



THE OVERFALLS BEACON

The Newsletter of The Overfalls Maritime Museum Foundation

Volume 5 Issue 3

Autumn 2007

Capital Campaign Progress

The "Float the Boat" campaign to raise \$1.2 million, to send the Lightship to New Jersey for hull replacement and then bring her back to a newly rebuilt slip in Lewes, is underway.

The campaign kicked off with a wine and cheese party hosted by Hazell Smith, the honorary chair for the campaign. Mrs. Smith opened her home and gardens to local residents and representatives of businesses and government, on the evening of August 19. The co-chairs of the campaign, Bob Humes and Elaine Simmerman, explained the importance of generous contributions at this critical time. Local contributions are often multiplied by foundation grants. The campaign committee has already prepared and submitted ten such applications for grants. All members of the OMMF board have shown their support with campaign contributions.

Key to the campaign is a list of "Naming Opportunities" allowing contributors to name parts of the ship. (see insert for the list and campaign structure.) This could be the perfect gift for that person who has everything.

While the funds are being raised, the work of obtaining permits for dredging, towing, and bulkheading is in process. We are now moving toward closure of the project that has been number one on our agenda for eight years!



Hazell Smith, honorary "Float the Boat" chair, Bonnie Dougherty, and Karen Parker pause during the wine and cheese festivities in the Smith garden.

DELAWARE MARITIME HALL OF FAME INAUGURAL INDUCTION

The Delaware Maritime Hall of Fame will induct as the "Class of 2007" Milton Cooper, David Hiott, Robert Senseny, Washington Vickers, and John Penrose Virden. Awards will be presented to these honorees and their families at the ceremony on October 6th at the Lewes Yacht Club, starting at 6:00 p.m. A special guest from South Africa will also help commemorate our maritime history. We believe there will be a groundswell of support for this event but we need your support to make it happen. See page 4 to make your reservation for this event.

The Overfalls Maritime Museum Foundation is proud to have founded the Delaware Maritime Hall of Fame. The Hall honors those who have given uniquely and generously of skill, energy, heart, and time in building Delaware's maritime heritage. Our goal is to annually honor Delaware Mariners and to support the restoration and maintenance of the Overfalls Lightship.

Lightship Sailors Reunion in Lewes

The Lightship Sailors Association holds its annual reunion in Lewes October 11-14. Brian Floca, author of the popular children's book, LIGHTSHIP, will be a special guest. OMMF's Wayne Kirklin will be the keynote speaker as well as signing his new book. Doug Bingham, Curator of the Coast Guard Heritage Museum and noted historian, will speak at the wine & cheese social.

LSA invites OMMF members to participate in the reunion. A registration fee of \$100 includes the wine & cheese social, a trip to Cape May, and the banquet at the Lewes Yacht Club. The banquet alone is \$40, and the wine and cheese social is \$10. For information or reservations call Dave Bernheisel, 645-7377.

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Mary Bernheisel, Editor, *The Beacon*

Our Education Program

The Foundation's education program is taking shape. The "To Teach," part of our mission did not have a formal place in our organization. Now it does, with exciting collaboration with the Cape Henlopen School District. See the insert in this newsletter for an outline of this initiative and how it is developing. If you would like to be part of the implementation, please call Elaine Simmerman on 645-4733.

Marianne Schulze

1946-2007

Our condolences to the family and many friends of Marianne Schulze

VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

David Bernheisel, President

These will be my last remarks in this column as the Board will elect a new president at the October meeting. It has been an exciting two years for me and an eventful period for the Foundation. In almost every category our progress exceeded our expectations, plus we have major accomplishments that weren't even conceived of two years ago. The visible accomplishments such as the progress with the ship and our outstanding events are only part of the story. Behind those neat things are thousands of hours of labor, many on important but seemingly unrelated support tasks. I can't mention the names of the people who make it all happen because my space is limited to this column.

The progress comes the way it has always come to our organization, on the backs of a dedicated and growing group of member/volunteers. It has been a great honor for me to take my turn at the helm. In addition to the pride associated with so much good work, the constant compliments I get from the community and visitors alike are tremendously rewarding. I firmly believe that there is magic in that old red ship that makes great people accomplish impossible tasks.

