

Boat Show Comments – June 2020

The following comments are a result of attending numerous Quarterly and Interim Board Meetings and almost all of the Annual Meetings held in the last twenty years. Following are some observations and a closing comment for the future.

Choosing a location for any Board Meeting is always a challenge relative to overnight accommodations including group dinners, meeting room accommodations and local areas of interest to the attendees.

Those in attendance at these Meetings tend to view them as social opportunities as well as addressing the business agenda at hand. This social thing is obviously driven by the fact that in our normal lives, most of us are physically distant from each other. Thus, discounting the concern for a Business Meeting, many attendees look forward to a Meeting to “visit with friends” they don’t regularly see all year long.

I’ve attended some “Quarterly Meetings” not held at an ACBS Boat Show Venue where the crowd present easily entered three figures. These Meetings were held at venues which were a drawing card within themselves, for example, San Diego Harbor, St Simon’s Island, Mystic Harbor, CT, Port Townsend, WA, Toronto, CAN.

I suggest that the repetition of an Annual Meeting in combination with an Annual Boat Show is getting old! All of us regularly attend regional boat shows and the occasional one that is out of our normal travel range. What’s the attraction of going back every few years to a to a venue where we’ve previously been just because that venue facilitates another Antique – Classic Boat Show! This is particularly the case when it can entail travel costs that get into four figures. We’ve certainly become knowledgeable of the strain in locating a Boat Show Harbor site, with a Meeting and Lodging facility and with an ACBS Chapter of work horses, all of which are required for a National Meeting and International Boat Show.

I suggest the ACBS Board consider having The International Boat Show bi-annually or tri-annually. Further I suggest in between International Boat Shows, Annual Meetings and the occasional Quarterly Meeting be held at venues and locations that have an attraction draw fitting our ACBS members life style and is a venue that the member might not normally have the opportunity to go to. New Orleans, Key West, Vancouver, BC, Dallas Texas, Washington DC, San Francisco, CA, etc. etc.

If you consider that ACBS membership on average is a male thing, I’m sure the venue for an Annual Meeting I’m suggesting would be well received by female spouses. Not to mention ACBS Members might bring along friends that were not ACBS members because of the attractiveness of the venue.

Financially, there could be a plus to this kind of planning, a profit margin rather than a loss or breakeven! Additionally, commissioned professional trip planners could be retained for much of the logistics easing the workload on the Board and Executive Staff.

Good Luck with this one. I’m sure my thoughts will contribute to some lively conversation.

Tim, thank you for your quick response. I must admit when I first read your note this weekend my thoughts first went to more of a major review of the Boat Show, as in, is the Show any longer in ACBS's future, not just future dates. With that relief on my end, I do have some thoughts regarding future dates:

By canceling CDA this year and moving it to 2025 I think accomplishes two things. First, none of the other locations are disrupted for the next 3 or 4 years, leaving everyone else including ACBS the ability to move forward as planned without interruption. This, assuming the bug is no longer around by next year. Second, it has always been my opinion that returning to CDA for the fourth time may be a negative for many of our members. The longer we wait between visits may be better for all. The downside, we are not visiting the west coast in the sequencing we try to accomplish.

Some food for thought:

I believe there are two additional venues that deserve attention and review. Although, the local Chapters are somewhat concerned and fearful if they become sponsors, they are responsible for the planning and execution of the meeting and show. I believe ACBS can quell those fears if there is interest in these locations.

Cedar Point, North Coast Ohio Chapter. I have had numerous conversations with this Chapter in the past, but have not done a site visit or a due diligence report.

Tavares, Sunnyland Chapter. I have done a site visit with the Mission Inn but have not done a due diligence visit or report. I think this location has real potential for a very successful event.

Please let me know if you have any questions or would like any further discussion.

To reinforce our telephone conversation a few weeks ago. I am disappointed in the board's decision to cancel the event in Coeur d' Alene in September 2020 but I understand the complexity's presented with the Covid 19 pandemic. However I feel strongly that the event should be rescheduled for September 2021 in Idaho. It would be unfair to all of in the west not to mention the Inland Empire chapter. The whole idea behind having the annual meeting and boat show at different places around the US and Canada is so all members are afforded the opportunity to attend at a fairly close location. To schedule the meeting and show for 2021 on the east coast or midwest would be a disservice to the members in the west. As you know a considerable amount of work and expense has been done and paid to have the 2020 event in Coeur d' Alene and I am sure these folks are not happy with the cancelation but to bypass them in 2021 would be upsetting and very very unfair.

