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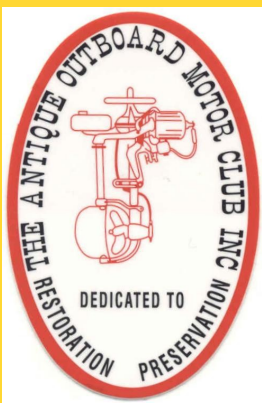
David R. Reinhartsen  
Founder



# Texas Chapter News

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## Some Surprising Changes to Our Texas Chapter Officer Lineup

By Tom Oncken

Unknown to most of us at our last wet meet held at the Valentine Lakeside Resort, Chip Rathbun visited privately with Adam Finn and informed Adam that the April 2023 meet would be the last outboard motor meet Chip would be attending. He also notified Adam that he was resigning his position as the Secretary/Treasurer of our chapter.

For those of you who do not know Chip very well, he has served in an officer's position for the Texas Chapter since January 2010. Chip became the President of our Texas Chapter in January 2010 and served in that position until the end of December 2011. When Adam Finn assumed the position of President in January 2012, Chip agreed to take the office of Secretary/Treasurer at that time and has continued to serve admirably in that position until his recent resignation..



Marilyn and Chip Rathbun at our last meet.

With Chip's departure, Adam and I were left with the responsibility of filling his position. Adam and I discussed a few prospects and then I suggested to Adam that we also look for a new Vice President. Before you say it, no I did not give my resignation at that time. My concern was that continued deterioration of my health may lead to another vacancy, and I thought it may be a good idea to find two individuals to fill Chip's position and mine so that the Texas Chapter could continue to operate without interruption over the next few years. If Adam found a pair of suitable replacements, then I would step aside as Vice President and continue to serve as the publisher of the Texas Chapter News.

Adam's search resulted in two individuals willing to serve as our new Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer. So, beginning on June 1st, Mark Betner of Montgomery, TX was appointed as Vice President and Tony Robinson of Lipan, TX was appointed as the replacement Secretary/Treasurer. Since our officers are voted upon every two years, we will have a formal vote at the Houston Swap Meet at Louis Rothermel's shop to confirm the elections of Mark and Tony. Once that is completed, Adam Finn, Mark Betner, and Tony Robinson will officially serve in their respective positions from January 2024 through December 2025.

I wish to offer our sincere thanks to Chip Rathbun for his long-time membership and the officer's positions that he has held. I would also like to encourage everyone in the Texas Chapter to drop him a "thank you" note for his many years of service. We are going to miss Chip and Marilyn very much.

# Annual Spring Wet Meet at Lake LBJ

By Tom Oncken

We held our annual spring wet meet on the weekend of April 12th through 14th in Kingsland, Texas at the Valentine Lakeside Resort. This was our second meet in a row held at Valentine since the Heart of Texas Resort closed down. As is customary, several Texas Chapter members actually came early on Thursday. They included Adam and Susie Finn, Dave and Becky Samstag, Mark and Ann Betner, as well as Glenn and Lee Seureau with son, Glenn Seureau, and their grandson, Glenn. Needless to say, they could not wait to start having some fun on the water.

Over the past few years, we have made a habit of having Friday night dinner at the Fraternal Order of Eagles located in Granite Shoals near Marble Falls. As usual, we had a very nice turnout for the dinner and the food was excellent!



22 individuals made it to dinner on Friday night. Everyone was pleased with the food as always, and if anyone left hungry, it was their own fault.

I came to the meet with Louis Rothermel during the day on Friday, so I am not sure how many boats were on the water early on Thursday, I did not get to see any of our members playing in their boats during the day on Friday either, but I am sure that there were quite a few running around on the lake. Since Louis and I were delayed by unexpected heavy traffic beginning in LaGrange all the way through Austin, we did not travel to Kingsland, but went straight to dinner in Granite Shoals on Friday. By the time we got to Kingsland, it was nighttime.

So, for Louis and me, the meet began to shape up on Saturday. There was an excellent turnout of 31 individuals over the weekend and the weather was great. Several members were out



It was clear sailing for Adam Finn as he piloted his Johnson powered Rexcraft boat across some very smooth water near our campsite.

on the lake while a few sat near their cabins and watched others who worked on some of their boats and motors. Our resident "chef" from Kingsland, Meatball Murray, showed up as usual with another one of his toys. This time he came in a beautiful vintage Cadillac which was a hit with the members on hand (see photo below).



Since I had neck surgery several years ago, I do not ride around in boats any longer. It hurts my neck just to think about bouncing on the waves. As a result, I continue to spend my time on the shore visiting with all of my Texas Chapter family and watching some of them working on a project motor or two. Morten Lovstad spent a great deal of time working on a small Evinrude outboard on Saturday. Unfortunately, he needed a few parts to complete the job and they were not readily available. Although he did not complete the work at this meet, he apparently got it running later.

If I am not mistaken, I saw a Facebook post where Morten had taken that motor to Norway and he was running it on a small wooden boat over there. Way to go, Morten!



From left to right is Bruce Miller, Tom Oncken, Morten Lovstad, Glenn Seureau, Louis Rothermel, and Lee Seureau. It was nice to relax in the shade.



Mark and Ann Betner in their vintage Mercury powered Thompson runabout. Look at that sky!

As is customary on Saturday at our spring meet, the late afternoon meal is the main treasure of the weekend. Chef Meatball again traveled to Llano and bought some fantastic steaks that he grilled on a barbeque pit. Several special ladies assisted in the dinner presentation and I cannot thank them enough for their contributions. Face



Becky Samstag and Adam Finn on the left serving guests, with Chef Meatball in the back grilling.

it guys, without their participation, our meet would not be the same. Susie Finn and Becky Samstag baked potatoes and prepared the fixin's for them. Cindy Slator brought her fantastic Cherry Cobbler and Mary Miller provided a Texas Chocolate Pan Sheet Cake for dessert. Before the meal was ready, Susie also walked around and served some sausage appetizers that had already been grilled. The sausage was handmade at the meat market and was absolutely delicious.



Guests were seated at tables that had been moved together between the cabins. It was really a very nice setting for dinner.

At the end of the meal, we had several of our members get up and give tributes to John Platou who passed away earlier this year. Darren Baird, Bruce Miller, and Adam Finn shared some stories about their experiences with John over the years.



Darren Baird presented some excellent facts about John Platou and his work with Kids-Build-a-Boat, Kids-Paint-a-Boat, and Kids-Build-an-Engine. Kids were always on top of John Platou's personal agenda.

Last, but never least, Dennis Schmidt presented several games for all of us to play following the dinner. It was an excellent ending to a fabulous gathering for dinner. I am sure that Sharon also helped put the stuff together, so thanks Sharon!

That concludes my rather brief newsletter. Our next gathering is in October, so I hope you make the trip for another great outing. See you then!



**SINCE 1966**  
"The Original" Texas Chapter,  
Antique Outboard Motor Club, Inc.  
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.

### Fall Wet Meet at Valentine Lakeside Lodge on Lake LBJ — October 13-15, 2023

Our bi-annual meets at Lake LBJ have returned to Kingsland, 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](http://valentinelakeside.com)

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

Louis Rothermel has indicated that the work on Star Lane has progressed 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.

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)