

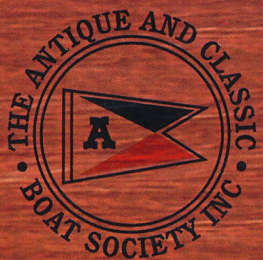
The Bilge Pump

41st Chapter of the Antique & Classic Boat Society

Vol. 10 No. 2

Rocky Mountain Classics

Summer 2009



Frisco Bay Classic Boat Show Special

And those running the ship

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The **Bilge Pump**

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Cover who's who

Rocky Mountain Classics Chapter President
Mike Novick, foreground, pilots his Chris
Craft Capri '55 *Survivor* on Lake Loveland as
event host Richard Ball roars by in the back-
ground in his Century Dart *Ball Four*.

Photos by Don Reilly of DJRImaging
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From the Helm

Dear Rocky Mountain Classics Members,

Welcome to the Antique and Classic Boating Society Rocky Mountain Classics Chapter's main "on-water" event in Frisco show — Rendezvous in the Rockies — this year at the Frisco Bay Marina.

Rumor has it Chris Smith of the wooden boat industry's icon Chris Craft family will be attending. Charlie Simons will be making his famous lunch.

Well, summer is finally here and by now, most of the afternoon thunderstorms that we had through much of June have ended (hopefully).

At the Lake Loveland Shakedown Cruise, we had a beautiful day on Saturday and had a great time on the sandy beach location on the north end of the Lake.

Unfortunately, I had to leave early on Saturday but from all the photos it appears that everyone had a great afternoon and evening.

Thank you to Rich and Lu Ball for hosting this wonderful event.

I hope you have been able to get out on your boat and blow the cobwebs out a bit. If not we have some upcoming events that should prove to be a lot of fun. Grand Lake proved to be a lot of fun again this year.

In addition, while we are not planning on an official event at Alcova, some members have expressed an interest in simply going up there anyway over Labor Day weekend for an informal gathering. If you are interested let Linda or Charlie Peak know and they can help you with your plans.

This summer is my last year as president of the RMC Chapter as I will have served the maximum term of three years. If you have any interest or desire in getting more actively involved in your chapter in any fashion please do not hesitate to let me know. Every year we elect four officer positions (President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary) who serve one-year terms. In addition, this year we will also be looking to fill two director positions on the board for three-year terms. If you have any questions about any of these positions or have any interest please let me know and I will pass your information to our Nominating Committee.

Mike Novick

Evergreen, Colorado

'55 Survivor and One of My Girls

michaelnovick@msn.com

303-674-5524 home and 720-244-3376 cell



Antique and Classic Boating Society Rocky Mountain Classics Chapter President Mike Novick of Evergreen, Colorado.

