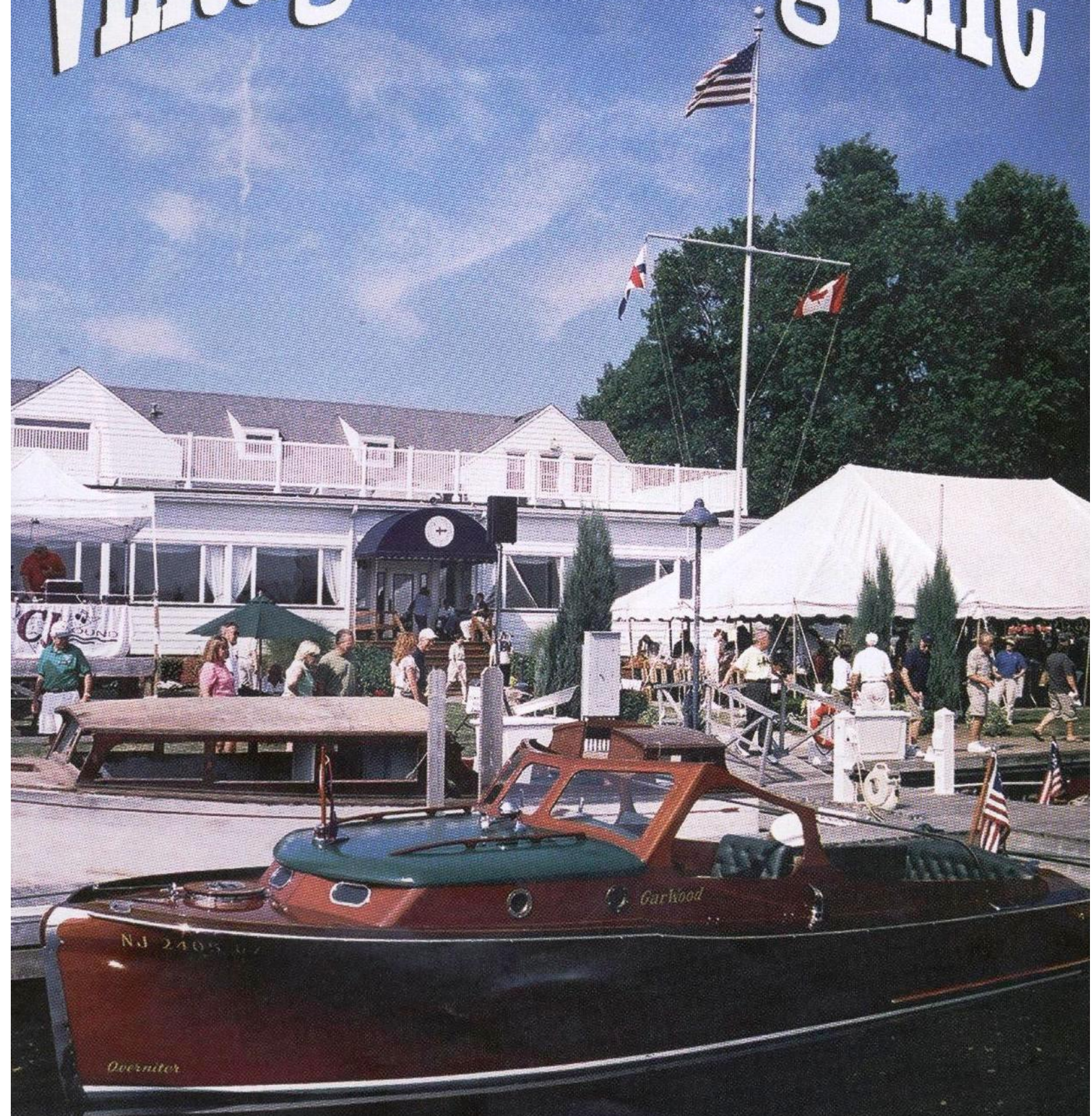
