



The Bilge Pump

Rocky Mountain Classics

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CLASSICS,
41ST CHAPTER OF THE
ANTIQUE & CLASSIC
BOAT SOCIETY

VOLUME IV, ISSUE II APRIL-OCTOBER 2012



Water Dancer Makes a Splash Around the Country

BOARD MEMBERS

- **Bob Phillips, President**
- **Mike Rutkowski, Vice President**
- **Charlie Simons, Treasurer**
- **Vickie Rutkowski, Secretary**
- **Directors:**
- **John Stiller**
- **Steve Frasier**
- **Michael Vannier**
- **Doug Brown**
- **Charlie Geuin**
- **Chip Taft, Director-at-Large**

7000! That's how many miles Bill Tordoff and Water Dancer, his beautifully restored 1956 23' Hacker Overnighter, logged during the summer of 2012, making the rounds at various boating events and shows.

Bill started off the summer at the 17th Annual Keels & Wheels Concours d'Elegance May 5-6 at the Lakewood Yacht Club in Seabrook, TX (near Houston.) This is the real deal, an impressive event filled with vintage cars and vintage boats. This year Keith Martin emceed, and Bobby Unser was the Honorary Grand Marshall.



Water Dancer at 2012 Keels & Wheels



Bill displays his Best in Class Trophy from Keels & Wheels.

At this show, Water Dancer took the top honor—Best in Class—in the Classic Cruiser category. What a way to start the boating season!

Then it was on to Oklahoma where the Heartland Classics hosted the 19th Annual Grand Lake Mahogany and Chrome show, June 7-10. This was a big show with 40 boats on display, 12 awards, and a record number of attendees. And Water Dancer beat out those 40 boats to take the 2012 Best in Show Award!

At this same show, another Rocky Mountain Classics boat, Wayne Spaulding's 1951 Hacker Deluxe Utility, received a Special Recognition Award.

Bill was at our July 14 Grand Lake Antique Boat Show. Two weeks later, he was at the 32nd Annual Boat Rendezvous held at Lake Okoboji, IA by the Jerry Dyhrkopp Iowa Great Lakes Chapter of the ACBS. This is a non-judged show that boasts about 7000 attendees a year!

Bill wrapped up boating season with a trip to the annual ACBS meeting at Table Rock, where Water Dancer again generated lots of interest.

Kudos to Bill, both on his wins and on being such a great ambassador for our club.



Wayne's 1951 Hacker Deluxe Utility at the 2012 Mahogany & Chrome Show.

From the Helm *by President, Bob Phillips*



President, Bob Phillips
Lake Loveland, June '11

Hello RMC club members. This is the time of year for preparation for winter and for reflection of our boating year. It was a year of ups and downs.

Spirits and visitor appreciation at The Denver Boat Show attendance was **up**.

Jeff Waco's ability to chat with everyone about anything was (still) **up**.

The hosted events at The Lange Family business center in Boulder brought the club treasury **way up**. The amount of food I put **down** was also way **up**.

Spring and summer precipitation was **down** and boating season temperatures were **up**. As a result Lake Loveland was **down**, but the sociality at Ball's home was **up** as usual.

The Frisco Show was **down and out** for the year.

Grand Lake level was normal but the available docking spaces were **down** by decree of the Grand Lake aristocracy.

The alternate August escape to Alcova, Wyoming, hosted by the ever-gracious Charlie and Linda Peak, was a great weekend as the reservoir is always **up**. And you DO NOT pass **up** Charlie's burgers.

We were a bit **down** about Charlie Simons' trailer trouble that prevented his attendance at Alcova.

The Horsetooth and Sloan's Lake events were cancelled due to depleted water levels. Thumbs **up** with thanks to Doug Brown and Mike Novick who nevertheless spent their time organizing those events.

Thanks to all who drove **up** to Wayne's restaurant for our recent annual meeting. Great weather!!! The fire sale of the Ship's Store by the Vanniers and other auctioned items coordinated by the Lange's was well received. Again, the treasury is **up** and the inventory of club clothing is now **down**.

I look forward (**up**) to RMC 2013. I sincerely hope the coming end-of-year and the associated holidays bring good things and good health to all.