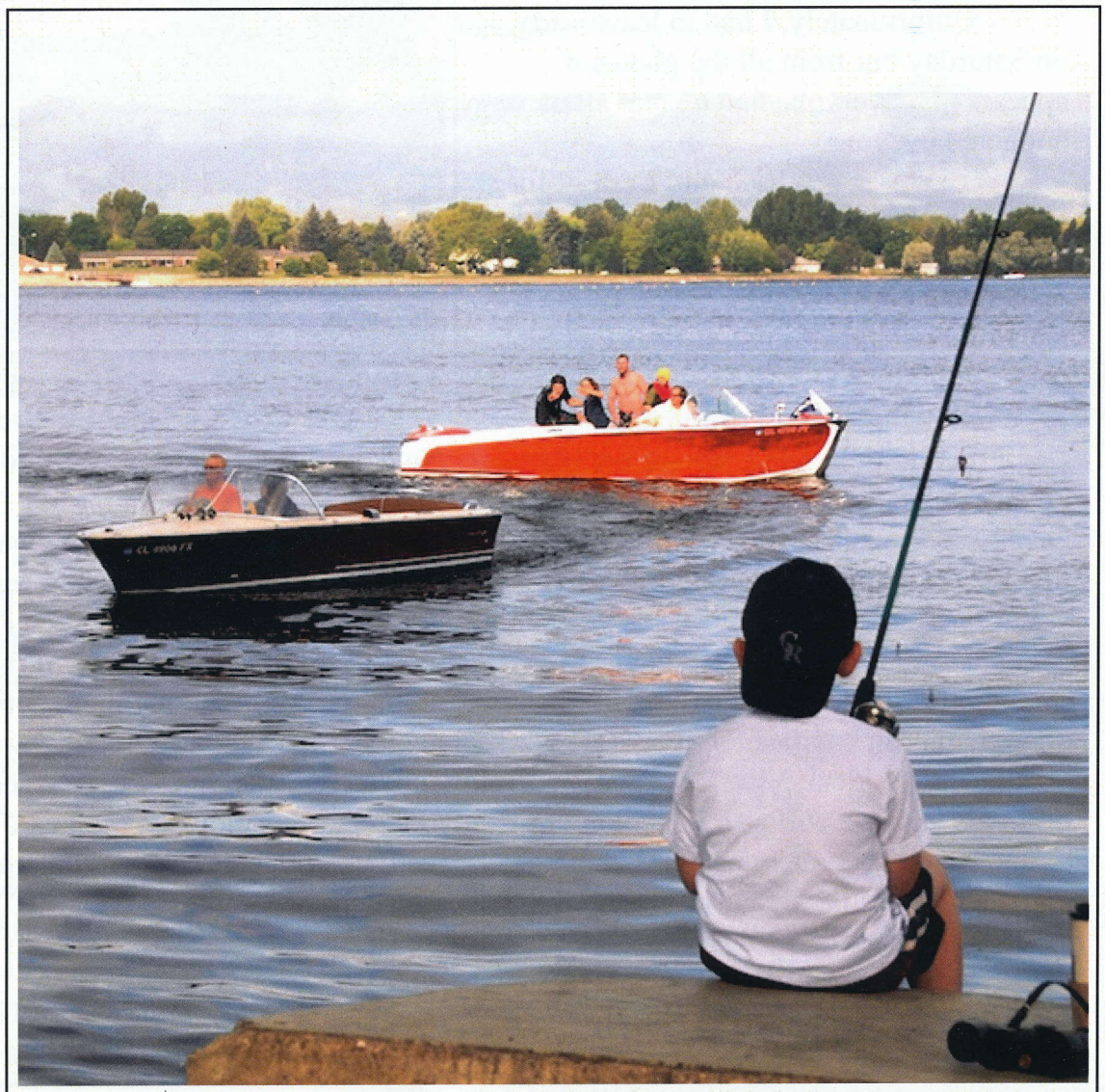


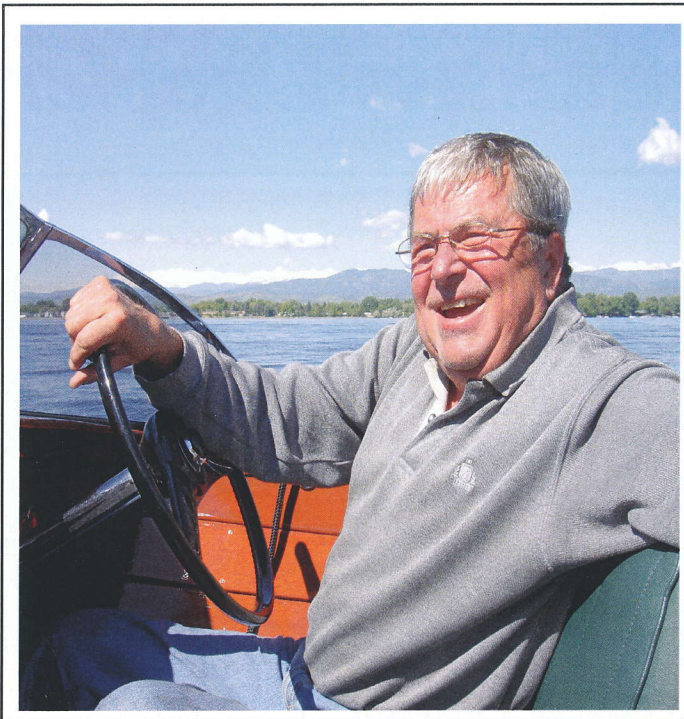
A full Lake Loveland means a swell time

Top: Hosts Lu and Richard Ball, right, take in some sun with other RMC members on Lake Loveland.

Right: A little fisherman watches as rumbling woodies take his mind off bait at Lake Loveland.