Plans for the near future include the Foundation's inaugural Delaware Maritime Hall of Fame event and the ship on its way to New Jersey for major hull repair. Those will be exciting. Equally exciting will be other projects within the Foundation, some in the works now and some yet to be defined, because deeply imbedded in the culture of this organization is a tradition to promise lots and deliver more.

So now as I pass the helm to my relief, I will follow the example set by Gary Stabley and Elaine Simmerman, the skippers before me. Passing the helm does not mean retirement, but merely moving to another task in the multitudes that face us, as we continue our tradition of excellence. It will be good to get back in the trenches with you who are doing so much. For those who are not yet fully engaged, jump in with us and make the Foundation's accomplishments your own! Dave

Governor Ruth Ann Minner Unveils Trophy at Overfalls July Meeting

Governor Ruth Ann Minner unveiled the trophy to be presented to the initial inductees into the Maritime Hall of Fame at the July monthly meeting on board the Overfalls. She also shared memories of growing up along the waterways in rural Delaware where the maritime influence was ever present.

The trophy which honors the maritime history of the region was designed and made by Connie Ballato, a Lewes artist who works in stained glass.

Dave Bernheisel presented Governor Minner with a certificate conveying an honorary OMMF Lifetime Membership. She also received a detailed model of the Overfalls, handcrafted by Dirty Hands Gang member Ed Rayner, and a totebag decorated with lightships, handmade by Overfalls member and artist Micha Seto. During a tour of the Lightship, the governor enjoyed taking the helm and sounding the whistle.



Above right: Governor Minner unveiled the stained glass trophy, made by Connie Ballato, which will be presented to each Hall of Fame inductee.

Center: Governor Minner and Ed Rayner share experiences.

Below right: Governor Minner enjoyed a hands on tour of the Lightship

Below: Bonnie Dougherty, Chair of the Maritime Hall of Fame committee, and Connie Ballato enjoy the pleased reception OMMF members gave to the new trophy.



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Capital Campaign Update
Goal: \$1.2 million
Status: \$725,000 raised as of 9/5/07
Needed: \$475,000 to repair ship and return it to Lewes. **WE CAN DO THIS!**

Mark Your 2007 Calendar

Sept 14, 5-7:00 pm, Closing Party on board the Overfalls. Bring your favorite finger food to share. Beverages provided.

Oct 12, 7:30 pm, OMMF Annual Membership Meeting and election of new Board members. St. Peter's Parish Hall, 2nd & Mulberry Streets.

Nov. 9, 7:30 pm, Meeting at St. Peter's Parish Hall. Dr. Gary Wray, President of the Friends of Fort Miles, will be the speaker.

Dec. 14, Holiday Party—Bring a holiday dish to share. Beverages provided.

Dirty Hands Gang meets Tuesday mornings on the ship. New members always welcome.

**INAUGURAL
DELAWARE MARITIME HALL OF FAME
BANQUET AND INDUCTION CEREMONY
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2007
FESTIVITIES BEGIN AT 6:00 P.M.
LEWES YACHT CLUB
\$75.00 PER PERSON**

Complete and send this "coupon" with your check (\$75.00 for each ticket) payable to OMMF to: Mrs. Joan Reader, 40 Shipcarpenter Square, Lewes, DE 19958. Tickets will be mailed to you. To pay by credit card, please call Joan at (302) 645-9290.

NAME _____
ADDRESS: _____
PHONE NUMBER: (very important) _____
NUMBER OF TICKETS: _____
MENU CHOICE (Place name beside the choice):
Prime Rib of Beef Au Jus _____
Grilled Chicken Breast Topped with Lump Crab & Hollandaise _____

“Float the Boat” Capital Campaign Update - \$1.2 million goal

Ship Status:

- Four repaired leaks in the Lightship Hull in last 6 months
- Duffield Engineering and Dorchester Shipyard fully engaged in situation
- Best plan is to repair ship's hull in New Jersey shipyard as soon as possible
- Coast Guard towing permit application in hand and needed repair in process
- Dredging and bulkheading permits in process

Fundraising:

- Goal \$1.2 million
- 100 % of the Overfalls Board contributed
- Ten grant applications submitted
- Membership solicitations began September 1
- Delaware Maritime Hall of Fame event October 6

Campaign Status:

- \$725,000 raised as of 9/05/07
- Need \$475,000 to repair ship and return it to Lewes

How can I help preserve the ship for my children and grandchildren?

