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THE OVERFALLS BEACON

The Newsletter of The Overfalls Maritime Museum Foundation

Volume 4 Issue 4

Winter 2006

Lil Red Wins Blue

This is not a rehash of the recent political races. If the ship may be called “Big Red”, then the Foundation’s newly created float model must be “Lil Red”. Blue is the color of the ribbon she won on her first time out in the Return Day parade in Georgetown.

The float, built by Ed Rayner, is a one eighth scale model of the ship that rides on the modified boat trailer donated to the Foundation Bert Long. This replaces the old plywood mock-up of the ship that had served as a parade float for many years. The plywood mock-up, like the ship before the advent of the Dirty Hands Gang, was getting tired.

Return Day was a perfect day for a parade with bright sun and mild temperatures. In addition to getting the eye from the judges, Lil Red wowed the spectators along the route. If you didn’t see her debut, you will have many more chances to see Lil Red as she will be a frequent entry in the Sussex County parade circuit.



Our 2006 Visitors

Where do our visitors come from and what attracts them to the ship? We know more about where than what, although the ship guides do have some interesting stories on the latter.

Curious about that question, Jon Joyce analyzed the data in our Visitor’s Log and came up with some surprising conclusions. Would you have guessed that about 2/3 of our visitors come from outside Delaware? This is including the visitors early in the season when we participate in the Delaware Tourism Office’s Free-to-the-First-State program which promotes the State’s attractions with no charge to Delaware residents. The complete analysis is most interesting and available on our web site under *About Us/Our Documents/Ship Visitors 2006*. This is the first time that the Visitor’s Log was subjected to formal analysis. Developments on the ship that are of interest and are highly visible to local residents have generated increased local traffic. Many of this year’s local visitors indicated that they had seen the ship for years but with the rehab of Sylvester’s Bait Shack into the new Ship’s Store or the bright, new coat of red paint on the hull, they just had to come and get a closer look

You are invited to □
 THE OVERFALLS MARITIME MUSEUM
 FOUNDATION’S
 Sixth Annual Holiday Party
 Friday, December 8, 7:00 p.m.
 The Inn at Canal Square Conference
 Room On the Canalfront in Lewes
 Bring your favorite hors d’oeuvre or
 finger food
 Drinks will be provided
 For information, please call
 Joan Reader 645-9290
Come Celebrate With Us!

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Old Newsletters?

If you would like access to our old Beacons, they are **all** on our new WWW.OVERFALLS.ORG. Under the "About Us" heading, select "Our Newsletters", then pick the volume and issue you would like. Also included is a topical index for all of the newsletters. This issue and future ones will also have color photos.

Captain David W. Hiott IV

December 14, 1958-November 10, 2006

Master of Delaware's Tall Ship, Kalmer Nyckel

Our condolences to the family and many friends of Captain Hiott,

VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

David Bernheisel, President

At their September meeting, your Board of Directors approved a Strategic Plan that will focus the Foundation's efforts through 2010. (A copy is on the web site under *About Us/Our Documents*.) This plan identifies four major initiatives:

- Stabilize the ship,
- Create a Maritime Hall of Fame (see article p 3),
- Establish a Museum Without Walls, and
- Maintain the Vision for Lewes Maritime Museum.

A concern as we developed the plan was that the Foundation not lose its focus on stabilizing the ship. This has it been, and will be until the project is completed, the Foundation's highest priority. But, it is also important that we continue to strengthen and broaden our base. We did that successfully with the new Ship's Store this summer as we expanded the base of active volunteers. I feel that the plan's additional three alternatives set the stage for doing it again in the future. This is already happening with the Hall of Fame and should with the other two initiatives as they become more active. The added strength in the Foundation will put us in a better position to accomplish all four of the objectives and capitalize on other opportunities that may become available.

The progress on the ship project continues, although never as quickly as I would like. We are in the last stages of negotiating a contract with the engineering firm selected by the competitive process mentioned in the last issue of *The Beacon*. The study and design work of this firm will guide the actual construction work that we have anticipated for years.