**Photos by
Don Reilly of
DJRImaging**





Bill Tordoff

Welcome to Frisco Bay's ACBS RMC

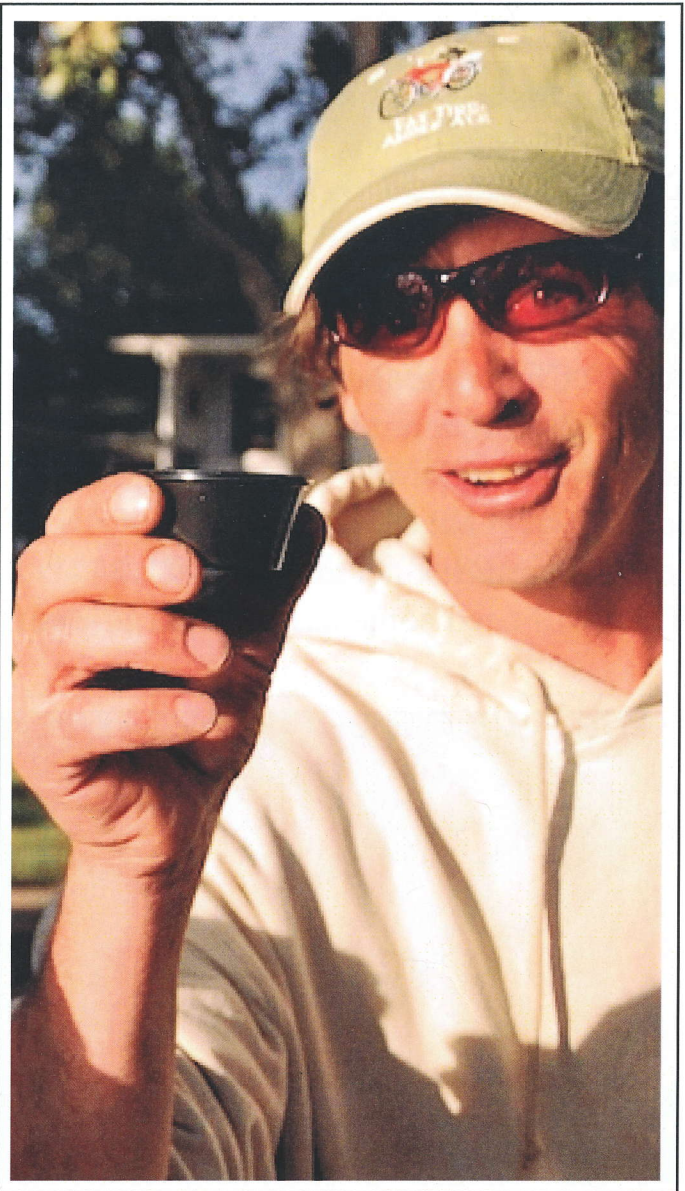
By Miles F. Porter IV

"There is nothing — absolutely nothing — half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats."

— **Kenneth Grahame**
The Wind in the Willows (1908)

Firm believers in this quotation are Frisco Bay residents and wooden boat restorers Wayne Spaulding and Bill Tordoff of Wonderful Woddies and hosts of the Rendezvous in the Rockies Classic Boat Show on Lake Dillon.

These two wooden boat aficionados continue restoring distinct projects after completing their first speedboat renovation in 2004 for someone else and the launching of a small business from a hobby. As owners of numerous wooden boats like Chris Craft, Century and Hacker Craft models, they eat, breathe and sleep woodies.



Wayne Spaulding

That first project commission out the door of Spaulding's Frisco Reserve home garage was a completely restored 1957 Century Coronado. The 21-foot speedboat now boasts bright red and white upholstery, shiny chrome hardware, a newly covered vinyl sliding targa-style roof and gauges polished to reflection. Its heavy mahogany planks are sanded smooth to make sure the 12 coats of varnish offer a deep look.

The painted side inserts, reminiscent of '50s automotive styling, received six coats of thick white paint.

"It took me two and a half hours just to do a foot — top to bottom — of the sanding required," Spaulding said, adding that it must be done by hand.

See Bill and Wayne on page 9

Rocky Mountain Classics Chapter

Denver, Colorado

January 15-18, 2009

Antique and Classic Boat Static Display of the Rocky Mountain Classics ACBS Chapter at the Denver Boat Show, Colorado Convention Center. Contacts: Jerry Ross, 303-388-7651 and jcross1967@aol.com; and Jeff Waco, jeff54@earthlink.net and 303-421-3141. They will need some assistance. Call 'em.



Denver, Colorado

March 5-8, 2009

Antique and Classic Boat Static Display of the Rocky Mountain Classics ACBS Chapter at the Colorado RV, Sports, Boat and Travel Show, National Western Complex. Contact: Peter Woods at peterwoods7469@comcast.net and 303-514-9747. A helping hand will be appreciated from members.



Lake Loveland, Loveland, Colorado

June 6, 2009

Spring Shakedown Cruise at Lake Loveland hosted by Richard and Lu Ball at their lovely lakeside home and expanded dock. Contact: Richard Ball at 970-667-3965 or at bglaw@comcast.net.



Top: Golden's Bob Phillips' 1900 16' English steam launch, *Shearwater*.

Middle: Doug and Linda Brown's special 18' V-8 powered launch, *Sea Grape*.

