



PRESS RELEASE

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Sail down Memory Lane with the 43rd Annual Wooden Boat Show **The longest running boat show in the Southeast set for May 6, 2016.**

BEAUFORT, NC - This year, the annual Wooden Boat Show turns 43. If people consider over 40 to be a young age, than this annual event is just getting started. The Annual Wooden Boat Show in Beaufort takes place on Saturday, May 6, 2016 at the North Carolina Maritime Museum and the Harvey W. Smith Watercraft Center.

The Annual Wooden Boat Show started in 1975 along the Morehead City waterfront as the Heritage Boat Show. The event moved to Beaufort at the home of the Hampton Mariners Museum in 1977 and has had plenty of wind in her sails ever since. But, the event was no match for the winds that came in 1985 with Hurricane Gloria. What would have been the 11th Annual show in 1985 was cancelled due sustained winds of 74mph and gusts up to 87mph. Rescheduled for the spring the following year, the boat show was held on the grounds and nearby waterfront of the newly built and re-named facility The North Carolina Maritime Museum.

Today, the Annual Wooden Boat Show is the longest ongoing wooden boat show in the Southeast. The 43rd Annual Wooden Boat Show has once again received top honors from the Southeast Tourism Society. The organization selected the North Carolina Maritime Museum's Annual Wooden Boat Show as a "Top 20 Event for the Southeast" for May 2017. This is the second year in a row the museum has received the prestigious honor for the Annual Wooden Boat Show. It is the longest ongoing wooden boat show in the Southeast

This timeline takes a look back at some of the attractions, performances and antics that have occurred since 1975.

1975 1st – The first ever Traditional Wooden Boat Show is held on the waterfront at Morehead City, North Carolina, twelve boats are featured. The event is originally titled The Heritage Boat Show.



1976 2nd – Two of the stand out boats include a 1936 Core Sounder the *Sylvia II* owned by Bob and Mary Simpson and the smaller but newer sharpie the *Idie* belonging to Charles McNeil.

1977 3rd – The show is held in Beaufort, home of the Hampton Mariners Museum, along the waterfront.

1978 4th – Two small craft used in the production of the Television mini-series ‘Roots’ are entered in the show.

1981 7th – Seventy boats in all participate this year. A 52’ Sparkman and Stephens (a yacht building firm in business since their ship *Dorada* won the 1931 Trans-Atlantic Race) yawl, *Sirena*, is the largest vessel to be displayed in the show.

1982 8th – The Hornpipe Dancers of Red Springs, North Carolina perform and 81 boats are displayed for the event. A 10’6” lapstrake yacht tender owned by Chris Stickney of Wilson’s Mills, North Carolina wins best in show. A rowing race, now a part of the annual event, is won by Emerson Willard Jr. of Wilmington, North Carolina. He competed in a 16’ dory built at Crown Point Marine in Wilmington.

1983 9th – Held September 24th and 25th a 17’ Whitehall rowboat owned by Allen J. Park Jr. from Statesville, North Carolina wins best in show.

1985 What would have been the 11th Annual show is cancelled due to Hurricane Gloria. On September 27th a downgraded Gloria struck the southern portion of Hatteras Island. Buxton, North Carolina reported sustained winds of 74mph and gusts to 87mph while offshore at the Diamond Shoals light wind gusts reached 120mph, much better than the strong Category four it once was.

1986 12th – The re-scheduled event is held June 7th and 8th on the grounds and nearby waterfront of the newly built and re-named facility The North Carolina Maritime Museum. A Sunday picnic with watermelon is held on Bird Shoals. John Woltz of Greensboro, North Carolina wins the sailing regatta in a 1952 moth class boat.

1989 15th – A demonstration on building a dug- out canoe, similar to how early Native Americans would have constructed them, takes place outside of the Museum.

1991 17th – Demonstrations by the boatbuilding programs of Pamlico Community College and Cape Fear Community College take place at the event. A 20’ Core Sound sharpie, built by Gary Davis of Harkers Island and owned by Erik Lie-Nielsen of New Bern, wins best in show. Jim Brown of Bridgeton, North Carolina wins the regatta in his 10’ spindrift dinghy.