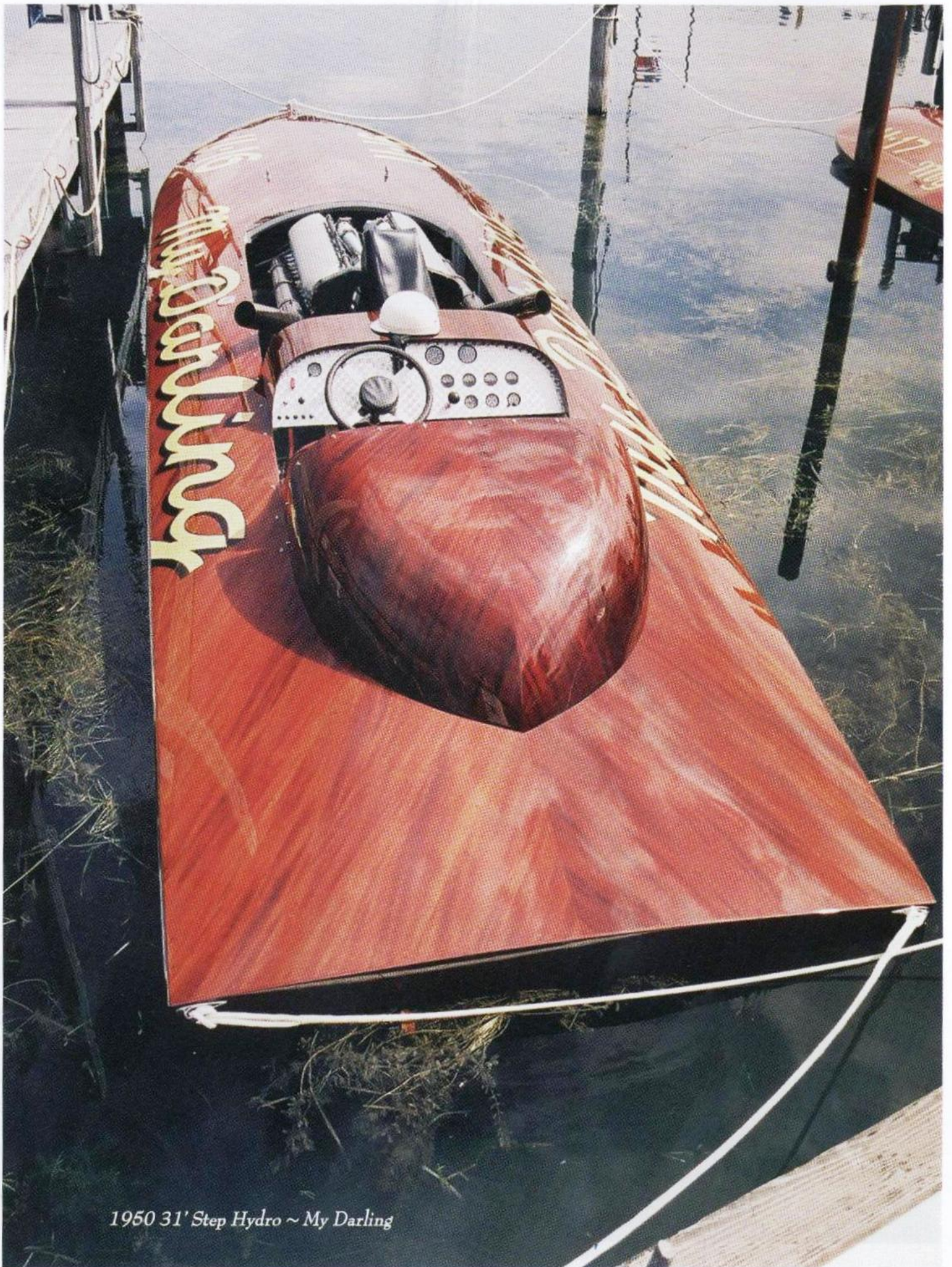


