productive year for the club. The activities and projects described here would not have happened without the many

generous contributions of our membership and volunteers who have made their services available to RiversWest.

In closing, I would like to recognize two special people whose contributions to the club's successful operation are immensely valuable:

-Mark Neuhaus has been our treasurer this past year and will not be able to continue in this capacity. In addition to performing all the duties of treasurer Mark has been involved in many other

club activities. Although he will not be on the board of directors, we welcome his continued involvement in the club.

-We are very fortunate to have Capt. Peter Wilcox charting our course. I wish to express our appreciation of Peter's continued dedication to RiversWest's success and for sharing his vision of what RiversWest can be. We value and need his expertise in guiding the club as we strive to grow our membership and our programs.

Bronze Casting Class a Glowing Success

John Bouwsma

RiversWest Bronze Casting Class October 18, 2008

In tough economic times, now as in the past, there is a great appeal in doing things for yourself, that you would normally pay someone else to do, especially for people who are inclined that way already. Of course that includes many members of RiversWest, most of whom would prefer to use their



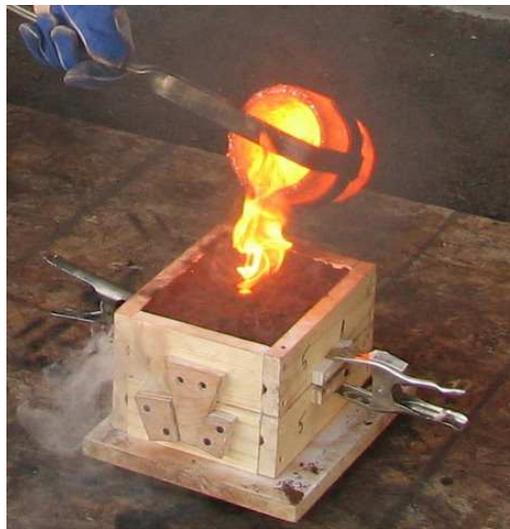
own strength and skill to row, paddle or sail small boats than to take the much more expensive path of depending on engines and fuel.

Many of us look back with regret to a time few of us ever saw, but which we have read about, when every part of a boat was built by the owner using hand tools. RiversWest members Julien Khan, Ron Davies and Mark Neuhaus had taken a bronze casting course from Sam Johnson in Seattle about a year ago, and they came back so enthusiastic that they convinced the Board to invest \$350 to set up a small foundry at RiversWest. Interest grew among other members, so we approached Sam about giving a class here. Sam gives bronze casing classes to boat builders all over the country, notably at the Wooden Boat School in Maine, and he was one of the founding members of RiversWest.

The class limit was 12 students, and we filled it up. Sam had brought all the equipment needed, and since we also had a small foundry built from his plans, we were able to keep two going at once. Both forges were built to Sam's specifications. Bronze casting



has been around for thousands of years and can be done with primitive equipment, which is one of the big attractions. Refractory cement is used to build the furnace using a sawn up 5 gallon can, creating a base, a lid, and a cylindrical furnace with a hole in the side to insert a pipe. The pipe is attached to a propane tank, and a small blower is used to inject oxygen. The



temperature of the molten metal is 2300 degrees Fahrenheit.

The basic process is to place a pattern, which might be another casting that you are trying to reproduce, in a wooden box called a flask. Sand is pounded in around it from both sides, with a dusting of parting compound in the middle, so that the two halves can



be separated and the pattern removed. Small pieces of wood are put in as well, to create channels for the molten bronze to fill the mold. When the form is complete the metal is poured in. After a

brief wait for it to harden the casting is removed from the sand, and in most cases a large amount of grinding and polishing are needed.



The class was a huge success. Everyone made at least 6 or 8 pours, and nearly all of them turned into useable parts. Most were made from patterns that Sam brought to the class, from oarlocks and cleats to special tools for use in the foundry process.



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RiversWest Small Craft Center Inc. P.O. Box 82686, Portland, OR 97282

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, 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.

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: Senior (65 and older) \$30.00 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 June 30th are good for the current year, if received after June 30th count for the current and next year.



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P.O. Box 82686 Portland, OR 97282

Please check your membership status; RiversWest needs your support.

READ THE LABEL. The date next to your name is the year in which your membership expires. If the label reads '08 it is time to renew. Please keep us current with regard to address changes or other corrections.