

Water Wonderland Chapter
of the ACBS



 **Boats on the
Boardwalk**

Dear Boat Show Registrant:

Thank you for your registration to the 38th Annual **Boats on the Boardwalk** vintage boat show. We look forward to seeing you on Saturday, August 2nd in Traverse City, Michigan.

Enclosed are:

- Launching and Releasing Information Instructions
- Information for vendors, land displays and judged boats in the parking lot.
- Schedule of Events
- A map of the area with the suggested route to the show
- Please read these documents and retain them for future reference during the show.

Docking committee members will be at the launch sites starting at 7:30 A.M. and will be available to assist you until 10:00 a.m. Be sure to bring fenders, bow and stern lines. Friends wishing to dock next to each other should plan to arrive together.

Larger boats will be launched at Elmwood Township Marina this year. See enclosed location map. (Elmwood Township Marina charges a \$10.00 ramp fee)

Johnson Insurance of Traverse City is again graciously providing complimentary coffee and pastries. They will be available at registration in the Ship Store (see map). For those of you launching at Elmwood, be sure to stop by registration after you have secured your boat.

The awards ceremony will be held at 3:30 P.M. All awards and boat classifications are at the discretion of the judges and their decisions will be final.

Boat release will begin at 4:00 p.m. Please note that for safety reasons *the last boats launched will be the first released*. The Boardman River is narrow and has very strong currents. We want to avoid damaged boats and ensure the safety of all involved. Therefore, ***no boats will be released before the Release crew have given the Captain the signal to leave.*** Please review the Release instructions provided in the attached document.

BOAT SHOW CONCIERGE / HELP DESK

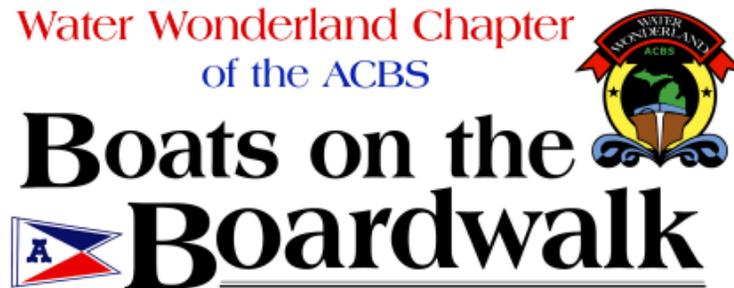
- If you need assistance of any sort before, during, or after Boats on the Boardwalk, feel free to call / text Jeff Rogers @ 616-450-5117 anytime!

We hope you enjoy the show.

Sincerely,

Amanda VanderWeele
Registration Committee

Jeff Rogers
Chairman – *Boats on the Boardwalk*



LAUNCHING and RELEASING INSTRUCTIONS

Thank you for registering your boat in the ACBS Water Wonderland Chapter **Boats on the Boardwalk Boat Show**. We look forward to you being our guest for another great show.

Option 1 Boardman River Ramp

For small boats less than 20 feet this location may be your best option as it does not require you to make the trip across the south end of West Grand Traverse Bay, especially in the return trip in the afternoon when waves could be a challenge for a small boat. Boats over 20 feet will need to launch at the Elmwood Township Marina ramp (See Option 2).

Location of the Boardman River Ramp: Please refer to the map enclosed to access the ramp and parking lot entrance. The Grandview Parkway is open, but it is under construction. Cass St will be closed. Parks St will be open.

Instructions for launching at the Boardman River ramp:

1. Only enter the launch site parking lot to launch your boat if you want to launch immediately. If you want to dock next to a specific boat, wait until the other party arrives to pull into the launch parking lot. You will not be able to choose your docking space. Your space will be directly behind the boat that was launched before you.
2. All boat trailers **must be** separated from the tow vehicle, **no exceptions**. The WWC launching crew will direct you where to park, or a crew member will assist by driving your vehicle and separating your tow vehicle from your trailer.
3. Before departing the ramp, ***you will be given a number on a green piece of paper. Retain this number as it is needed to tell the Boat Release crew, so that your tow vehicle and trailer will be waiting for you when you reach the ramp.***
4. **All boats must dock as far up stream as the docking crew indicates. Docking short will not be allowed, no exceptions here as well.**