Good morning!

I sure hope the board will consider Coeur d' Alene for the 2021 International show location. Our team put a lot of time and effort in the planning process and it would be unfair to just pass over the Inland Empire Chapter as the host for the 2021 show.

Thanks for the update. As we discussed, our chapter is fine with whatever outcome your committee decides on.

May I suggest consideration to have 2 shows, West & East. Considering the breadth and depth of membership, this may increase involvement of those who have troubles justifying the cost to reach one singular expensive location. I'm not suggesting a low cost venue, but rather, two great locations that may help in increasing reach and cooperation.

My comment to the future schedule is to keep it as is, pushed out one year. Or as a minimum keep the show in Coeur d'Alene for 2021. Three-part reason; First the 20K penalty for not rescheduling the show in CDA. Second; it is time again to have a show on the west side of the country after 3 years in central and eastern side of the US. No other shows on the schedule is planned for the west coast. Third; the local chapter(s) are willing to postpone their show to 2021, and their efforts and planning are not put to waste.

Further, if there is a covid-19 concern in September 2021, the layout of the docks in CDA allows for "one way traffic" and social distance management is possible. Less important to me is the schedule for 2022-2025. If "horse trading" that the involved chapters can agree on, no problem.

In view of the forecasted continued economic distress in Burlington and the likely continued resistance to travel throughout 2021, the LCACBS urges ACBS International to reschedule our hosting of the Annual show/meeting from 2021 to 2022. We have determined that the current plans can be executed in 2022 with increased enthusiasm and effectiveness.

We have been working closely with Dan Gyoerkoe on this for the past two years. He can fill you in on the details, but the following will give you some idea of how far we have come in our travels to put on a great event with ACBS.

We have branded this event as "Boating Through History Along The Great Warpath". Participation in the Pre events should explain why.

Chapter pre-events include:

River cruise on Hudson River and Champlain Canal to Lake Champlain and Burlington, Vermont from Kingston, New York. (3 days)

River cruise on St. Lawrence River, Richelieu River, and Chambly Canal to Lake Champlain and Burlington, Vermont from Montreal, Quebec (3 days).

Chapter reception at The Shelburne Museum onboard the vintage sidewheeler Ticonderoga. (Labor Day)

Lake Champlain Rendezvous – across the lake, lunch and tour in the historic village of Essex, NY. (pending confirmation)

Lake Champlain Rendezvous - lunch at the historic Basin Harbor Club followed by an on site tour of the extensive Lake Champlain Maritime Museum.

ACBS events include:

Annual Meeting at the Waterfront Hilton Hotel (rooms blocked for us in three nearby waterfront hotels)

Auction?

ACBS Annual Boat Show (reservations made for up to 150 slips at the new Burlington Harbor Marina – by Dan)

Annual dinner - Waterfront Hilton

Chapter supporting events include:

A special sailboat regatta of historic sailboats in concert with the Lake Champlain Community Sailing Center.

A special collection of Marquis boats at the show. May include some famous race boats once local to our lake.

Ample opportunity to visit other places of note in Greater Burlington and North Western Vermont including – the Church Street Marketplace, Ben and Jerry's main plant, Vermont Teddy Bear, numerous brewery's as well as other attractions including a seven and a half mile waterfront bike path along Burlington's waterfront and into Lake Champlain across to the Lake Champlain Islands.

We have also started a Sponsorship Campaign to help us and hopefully the ACBS with funding this event. We have developed a budget with Dan and secured one half of the goal to date. We have contacted the committed sponsors. They understand our situation and are willing to continue their committed support for all this if we can shift the date to 2022.

Dan tells us that he feels he can work out the requested date shift with the marina and three hotels. (Hilton, Marriott, Hotel Vermont)

We will contact all the other venue participants of our date change once we have concurrence from ACBS that this will work for you. We fully expect their understanding and support once this is all clarified.

Thank you and your committee members for your time and effort involved with this unfortunate complication - that the whole world is experiencing. Let us know if you have further questions of us and we will do our level best to pull out our crystal balls and find answers if we can. And – let's all hope that vaccines and other reparations are affective enough by 2022 to encourage and enable folk to attend a terrific ACBS / LCACBS event - on spectacular and historic Lake Champlain.

We would like to offer our opinion regarding the cancelled CDA international show this year. We understand the difficult decision the Board has made. We would hope the Idaho show will take place in 2021 at the Coeur d'Alene Resort.