



Readin' Both Pages

A membership publication of the Sail, Power & Steam Museum

Summer 2020

2020: An Unexpected Year

Can we all agree that in 2015 not a single person got the answer correct to “Where do you see yourself five years from now?”

2020 is certainly one for the books as we’ve all made adjustments to respond to a quickly changing world of unknowns. It’s been a challenging year for many, and we’ve been thinking of you all as we’ve made our way, carefully, through the season.

Regardless of the unknowns and in spite of a late season start, we are proud that the Sail, Power, and Steam Museum is open! And we have so many new things going on that we’re just hoping we can fit it all into this newsletter.

SKFF (*Sail Kids for Free!*)

Midcoast Sailing Center's Free Youth Sailing Program is On The Water!



Thanks to the generosity of several SPSM donors, the Midcoast Sailing Center was able to kick off the new year with a FREE Youth Sailing Program. Kids, aged 6-14, were able to join us for a week long sailing camp. By the end of the season, we will have had 55 kiddos out on the water — many for their first time!

Starting on shore, each class learned the basics of a sailing rig, how to maneuver a boat safely, how to take care of equipment, and how to stay safe while underway (all while safely physically distanced, hand sanitized, and wearing masks!).

Donate to our scholarship program and sponsor a kid for a week for just \$100— and the Sail, Power, and Steam Museum will match that gift and send one more! Send 5 for a week (\$500), and we’ll send 5 more!

Donate on line at www.SailPowerSteamMuseum.org.



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; Tom Marshall, Treasurer; Capt. Ken Barnes; Gordon Bok; Tom Goettel; 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.

www.SailPowerSteamMuseum.org

207-596-0200

www.MidcoastSailingCenter.org



From the Pilothouse

‘and wɛ finally got it off and running!

I have bɛɛn talking and buzzing for sɛvɛral yɛars about a sailing school for thɛ youth of our community...

2020 has been a banner year for the “Optis.” Last year, thanks to the influence and generosity of board member Robert Williams and the Youth Sailing Foundation of Vero Beach, FL, Meg and I zoomed home, my old Chevy straining with ten little sailing prams & two Sunfish boats all following me on a 40’ trailer.



These wonderful little boats, the **Optimist Prams**, only 6’ long, are grand, forgiving little sailing boats and are perfect for the young and inexperienced sailor.

So, the school was born, and we took the advice of those who know and offered a free sailing program for kids from 6 to 14 years. If there is anything that would soften the hardest heart, it is the sight of these 6,7,8-year olds lugging their masts and sails down the dock, so full of life, cheeks red from fresh air and morning sun, bursting with enthusiasm, ready to rig their boat, ready to be their own captain and to show off their new-found artistry. They get so excited; they even forget about their telephones. One glance at the boat alongside and they have to beat ‘em, out sail ‘em, or run into ‘em.

Once they learn the basics and we push them off the dock, it’s astounding how fast they put it together. Just like riding a bicycle for the first time. By Friday, they have rudder and sails in harmony, and they are masters in control of their own fate (we’ve heard that some of them especially love to capsizel!).



To offer a FREE sailing school is a unique and challenging concept, and it has been amazingly well received. We’ve been overwhelmed with inquiries. The Sail, Power, and Steam Museum is charged with raising the funds to keep it going. SPSM grants donations to the Midcoast Sailing Center with this guarantee: **“We will match every student you support with another student,”** so **your donation will double immediately** in value. If you donate \$100 for one kid, we will give him a whole week of classes-- AND....double it by adding another kid-- our contribution! Try \$500 for 5 kids and we will make it ten...10 kids for a whole week’s class. That’s our promise.

In spite of the pandemic, this old Museum has been moving ahead at a hundred miles an hour. I hope you have



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been following the Blog of the vessel Polaris as it made its way from Florida to our dock (right on our website at www.SailPowerSteamMuseum.org). The voyage , done mostly alone, was piloted by board member Mark S. He confesses to all the details on our web site with a day-to-day narration and accompanying pictures. It makes for very exciting reading. Our music jams have started up again, we have plans for a new boat storage building and will be breaking ground for the new construction in weeks. Come visit and see our new displays and some of the old so — numerous you’ve forgotten

Captain Jim & Meg Sharp

New Faces

SPSM is proud to have added yet another awesome member to our board of directors!