Instructions for being released from the boardwalk:

1. After the show, **DO NOT CAST OFF YOURSELF**. The Boat Releasing Crew will repeat the following instructions for a safe and damage free release. Remember these instructions have been used for 3 decades of shows. They work just fine.
2. Give the radio operator at the Boardwalk the number on the green paper you were given when you arrived to launch in the morning. That number will be used to identify your tow vehicle and trailer. The crew will then hitch up your trailer so when you arrive at the ramp you can immediately put your boat on the trailer. Volunteers will be there to assist you.
3. Start your engine **BUT LEAVE IT IN NEUTRAL**.
4. Tell the Releasing Crew that you are ready,
5. The Releasing Crew will release your BOW line and throw it to you and push off the bow,
6. The river current will rotate your boat, so the bow is downriver,
7. **MOST IMPORTANT>>DO NOT engage your transmission until told to do so by the Releasing Crew.**
8. Then and **ONLY** then, when you are **TOLD** to engage your transmission, do so. **EARLY transmission engaging could result in driving into the concrete wall and moored boats on the opposite side of the river.** The Release Crew will push you off and toss your stern line into your boat. Once in your boat, secure the stern line.
9. FYI There is nearly no chance of hitting the Port side of your boat against the boardwalk as the current will keep your boat toward the middle of the stream.

Instructions for being retrieved at the Boardman River Ramp.

1. There will be a Retrieving Crew to capture your boat.
2. Turn into the launch ramp to allow the crew to catch you.
3. Once under the control of the Retrieving Crew, turn off your engine.
4. Follow normal procedure to place your boat on your trailer and secure it.

Remember, these procedures are important to follow precisely for your safety and the volunteers **Your safety and your boat's safety is our primary concern.**

Option 2 – Elmwood Township Marina Ramp

This option is for all **boats 20 feet and longer**, and anyone not willing to separate their tow vehicle and trailer, you will launch at the Elmwood Township Marina.

Location: In Elmwood Township on the west side of West Grand Traverse Bay. By water, its 2 miles across the south end of the bay to the mouth of the Boardman River. By land, it's 2 ½ miles from the show.

The launch ramp is well protected inside the large marina. There is a **\$10 ramp fee** paid at the Marina. See the map below for the location of the Elmwood Township Marina.

BOAT SHOW CONCIERGE / HELP DESK

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Instructions for vendors, land displays and judged boats in the parking lot

Thank you for participating in the ACBS Water Wonderland Chapter **Boats on the Boardwalk Boat Show**. We look forward to you being our guest for another great show.

Location

Vendors, land displays and boats being judged in the parking lot will be set up in Parking Lot C just east of the Chamber of Commerce building (large brick building just east of Cass St.). Enter the parking lot from the East bound lane of E. Grandview Parkway **immediately** past the Chamber of Commerce Building. Try to arrive early to set up your display or park your boat as the parking lot gets really congested as the morning progresses.

Vehicle Parking Limitation

As has been the rule for decades, all tow vehicles will need to be parked elsewhere and display space is very limited, especially since half of the Boardwalk is not available this year. The best place to park is on the Front Street Ramp. Refer to the enclosed map for its location. The ramp parking does not require you to feed a meter all day as all street parking does. Also, the location is quite convenient as your walking route back to the show area takes only about 5 minutes

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 **Boats on the
Boardwalk**

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
Saturday, August 2, 2025
Traverse City, MI

7:30 AM to 10:00 AM

- Registration
- Boat launching
- Coffee & donuts

10:00 AM to 3:30 PM

- Boat show
- Ship's Store open (ACBS and vintage boat gear, snacks, and refreshments)

11:00 AM to 2:00 PM

- Our WWC/ACBS awards team will review all boats that have been enrolled to be judged.
- Note, if you'd like your boat to be considered for an award, please indicate so on the registration form, whether registering in advance or on the day of the show.