Finally, I hope to see you at the Holiday Party on December 8th. For those I miss, my best to you for a happy holiday season and a good start on the New Year

Dave

VIEW FROM THE STERN

Jon Joyce, Overfalls Historian

LV 118 RIDES OUT HURRICANE DIANE ON CORNFIELD POINT

Hurricane Diane was one of three hurricanes to hit North Carolina during the 1955 Atlantic hurricane season, an unusually active one. Diane struck an area that had been hit by Hurricane Connie five days earlier. Diane was the costliest hurricane in United States history until it was surpassed by Hurricane Betsy in 1965 and the sixth costliest U.S. hurricane of the 20th century. It was responsible for the loss of 184-200 lives. It made landfall on August 17, 1955 in the wake of Connie. Cool air from Connie somewhat weakened the wind force of Diane and it was only a Category 1 hurricane when it hit North Carolina. From there, it traveled up the coast through New England dumping as much as 19 inches of rain in Massachusetts, as much as had ever been recorded.

The two hurricanes rolled over LV 118 (WAL 539) which was on station at Cornfield Point under the command of Elred Bolinger BMC. Hurricane condition 2 was set at 8:30 AM, on August 12. A brisk 16 knot wind was blowing. The ship's boat arrived from Old Saybrook at 1:30 PM and the diaphone was turned on continuous. Through the next day the winds built to 40 knots before easing slightly the evening of the 13th of August. Hurricane Connie having passed, the diaphone was secured from continuous as the ship prepared for the arrival of Diane on the 18th of August.

Hurricane condition 1 was set at 4:30 PM on that day. As it turned out, the wind was less severe as Diane passed than had been experienced with Connie a few days earlier. The boat Mariposa moored astern at 10:20 with the liberty party: Donald Sullivan BM1, who assumed acting officer in charge, engineer, Killmeyer EN2, and seamen, McDonald and Dietz. The Mariposa departed with Bolinger, Boyd ENC and two others who probably fared worse in the flooding at Old Saybrook than they would have had they stayed aboard LV 118.

Delaware Maritime Hall of Fame

One of the initiatives in the Foundation's Strategic Plan (now on the web site under *About Us/Our Documents*) is to establish a Delaware Maritime Hall of Fame. This would acknowledge and honor Delaware's past and present maritime heroes, an important part of the Foundation's mission. The project is moving quickly and the ceremony to inaugurate the first members will be at the Lewes Yacht Club on Saturday, October 6, 2007.

Your nominations are welcome! If you wish to nominate someone, just send us a letter, not exceeding two single-spaced pages, explaining why you feel your nominee deserves induction. Supporting documents, such as news articles, citations, and photographs, are welcome. Letters of support are also welcome. Qualifications may stem from any aspect of Delaware maritime history, on the water or on the land. Send nominations to the Overfalls Maritime Museum Foundation, Box 413, Lewes, DE 19958. Nominations for the inaugural group must be postmarked no later than May 15, 2007.

We need volunteers to help. If you are interested or for more information call Bonnie Dougherty at 302-645-2140. Also see our web site WWW.OVERFALLS.ORG for more details and periodic updates.

News from the Ship's Store

The new Ship's Store had a very successful inaugural season with many of the 1200 ship's visitors making purchases. The store will be open for the Christmas Tour of Lewes on Dec. 2, from 10:00 to 4:00. Talk to any of the current store volunteers if you would like to join them next spring.

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Its Time To Renew Your Overfalls Membership for 2007

Own a Piece of History

A Lightship Rivet!

Remember Rosie the Riveter? She supported her cause. Over 25 people have purchased individual Lightship Rivets for \$250. Please consider purchasing one if you haven't already. Your purchase will help fund major projects ahead to stabilize the ship. For more information call Elaine Simmerman at 302-645-4733.

Send tax-deductible contribution to:

Overfalls Lightship Capital Campaign
Box 413, Lewes DE, 19958

Mark Your Calendar

December 8, Christmas Party—7 - 9 pm.
Bring a dish to share—beverage provided—Inn at Canal Square

December 31-Greet the New Year at
Midnight on the deck of the Overfalls

Jan 13, 2007, 7:30 pm. Meeting—
Speaker Charles Epifanio, College of
Marine & Earth Studies, Presentation: A
White Sports Coat and a Pink Crustacean.

February 9, 7:30 pm—Meeting in St.
Peter's Hall

February 20, 5:00 pm—Mardi Gras Party,
Irish Eyes in Lewes

March 9, 7:30 pm—Meeting in St. Peter's
Hall