

# Nothing Like Old Iron!

by **Michael Glenn, President, Mohawk Hudson Chapter, AOMCI** Antique Outboard Motor Club Inc.



I've always said if one person makes it, two collect it, and such is the case with old iron (old outboard motors). The Antique Outboard Motor Club Inc, (AOMCI), an international organization based in the United States has over 3,000 members, most in the US. There are many reasons people collect old motors, some of the most common are a person's desire to relive fond memories from the past, of a simpler time when summers were spent out on the lake, drowning a worm in that favorite spot, or having that motor that Grandpa had that you admired. My personal story was I didn't have a lot to spend to have a motor to put on my boat and a friend suggested I pick one up at a yard sale. So, I did, and brought it home. My dad chuckled that the 1953 Scott Atwater 5 HP I bought was the same model he had as a teen. My father-in-law helped me get it running and the rest is history. Specifically outboard motor history as I got involved in the club in a quest for parts for the motor. My brother-in-law joined in the fun and now I have about 100 motors and about 10 boats.

But I'm not alone. I found this out in my parts quest, there's a whole culture of outboard collectors in many flavors. Getting together with them and sharing

*left:* A Circa 1927 Gopher Outboard restored by AOMCI member Tim Cantelle.

*right:* Jeff Walshe's restored motors on display in Tupper Lake, NY





in our common interests meant I had to travel to get together at “Meets”. These swap meets are often at boat launches or marinas, but many are in parking lots that might have good access or some relationship with the common cause of old boats/motors/sports et al. Sharing a ride with a local outboard comrade, we talked about starting a chapter of the club and hosting our own swap meets. That was in 2004. Fast forward to today and the Mohawk Hudson Chapter has grown to thirty something members and a lot of friends who come together in the Mohawk/Hudson region to share parts, advice and tall tales about outboards and related topics.

Some great communities have welcomed our presence, including Tupper Lake, NY, Wells, NY and Schroon Lake, NY. We open the swap meets to the general public, which has become quite popular. Often someone arrives with an old gem in their trunk that belonged to a relative and they want to bring it back to life. The atmosphere becomes very Antique Roadshow like, with folks perusing the meet looking at someone’s latest restoration they are showing off, or seek to find the reward of a unique old motor (often motors near 100 years old appear). Parts can be gotten from members with spares, and some members have fabricated no longer available repair parts. If these options don’t work, a parts donor motor might show up, or a resource that is little known to the general public gets shared.

There are several types of meets, including dry meets (the parking lot variety), wet meets (where boats get to go in the water), and formal (could be either dry or wet, and there is judging, such as oldest motor, best restoration, best original condition). Upcoming meets of the Mohawk Hudson Chapter of the AOMCI include one in Vail Mills, NY (north of Amsterdam and just south of the Great Sacandaga Lake) at the Wildlife Sports & Educational Museum on August 13, 2022, from 9 am to 2 pm. This is a dry meet and attracts a lot of local folks. Another one is in Schroon Lake, NY at the Town of Schroon Lake boat launch on September 25, 2022. This meet is the favorite of hydroplane owners since when the water is calm, they get to convert gasoline to noise for half a day. Being a wet meet, many members bring their boats with old motors mounted for a fun run in addition to the usual activities. Both events, like most of them, are open to the public at no cost, and there

is no charge for anyone, only a free will offering to cover the cost of coffee, donuts, and lunch if anyone cares to partake.

As president of the Chapter, I get a lot of interesting phone calls, often someone looking to find out where they can sell their old boat and/or motor, or how to find a needed part. Many of these folks find me in the newspaper events items that list the meet info and my contact info. Anyone who has such a need is always welcome to contact me. My contact information can be found on our website, which is <https://mglen2.wixsite.com/mohawkhudsonchapter>. It is not unusual the week before or the week after a meet to have someone decide to reach out for information. I’m always glad to help and have collected some interesting stories in the process. Many items that are not wanted but too nice to dispose of have been listed in our newsletter or in an email blast to our membership. Occasionally a motor gets donated to the Chapter and we raffle it off.

Recently I’ve been contacted from a few outboard enthusiasts to have meets in the below Albany Hudson region versus the north country, and I would love to hear from anyone interested in this. I have considered organizing another chapter that might reach all the way into the metropolitan portion of the Hudson Valley. If you have an interest, drop me a line or give me a call. Watch our website or FaceBook page for any updates.

**The Antique Outboard Motor Club**  
Collecting antique outboards since 1965  
In 1866, the first outboard device was patented. Since that time, over 160 manufacturers have entered the industry – few remain. Names like Caille, Waterman, Walnut, Lockwood, Motorgo, Columbian, Gray and Ferro are all forgotten except at AOMCI. Your membership in AOMCI will provide you with a rich mixture of personal associations and accomplishments. You’ll meet interesting new people while following leads provided by the Club to add motors to your collection; make new friends by joining a chapter of the Club in your area or by corresponding with other members and realize a great deal of satisfaction and pride from participating in displays, shows and Club Meets.

My father’s 1953 Scott Atwater, approximately in 1957.



Rich Cerankowski sells and makes parts that are hard to locate at the 2021 Schroon Lake Meet