

CLASSIC BOAT REGATTA

AUGUST 10, 2024



BUCKEYE LAKE YACHT CLUB

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE BLYC CLASSIC BOAT REGATTA

- P/C Steve Harris, BLYC Historian

In the late 1970's and early 80's, sailboat racing was king at BLYC. If one peruses old issues of the *Log*, it's easy to see that most of the Club activity at that time centered around sailboat racing and social events. There just doesn't seem that there was that much geared towards our power-boating and non-racing members. In 1981, BLYC's 75th Anniversary year, that changed...



Dan Jenkins' Matthews Cruiser at the 2012 Show

Photo by Greg Miller

It was first announced in the December, 1980 *Log* by Race & Regatta Governor Gordon Forster that a new weekend activity was being developed... "An invitational classic and antique WOODEN power and sail boat regatta." The first chairman was P/C Ed Metzgar. The entry fee was \$20 per boat and 28 boats participated. According to the post-event write-up in the *Log*...

Commodore Jim Dressel, committee members and entrants were more than pleased after launching the first, of what's hoped to be many, antique boat contest.

The weatherman cooperated by bathing the north shore area with plenty of sun, perfect to bring out the patina of lovingly cared-for mahogany, gleaming chrome and mellow brass.... Last minute scurrying before judging found them polishing hulls and wiping telltale finger and foot marks from chrome hardware and touch-me-not-decks.

In the four and a half decades that have followed, the show has certainly evolved. The name has changed, it now includes classic non-wooden boats, and each year may bring different types of boats and participants from different parts of the country. But, it doesn't sound like that much has changed. Every year since 1981, BLYC has hosted this highlight event of our summer season with the exception of 2015-2018 due to low water levels, 2020 due to the pandemic, and last season due to dock construction. And,

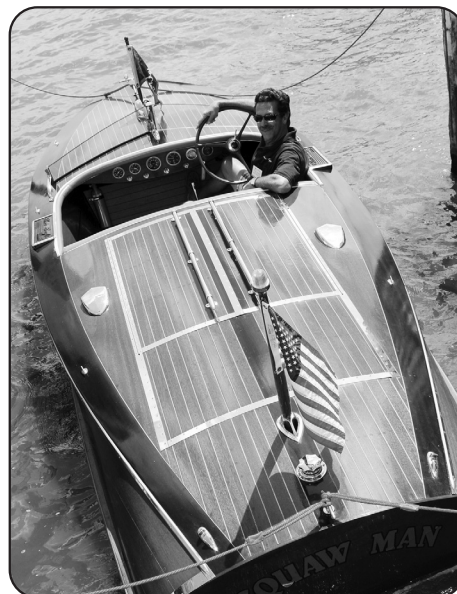
just as in that first show, nervous boat owners clean & polish and prepare their pride-and-joy crafts for the admiration of spectators.

At the 1981 event, the "Best of Show" Trophy went to Mrs. Zenna Sayre for her 1928, 26' triple cockpit Chris Craft Runabout, *Cherokee*. The First Place trophy for "Nearest to Original Condition" went to Phil Schell for a 1948 Chris Craft Sedan, *Margus II*.

Other BLYC members earning trophies in 1981 included Mrs. Nancy Benson, 1st Place "Oldest Restored," for her 1928 Chris Craft Runabout and P/C Gus Schell, "Sailboat Special Award," for his 1931 Ludke "K" Boat, *Cat's Paw*. I'm pretty sure that both boats are still around Buckeye Lake, although the years have taken their toll on *Cat's Paw*. She is one of the last "K" boats remaining of what was once one of the premier sailing fleets in this region.

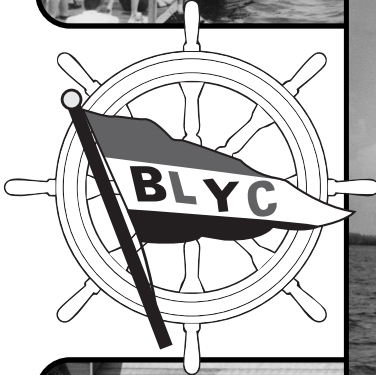
This year we again welcome the return of the Classic Boat Regatta. This year, in our newly rebuilt boat basin on Watkins Island! Just as in 1981, the primary focus will be on classic boats from Buckeye Lake, although many boats throughout the region will also participate. It will most certainly be a highlight of our summer season. We welcome back all of the great classic boats from the past and some new additions this year.

The boat show is one of only three times each year that we open our Club to the public. As stated by then chairman, P/C John Sproat, in a 1998 *Columbus Dispatch* article about our show, "This is a private club, but our mission is to promote an interest in boating and boating safety. This is a perfect opportunity for us to do that."



Tim Ryan on Squaw Man at the 2012 Show

Photo by Greg Miller



Visit us Online at
www.buckeyelakeyc.com
to learn more about BLYC's rich boating
history in our online History Archives under
the "Our Club" tab

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, August 9

3:00 pm — 6:00 pm

Registration at the Yacht Club
Launching at the North Shore Ramp

6:00 — 7:00 pm

Participant, Vendor, & Volunteer
Reception at BLYC

Saturday, August 10

9:00 am — 10:00 am

Registration at the Yacht Club
Launching at the North Shore Ramp

10:00 am — 4:00 pm

Boats on Display
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

5:00 pm

Awards Presentation
BLYC Patio

6:00 pm — 9:00 pm

Dinner & Entertainment
Love Town Mavericks

Sunday, August 11

9:00 am — Noon

Breakfast at the Yacht Club
Cruise on Buckeye Lake

Buckeye Lake Marina



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