



North Coast Ohio “Beacon”

November 2025

“FROM THE HELM”

As the very busy 2025 boating season winds down, NCO has a number of events to look forward to before '26 begins. The next board meeting will be at the New Era Restaurant, 10 Massillon Road, Akron, Tuesday November 11, gathering at 5:30 – 6:00 pm for dinner and a meeting. Brian and Christy Morgan have just returned from a 31 day trip starting in Alaska and then cruising down the west coast to Panama and through the canal to end at Miami Florida. Brian will give us a review of that amazing trip.

Also coming up is the December Annual Meeting. You will be receiving a mailed invitation which includes the ballot for Officers and Directors to be elected at the meeting. Save the date for Saturday Dec. 6, beginning at 11am – 2:00 pm at the Turkeyfoot Island Club which will be all decorated for the holidays. Your guests are welcome to attend.

At the annual meeting I will review all the things our chapter has done over the year. What is obvious is that NCO members are very active in attending shows and other chapters' events (See Dan Ritchey's recap of the River Roots Festival in Cincinnati), as well as our informative meetings. We will also give out awards which is always entertaining.

Another date to save is the big celebration of the 50th annual Portage Lakes Antique and Classic Boat Show, Saturday August 22, 2026. The club will go all out to make this boat show one to remember.

Hope to see you all soon.

- Gil Maringer, President

Report from America's River Roots Festival in Cincinnati, OH

By Dan Ritchey

The America's River Roots Festival took place October 8-12, 2025, along the riverfronts of Cincinnati, Ohio and Northern Kentucky (Covington & Newport). The festival featured nine majestic riverboats from seven historic river-cities, offering brunch and dinner cruises, and other themed riverboat events. Riverboats in attendance were the NATCHEZ (New Orleans, LA), Belle of Louisville (Louisville, KY), Mary M. Miller (Louisville, KY), Celebration Belle (Moline, IL), Belle of Memphis (Memphis, TN), Three Rivers Queen (Pittsburgh, PA), Anson & Betsy Northrup (St. Paul / Minneapolis, MN), Belle of Cincinnati (Cincinnati, OH), and the River Queen (Cincinnati, OH).

The Ohio Valley chapter of the ACBS was invited to join in the celebration with our antique and classic boats. Roughly 40 wood boats participated in the 5-day event with some traveling from just as far away as the riverboats. Boats arrived on Wednesday and could be spotted cruising on the Ohio river. As a safety precaution, law enforcement closed the river to the public. ACBS participants were issued special River Roots Festival burgees that had to be displayed at all times and gave us unlimited access to the closed river.

Thursday was the official kickoff of the riverboat cruises and the opening ceremonial parade to mark the arrival of the famous riverboats. ACBS boats traveled 7 miles downriver from our home base of the Manhattan Marina where we met up with the riverboats west of Cincinnati. ACBS boats were assigned to each "corner" of the 9 river boats, and then we escorted the boats in a parade back to town. That evening, folks cruised upriver for dinner at one of Cincinnati's waterside dining establishments.

Friday, while the riverboats were having their brunch cruises and other events, the Ohio Valley chapter held a river poker run. ACBS boats launched from the marina at 9am and raced to multiple riverfront establishments over the course of the day for food, drinks and to draw a card at each stop. Upon return to the marina, we compared cards to see who drew the best poker hand. Some lucky passenger that day won himself a handsome sum of \$500.

Saturday was possibly the busiest day for the festival and entailed yet another parade. We gathered outside the marina and paraded in single file 7 miles downriver along the Kentucky shoreline past festival goers. We then turned and paraded 7 miles back upriver along the Ohio shoreline. As we passed the main festival on the banks of Cincinnati organizers announced information on each of the ACBS boats to the crowd. Saturday night was capped with a fantastic dinner for the ACBS crew at the historic rooftop revolving restaurant "Eighteen" atop the Raddison Hotel in Covington, KY.

Sunday brought the long-awaited race between the riverboats Natchez and Celebration Belle, and the Natchez and the Belle of Louisville. Although we had to depart Sunday morning, the ACBS was scheduled to escort the riverboats during the races and then participate in the closing ceremonies parade. We had a fantastic time at the festival, and the Ohio Valley chapter was beyond welcoming and an absolute pleasure to get to know. We're so thankful to them for allowing us to join in the festivities!

Pictures on following pages





ACBS boats out enjoying the Ohio river.



Parade is underway as the ACBS boats escort the riverboats back to town.



Belle of Louisville (Louisville, KY)



NATCHEZ (New Orleans, LA)



Mary M. Miller (Louisville, KY)



One of the greatest city skylines all lit up.

For Sale - 1927 Old Town Canoe - 18-foot Guide model.

All original wood, seat caning, keel, HID and name plate. Professionally refurbished stretched canvas finished with original “Old Town Green” marine paint. Original build/order papers. Excellent condition, well-cared for boat, stored indoors. Asking \$2,500. Pickup Senecaville, Ohio. Contact Toni Kellar, 740-260-3587.

Here’s the link to the Facebook Marketplace listing: <https://www.facebook.com/share/17KZEtC1aa/>

And a listing on the Wooden Canoe Heritage Association website:

<https://www.woodencanoe.org/classifieds/1927--old-town--canoe>



**NORTH COAST OHIO CHAPTER
ANTIQUE AND CLASSIC BOAT SOCIETY
----- 2025 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS -----**

November	11	Monthly Board meeting: New Era Restaurant, Akron
December	6	Annual Board meeting/election of officers

(All events will be confirmed in future Beacon Newsletters)