3:30 PM

- WWC/ACBS "Winner's Circle" awards ceremony

4:00 PM

- Releasing of exhibited boats begins – from the east end of the river (near launch ramp) and working toward the boat show HQ (at the TC Chamber of Commerce).
- See detailed release / safe retrieval instructions distributed at show.

AWARD CRITERIA / *Boats on the Boardwalk '25*

As has been our tradition since the inaugural Boats on the Boardwalk show in 1987, our WWC/ACBS awards team will follow – in general – the official ACBS (Antique & Classic Boat Society) judging guidelines. That said, in the spirit of the BOTB show over the years, judging of boats will be more casual than formal. Said differently, while our awards team will maintain an eye for originality and good craftsmanship with every boat – they'll not be overly analytical in the judging process.

As always, our goal “on the Boardwalk” each and every first Saturday in August is to simply recognize the beauty of our vintage boats – and at the same time, enjoy the beauty of being outdoors on a northern Michigan summertime Saturday. So, enjoy – we’re glad you’re here!

AWARD CLASSIFICATIONS / *Boats on the Boardwalk '25*

Selected by the WWC/ACBS Awards Committee – unless otherwise noted. Also, the awards committee reserves the right to revise a boat’s registered classification if it is deemed more appropriate in another category.

- *Feature Boat* (issued as a show of appreciation)
- *Youth Boat Building Awards* (issued as a show of appreciation)

- *Best Cruiser*
- *Best Launch*
- *Best Late Classic (1975 – 1997)*
- *Best Contemporary (1997 – 2002)*
- *Best Non-Powered*
- *Best Non-Wood*
- *Best Outboard*
- *Best Owner-Restored*
- *Best Raceboat*
- *Best Runabout – Historic (1918 and earlier)*
- *Best Runabout – Antique (1919 – 1942)*
- *Best Runabout – Classic (1943 – 1975)*
- *Best Utility – Historic (1918 and earlier)*
- *Best Utility – Antique (1919 – 1942)*
- *Best Utility – Classic (1943 – 1975)*
- *Best Transom*
- *Best Resto-Mod*
- *Junior Craftsman Award*
- *Committee’s Choice* (selected by the WWC/ACBS Awards Committee)
- *People’s Choice* (selected by the spectators)
- *President’s Choice* (selected by the president of the WWC/ACBS)
- *Most Original / Best Preserved*
- *Best of Show*

Thank you to all – exhibitors, spectators, and crew alike – for making this 38th annual Boats on the Boardwalk in downtown Traverse City the continued success it has been over three decades.

Enjoy the rest of your time in northern Michigan. See you the first Saturday in August next year at BOTB '26!



BOAT SHOW HQ & LAND DISPLAY PARKING LOT

Set GPS to the following address for the Traverse City Chamber of Commerce
Directly east of which is our Boats on the Boardwalk HQ:

202 E Grandview Pkwy, Traverse City, MI 49684

Directions (Turn-By-Turn)

Option 1:

Take Front St or State Street in downtown to Cass Street. Turn north, cross the Boardman River, to Grandview Parkway. Turn right onto eastbound Grandview Parkway, and then make an immediate right again into the TC Chamber of Commerce parking lot. While that entrance will be blocked off for the show, you'll be greeted by a member of the WWC/ACBS - who will guide you in.

Option 2:

If already on the eastbound Grandview Parkway (US-31), immediately after passing the Cass Street intersection and the TC Chamber of Commerce building, take an immediate right (after the Chamber) into the Boat Show HQ / Land Display parking lot. You'll be greeted by a member of the WWC/ACBS - who will guide you in.

BOAT RAMP @ BOARDMAN RIVER

Enter downtown on State Street (two blocks south of the Grandview Parkway (US-31). From either westbound or eastbound directions, turn north on Park Street (across from the Park Place Hotel entrance). Cross Front Street - and the Boardman River - and then turn immediately right directly into the boat ramp parking lot. While the entrance will be blocked off, you'll be greeted by a member of the WWC/ACBS to assist you enter the boat ramp parking lot.

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