

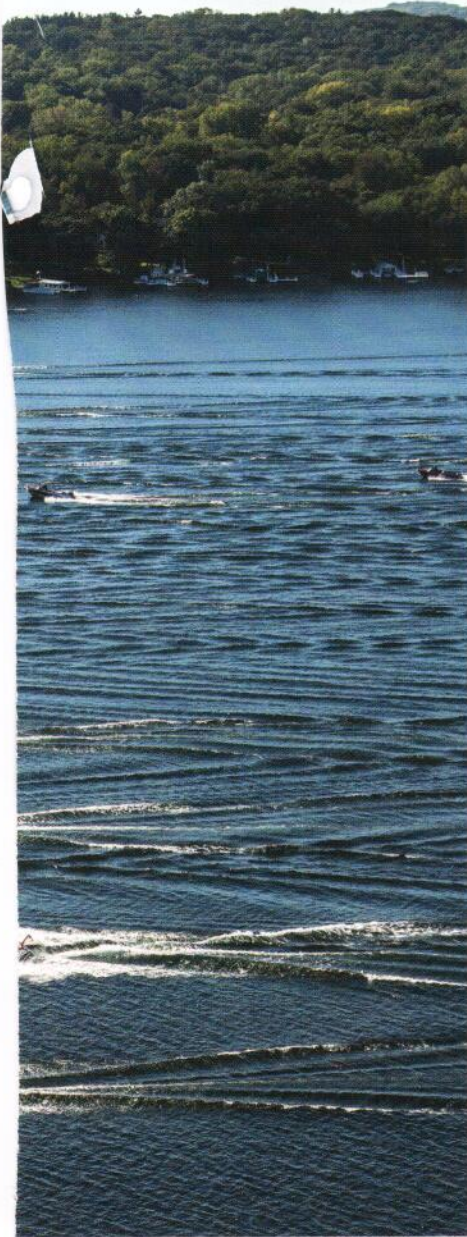


By Captain Gary Huge, ACBS Member

Photos courtesy of Kelly Olmstead Photography, www.kellyolmsteadphotography.com

In September of 2021 the Streblow family of boat owners organized *Wake the Lake* to honor our friend and master boat builder, Randy Streblow. On that early Saturday morning, 35 Streblow boat owners and their families and friends gathered on Geneva Lake, Wisconsin by Fontana Beach to parade down the lake in V-formation. It was an exhilarating event.

The Streblow family of boat owners is a group of mariners who are bonded together by the appreciation of Streblow boats. We all respect the hard work and craftsmanship that the late Randy Streblow and his crew put into each of our vessels, and through the years, many of us who started as strangers are now great friends.



Of course, 35 Streblov owners are not going to go quietly down the lake on a slow cruise. That is not in our DNA.

The boats that attended the 2021 *Wake the Lake* event came in various sizes. Some came from around the lake and others were trailered. There was a year 2000 28-foot twin engine model, several 2000 single engine 26-foot models and many more 23-foot models of all vintages. Both V-drives and straight drives participate in the parade. Each boat is custom built with various seating arrangements, upholstery colors and engine sizes. All Streblovs, however, are V-8 powered.

The hulls are deep V designed for the rough waters of Geneva Lake. Streblovs are very heavy boats due to their mahogany construction. The weight helps give the boats a smooth and stable ride. We took out our 26-footer on Lake Michigan many times with Randy and always felt secure, even in rough waters.

Our family became close to Randy and we even worked together on the first *Wake the Lake*. A great memory was

when we met up after the first parade and the adrenaline was flowing for both of us. Although he never bragged, you could see his pride that he had built every boat in the parade, and he deserved to be proud. They are powerful, beautiful boats.

Streblov Custom Boats began in Kenosha, Wisconsin during the 1950s with Randy's father Larry. Larry was a naval architect and a very passionate craftsman. Every detail had to be perfect and Randy continued his father's passion.

Though Randy passed away 10 years ago, the company still carries on that same passion for excellence. Currently at their shop there is a 26-foot twin engine under construction and many other boats being restored to like-new condition. Older boats can have engines replaced, new upholstery installed and complete refinishing to make their older model look brand new. ►



**Some mentioned they were a bit afraid,
some said we may have been going a
bit too fast but everyone said it was fun.
Very fun!**



The day of the event began early on a Saturday morning. Many of us were idling about on the lake outside of Fontana Beach. Slowly everyone arrived including the Water Safety Patrol to lead the parade with lights blazing. The fog was present early in the morning but soon burned off.

The directions were simple, line up side by side, start off slow and accelerate up to cruising speed and rendezvous at Maytag Point. Maytag Point is named after the Maytag appliance company. Of course, 35 Streblov owners are not going to go quietly go down the lake on a slow cruise. That is not in our DNA. Throttles kept inching forward until some of us reached full speed. These gleaming mahogany boats speeding down the lake side by side was quite a sight. The waves kicked up and it got rocky quickly—very exhilarating but a bit scary too! People were losing hats and some passengers were screaming to their captains to slow down. The photographer, Kelly Osborne, captured it all from a helicopter as she hung out the door of the little bubble. She took some spectacular photos.

After the first leg of the parade, some motored back to their lake homes but most reconvened at the Abbey Harbor Yacht Club where we reviewed the parade and shared pizza and drinks. Some mentioned they were a bit afraid, some said we may have been going a bit too fast but everyone said it was fun. Very fun!

The Streblov company is now under the ownership of the Cox family from Fontana, and these beautiful boats will continue to be built with pride and passion under the watchful eyes of father Ed and son Ryan. Fortunately, Streblov's entire crew including Juan, Bob, Mick, Denise, Sam and all the others stayed aboard after the company's transition and the team continues to provide quality work. We are all lucky that Streblov will be around for many years to come.

Randy would have loved this last parade. God bless you, Randy Streblov. 🚩

