



North Coast Ohio “Beacon”

October 2026

‘FROM THE HELM’

I hope you all enjoy the excellent article written by Mike Hakes about the 100 year celebration of Century Boats in Manistee, Michigan. Mike along with Dan and Ashley Richey’s photos take us to the show but more importantly show us what the hobby is all about – Friends enjoying beautiful boats and beautiful places.

NCO Chapter was also well represented at the ACBS International in Port Huron, Michigan and I hope you all followed the daily photos posted on Woodyboater and the weekly messages from headquarters. Randy Hart had his platinum award winning 1947 25’ Chris Craft Express Red and White cruiser “Another Nickel” there and even piloted his 1936 Matthews 38’ Twin cabin cruiser “Nigel’s Launch” all the way across Lake Erie from Sandusky to and from the show. John and Kim Vorhies also received a platinum award for their beautiful 1988 20’ Elite Craft, “Elite”. A number of other chapter members also attended the show including Sylvia Chappel and Nick and Mayura Pierson. Enjoy some photos submitted by Kim Vorhies on the next page.





It's not too late to plan on bringing your boat to the Atwood Lake Fall Festival. This is a nice one day land display event that has lots to see and do and helps promote our chapter. Just let Dan know if you will attend.

Also please note there will be a chapter club meeting on Monday November 9th at the Canal Grille in Canal Fulton. Gathering at 5:30pm with meeting starting at 6pm. A number of our members have made some extensive trips this summer and it would be fun to hear about their travels. Guests and potential new members are welcome.

Gil Maringer, President

A Thoroughbred Roundup to Remember – The 100th Anniversary of the Century Boat Company

By Mike Hakes

2026 was a very special year for the annual “Thoroughbred Roundup” boat show in Manistee, Michigan, as it marked the 100th anniversary of the Century Boat Company. As a brief history, the Century Boat Company was founded in 1926 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin by brothers William and James Welch. Their goal was to build a simple wood-planked hull designed for speed. Like many boat builders of this era, the beginnings were humble and the growth was rapid. In 1928, the company relocated to Manistee, Michigan in pursuit of abundant timber and labor. It was in Manistee that the company experienced remarkable growth, and by 1930, over 1,000 boats had been produced. Many early Century models set official world speed records, certainly helping fuel the growth trajectory. Century did its part supporting the war effort during the late 1930’s and early 1940’s, ultimately delivering over 3,600 patrol boats to the US Army.

The late 1950’s and much of the 1960’s represented the height of success for the Century Boat Company. During this time, the company offered numerous models, routinely associated with futuristic looks, strong performance, renowned quality, and a strong dealer network throughout the United States and beyond. The final wood boat was produced at the Manistee facility in the fall of 1967, as production switched to fiberglass. This led to more than a decade of continued success, with Century selling popular models including Coronado, Arabian, and Resorter almost as fast as they could make them!

In 1983, all Century boat production was moved to a new facility in Panama City, Florida, marking the end of a long, successful run in Manistee. In 1990, Century was acquired by General Marine Partners, and acquired again in 1995 by Yamaha, the sole supplier of outboard motors for Century boats at that time. In 2012, Yamaha sold Century to Allcraft Marine, based in Dade City, Florida. Allcraft revived the brand with a line of saltwater fishing vessels. Ultimately, fierce competition took its toll, and in early 2025, Allcraft filed for bankruptcy. This resulted in a court-approved sale to American Nautical Holdings (also in Florida), which has maintained limited production of fishing-oriented watercraft. Plans are in the works for several new models - in an effort to keep the marquee Century name alive and well for years to come.

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Century Boat Company, Thoroughbred Roundup show organizers wanted to obtain 100 Century boats in Manistee, Michigan – a lofty goal by any measure! Hard work and determination paid off, however, as a total of 104 antique and classic Century boats converged on Manistee in early September to produce what was the largest gathering of this brand of boat in history. And it was a sight to behold!

The journey began on Wednesday, September 9th as Bonnie and I met up with fellow NCO club members and Century owners Dan and Ashley Ritchey and caravanned up to Manistee. Though we traveled through a fair amount of rain, I’m delighted to report that this trip did NOT result in any truck – deer collisions for the Hakes Family! Once in Manistee, the fun-filled long weekend officially began!

Thursday, September 10th offered a few noteworthy pre-show activities, as well as ample opportunity to simply go boating. And that we did! Bonnie and I enjoyed ripping around Manistee Lake in our **1972 Century Resorter 18 “Class” of ’72** alongside several of our Century Boat Club (CBC) friends. Unfortunately, due to high winds and rough seas, our boating was limited to Manistee Lake and the Manistee Channel, a roughly 1.5-mile stretch that connects Manistee Lake with Lake Michigan. Today’s activities culminated with an evening reception at *The Wander In* restaurant on Manistee Lake. This was a great opportunity to meet and mingle with other CBC members, and a fun time was had by all. Like many other CBC members, we boated to the reception in Dan and Ashley’s **1948 Century Sea Maid “Triple Crown”**. Throughout the day, it’s hard to describe the amazing sight of literally dozens of old Century boats cruising around at any given time. Truly a sight to behold!

