

"THE ORIGINAL"

TEXAS CHAPTER

ANTIQUÉ OUTBOARD
MOTOR CLUB, INC.

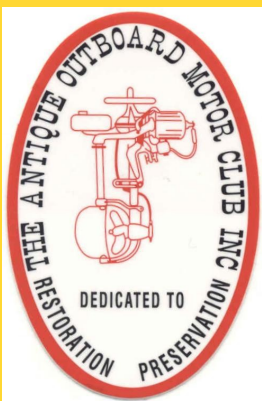
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Texas Chapter News

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Various Thoughts To Share As We Progress Through The Year 2023

By Tom Oncken

As a long-time member of the Antique Outboard Motor Club, Inc. and its Texas Chapter, I have always been very pleased with the closeness and camaraderie of the individuals within our organization primarily due to the friendships that I have made over the years. Regardless of an individual's job status or wealth, our members usually are willing to help one another regardless of the time and/or trouble involved. I have been a member of several organizations (I have even created a few), but AOMCI is definitely "head and shoulders" above the others I have joined over the years and I continue to cherish all of our Texas Chapter members.

With that in mind, during the first quarter of this year, I have noticed that I am starting to have a serious problem with my memory. Members that I feel close to have come up to me at the past two meets and I suddenly realize that I have known each person for a long time, and I cherish their friendship, but for some reason I cannot remember their name. How embarrassing! So, should I forget your name at a future gathering, please forgive me. It is nothing personal as I just simply cannot control the problem.

My next thought deals with the 29th Annual Houston Swap Meet planned for November 10th through 12th of this year. According to Louis Rothermel, it appears that the City of Houston has been moving quickly with their work on Star Lane where we hold our meets annually. Accordingly, it now appears that this year's gathering will take place as we have planned. You will be quickly notified if anything should change, but I feel confident that it's a go. I hope to see you there.

Next, I wish to cover officer elections that probably should occur later this year at the Houston Swap Meet. If someone has an interest in serving as the President, Vice President, or Secretary/Treasurer, please let us know so we can place your name on a ballot. Although I believe that Adam, Chip, and I are still willing to continue in our current positions, let us know if you would like to take a turn. We have been officers for a long time. New input can be beneficial.

On to one more thought. As a result of the surprising illness and subsequent passing of John Platou, our chapter has lost a meet in the month of June. Currently, we have Tony Robinson hosting a meet at his home in Lipan, Texas in March, we have a pair of meets in April and October at Lake LBJ in Kingsland, Texas, and finally we have Louis Rothermel who has sponsored the Houston Swap Meet in November for over 29 years. If someone wants to head up another meet in the near future, please let your chapter officers know. Our activities seem to have dwindled with the recent loss of the Houston International Boat, Sport & Travel Show in January and the Lake Houston Wet/Swap Meet that was held annually in June.

My final thought relates to our membership roster which has not been growing over the past few years. I am encouraging all of you to consider recruiting someone to join our club and chapter. Remember, one must be a member of AOMCI in order to be in the Texas Chapter. As you may be aware, we have been extending chapter memberships for no additional dues the past few years. Your dues are probably current as a result.

6th Annual Lipan Swap Meet

By Tom Oncken

Tony and Andrea Robinson invited our Texas Chapter members to participate in another swap meet held at their home in Lipan on March 3rd and 4th. Friday was early arrival day and Saturday was the heart of the meet. If someone really was interested in coming back on Sunday, that was acceptable with Tony, but he always states that he will attend church services that morning.

I must admit that I was somewhat concerned about attendance after our 5th annual meet last year. Only about 10 members came to that meet and the weather was decent, but a little overcast. Attendance was far better this year. I attempted to keep a list of all those who participated and my best guess is that 35 or more individuals showed up over the two day period. The weather was excellent both days as the sky was clear blue with no clouds, and other than a little cool breeze on Saturday morning, the rest of the time we did not even need to wear a coat. Short sleeves quickly became more common than long sleeves.

Dennis Schmitt & Tony Robinson standing in Tony's shop which holds his collection of old outboards and other collectibles.



My personal chauffeur once again this year was my son, Mike, as he drove my old tank (1999 Suburban). My grandson, Tommy, came with us. We attempted to leave the Houston area early enough to get to Tony's by 3:00PM on Friday; however, we made a mistake by trying to take I-45 North across downtown Houston. It turned out to be a huge parking lot! As a result, we did not get to Tony's until after 5:00PM.

When we arrived that afternoon, Ben McCauley was performing as usual at the Lipan Meet. He had just finished working on Bruce Miller's Martin 20 outboard and it was running in the test tank, once again supporting my comments on the front page about camaraderie and friendship. Ben does not expect payment for his work on motors at this annual meet. Bruce almost had to twist



From Left to Right: Ben McCauley running a Martin 20, Andrea Robinson in the background, Rich Reich, and Bruce Miller.

Ben's arm to convince him to attend the dinner with us at Natty Flat where Bruce also insisted on picking up the tab for Ben's meal.