- Contribute.
- Call or email Elaine Simmerman at 645-4733 or ElaineSimmerman@Earthlink.net



Education Initiatives

The purpose of the Overfalls Maritime Museum Foundation's educational program is to strengthen the awareness of Delaware's Maritime History among the majority of Delaware's school children, citizens, and visitors. The local vision for the "Museum Without Walls" is to have every child learn about the maritime history of the Delaware Bay and Coastal Area.

- In collaboration with the Overfalls, the Cape Henlopen School District is developing **new** lessons for social studies instruction:

4th Grade: “Maritime History of the Delaware Bay – Lighthouses and Lightships”

9th Grade: “Lights of the Delaware Bay: Warning Mariners and Guiding Commerce”

The units will address **all four strands of the new Delaware social studies standards:**

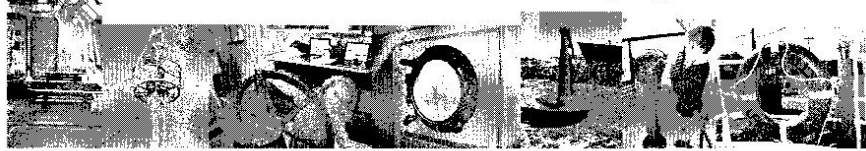
- History: Delaware maritime history
- Geography: Delaware Bay and coastline
- Economics: Delaware's commerce and trade
- Civics: Impact on Delaware's community and society

Using materials supplied by the OMMF, this **new** curriculum will begin with the 2007-08 school year and culminate in a field trip to the Overfalls Lightship. These units will be shared statewide, and it is anticipated that all Delaware school districts will use this curriculum when it is formally adopted in 2008.

- Over 30 trained ship guides offer **personalized lightship tours** - over 2000 tours given annually
- A **five-week Lewes Maritime History course** is taught by members of the OMMF at the University of Delaware's Southern Delaware Academy for Lifelong Learning.
- **Group lectures and ship tours geared for children** are annually given to Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, Sea Scouts, home schooled students, summer camp groups, and public classroom students
- Monthly public meetings provide a **Maritime Speaker Series** on various topics offered to the public year round.



Overfalls Lightship Naming Opportunities 2007 "Float the Boat" Campaign



ITEM	GIFT	QTY	Taken
Slip	300,000	1	
Main Anchor	150,000	1	
Light	100,000	1	X
Horn	100,000	1	
Working Anchor	75,000	1	
Wheel	50,000	1	
Rudder	25,000	1	
Windlass	15,000	1	
Galley Range	15,000	1	
Main Engine	10,000	1	X
Stack	10,000	1	
Air Compressor	5,000	2	
Generator #1	5,000	3	
Bilge Fire Pump	5,000	1	
Radio Beacon Transmitter - port	5,000	1	X
Radio Beacon Transmitter -starboard	5,000	1	
24 Hour Clock	4,000	1	X
Bridge VHF Radio - port	4,000	1	
Bridge VHF Radio - starboard	4,000	1	X
Radar	4,000	1	
Galley locker w Art Deco doors	3,000	3	
Table in Crew's Dayroom	2,000	1	
Mess Deck Tables	2,000	3	
Wardroom Table	2,000	1	
Fuel Tanks	1,000	5	
Starboard bench in crew's dayroom	1,000	1	X
Portside bench in crew's dayroom	1,000	1	
Watertight Doors:			
To Windlass Room	1,000	1	X
Dayroom-Mess Decks	1,000	1	
Dayroom-Passageway	1,000	1	
To Auxiliary Engine Room	1,000	1	X
Mess Decks-Stack Room	1,000	1	
Mess Decks-Upper Engine Room	1,000	1	
Mess Decks-Wardroom	1,000	1	
Upper Engine Room-Wardroom	1,000	1	
Portholes	500	25	XXXX

Mail checks made out to OMMF to P.O. Box 413, Lewes, DE 19958.

*Write "Float the Boat" on the check's memo line with name of person to be recognized.
These make a Great Gift for Weddings, Birthdays, Anniversaries, In Memory of, In Honor of, etc.*