



Readin' Both Pages

A membership publication of the Sail, Power & Steam Museum

Spring 2020

Blackjack on National Register



Photo by Alison Langley

The museum's Friendship Sloop, Blackjack, has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places, thanks to countless hours of volunteer labor on her restoration and the dedication of former board member, Ann Morris, of the Rockland

Historical Society to follow the application process through.

Originally designed and built by Wilbur Morse in 1900, the 33' Blackjack was donated to the museum by owners who had come to realize that her restoration was a much bigger project than they had anticipated. Capt Jim Sharp, founder and director of the museum commented at the time, "We rebuilt the vessel entirely. She had a broken keel, all the frames and planking were gone, and the sheer was lost. We replaced everything but the transom!"

Consulting with wooden boat experts such as Maynard Bray and boat builder Ralph Stanley on design and techniques that Morse might have employed at the time, a team of master builders that included Jim Loney, Tim Clark, and Garrett Eisele worked for countless hours with dedicated museum volunteers to complete the project. Replanked with cedar below the waterline and native pine above, the wood for the new frames came from a stand of English oak from Friendship, Maine. Sharp was

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New Boathouse Underway

After breaking ground on October 6, construction crews moved on site to start building our new boathouse! This attractive building will house some of our boat collection during the winter months, but during the rest of the year will allow SPSM to expand exhibits and programming and will be available as event space for community gatherings. Onsite work will come to a halt over the winter, but crews will be working off site to get sections built and ready to install once spring arrives.



Meg & Jim take the first shovel full



Getting ready to pour the slab under Schooner Gem's watchful eye.



Preparing to pour foundation walls



Founded in 2007, the Museum's mission is "to enrich the lives of visitors, volunteers, and the general public through hands-on, interactive, and educational experiences with historically significant sailing, power, and steam driven vessels, ships, and small boats while providing instruction as to their origins, construction, and original commercial and recreational purposes."

Board of Directors: Capt. Jim Sharp, Chairman/Founder; Meg Sharp, Co-Founder; Capt. Ken Barnes; Richard Crossman, Gordon Bok; Tom Goettel; Celia Knight; George Orestis; Mark Siegenthaler; Peter Whitman; Bob Williams

The Sail Power and Steam Museum is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Your gifts to the museum are fully tax-deductible.



From the Pilothouse

Every day something new and colossal comes through the door!

I am astounded at the many incredible treasures, not that we find, but that find us! They find their own way to the Museum! It's like a magnet!

I found a new friend named Ralph. Ralph lives in Criehaven on a remote place called Ragged island, 15 miles offshore in the middle of the ocean. He has a great desire to walk the beaches and pick - up stuff. Ralph, a complete stranger, curious about our museum, stopped in for a looksee.

Ralph and I got to jawin', and he told me of a sail-makers bench he would be willing to donate. "Wow," I said, "it sounds intriguing." Then, quietly, as if he was telling me a guarded secret, he mumbled something about a skipper's compass. I, with persuasion, had to pry from him that this compass hung over the skipper's bunk. "Oh my gosh," I said, "A CHEATER COMPASS !" A very valuable piece. "I might give you that too," he mumbled almost to himself. I said to myself, "Keep on mumbling Ralph." "Oh yeah, I got an old block, too." "Oh," I said, "tell me about it, Ralph." He said, this time with gusto, "It's damn heavy!" Turns out to be a huge, 3-sheave, 3-foot careening block for heaving vessels down in the days before adequate shipyard facilities were available. "Gee, Ralph, that is amazing," I said, bursting with enthusiasm, "What else are you hiding in your picket?" "Wouldn't you like to know." he retorted. Then, gathering himself together as if to make a speech, he said, "There is this sailmaker's kit, but we can't read the name of the sailor or the vessel. It's all too faded and scribbly to make out." "Give us a crack at it, Ralph, maybe we can decipher," I said. And sure enough, under the glass we figured it. The vessel turned out to be the *Eunice H. Adams*, built as a coastal freighter in 1845 and converted to a whaler in 1867. She very successfully hunted whales until the 1890s and brought the very last load of whale oil into Nantucket as the entire whaling industry shut down. "Ralph, this is stupendous!" I exclaimed, "Here is his knife, sail making palm, needles, grab hooks, and sharpening stone, the whole shebang."

Showered with "thank yous," Ralph went back to his winter home in NYC. The phone rang—a voice, too loud for the poor speaker, not to speak of my ear drum, exploded from the machine, "Hello Captain Jim, this is Ralph! Tell me, Captain, do you have an authentic dry compass?" "No Ralph, we only have a simple replica." "Well you do now!" He said, I'll pack it in bubbles and send it right up." And he did, and that is the way so many of our treasures find their way to the Sail, Power, and Steam Museum.