Bottom: Bill Tordoff's and Wayne Spaulding's rare '37 16' Chris Craft Racing Barrelback.

2009 Boat Shows and Contacts



Grand Lake, Colorado

July 11, 2009

12th Antique and Classic Boat Rendezvous, at an elevation of 8,369 feet, Colorado's largest natural lake in the heart of the Rockies at the west entrance to Rocky Mountain National Park.

Contact: Bob Braaf at 970-887-2210 or bbraaf@msn.com

Lake Dillon, Frisco Bay, Colorado

July 25, 2009

Rendezvous in the Rockies, at the Frisco Bay Marina on Lake Dillon at 9,017 feet above sea level, is the summer's major Rocky Mountain Classics ACBS Chapter-sanctioned show. Contact: Bill Tordoff at 970-668-8213 or at AMSII-INC@cs.com



Tentative show:

Denver Sloan's Lake

Sept. 19, 2009

Contact: Mike Novick at michaelnovick@msn.com

720-244-3376 cell

Top: Tom and Kathy Lange of Boulder enjoy their '46 Garwood Ensign 16' *Legacy*.

Middle: Frisco Bay's Connie Bull piloting her '51 18' Chris Craft Holiday — *Connie J*.

Bottom: Peter Woods and Wayne Spaulding aboard *Pegasus*, a '55 Century Coronado.



RMC developing plan for Denver Sloan's Lake show

We are having discussions with staff at Sloan's Lake, which is part of Denver Parks and Recreation, about having an event there. Sloan's Lake is located in Denver at 25th and Byron just off of Sheridan Boulevard and is one of Denver's oldest lakes.

The date being considered is Saturday, Sept. 19.

Due to the current registration requirements there are many restrictions we will have to follow:

- First, only boats under 21 feet are allowed. While they would make an exception, we cannot have more than a few boats that exceed this requirement.

- Second, due to limited dock space we would be limited to 13 boats (I might be able to convince them to let 15 on if we have one boat tied up on each

end to the outside boats).

- Third, normally permits are typically sold by the season only so they are in the process of determining what the fee would be to access the lake. I envision that this would be \$20.

- Fourth, they do have some insurance requirements that I think could be satisfied by the ACBS and will have to follow up on that.

Finally, they would want us to limit our playing and running around and keep this more to a show event. We would be able to boat around a bit, but we need to be sensitive to the other boaters who have season permits to use the lake. If this goes well, we could look to expand this event in future years if this is something the club is interested in pursuing.

If you are interested in participating in this event, please

send me an email with details of your boat so that I can put together a listing to determine how many are interested and the size of each of the boats.

If we have more than 13 that are interested we may have to have a lottery or depending on the size of the various boats we may be able to see if we are able to squeeze in a few more. While the number of boats in the water will be limited there will certainly be no limit on the number of individuals who are able to attend and to come by and see the boats or catch a ride.

Let me know if any questions on any of the above.

Thank you and I look forward to seeing you at an upcoming event.

Mike Novick
michaelnovick@msn.com
720-244-3376 cell

Continued from page 5

"It's as smooth as a baby's behind," Tordoff added in praising Spaulding's manual sanding effort.

Another example of the painstaking effort required is the number of screws needed to fasten a wooden boat together: 10,000 in a boat this size. And each screw on the exterior must be sunken and then covered with a "bung" — a wooden plug. In a boat like the first one they finished, 3,000 bungs were required.

Spaulding and his wife, Cindy, own The Boatyard, a popular eatery on Frisco's Main Street. Tordoff, who lives in Water Dance, has mostly retired from his Ohio foundry business.

Back in the early '60s, when fiberglass boats took over the recreational boating market, wooden boats were often just scrapped and burned by the

dealers. That means fewer of the craft are available today at increasing prices.

Today, prices run from a couple grand for a gray, bleached-out boat needing total restoration, all the way up to some 12-cylinder triple cockpit rarities costing \$300,000 that make some knowledgeable observers simply gasp at their beautiful designs and construction.

The wooden boat industry used hard and sometimes contrasting colors of mahogany from Africa, Honduras and the Philippines to create their crafts. White oak was used for the interior structural systems.

"I like to bring them back to their original beauty," Spaulding said. "It's not my design, it's nostalgia."

Fine furniture

Spaulding currently owns a 1955 20-foot Century

Coronado, named *Pegasus*, a 1957 Century Palomino out-board, and is nearing the total restoration of a 1951 Hacker Craft 22-foot Utility that will soon get its modern 420 horsepower fuel injected GM V-8. A barn find in New Hampshire, this boat was formerly named *Korikancha*.