Vintage Boating Life



Issue No. 22
Autumn 2007

\$6.95 U.S. / \$8.95 CAN



1950 31' Step Hydro ~ My Darling

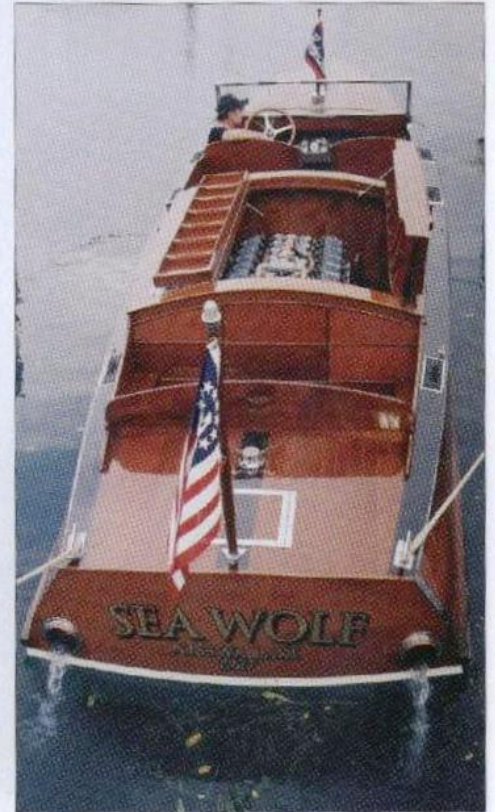
THE 30TH NIAGARA FRONTIER ANTIQUE & CLASSIC