Bob Phillips

RMC Annual Meeting Held Oct 10 in Frisco

Normally, you'd think the words "fun" and "meeting" should not even been used in the same sentence. But for those RMC members attending the annual meeting in Frisco on October 10, it was definitely a good time.

This year, we returned to Frisco for a meeting at The Boatyard Pizzeria and Grill, owned by members Wayne and Cindy Spaulding. The weather was beautiful, bright sun and warm enough you didn't need a coat, so our group of nearly 30 was seated on the outdoor patio.

We started with lunch and, as usual, the food and service were excellent. Many thanks to Cindy for making sure the group was well-fed! Then, we got down to business.

The main topics for the annual meeting are the election of officers, setting the next year's event schedule, and presentation of the Annual President's Cup Award.

With Mike Rutkowski running for the Vice President slot, we had another open director slot. At the meeting, Steve Frasier decided to run for that slot and his name was added to the slate for the vote. The slate passed unanimously so the 2012 RMC officers are:

President: Bob Phillips

Vickie President: Mike Rutkowski

Treasurer: Charlie Simons

Secretary: Vickie Rutkowski

Directors: John Stiller, Steve Frasier, Michael Vannier, Charlie Geuin, and Doug Brown

Director-at-Large: Chip Taft

We also reviewed next year's schedule, which appears on Page 9. Many, but not all, dates are firmly set at this point. Additional details will be released as we have them. The most important thing to remember right now is that we have the Denver Boat Show coming up in January.

At the end of the business meeting, President Bob Phillips presented the 2012 President's Cup Award to Tom and Kathy Lange.

Tom and Kathy clearly love classic boats, and they love this boat club. In 2012, they hosted two events for the club to help increase membership and to raise money for the club. Through those events and their other fund-raising activities, Tom & Kathy are largely responsible for our healthy treasury balance of \$3792.55. Please join us in congratulating the Lange's on this well-deserved honor.

After the meeting adjourned, Tom and Kathy announced the results of the silent auction and ran a live auction that netted the club more than \$400. Again, a great job by two of our favorite people!



Bob Phillips presents the President's Cup to Tom and Kathy Lange

RMC Well Represented at 37th ACBS Annual Meeting



ACBS at Table Rock

What do Bob and Chris Braaf, Steve and Susie Frasier, Bob and Betty Moore, Chris and Joy Smith, Wayne Spaulding and Bill Tordoff have in common with eight Frenchman? They were all at the 2012 ACBS Annual Meeting at Table Rock Lake, MO.

OK that was a weak joke, but according to this year's Show Report provided by Bob Braaf, it's no joke to say that the ACBS show was a rousing good time. Bob reported that there were more smaller boats than usual—which is nice to see, and there really were eight Frenchmen from the new France Chapter of the ACBS! The weather was great and the boating was wonderful, and thanks to these pictures from Bob, we can all enjoy it vicariously!

Classic Boats at the Dock. ACBS 2012



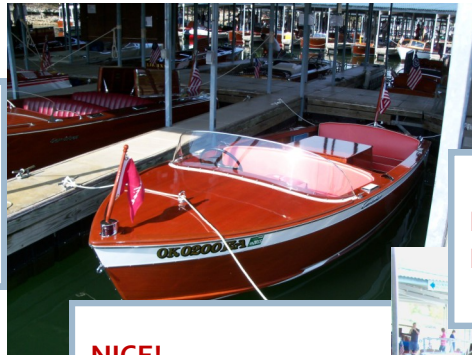
Bob & Chris Braaf with Chris Smith and Friends



Susie Frasier



Wooden Beauties at the dock



Bill Tordoff on Water Dancer

NICE!



Chris Smith, Table Rock, 2012



Lange's Donate to Historical Society on behalf of the RMC



On the porch of Kaufman Museum, Tom & Kathy present our donation to a rep from the Grand Lake Historical Society.

At the end of the 2012 Grand Lake Show, Tom and Kathy Lange presented the Grand Lake Historical Society with a donation of a little over \$500 in the name of the Rocky Mountain Classics. This is the second year Tom and Kathy have made a donation in the club's name. They raise the money from poster sales during the show. The presentation was made at the Kauffman House

Museum near the marina.