Robert D. Williams, Jr. of Vero Beach, FL, and Christmas Cove, ME, is an active member of the board of the Youth Sailing Foundation of Indian River County in Vero Beach, FL. His career started at the Martha's Vineyard Shipyard, and he spent 40 years at the Dwight S. Williams Co., Inc, 22 of those years as President. He served from 1974-1990 as the Chairman of the board of trustees of The Storm King School. Sailing/racing since he was 15 and with 18 years of ocean racing behind him, he is also past president of the CCIA Club in Christmas Cove, Maine. Bob was instrumental in the founding of the Midcoast Sailing Center at the SPSM and was the inspiration for our free youth sailing program

A New Era for SPSM: A New Building



Well, it's official: we're bursting at the seams! In July of 2020, the city of Rockland's Planning Board gave approval for SPSM to build a new facility on site. Expected to open in the summer of 2021, the building will house some of our boat collection, provide additional exhibit space, and create new event space for SPSM and other area organizations.

First envisioned by Captain Jim Sharp himself, Amanda Austin of 2A architects. llc. put that vision to paper, designing a building that will complement the historic architecture of the area while honoring the history of the old Snow Shipyard.

Peter Whitman, Chair of the Board's Building Committee, stated that the organization's trustees see this as an opportunity to invest further in our community and to expand programming at the museum. "We're excited to expand both our physical and programmatic footprint over the course of the coming year. We see so many opportunities with this new building that we are keeping the design open and flexible. The board is especially proud to be in a solid financial position and able to do this in a year when many organizations are struggling to stay open. We firmly believe that this will be a wonderful addition to SPSM and the community that has so heartily supported us over the years."



Around the Boatshop

Work continues on our Beetlecat and the two Herreshoff 12-1/2s. While we had planned to launch the Muscongus Bay Sloop this summer, the pandemic put a hold on those celebrations—so we're planning to launch her next year. Stay tuned for details—it'll be a good party!

The Midcoast Sailing Center Needs YOU (and a chase boat)!

- Are you able to volunteer some time to fit out boats in the spring, help teach sailing next summer or help mentor kids in a new, local Midcoast **SeaScout** program?
- Do you have a **chase-boat** that you'd like to donate? We're looking for something reliable, large enough to hold 6 people, and (hopefully) low maintenance.



Polaris

A Fabulous Donation—A Wonderful Opportunity

Thanks to the generosity of donor Peter Elsaesser and the tenacity of Capt. Mark Siegenthaler who flew to FL and sailed this beauty back to Maine, Polaris is now in Rockland at the SPSM.

A magnificently maintained Columbia River Pilot/ tugboat, she has been extensively restored and is now for sale. Details (and photographs) can be seen on our website at www.SailPowerSteamMuseum.org!

How can YOU help the museum?

Support us with your membership, donation, or sailing scholarship dollars

Volunteer in our boat shop, teach sailing, lead a Sea Scouts Ship, or call to find opportunities that match your skills

Donate a boat—we accept boats for resale or for use by the museum

(we are currently looking for a whaler type chase boat for our FREE Youth sailing program)

207-596-0200
www.SailPowerSteamMuseum.org
Facebook: [Rockland-Sail-Power-and-Steam-Museum](https://www.facebook.com/Rockland-Sail-Power-and-Steam-Museum)
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Sail, Power & Steam Museum
The Old Snow Shipyard
73 Mechanic Street
Rockland, ME 04841

New To The Sail Power & Steam Museum Collection



Sitting at our front desk is never boring as new items come to SPSM on a regular basis. Before opening this year, we received a collection of ship builder's Tools from Dick and Wendy Crossman. Belonging to Wendy's grandfather, Gosta (Gus) Skoog, the tools are now housed in our Dynamite Payson Boatshop.

When the Dive Locker of Gloucester had to close this summer, they picked up the phone and called Capt Jim who gladly worked to bring an awesome collection of dive gear to SPSM. While a complete new exhibit will have to wait for our new building, we have displayed this Mark V Helium Hat from Morse Diving, Inc. Similar in design, the first mixed gas rig was used in the salvage of the submarine "Squalus" that sank off the coast of NH in the spring of 1939.

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