An advertisement for some great barbecue.

Thanks to our cell phone technology, everyone waited for us to arrive before heading out for dinner at Natty Flat just down the street from Tony's house. Each of us feasted on various sandwiches and other delights. The food was excellent as always and I do not believe anyone left hungry. Several individuals had ice cream and/or a slice of pie for dessert. Then it was time for a nap. So, Mike, Tommy, and I headed up to Weatherford, Texas where we had reservations at a local Holiday Inn Express.

Everyone reconvened at approximately 9:00AM on Saturday morning. When we drove in, a very impressive 1950 Ford pickup stood out with a 1950 Feathercraft boat attached to the back. I was aware that Meatball Murray from Kingsland was coming, and I immediately thought that he must have brought some of his fancy toys with him, but I was mistaken as I soon learned that Zach Hancock brought this excellent pair to the meet. Meatball brought a very nice RV to stay in.



Zach Hancock's 1950 Ford and Feathercraft.

Another difference I noticed comparing this year's meet to last year was an increased group of Granbury Flywheelers. There was only one Flywheeler last year where there seemed to be a significant group this year. Regardless, it was a little difficult telling who was a Texas Chapter member versus a Granbury Flywheeler because we have apparently infected each other with one another's hobbies. Some outboard collectors now own stationary engines and some stationary engine collectors now own some old outboard motors. I bet wives of both groups are so happy!



Tom Felty showing off his Champion and Waterwitch outboards. It is difficult to see, but Tom also has a black Briggs & Stratton stationary engine in the bed of his truck.

Tony took up a brief collection for lunch and went to the neighborhood store to purchase pizza for

lunch. Everyone who participated seemed to enjoy the pizza immensely. After 2:00PM, some people began packing up and leaving. If I recall correctly, Mike and I did not leave until around 4:00PM, but a majority of folks had left by that time. Regardless, the constant visiting, looking at various motors, and stationary motors running in the background made for an excellent meet. I wish to thank Tony and Andrea for sponsoring their 6th Annual Lipan Meet and hope that they consider doing it again next year. We would hate to lose another fun filled gathering like this one.



Kenny Martin with his brother David Martin showing off a few stationary engines.



When have you ever seen a Wright Power Blade Saw at an outboard meet?



Ben McCauley showing off his newly acquired 1943 Lutetia Model BC2 10HP.

Built in occupied Paris, France during WWII for the German Nazi Army.

Originally had a German Eagle with swastika on the bolt flange on top of its mid-section which was subsequently sanded off.

Special “Estate Sale” Meet to Find New Homes For The John Platou Collection

By Tom Oncken

A short time ago, Linda Platou approached Bruce Miller to learn how to sell some of the collection of outboards, outboard parts, and boats that her husband John had accumulated over the years. Bruce contacted Adam Finn and the two of these wonderful gentlemen decided to offer that special help to Linda that I discussed on the front page of this newsletter. Almost immediately, an email was sent out to our chapter members informing all of us about a special “estate sale” meet to be held on Saturday, March 18th, beginning approximately at 10:30AM and lasting to about 1:30PM.

noticed was one of John’s “build-a-boats” sitting in the driveway. Of course, there was his nice wooden Cruisers Inc. runabout as well as any number of old outboards and parts. The one real shocker to me was the garage in back. Not only did it contain many of John’s old outboards, but there was one of the biggest houseboats that I have ever seen sitting on a trailer. Honestly, I am not sure how it will ever be taken out of that garage, but it was already sold when I got there. Heck, it was so tall, I do not know how it will be transported across the city, but fortunately that is going to be the new owner’s problem.

Linda Platou with two of the stars of this meet, Adam Finn and Bruce Miller.



In the photo above, Adam Finn started off the proceedings by describing how the items would be sold. For most of the outboards, there was a bidding list attached. If someone wanted to buy a particular motor, they could write their bid on the attached list. As the meet continued, if someone wanted to bid more, then they simply wrote their bid on the next line of that motor’s list. The minimum acceptable bids were shown at the top of each list as was the minimum incremental amount for the next bid to be posted. At 1:00PM, all sheets were collected and the ending high bidder for each item went to Adam or Bruce and paid for their new toy (or toys).

Then the work began for Adam and Bruce as they made several trips to Crosby, Texas to identify and inventory the items for sale, to clean up the items, and to arrange them in some type of order for a special garage sale. They hoped that our members would respond well and help reduce the very large collection of items on hand.

When arriving at the meet, the first thing that I

There were also three of John’s outboard boats that were up for bid using the same method as described above. A large number of outboard motor parts were marked with specific prices as written on blue tape. The remaining unmarked parts were offered on a best offer basis. The interested buyer only needed to get with Adam or Bruce to make an offer, or pay the marked price.

Although this is a rental property, John kept his collection in the back garage. This is the initial view as we came to the meet.