Shuffle off
to Buffalo

BOAT SHOW & RACE BOAT REUNION



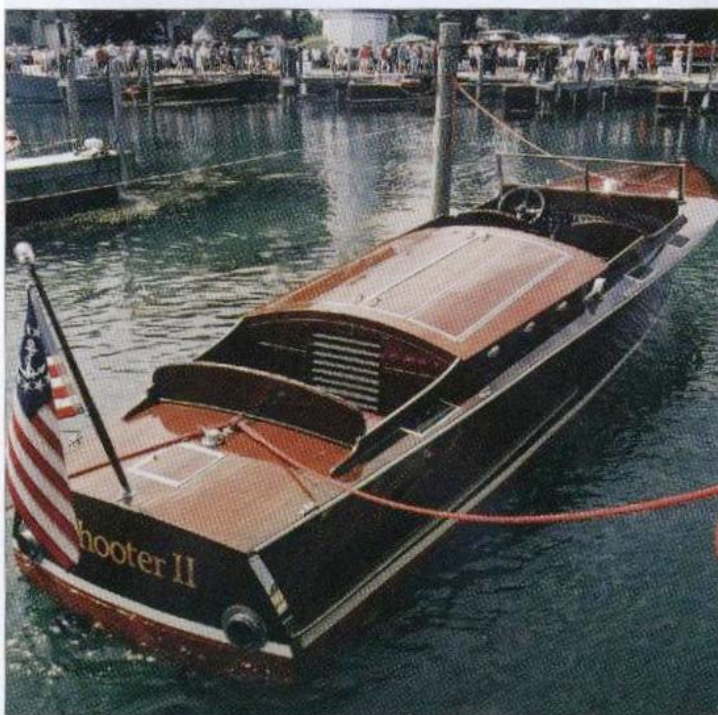
1927 33' Baby Gar ~ Red Arrow



1927 33' Baby Gar ~ Sea Wolf



1925 33' Replica Baby Gar ~ The Baby Gar V



1929 33' Baby Gar ~ Whooter II



1929 33' Replica Baby Gar ~ Victoria

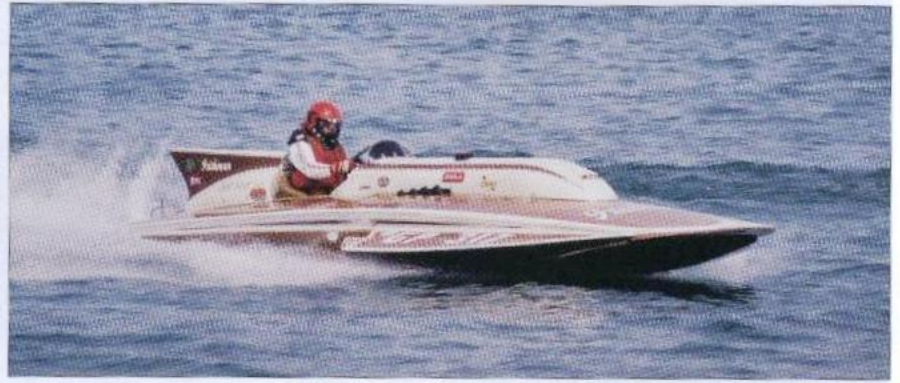
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1959 19' Chris-Craft Silver Arrow



3-Point Racing Hydroplane



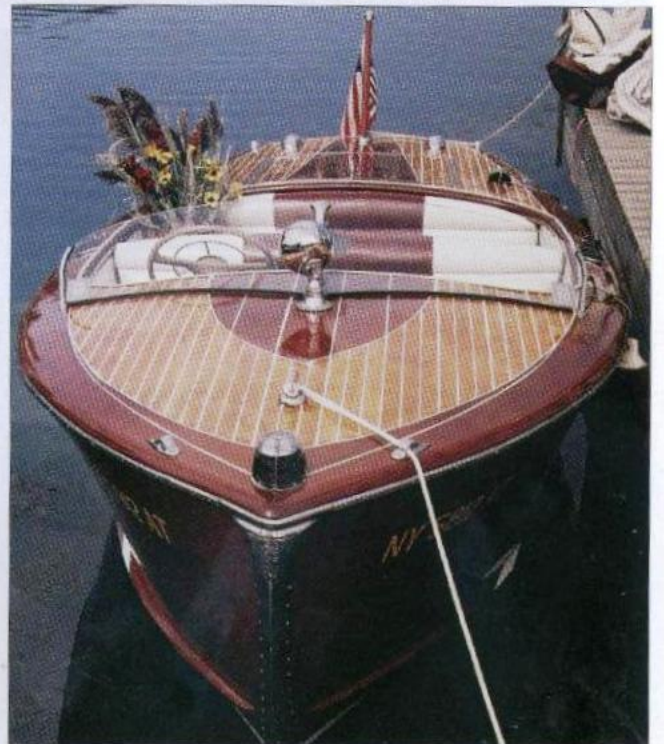
1931 18'6" Chris-Craft Racing Runabout ~ Sleeper M-2



1981 JS-88 Jersey Speed Skiff ~ Stormalong



1918 26' L.E. Fry Launch ~ Gwen



1950 20' Century Sea Maid ~ Le Baron

The Niagara Frontier Chapter of ACBS Presents Their 30th Anniversary Show

Featuring "Baby Gar"
& Ventnor Boats



Saturday,
September 8th, 2007
10AM - 4:30PM

ANTIQUUE BOAT SHOW & RACEBOAT REUNION



At the Buffalo Launch Club, Grand Island, NY



Poster Design: Dave Skibby

Photo Credits: Glennie Boating

By Bill DeGlopper

When the Buffalo Launch Club was formed in 1903 it was the first Power Boat Club in North America, if not the world, and contributed much to the sport of boat racing. The Club's 1905 Regatta marked the first formal race to be held on the Niagara River. An account of that event reported: "...the appearance of a true 'monster of the deep' and one which could knife through the water at the incredible speed of 18 miles an hour, double the best that the famous 'Arab' could deliver. The new mistress of the river was the 'Meteor', built and sailed by George and Harry Elliott."