1994 20th – Best in show and first in the sailing race goes to Tom Lathrop’s Windmill the *Harbinger*.

1995 21st – There is a homecoming for a 1982 15’ Whitehall built by the late Master Boatbuilder and Skills Preservation Program Instructor Geoffrey Scofield. Two new events take place during the event, a first ever Traditional Small Craft Association race around Carrot Island and the newly formed Carolina Maritime Model Society displays over two dozen boat models. Also present was Down East decoy carver/historian Roy Willis, giving demonstrations on carving. Best in show goes to a 19’ two mast sharpie the *Sharbeau* built by Museum staff and volunteers.

1996 22nd – Boats registered in the show come from as far away as New York and Florida. First place in the Taylors Creek race goes to *Spindrifft* owned by Graham Barnes. The Carrot Island race is won by Bill Kwaak in a Rochford class dinghy.

1998 24th – The oldest vessel, a 16’ early 1930’s Chris Craft *Fan Fair* owned by Raymond Jason of Beaufort, is displayed in the show. A 1962 spritsail skiff, the *Ruth II*, built by Julian Guthrie participates in the race from Harkers Island to Beaufort. Best in show is awarded to the *Silver Chalice*, a ships boat of the replica vessel *Elizabeth II*, built by Michael Alford and Geoffrey Scofield.

1999 25th – Best in show goes to a Nutshell Pram, the *Water Lily*, built by Julie Powers of Beaufort in one of the classes offered at the Museum’s Watercraft Center.

2002 28th – Best in show is awarded to *Sea Marie*, a 1950 16’ lapstrake day sailor owned by Ken Kaiser of Smyrna, North Carolina. The boat was restored by Dave Wilcox of Pelican Yachts in Smyrna. Brent Creelman of Beaufort wins the sailing race in *Captain Kelley*.

2003 29th – A 1948 17’ Chris Craft, the *Dish*, owned by William Poole of Raleigh, North Carolina wins best in show. Winners of the spritsail race are the team of Brent Creelman and Mark Stevens.

2005 31st – Special guest Roy Underhill, of the UNC-TV produced show *The Woodwright’s Shop*, speaks at the opening ceremony of this year’s boat show. He also participates in many of the activities offered that weekend. Best in show is awarded to a 28’ sharpie, the *Jayne Ellen*, owned by Tommy Nicholson of Greensboro, North Carolina.

2006 32nd – Best in show is awarded to a 14’ melonseed skiff built by Brush Creek Yachts of Plymouth, North Carolina. Over the past few years more and more categories to be judged are added to the show, best row, best paddle, best power, best sail and people’s choice are just a few.



2008 34th – A boatbuilding challenge, sponsored by the Mohring Group AV Mill Outlet, coincides with the Maritime Museums Wooden Boat Show. In this National Boatbuilding Challenge teams of two must compete to build a 12' row boat within four hours. Music performances included Molasses Creek of Ocracoke and the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing Band of Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point.

2009 35th – Father and son team, Skip and Sharp Kemp, of Morehead City win the 2nd Annual Boatbuilding Challenge. They went on to compete in the National Championship event held in Georgetown, South Carolina.

2010 36th – Best in show is awarded to *Cumulative Errors* by Syd Chipman of Lenoir, North Carolina.

2011 37th – Heber Guthrie, nephew of locally renowned Harkers Island boatbuilder Julian Guthrie, demonstrates traditional boatbuilding techniques used in making a 24' flat bottomed skiff. Traditional Down East working boat models by James Allen Rose of Harkers Island are put on display in the Museum. Harkers Island Elementary School students enter a 13' rowing skiff. A boat by Mason Cox Jr. takes home best in show. The spritsail race is won by Brent Creelman.

2012 38th – Best in show is awarded for the second year in a row to Mason Cox Jr. for *Trinoe*, an 11'9" boat. Smyrna Elementary School students enter a 15½' rowing skiff as a school project. Brent Creelman takes first in the spritsail race around Carrot Island.