Similar to the annual Houston Swap Meets that John Platou sponsored, attendees at this special “estate sale” meet were also invited to partake

in a special lunch which consisted of hotdogs grilled by Adam Finn, fantastic chili provided by our First Lady, Susie Finn, and a homemade Chocolate Sheet Cake provided by Mary Miller (Bruce's wife). Mary also volunteered to serve the meals at the main table and the crowd kept her very busy. From what I have been told, Mary also made the coffee. Bruce spent most of his time dealing with potential buyers and collecting some money from numerous buyers.

personally desired. Chili could be eaten by itself or you could make a Frito Chili Pie. Mary kept all of those items readily available.



Kent Peters with Leonard Sturm as they work through the crowd to load up a very nice old Johnson.



The support of our Texas Chapter in relocating all of this stuff into new homes was amazing! At last contact, Adam told me that 3 boats were sold during this gathering, at least 85% of the outboards were sold, and 90% of all of the extra miscellaneous parts were sold. Although I had to leave at 1:30PM, apparently Adam, Bruce, and Mary stayed until everyone finally loaded up and headed home around 3:00PM. Adam said that he was going at 90 to nothing all day and was worn out when he got home at 4:00PM. Adam and Susie Finn and Bruce and Mary Miller should receive standing ovations at a future meet. What a great service they performed for Linda Platou.



Dan Peoples with his newly acquired 1960 Cruisers Inc. lapstrake wooden boat. I bet his son Luke is thrilled.



The top two photos above show many of the outboards that were for sale. The bottom photo shows the various parts for sale. Look behind the parts and you will see the bottom hull of the big houseboat that was still sitting in the garage.

Lunch was fantastic as you can imagine. You could have a hotdog on a bun with a topping of chili and cheese, or just mustard, whatever you



A final memory of John Platou. He usually had a stern look on his face while teaching at the "Kids Build-An-Engine" booth at the boat shows. This time he was simply messing with his helper. Check out those great smiles! John is really going to be missed.



SINCE 1966

**"The Original" Texas Chapter,
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David R. Reinhartsen, Founder**

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Upcoming Events

IMPORTANT NOTICE: The following dates are scheduled as of this printing and we hope there will not be any reason to change them; however, we may have to make unexpected changes as time progresses. If you have any questions about any given event, be sure to call and confirm before making any trip. We do not foresee any changes at this time, but it is always better to be safe than sorry. Thanks.

Spring Wet Meet at Valentine Lakeside Lodge on Lake LBJ — April 14-16, 2023

As a result of the sale of the Heart of Texas Lake Resort, our bi-annual meets at Lake LBJ have returned to Kingsland, Texas just down the road from Heart of Texas. The Valentine Lakeside Lodge is now owned by two very friendly ladies, Pat Muller and Susan Patten. Years ago, we held a meet when Valentine was owned by a problematic fellow who is no longer there for those of you who recall those days. Valentine has 7 covered boat slips which are available to be reserved. Additional boats can be tied to the docks during the days, but must be returned to their trailers at night. It is recommended that you contact the Valentine Lakeside Lodge soon if you are planning to attend this meet.

Contact Information: Susan Patten — Valentine Lakeside Lodge Telephone Number: [\(325\) 388-4418](tel:3253884418)
Address: [814 Euel Moore Drive, Kingsland, TX 78639](http://814EuelMooreDrive.com) / Website Address: valentinelakeside.com

Rescheduled 29th Annual Houston Swap Meet — November 10-12, 2023

Louis Rothermel has indicated that the work on Star Lane is progressing so well that he believes we will be able to have our 29th Annual Houston Swap Meet on the weekend of November 10th through 12th. If anything should occur to prevent us from having this upcoming meet at his shop, we will advise in future issues of Texas Chapter News.

Friday is usually the day of arrival and most individuals will show up throughout the day. Some selling and trading usually occurs, but the majority of the activity will fall on Saturday. We open at 9:00AM and Louis will provide coffee, soft drinks, and donuts on Friday morning. Lunch is usually handled by ordering burgers. We normally wrap things up by 6:00PM.

Saturday is the heart of the meet and we will start at 9:00AM. Louis will provide the usual coffee, soft drinks, and donuts. We usually order in lunch by 1:00PM from Pappas Barbecue for a \$10 per person fee for all you can eat. Throughout the day, we will be visiting, buying, selling, etc. Although you are encouraged to bring some motors for display, please help spice up the meet by bringing a motor or motors that you no longer want and any parts that you would like to share with other members. We will probably end the Saturday activity at 6:00PM.

Sunday is a work on motors day. Bring your motors if you want to clean them up or get advice on how to repair them. We will open again at 9:00AM with beverages and donuts and we will stay until 6:00PM if necessary, Lunch will probably be leftover B-B-Q. If you have never attended this meet, you do not know what you are missing. We hope to see you all there!

Contact Information: Louis Rothermel—Office Number: [\(713\) 783-6301](tel:7137836301)
Meet Address: [5910 Star Lane, Houston, TX 77057-7118](http://5910StarLane.com)