In 1908 the Club was responsible for the first boat show ever held between New York City and Chicago and received national acclaim as the number one power boat club in United States. In the '40s and '50s the Buffalo Launch Club also receive

national and international recognition for the speed boat regattas they sponsored, which attracted the top boat drivers in the world.

The Club continued to prosper into the 1920s and the resident fleet grew in num-



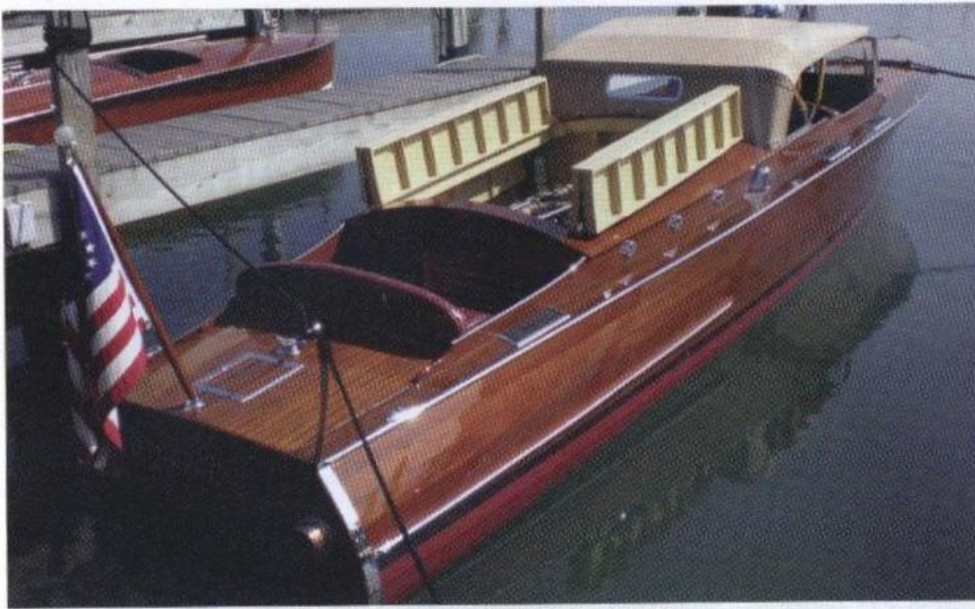
1950 31' Step Hydro ~ My Darling

bers, speed and style. The advent of the pleasure cruiser added a new dimension to social life on the river. The ability to accommodate numerous guests on extended cruises ushered in a new era of mobility, making river travel an 'in-demand' social experience. The Launch Club became a frequent stopping place for visi-

tors outside of racing season, and the Club soon became more popular than ever.

In July 1929, twenty-five of the Launch Club's fleet were destroyed by fire. The damage was estimated to be in excess of \$100,000.00. Two years later in 1931, another fire completely destroyed the 25 year-old clubhouse. Devastated by the loss, the Club was able to recover and rebuild in 1932.

In 1949, the Buffalo Launch Club hosted its first Regatta after a fourteen-year hiatus. One account of the event reported: "And indeed, it was like old times again! Throughout the first three weeks of August the riverfront bristled with excitement as powerboats zipped and zoomed, mowing great swaths in the lawn-green river of the Island. The same waters once pushed and bumped by the 'Arab', the 'Meteor', the 'Red Head' and their fellows and offspring



1927 33' GarWood Baby Gar ~ Red Arrow

were now being split down the middle and blown to pluming spray by young Trimper's 'Wild Oats', 'Mischief' and 'Baby Loon' and by a whole fleet of local swifties...."

Over the years since the revival of the Buffalo Launch Club's Regattas in 1949, there have been many others at this historic place on the Niagara River. In the modern era, the Regattas have evolved into multi-faceted, gala events; the mood and atmosphere decidedly upbeat and reminiscent of the bygone days of the Roaring '20s.

Throughout the years, The Buffalo Launch Club has been an active participant in area boating activities and established a reputation as the finest boating club on the Niagara Frontier.