Pegasus features a blue-printed Chevrolet Corvette LT-1 V-8 engine, boasting 350 horses. It is thought to be one of only 27 remaining from a production run of 190 boats.

Tordoff, after restoring and selling a couple of classic wooden boats, now has a 1952 23-foot Hacker-Craft Overnighter, once named *Judy Ann*. It is fitted with a totally new bottom and sideboards. Wayne and Bill are now getting it ready for interior and topside

Continued on page 11

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Got some flotsam...

Installment #4

Bits and pieces of Rocky Mountain Classics Chapter history.

Onward into the 21st century and our little boat club has survived four years and grown from 15 to approximately 70 members. Bob Braaf continues as our president for a second year. The January Denver Boat Show was our biggest and best show to date with seven great boats and a '48 Ford "Woodie" wagon. We handed out more "Come Aboard" membership pamphlets this year and by the spring meeting, graciously hosted by the Geuins in Genesee. Bob Moharter reported we were up to 85 members.

The Denver Boat Show has always been our best static show.

In the water events this year were planned for Lake Loveland, always a great hit is again hosted by Lu and Rich Ball and Kathy and Tom Lange; Dillon Reservoir with its first Rendezvous in the Rockies, Grand Lake and Navajo.

Lake Dillon's Frisco Bay show was great. I almost sank, as the bottom of my Barrelback was so hogged out that with six folks on board, we sat low in the water with much water coming in various leaks. This water was thrown around in the bilge — shorting out my ignition system.



By Chip Taft
Round the Bend
1940 Chris Craft
Custom Barrelback



**Rocky Mountain
Classics Chapter
Historian**

Charlie Simons, do you remember that 12-knot return to the docks? Lot's of chatter, right?

Hey, all, as you read this, Charlie will be cooking his famous brisket BBQ again this weekend at Frisco.

I'm going to hustle through this, as the editor is hollerin' for something!

Grand Lake was its usual super, wet event. We shared the docks with the Yacht Club this year, a

big move up for us and such a grand venue.

Chris Smith— as usual — regaled us all with his family's Chris Craft stories; always a fine time. Navajo was warm and sunny, a "mini Lake Powell" with high canyon walls and warm, clear swimmable water.

Remember, Bob Braaf, my diving antics going for the line I wrapped around my prop? I miss this event and the folks from the Four Corners area.

The October Frisco annual meeting rounded out the year's events. Auctioneer Tom Lange raised \$682 for the club. Thanks all for bidding on such great stuff. Those who haven't attended the annual meeting, you are missing out. June Moharter has been nominated for president. We're still in good hands and moving forward.

Thanks for the read.

More to come, I have no choice, I AM your Historian!

Bill/Wayne continued from 9

work.

Together, they own a completely restored rare 16-foot 1937 Chris Craft Racing Runabout Barrelback, which is for sale at \$65,000.

"I look at a wooden boat as a fine piece of furniture," Tordoff said. "It's art. I'd like to be an artist, but I'm not."

"Wayne's the artist," stated Tordoff.

Tordoff recently sold *H2O Dancer*, a 1951, 18-foot Chris Craft Holiday with the original 318 cubic inch V-8 Chrysler engine, after a couple of enjoyable seasons cruising Dillon Reservoir with wife Kathy. The new owners, trial lawyer Jim Bull and wife Connie, keep it in a Frisco Bay

Marina slip. They have re-named it: *Connie J*.

Show boats

A few years ago, Spaulding took his first restoration, *Four Buoys*, named for sons Matt, Jeff, Nick and Gregory, out to Lake Tahoe, the Mecca for restored wooden speedboats.

When he completed *Pegasus*, Spaulding towed it back east to Lake Winnepesaukee in New Hampshire for a show and a return to his roots — he grew up on the shores of nearby Lake Sunapee.

Both Spaulding and Tordoff take their restored boats to Colorado's wooden boat stronghold, Grand Lake, a two-hour drive north of Summit County, where residents have long had boathouses with wooden boats and held annual boat shows.

One of the boats that caught their eye there is a one-of-a-kind Chris Craft, 17 feet long, affectionately named *Chris' Craft*, for a great-granddaughter of Chris Smith, the company founder.

That relative, Chris Ann Braaf, has had the "one-off" boat on Dillon Reservoir several times at the invitation of Spaulding and Tordoff for the annual Frisco Bay wooden boat shows.

As members of the Antique and Classic Boat Society, the two boaters have hosted the Rendezvous in the Rockies wooden boat show eight times with help of the Frisco Bay Yacht Club, which started the marina in 1988. Other support comes from the Town of Frisco and Phil Hofer, manager of the Frisco Bay Marina.



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