Tom and Kathy want to thank everyone who took a little time to help sell the posters for the club. More importantly, the RMC thanks Tom & Kathy for taking the time to make and sell the posters. Having them displayed at the dock creates buzz and draws visitors to the show, and the donation helps to build goodwill with the town. Just another example of the Lange's commitment to our organization!

3rd Annual Dust Off Your Cover Event Draws Good Crowd



Bob Phillips chats with Rich Peebles.

Kevin Anderson with Just Lovely.

Tom & Kathy Lange hosted the 3rd Annual Dust Off Your Cover Boat Show and Barbeque at their shop in Boulder on May 12, 2012, and it was quite a success. About 50 people came to enjoy good food, great company and of course – the boats. People also had a chance to wander around Lange's shop, which has



John Stiller's 1959 14' Biesemeyer



something for everyone. For wooden boat enthusiasts particularly, it has the ultimate Chris Craft Shrine! Folks had the opportunity to buy items, and the proceeds of the sale went to the RMC.

The 2013 event will be May 25. Be sure to come!

2012 Grand Lake In-the-Water Boat Show Drew Big Crowds



Chris Braaf at the Registration table. Grand Lake, Co July 14, 2012

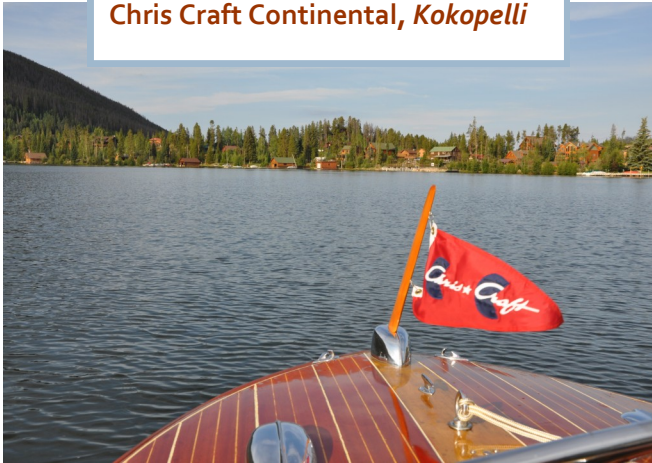
There are a lot of wonderful things about Grand Lake, Colorado. Situated as it is at the edge of Rocky Mountain National Park, this quaint mountain town offers plenty to do plus good restaurants, nice shopping, good places to stay, and even an occasional moose wondering through town.

And of course – it has Grand Lake. Ringed by beautiful homes, many with boat houses sheltering wooden jewels, Grand Lake is a classic boater’s paradise. And one of the best things about that lake is that the water never fluctuates more than a few inches. There’s ALWAYS enough water to boat on Grand Lake.

That was important in 2012 when some of our other shows had to be cancelled or moved to another venue because the water was too low.

In-

Taken from Mike Rutkowski’s 1955 Chris Craft Continental, Kokopelli



As usual, Chris Braaf did a great job of organizing our July 14 the-Water Show. The RMC had 18 boats on display at the public docks, and they seemed to attract even more



Jerry and Chris Ross in their 1961 16’ Lyman Utility, Christy Ann

interest than usual. The crowds started early in the day and stayed strong until, as it often does, the weather turned rainy early afternoon.



New members Dean & Marsha Woodward in their homebuilt 19.5’ Friendship Sloop, Nipntuck

We had to forego our Saturday boat parade and our afternoon picnic. But the Vanniers saved the day. They’d rented a house for the weekend, and it was just the right size for a GREAT party. Sunday was a beautiful day. Many of our members took advantage of that to finish off the weekend with some great boating. Good time all around!

Grand Lake Show & After-the-Show Party



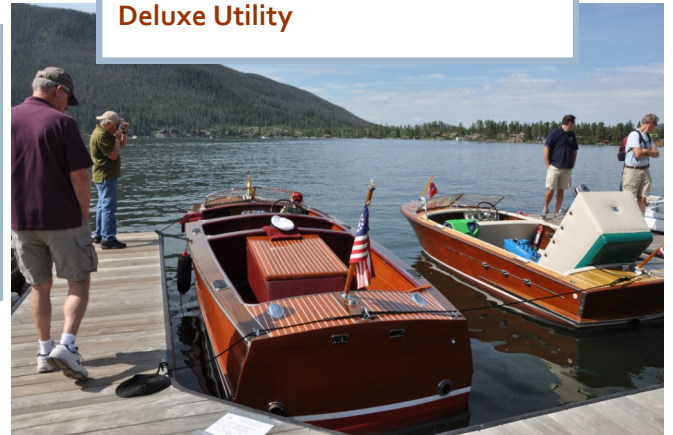
Boats at the dock, Grand Lake In-the-Water Show, July 14, 2012