Captain Jim & Meg Sharp

New to our Board of Directors

Richard (Dick) Crossman grew up on Vinalhaven and is a graduate of the University of Maine. After attending US Army Artillery Officer training, he served 12 years in the US Army Reserves on Lewiston. He taught High School (History) for 5 years before entering the insurance business in 1979. He retired from Allen Insurance in 2019 after working with some of Maine's most highly recognized boat builders, custom and specialty boat yards, marine contractors and shipyards, having developed a unique understanding of the craftsmanship, competency and multi-generational legacy many of these companies. Past board service includes the Rockland/Thomaston Chamber of Commerce, Northeast Health/PBMC, Mid Coast Development Corp and Eastern Maine Development Corporation in Bangor. He currently resides with his wife in Camden

Celia Knight, a lifelong resident of Rockland and the Midcoast, is President of Knight Marine Service – a family business that has been going strong on Main Street in Rockland for 54 years. A dedicated community service volunteer, she is President of the Maine Lobster Festival, a current member of the board of the Penobscot Bay Chamber of Commerce, and a member of the board of Station Maine Rockland.



How you can help...

We need our members and supporters now more than ever.



www.SailPowerSteamMuseum.org

to join, donate, or renew your membership for the coming year.

Winter Programs Planned—*stay tuned for info to follow!*

With the summer season drawing to a close, we've been planning for the winter and spring with some new things in the works!

Captains' Quarters: We know the Maine winter can be long and dreary, so what better thing than to sit back in the comfort of your own armchair, next to a cozy fire, and listening to the tales of some of Maine's sailing Captains? There'll be stories of sailing, tips on boating, maybe even a bit of cooking on board! ***Stay tuned for this virtual programming to begin after the start of the new year.***

Build-a-Boat (BAB): Want to learn how to build an



Optimus Pram? We need to beef up the size of our Opti fleet for our FREE Youth Sailing Classes, and we'll be holding a workshop on building them right here in our Boathouse. We'll provide the know-how and materials, and we'll be looking for family units to sign up and join in the fun. Perfect for kids

who might be home schooling this winter.

Strengthen those math and construction skills and maybe learn a bit of maritime history while you are at it!

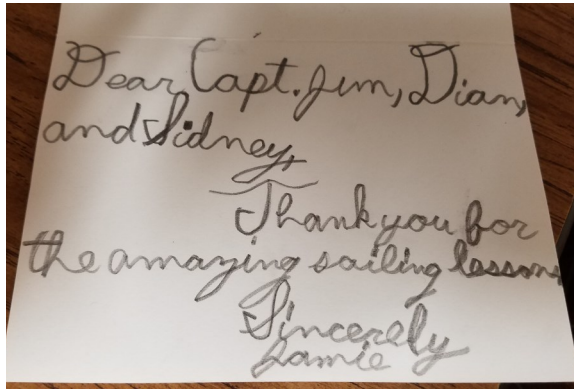
Virtual Classes

We're still working out the details, but we hope to set up shop for on-line classes this winter—anything from woodworking to sailing. If state regulations allow, we may even add some small, in-person classes! Stay tuned...

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quoted in an article in the Maine, Boats, Homes and Harbors Magazine as saying that the museum was "keeping her genes in the right place".

Historically significant, Blackjack is the oldest Morse built Friendship Sloop still afloat. She can be seen at the museum's waterfront during the summer months and is even available for day sails under the guidance of our experienced captains.



A very special thank you note:

Thank you, too, Jamie, for joining us this summer for our Midcoast Sailing Center's **Free Youth Sailing Program!** We enjoyed having you with us out on the water.

Sincerely, *Capt. Jim.*

Instagram: [Sail_Power_Steam_Museum](#)
Facebook: [Rockland-Sail-Power-and-Steam-Museum](#)
www.SailPowerSteamMuseum.org
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New to our Collection—A Special Connection

We always appreciate the many donations that come across our threshold during the year, but some have special connections to the museum.

When Michael Barter of Delano, TN, came into the museum offering up a collection of tools from a local boat builder, Jim's ears pricked up when he heard that the tools had come from Friendship, ME. After asking a few questions, it turned out the tools had belonged to Carlton Simmons, the very builder who had started to build the ***Friendship Sloop Persistence***. Mr. Simmons was not able to finish building her, and many years later, she was donated to the museum where our wonderful volunteers completed the build! Adding his tools to our collection has been a truly special addition to our Tool Room. Our thanks to Mr. Barter.

To join or renew your membership for 2020, please visit
www.SailPowerSteamMuseum.org