

RufusB II

Owner: Lou Wendell

Home Port: St. Albans, WV, Kanawha River Mile Marker 46.2

Hull Type: Model Bow

Hull Material: Steel, with wood sides

Length: 63'

Width: 18'

Draft: 2'

Wheel Diameter: 13'

Width: 7' 6"

of buckets: 13

Engine Type: 671 Detroit

Drive Train Type: Twin Disc with belt drive to double 160 chain

Built By: Dubuque Boat & Boiler Company

Built at: LeClaire, IA

Date: 1926

Past Names: Freddie Boy, Bart L, William S, RufusB II

Description and History: Built in LeClaire, Iowa in 1926 on the banks of the Mississippi River by Attorney Carl Lamback. Local legend has it that Attorney Lamback entertained client Al Capone on board during the Freddie Boy's early years. In 1955 Bill Molo purchased the Freddie Boy and renamed it Bart L. In 1958 Mr. Altman purchased the boat and renamed it William S, then in 1963 the boat was sold to Dr. Phillip & Ruth Bettler and they renamed the boat to **RufusB II**. Mrs. Bettler's nickname was Rufus and the B was for Bettler and the II was for the 2nd boat they owned. In 1965 The Bettler's sent the boat to Red Wing, MN, to have a complete renovation of the entire boat, this project took 2 years to complete the work, and the boat looks today as it did in 1965. Dr. Bettler and Ruth ran the boat for over 30 years covering the Mississippi, Tennessee, Cumberland, Missouri, and Kanawha Rivers. The Bettler's had the boat to The World's Fair in Knoxville, TN. In 1991 we purchased the boat from Mrs. Bettler and the boat was stored in Guntersville, Alabama and it took us 18 days to run the boat from Guntersville to St. Albans, WV. We have taken the boat to Marietta Regattas every year since 1991. We have taken the RufusB II to The "Tall Stacks" in Cincinnati, Ohio four times over the past 22 years.