Crowds enjoy a display of classic boats, Grand Lake Public Docks



Mike Vannier's 1949 19' Century Sea Maid, *Ain't She Sweet*



Wayne Spaulding's 1951 Hacker Deluxe Utility



RMC members enjoy an in-door picnic after the show



Our host, Michael Vannier

La Fete Internationale de La Mer et Des Marins 2012 *by Bob Phillips*

It's all Jeff Waco's fault. In 2008 Jeff loaned to me several boating magazines from his vast library, and in one I noticed a large and inviting ad for Brest 2008, an international-scale sailing event and celebration of maritime culture and sport. Brest? Where is that? France! With a little digging and on-line investigations, I quickly assigned such a trip to my personal "bucket list" of things to do.



Bob on the deck of the Gotheborg

This year, four years later, my family and I visited France with the Brest show and other places of interest in NW France in queue. Brest is located on a bay at the farthest western point of France in the Brittany region. Most of the pre-WW2 city of Brest was annihilated by allied forces bombing because of the German sub base located there. The city has, of course, rebuilt, and the water-front area where La Penfeld river enters still proudly presents the historic fort that protected the area for many years. The maritime event is hosted every 4 years at Brest for only sailing vessels. Each year selected countries are featured. This year featured countries were Norway, Russia, Mexico, Indonesia and Morocco. The show included modern and historic (replica) ships square-rigged vessels, replica

Viking ships, all manner of schooners, tall ships, displays of elegant ship models, outdoor sound

stages with instrumental, vocal, and ensemble performances, beer, food, more food, vendors of all kinds from one horizon to the other, outdoor theatrical presenters, maritime trades demonstrations, street actors, museum collections, ship tours in dock and at sea, night-time ship parades, fireworks, and scientific and educational pavilions. For those who may have a soft spot for maritime culture and sailing lore, this is a great event to witness and experience.

Now THAT'S a classic wooden boat!



One of the beautiful French cathedrals

We also visited other regions in Brittany, Normandy, and selected sites in the Loire Valley. Much of Europe had sustained wet and overcast weather for months. During our visit the weather cleared and this showed the lush country sides, active streams and rivers. We spent time at the Normandy invasion sites and preserved medieval towns, marveled at the many churches, abbeys, and cathedrals, some cloaked in green moss and ivy from over 800+ years. We visited several recommended chateaus in the Loire Valley region. The gardens were beyond description.

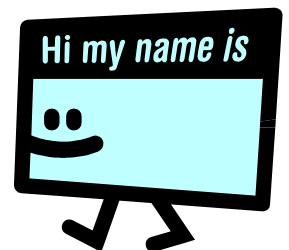
After 16 days the trip ended and reality again became the norm. Good to be home.

2013 RMC Event Schedule

Dates	Event
January 11-13	Denver Boat Show/Colorado Convention Center Coordinator Jeff Waco at jeff54@earthlink.net or 303/421-3141. If you'd like to show your boat or work the show , contact Jeff today!
February 28-March 3	56th Annual Colorado RV, Sports, Boat & Travel Show National Western Complex, Denver, CO; Coordinator: John Stiller at carnut@msn.com or 303-670-6837. If you'd like to show your boat or work the show, contact John today!
May 25	Shake the Dust Off Your Cover , Lange's Boat Shop, Boulder Colorado Coordinator Tom Lange, at tklange@msn.com or 303/447-1738
June 8	2013 11th Annual Lake Loveland Regatta / Lake Loveland, CO Coordinator: Rich Ball at rball@fwtb.com or 970-667-3965 RSVP required.
July 13	Grand Lake Antique Boat Show /Grand Lake, Co Coordinator: Chris and Bob Braaf at bbraaf@msn.com or 970-887-2210.
August 10	Frisco Boat Show/Frisco, CO Coordinator: Bill Tordoff at amsiinc@cs.com or 970-409-9224
TBD	Horsetooth Reservoir/Ft. Collins, CO Coordinator: Doug Brown at woodworking@earthlink.net or 970-635-2466
September 2013	ACBS, Annual Meeting Coeur d'Alene, ID DATES TBD. Watch ACBS.ORG for meeting details!
TBD	Sloan's Lake Rendezvous/Denver, CO Coordinator: Mike Novick at michaelnovick@msn.com or 720-244-3376

Hello my name is . . .