2013 39th – Some longstanding North Carolina boat builders were represented this year with participants registering a select few and some from the Museum collection as well. The list included; an Albemarle Shad boat (the state boat of North Carolina!) from Roanoke Island, Bob Simpsons always present Core Sounder the *Sylvia II*, a Carolina custom from Willis Boatworks of Harkers Island, a 1955 Simmons Sea Skiff from the Cape Fear region, two 1953 vessels from Barbour Boats out of New Bern, a 1965 Harkers Island Skiff by Rose Brothers restored by Gillikin Boatworks and one of Heber Guthrie's spritsail skiffs. Best in show is awarded to a 24'4" Ken Hankinson Tahoe run-about, *Legend Has It*, by Gerald Hurst of Jacksonville, North Carolina. Longstanding champion of the spritsail race is once again Brent Creelman, with teammate Jim Zaradke.

2014 40th – Fifty-two boats are entered in the show; Kevin Leiner's boat *About Time!* gets the Captain's Choice award and Harry and Rita Warren's boat *Le Soleil* picks up the Best in Show Award, both boats are restored 18' Chris Craft classics. There are eleven classes of boats that win awards. Brent Creelman once again swept the sailing races.



2015 41st – The 41st Annual Wooden Boat Show was selected as a “Top 20 Event for the Southeast” by the Southeast Tourism Society. Grayden Paul won Best in Show for at the Carolina Maritime Model Exposition with his model of Sail Training Ship Esmeralda. The People Choice award went to Gerald Hurst for Legend Has It... The Capatain's Choice award went to John Tinney for his 1943 Core Sound Sharpie Karen. Joe Peacos captured the Best of Show with his 1961 Barbour vacationer

2016 42nd – The Spectator's Choice Award for the Carolina Maritime Model Exposition went to Don Kritsch for his boat Spirit of the Mississippi.. The People’s Choice Award went to Gerald Hurst of Jacksonville, NC, for his boat Legend Has It . . . The Captain’s Choice Award went to Ryan and Kim Gadow of Durham, NC, for their 1940 Chris-Craft Cruiser, Ole Chris. The Best of Show Award went to John Tinney of Wilmington, NC, for his Round Stern Core Sounder, Karen.

2017 43rd – The 43rd Annual Wooden Boat Show is scheduled for Saturday, May 6, 2017. It is the longest ongoing wooden boat show in the Southeast. For the third year in a row, the Annual Wooden Boat Show was selected as a “Top 20 Event for the Southeast” by the Southeast Tourism Society.

About the North Carolina Maritime Museum in Beaufort

The North Carolina Maritime Museum in Beaufort reflects coastal life and interprets lighthouses and lifesaving stations, the seafood industry, motorboats, and more. Studies in marine life, science, and ecology are available for all ages. The Beaufort museum is the repository for artifacts from Blackbeard’s wrecked flagship, *Queen Anne’s Revenge*, among them cannons, grenades, belt buckles and beads. The Harvey W. Smith Watercraft Center teaches boatbuilding for all ages.

The North Carolina Maritime Museum in Beaufort is open Monday thru Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The museum is open to the public with free admission. Donations are always appreciated.

The North Carolina Maritime Museum system is comprised of the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum in Hatteras, the North Carolina Maritime Museum at Beaufort and the North Carolina Maritime Museum at Southport. All three museums are part of the Division of State History Museums in the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

The North Carolina Maritime Museum is located at 315 Front Street, Beaufort, NC 28516. For more information, call 252-728-7317 or visit www.ncmaritimemuseumbeaufort.com.



About the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

The N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (NCDNCR) is the state agency with a vision to be the leader in using the state's natural and cultural resources to build the social, cultural, educational and economic future of North Carolina. The mission of NCDNCR is to improve the quality of life in our state by creating opportunities to experience excellence in the arts, history, libraries and nature in North Carolina by stimulating learning, inspiring creativity, preserving the state's history, conserving the state's natural heritage, encouraging recreation and cultural tourism, and promoting economic development.

NCDNCR includes 27 historic sites, seven history museums, two art museums, two science museums, three aquariums and Jennette's Pier, 39 state parks and recreation areas, the N.C. Zoo, the nation's first state-supported Symphony Orchestra, the State Library, the State Archives, the N.C. Arts Council, State Preservation Office and the Office of State Archaeology, along with the Division of Land and Water Stewardship. For more information, please call 919-807-7300 or visit www.ncdcr.gov.

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