The 30th annual Niagara Frontier Chapter's Antique Boat Show and Race Boat Reunion held at the Buffalo Launch Club on Grand Island was a resounding success. The show attracted 154 boats, 118 of which were of the antique variety and 36 were race boats. This year's show featured the 33' Baby Gar boats and Ventnor race and production boats.

Eight Baby Gar boats "Shuffled off To Buffalo" from their homes located in the northeast to the midwest. Six boats were in the water while 2 were land displays. This was the largest gathering of these boats to date! These boats were built from 1922-1928. During that time period only 67 were built. Originally the boats cost \$12,000 dollars and were powered by 12 cylinder

Liberty engines that yielded a boat that traveled at 60mph! Extremely fast for a boat that size and at it's time.



1937 17'7" Ventnor

It was Gar Wood that modified these aircraft engines for marine purposes and put them in his Baby Gar boats. He was truly the speed king during that era with his "Miss America" race boats. His reputation

for speed and innovations created a demand with sportsman and wealthy businessmen for his boats.

We would like to thank the following for bringing their boats to the show: Tom Mittler, 1924 with no name, Todd Warner "Baby Gar V", Jean Hoffman - "Whooter", Bob Bannister - "Victoria", Lee Anderson "Sea Wolf", Chuck Schwager - "Red Arrow", Clayton Museum - "Cicada" ("Davy Jones"), Tom & Larry Turcotte.

The show opened with six of the boats running in a V formation in front of the Launch Club. A spectator standing along side me on the dock said look at me. He showed me his arm and it was covered with goose bumps. He stood there with a great big smile on his face and said "Thank You". It was an awesome sight seeing those boats run together!

Ventnor race and production boats were also featured at the show. Peter Kreissle of Bradenton, Florida brought his 1937 Gold Cup Hydro "Juno" to the show. Peter was one of the three seminar speakers from Friday afternoon's series. He spoke about the history of his boat that was produced by the Ventnor Boat Works of New Jersey. Other Ventnor boats that attended the show included: Tom Mittler, *Gen VI* - 1938 and *Delta* -1936, Jim Hawver 1939 Hydro, Mike Taggart 1937 17', "White Dargon" from Lake George, 20' reproduction Ventnor Boat Works of Bristol Indiana.

The show kicked off on Friday afternoon with our second annual seminar series.

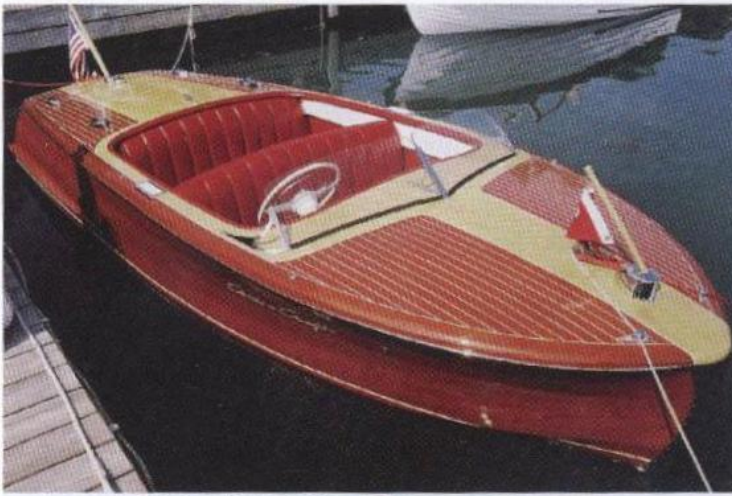


1936 Minett-Shields Hydro ~ Delta



2004 22' Replica Golden Era Classics Raceboat

Autumn 2007 - Vintage Boating Life™



1954 18' Chris-Craft Riviera ~ The Jenny

Presentations were made by Fred Alter, Tom and Larry Turcotte, and Peter Kreissle. Fred compared Gar Wood and Bernie Little, two individuals that dominated the sport of Gold Cup racing but from different eras. He shared some fascinating film footage of these individuals. The Turcotte brothers spoke on the history of the Baby Gars and distributed informative literatures on these boats.