The sad fact is most days, I can barely remember my OWN name, much less the names of everyone I see at boating events a few times a year. At our annual meeting, Susie Frasier made a great suggestion to address that problem—NAME TAGS! What a great idea! Through the ACBS, we can order magnetic name tags with up to 3 lines of text for only \$12 each. **To order, call ACBS headquarters, Monday-Friday 8am-4pm et at (315) 686-2628. Order yours today and don't forget to wear it to every RMC event!**



Got Some Flotsam #6 by Chip Taft



Director-at-Large and RMC Historian, Chip Taft

This is the 6th run through our club's history. We were founded by acceptance in to the ACBS on May 1998. I have attempted to get out some of the club events and many contributions of our members. At the close of the last issue, I said it would stop if anyone cried uncle! Well!, no one has, so here goes!

2004 A lot of firsts and a few lasts in this year. This was the first year we were not invited to the Denver boat show. Complaints by the plastic boat dealers that we were a "distraction" to the show and the real reason for the show, "SALES" were being affected. Would you believe, there was so much hue and cry from the public that we were not in attendance, that in 2005, we returned and were even paid to be there! Thank you Tom Green for your persistence.

This was the first year showing at the Colorado RV, Sports, Boat and Travel Show. We had a great event from March 3-7. Thank you Mike Novick for your hard work getting this started. June found the club at Lake Loveland for the 3rd annual "Shakedown" cruise. This

event, just for the club has been a great success up to today with the kind hosting of Rich and Lu Ball, and Tom and Kathy Lange.

In June, our club recommended to ACBS, the approval for membership, of the Intermountain Chapter, Salt Lake City, UT. They became members and attended our event at Alcova and some of our members travelled to Bear Lake for their first in water event.

The Navajo Reservoir, in water event was held June 25-27. Bob and Betty Moharter, have worked hard to keep this event alive. The lake is extraordinary, a truly mini Lake Powell. Except for the regulars, it seemed hard to get members to drive up or down from either the Denver area or Durango area. One more year, will see the last Navajo event.

We were at Grand Lake for our premier event at the Yacht Club, July 17 and 18th. While this has always been a great venue, problems with the Yacht Club will find us at the public docks within two years and a one day event will result, (with, by the way total agreement and relief of our club's membership) Thank you Bob and Chris Ann Braaf, for your hard work keeping this great event alive! Our first Frisco event occurred on July 24th. It was an instant hit and with the Corvette car club in town for their annual event, drew a great crowd. Thank you Bill Tordoff, Wayne Spaulding for the show and thank you also, Charlie Simon for the wonderful BBQ brisket!

We were back at Alcova Reservoir, August 21st., in Wyoming for our 2nd in water event. This lake, for anyone who was there this year knows, continues to impress with the 4 mile canyon winding west from the lake proper. This year's event was a last minute substitution for Frisco which had no water! We had 10 boats present!. Thank you Linda and Charlie Peak.

At our annual meeting, October 9th, we had a recount of all the great events of the summer. We said good-bye to Kathy Lang, as our Bilge Pump editor. This great gal took our simple newspaper and grew it up to receive the ACBS award for Most Improved, news letter. Thanks Kathy Ending bank balance \$4,141.57, We're doing this well today! More later, if you wish?

Photo by Michael Vannier. From the deck of Ain't She Sweet.



August in Alcova

They say every cloud has a silver lining, and that was certainly the case for the RMC this summer. As usual, our Frisco In-the-Water Boat Show was scheduled for August 11, but in July, the Frisco Marina manager notified us that the water was already so low, they were pulling the docks. Our Frisco show had to be cancelled.

Before that bad news had a chance to sink in, Charlie and Linda Peak graciously offered to host the event at the Alcova Reservoir in Alcova, WY.