On Friday, September 11th, we had the opportunity to tour the Manistee North Pier Lighthouse, which had never before been open to the public. For decades, this beacon provided guidance to mariners coming to and going from the deep-water port of Manistee. In the afternoon, we boarded the 65-foot Island Princess sightseeing ship for a group cruise on Manistee Lake and Lake Michigan. While everyone had a great time, the rough swells of Lake Michigan ultimately shortened the sightseeing tour. The evening of September 11th was punctuated with a Welcome Reception and tour of the **Thoroughbred Boat Company** in Manistee, a luxury performance boat manufacturer founded in 2020 in a very deliberate effort to bring boat building back to Manistee more than 30 years after Century left. Handcrafted Thoroughbred boats focus on modern engineering paired with vintage aesthetics modeled after historic, legendary brands like Century, Chris-Craft, GarWood, and Hacker-Craft. Touring the facility provided an intimate look at how these boats are made and how they pay tribute to the aforementioned classics. This welcome reception included a great barbeque style dinner, and everyone had a great time.

The big day of course was Saturday, September 12th – boat show day! The epicenter of the show was the Manistee Municipal Marina, located on the Manistee Channel between Manistee Lake and Lake Michigan. The show featured 70 Century boats in the water, and 34 on land. Virtually every model of Century was represented, spanning much of the company's 100-year history. These boats came from every corner of the United States – from as far away as Priest Lake, Idaho! The oldest boat on display was a **1926 Century Kid**, owned by CBC president and founding member Tommy Holmes. It is literally the only known surviving example of this model. The show featured numerous wood and fiberglass examples of Coronado, Arabian, Resorter, Sea Maid, Ski Fury, Sabre, and others – each perfectly restored or preserved. Thousands of spectators descended on Manistee to witness this broad display of Century history, including men and women who once worked for Century in Manistee! And the beautiful weather made this day even more memorable.

The day wrapped up with the Awards Dinner and Reception at the Little River Casino Resort Hotel in Manistee. This event included a slideshow covering the history of the Century Boat Company, a display of Century memorabilia, an excellent buffet dinner, and a formal awards presentation. I was honored to receive the award for *Longest Continual Running of a Century Boat*, meaning that my boat has been in continual use / service (in my case, 54 years) and has never been laid up, stored, or otherwise out of service for any period of time. As most of you know, my Resorter 18 was purchased new by my father in 1972, and it has been running strong every year since.

Sunday, September 13th brought the end of the great weekend and the journey home. Once again caravanning with Dan and Ashley Ritchey, we left Manistee with a strong appreciation of Century's 100-year history and enough memories to last a lifetime!

For a full video of the show, click here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ZGNcsrCzjE>



Dan & Ashley Ritchey – 1948 Century Sea Maid – cruising in the Manistee Channel.



Mike & Bonnie Hakes – 1972 Century Resorter 18 – ripping around Manistee Lake.



Cruising the Manistee Channel on our way to the reception at *The Wander In*.



Letting the Thoroughbreds run across Manistee Lake.



Manistee North Pier Lighthouse; Lake Michigan in the background.



The Princess Cruise on Manistee Lake and Lake Michigan.



There were 70 Antique & Classic Century Boats in the water! As an FYI, the apartment building across the channel is the actual site where the Century Boat factory once stood.



More boats in the water....



Crowds of visitors were strong throughout the entire day.



Triple Crown making her Thoroughbred Roundup debut! It was Sea Maid galore at the Roundup. Also, the Teddy Bear sunning himself on Bye-Bye Freddy was hit with the spectators!



The coveted (and rare!) Blue Arabian. Always an attention-getter!



Apparently, this guy was serious about his boat not getting stolen.... Lol!



A total of 44 boats made up the land display. So much to see, with Century's everywhere!



At the Thoroughbred Boat Company Welcome Reception. A new 2026 model – the U23i. Truly a stunning, high-performance boat. But be warned: you’ll need your Gold card AND your Platinum card (and likely more!) to acquire this beauty....



Century Boat Club Members and Friends at the Awards Dinner. Pictured clockwise from left: Dan Ritchey {Ashley was taking the picture}, ACBS North Coast Ohio Chapter, 1948 Century Sea Maid; Shawn & Rhonda Howell, ACBS Indiana Chapter, 1984 Century Resorter 18; Larry Grachan, ACBS Blackhawk Chapter (Chicagoland / Norther Illinois), 1972 Century Resorter 18 (the “twin” of Mike’s boat); Jon & Theresa Brooks, ACBS Iowa Chapter, 1974 Century Ski Fury; and Bonnie & Mike Hakes, ACBS North Coast Ohio Chapter, 1972 Century Resorter 18.

[Find us online at northcoastohio-acbs.org/](http://northcoastohio-acbs.org/)



Your NCO crew represented at the 2026 Thoroughbred Roundup in Manistee, Michigan.

**NORTH COAST OHIO CHAPTER
ANTIQUe AND CLASSIC BOAT SOCIETY
----- 2026 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS -----**

October	4	Atwood Lake Fall Festival
November	9	Monthly club meeting @ Canal Grille at 6pm. Doors open at 5:30pm.
December	5	Annual Meeting at Turkeyfoot Island Club

(All events will be confirmed in future Beacon Newsletters)

A **FREE BOAT and TRAILER** has been offered to any deserving member or someone who knows someone who would like a “Project Boat” that had a lot of work already done to it. The boat is a 1958 Chris Craft 18’ Sea Skiff that has a unique Chrysler six cylinder engine that has a closed cooling system. The boat comes with a decent trailer and was in the Portage Lakes show 6 or 7 years ago. The owner is Dave Ross from the Kenmore area of Akron and can be reached at 330-310-7283.