



# Readin' Both Pages

*A membership publication of the Sail, Power & Steam Museum*

Summer 2021

## WE did it! (with your help)

It's a wrap! Our second year of **SKFF (Sail Kids For Free)** is complete! Kids from 6 to 14 years old joined in the fun from our Rockland Harbor location as we ran eleven 1-week sessions with a total of 97 participants throughout the summer, an increase of over 50% from last year.

"Once word got out about SKFF," said Diane Sternberg, program director, "we were filled to capacity with a healthy waiting list throughout the season. Our docks and boats were filled with laughter and energy!"

Museum co-founder, Capt. Jim Sharp, added, "I can't begin to tell you how wonderful it is to be able to provide these kids the opportunity to get out on the water, regardless of their ability to pay. Our mission is to run interactive programs that teach both young and old about our maritime history and heritage. This is a great way to grab their attention at an early age."

"Expanding the program during a second summer of the pandemic was especially important. Getting them outside and off their computers, teaching the art and science of sailing, having them experience the environment while participating in a program that encourages resilience, independence, and leadership—well, you just can't beat that," added Sharp.

Special thanks go to museum supporters as well as foundations such as Maine Community Foundation's Knox County Fund, the Wild Blue Fund, the Metcalfe Family Fund for Knox County, and the Captain Raymond Thombs Memorial Fund. Several local companies also added their support through corporate sponsorships, including Knight Marine Service, Hamilton Marine, and Jeff's Marine. And our thanks to Gordon Bok for donating a new-to-us inflatable chase boat for the program!



**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; Gordon Bok; Jim Bowditch; Richard Crossman (Vice President); Tom Goettel; Celia Knight; Marti Mayne; George Orestis; Jesse Rutter (Secretary); Mark Siegenthaler; Peter Whitman (Treasurer); 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

Now, all you navigators ... here's a question for you:

... Name the three things a Captain would never leave behind when going off on an extended voyage (before GPS)

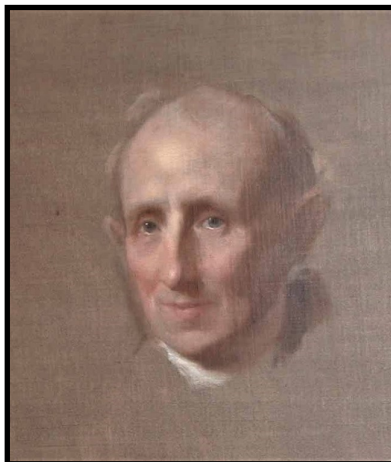
**The Answer:**

1. In his right hand, his dependable sextant
2. In his left hand, an accurate chronometer, and
3. Under his arm a copy of the "American Practical Navigator" by Nathaniel Bowditch

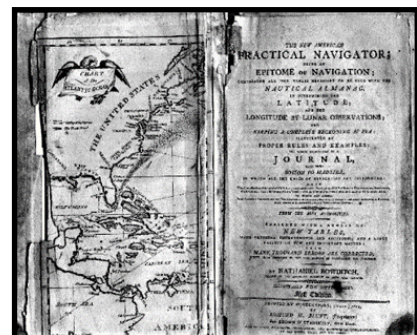
"American Practical Navigator" has been the bible of Navigation since 1805, and it is still used today on all vessels of the US Navy and in every school of navigation.

Bowditch literally "wrote the book" for the mariner.

**Exciting News for the museum!** We at the museum are a little overwhelmed, highly complemented, and extremely grateful because the great-great grandson of Nathanael Bowditch , James and family (Camden, Me) has just agreed to allow the SPS Museum to provide a permanent home for the Bowditch display. A treasure to be sure, the display consists of Mr. Bowditch's personally engraved (1701) backstaff, his personal Astrolabe (1674), and a first edition of his famous book, computations and calculations for celestial navigation. This is truly one of the most impressive and revered displays you'll find anywhere in the nautical world. **The Sail Power Steam Museum will be eternally grateful to the Bowditch Family for their amazing generosity.**



*Captain Jim Sharp*



Portrait of Nathaniel Bowditch from the family's collection. Artist: Gilbert Stuart

## Waterfront News: A Significant Donation



The mission of the Sail, Power, and Steam Museum is to celebrate our maritime her-

itage and culture through the preservation of artifacts and through interactive programs and displays—and our waterfront activities certainly qualify as the latter! We had an active summer with SKFF (Sail Kids For Free), and we were also busy with private adult, youth, and family sailing lessons and day sails aboard our Friendship Sloop, Persistence.

Earlier this month the museum received a significant (and very generous) donation of the 55' ketch, "A Morning In Maine" from Capt. Bob Pratt and his wife, Kathy. Over the last 23 years, they have carried over 28,000 passengers onboard, taking them by islands and lighthouses, experiencing the thrill of sail

while learning about our fascinating natural and maritime history.

Capt. Pratt, noted that while he is ready to retire, it is important to him to have "A Morning in Maine" continue her legacy of sharing the coastal waters and the art and science of sail with her passengers. Capt. Jim Sharp, founder of the Sail, Power, and Steam Museum, noted, "The board of directors is especially grateful for this generous donation to the museum. Our mission and Capt. Bob's history onboard, on the water, and with multitudes of passengers dovetail in a unique way. We look forward to honoring him as we take the helm of this wonderful vessel."

"A Morning In Maine" will allow us to expand our programs to further our mission of education. "This is a very special opportunity for the museum," added Sharp.

## Winter Programming from SPSM

The museum may be closed from November through April, but that doesn't mean we aren't working!

**Captains' Quarters, our off-season virtual speaker series begins October 26** (visit our website, [www.sailpowersteammuseum.org](http://www.sailpowersteammuseum.org) for a schedule and to register). Once again, we'll be highlighting the history of captains, crew, vessels, such as the Schooners Ladona, Shenandoah, Heritage, and more. This spring, we may transition to some of the fascinating work being done in our local shipyards that are keeping our local boat building heritage alive here on the coast of Maine. This series will be brought to you—right in the comfort of your own home, online with Zoom.

**Our Fall Nautical Navigation Series is new this year!** Taught by Capt Diane Sternberg, Waterfront Programs Director, this series will repeat during the winter months, enabling local mariners to brush up on vital skills with classes such as Introduction to Nautical Charts and Navigation, Intermediate Navigation and Dead Reckoning, and Rules of the Road and Aids to Navigation. These classes will be taught on site here in the classroom at SPSM.



## Captain's Quarters is Back!

Starting October 26, our popular virtual speaker series returns. Don't forget to check out the calendar page on our website for registration and an updated :

Schooners Shenandoah and Alabama (*October 26, 2021*)  
Schooner Ladona (*November 23, 2021*)  
Schooner Heritage (*December 7, 2021*)  
Schooner Yacht Heron (*December 21, 2021*)  
*and more throughout the winter months*

***Remember—if you miss one, you'll be able to catch it on your YouTube Channel***

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### How Can YOU help the museum?

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4. **Like our Facebook page**, comment on and share our posts
5. **Become a member**
6. **Volunteer**
7. **Donate**—with an annual year end gift of cash or stock and consider our valuable mission in your estate planning.

Help SPSM save printing and mailing costs by signing up for our e-newsletter!

It's easy as 1, 2, **OR** 3 !

1. Just hop on our website to fill out the form
2. Email  
robin@sailpowersteam@gmail.com
3. Call 207-596-0200

*We promise we won't share your contact information without your permission!*

To join or renew your membership for 2021, please visit  
[www.SailPowerSteamMuseum.org](http://www.SailPowerSteamMuseum.org)