On Friday evening we hosted our "pit party" that featured a Buffalo Menu - Wings, Pizza, and Roast Beef as well as vintage films on the big screen.

The basin was filled with a variety of manufacturers of all sizes and models, from runabouts to cruisers. Each boat was meticulously prepared for the show by their owners and glistened in the afternoon sunshine.

In front of the Launch Club vintage raceboats performed flybys with glistening roostertails and roaring engines, much to the delight of the thousands of spectators that attended the show. On land there were



1934 Pierce Arrow

various nautical displays as well as a car show that attracted 80 gorgeous vehicles carefully restored by their owners.

There was one totally unrestored boat in the water that had just been donated to the Niagara Frontier Chapter. It was a 1935, 29' Richardson built in North Tonawanda. Over the winter the club will be restoring the boat at the Buffalo State College Maritime Center. Twenty-four individuals signed up at the show to work on this project. Once completed, the boat will be on display at the new Maritime Heritage Center of WNY that will be located in the former Remington Rand Building on the Erie Canal.

The Niagara Frontier Chapter is excited about their new home, which will be a living working museum where the public can watch boats and motors being restored. It will also be a place that will display the rich boat building, engine manufacturing, and boat racing history of the Western New York area. At the show the chapter accepted the donation of a 6-cylinder Sterling Marine engine that was manufactured on Niagara Street in Buffalo. George Kreissle, of Sarasota, Florida donated this mammoth engine weighing 5100 pounds and having 4 spark plugs for each cylinder!

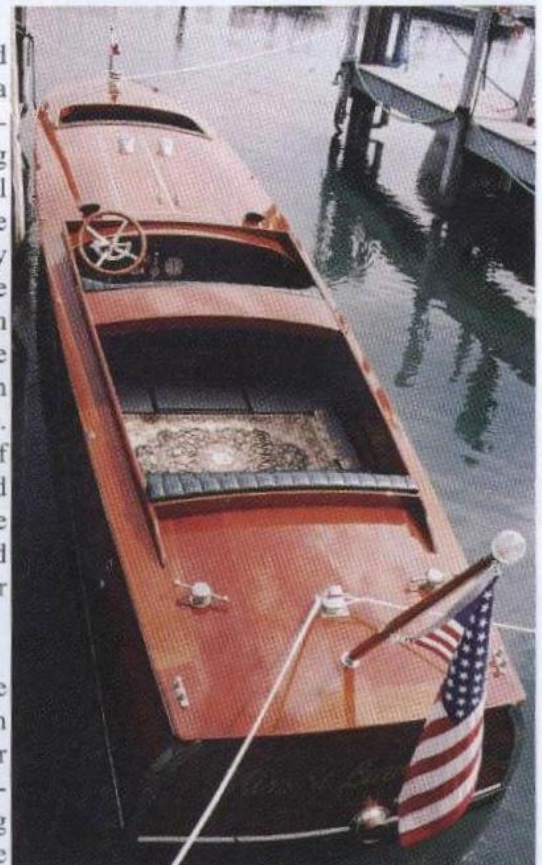
Following the show we hosted our steak and corn roast dinner. At the dinner we honored four individuals: Legends of Racing presentations were made to: Carl Wilson of Detroit



1935 29' Richardson

and Bob "Pappy" Moore of Red Bank NJ. Bill Morgan of Silver Bay was recognized for all of his contributions to the antique boat movement as well as vintage boat racing. The Bob Schroeder Award was presented to Bill and Judy Fisk of Rochester NY.

Please visit our website at www.OldBoats.Buffalo.org to view pictures of the show, follow the Richardson restoration project and find out more information regarding chapter events. Don't forget to mark your calendar for the weekend of September 5-7 2008 so you can "Shuffle Off To Buffalo."



1921 35' Cupernall ~ Miss St. Lawrence