Charlie and Linda reserved the new public docks at the Alcova Lake-side Marina for Aug 10-11, and the show went on!

Ten boats were on display (three of which were restored by Wayne Spaulding), and all attendees agreed that those new docks are as nice as Grand Lake's (and that's saying something.) The folks in Alcova really supported the show too, with the Casper Journal giving it a 2-page spread!

At the end of the show, the RMC treated onlookers to a classic boat parade around the lake. Casper resident and RMC member, Jim Huff, led the parade in Huff n Puff, his beautiful 1966 30' Chris Craft Constellation. Then

attendees enjoyed some great boating on Alcova Reservoir. With 2470 surface acres and lots of coves and canyons, there's plenty to explore and the water is usually as smooth as glass.

After the show, RMC members were invited to have dinner at the private Casper Boat Club where the Peaks are members. That finished off the event in good fashion. All in all, a really great weekend on a beautiful reservoir. Thanks again to the Peaks for pulling this together.

Wonder Years by Jeff Waco

Many of you have seen "Wonder Years" at our static shows but few know the story behind this rare boat. I got bit by the boating bug very early in life, probably around five years of age. I'd look at the advertisements of Chris Craft and Century in Life Magazine and other publications. At about that time, my mother started to buy boating magazines for me. That is how I learned to read according to my mom.

At about ten years old, I sent away for the latest Chris Craft catalog. I always checked all the boxes as to which models I was interested in. When the catalog came, I saw a new model—a 1955 16' Express Cruiser Kit boat. It was just what I wanted, and it was only \$355. It wasn't doable. No money; my family lived in an apartment; not conducive for boat building. Nevertheless, at 10 years old, this boat became my dream. Over the years I saw a number of these boats in the NY area. When I was about 15, I found one that had been sunk and could be bought for \$50. It might as well have been \$5000 for I had no money.

I never forgot about this model kit boat, and I started to actively look for this boat about twenty-five years ago. During summers back east, I would comb boatyards from New Jersey to Connecticut looking for one. I realized that these boats were not made to last. They were meant to be bought cheaply, used and then thrown away.

In 1999 my wife and I came back from NY where we spent our summer on our boat. I was looking at the Boats for Sale in the now defunct Rocky Mountain News. There it was— a 16' Chris craft kit boat for sale. When I spoke to the owner, he had told me that his father had bought the boat when he was 10 years old, and he helped in the construction. This was meant to be. When we got up to Bailey, we saw the boat sitting in the woods. There was no question I would buy the boat. I later learned that it was mainly used on Grand Lake. The whole family, cousins, aunts, uncles learned to waterski on the boat. The owner used the boat all through college and slept overnight many times with his friends.

When I took the boat home and examined her closely I realized she was in fairly good condition after staying outside for so long. The high altitude and cold helped preserve her. It did not take long to finish the boat and she was ready to be put on display at the Convention Center. I don't remember the year, but it was before the light rail was put in. We had our display in the lobby at the time.

I invited the former owner to come down, and the whole family came. They told a lot of stories about their great experiences growing up with the boat. She was a happy boat except for the eight years she sat in the woods. I had named her "Wonder Years" from the show on television depicting life in the 50's. She is again a happy boat. Wonder Years resides in my garage out of the weather. The car stays outside and each time I walk into the garage a smile comes across my face. I don't what the future holds for her. I will part with her sometime but, not just yet.

The Bilge Pump

Newsletter for the Rocky
Mountain Classics Chapter
Antique and Classic Boat Society

Mike & Vickie Rutkowski
4529 Mohawk Dr.
Larkspur, CO 80118
303/681-3329

EMAIL: ver3298@msn.com



BOATS FOR SALE!



Jersey Girl is a 1947 Ventnor 18' Deluxe Utility w/ original engine on trailer. She is a beautiful boat, winner of Commodores Award , Minnesota Maritime Museum Show 2008. A true bargain at \$7000! Contact Tom Lange 303-641-3312



1955 18' Chris Craft Continental. Newer interior, 12v system, electronic ignition & KLC engine. All the original chrome hardware & original bottom. Asking \$9k, includes 1988 Shorelander trailer with disc brakes. Mike Rutkowski @ 303/808-3847



You can find the RMCC Facebook page at:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Rocky-Mountain-Classics/127798033976751>