



Fo'c'sle News

Newsletter of the Hudson River Maritime Museum
50 Rondout Landing, Kingston, NY 12401 | www.hrmm.org | 845-338-0071

Special Visit in the East Gallery

A unique group visited the museum's *Alexander Hamilton* exhibit this past Veterans Day. 2021 marks the 50th anniversary of the last sail of the steamer *Alexander Hamilton*, one of the last of the Hudson River sidewheel steamboats to be built. A number of its former crew visited the exhibit in the East Gallery which includes a number of artifacts: the pilot house wheel, boiler plate, souvenir banner, firehose mount, and an American flag that flew during the last sail. A few of the men had brought photos showing themselves at work on the boat.

Built in 1924 by the Bethlehem Shipbuilding Corporation for the Hudson River Day Line, the *Alexander Hamilton* was one of the last of the Hudson River sidewheel steamboats to ply the Hudson River between New York City and Albany. By the 1950s her route was reduced to Poughkeepsie, and by 1970 to Bear Mountain.



Group photo, in order: Andrew Donovan "Andy" Assistant Purser, 1970-1971; Danny Donovan; Robert Jordy "Bob"; Daniel J. Donovan "Dan" Chief Purser, 1968 - 1971; Gerard M. Mastropaolo "Jerry" Assistant Purser, 1967 and part of 1969, also acting Chief Purser, part of 1967 season.



Visit the Museum!

**Open Thursday-Sunday
11am-5pm. A warm space
& family friendly!**

STAFF

Lisa Cline *Executive Director*
Lauren Berg *PR/Marketing & Membership Manager*
Liz Feser *Finance & Operations Manager*

Karen Hinderstein
Store Associate

Allynne Lange *Curator Emerita*
Carla Lesh *Collections Manager & Digital Archivist*

Betsy O'Toole *Store Associate*
Gregg Swanzey *Grants Manager*

Sarah Wassberg Johnson
Director of Exhibits & Outreach

Steven Woods *Education & Solaris Charter Coordinator*

WATERFRONT

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Solaris Deckhand

Joe Hayes *Solaris Captain*

John Mehalak *Dock Assistant*

Sam Merrett *Programming Captain, Solaris*

Dale Sutton *Solaris Deckhand*

WOODEN BOAT SCHOOL

Becky Sellinger
Boat School Manager & Instructor

Wayne Ford *Boat Shipwright & Lead Shop Instructor*

Michael Puryear *Instructor*

Bill Sterling *Instructor*

John Van Buren *Instructor*

Andrew Willner *Instructor*

SAILING SCHOOL

Jody Sterling *Sailing School Director*

Betsy O'Toole *Instructor*

M.J. Reiss *Instructor*

Tanya Van Renesse *Instructor*

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Classes are expanding in 2022! Changes for this season include more of the popular 1-week intro immersive youth sailing sessions.



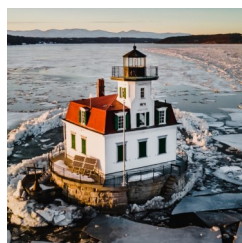
Captain's License Course 4

Captain Ken Roberts returns to the Wooden Boat School in March for a six-pack through 100 ton master class—great for those who seek to refresh skills.



Business Support 5

It's like a membership—but for a business! We're working with local (and not so local) companies on mutually beneficial partnerships.



Lighthouse Documentary 6

We kicked off our documentary campaign on Indiegogo in December. Please consider helping us finish this feature length film.



Wooden Boat School 7

Lots of classes will keep budding woodworkers of all ages busy throughout the winter months. And did you hear—YouthBoat is back!



Museum Store Update 9

Need a gift? Stop in the Museum Store for maritime gifts, toys and stuffed animals, new and antique books, local skincare goodies, and more.



Sail Freight Exhibit 10

Staff are putting together the next exhibit which will accompany a unique competitive event: the Northeast Grain Race of 2022!

LEADERSHIP REFLECTIONS

Holiday greetings to all museum members, staff and volunteers,

Despite the pandemic, 2021 has been a good year for us. Our Climate Change exhibit has been very well received, and....quite timely. The boat school as well as the sailing and rowing schools have been very productive and popular. And.....our totally solar-powered tour boat *Solaris* has found a sweet spot and looks to continue to build on her success. Because of the pandemic, people have been looking locally for educational programs and meaningful entertainment. I am glad that the museum has been in a position to help. This coming year should prove equally as rewarding.

On a personal note, after almost 20 years I will be stepping down from the board (including two tricks as board president). It has been an amazing time for me, and certainly a privilege to be working closely with the board, executive director and staff. I am particularly indebted to Russ Lange, the late Ralph Allen, and the current director Lisa Cline for their knowledge, good humor and support. The last 20 years have seen the building of the barn, the boat school, the building of *Solaris* and a number of critical partnerships including Clearwater, Riverkeeper, and Scenic Hudson. This truly has been a group effort, and it has been a pleasure for me to be part of that group. I intend to stay involved in the museum as a volunteer and as one of the captains of *Solaris*.

The Nominating Committee has met and proposed a slate of officers for 2022. It will include Allan Bowdery as next board president. It is reassuring to me that the museum will have such capable and experienced leadership as we move forward.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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David Price

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Ian Westergren

Thank you all for your help over the years,

Jack

Jack C Weeks, MD
HRMM Board President

SAILING SCHOOL

Adult & Youth Sailing Programs are Expanding in 2022!



We've been busy this winter planning out curriculum for the Sailing School's 2022 season. New options include a STEM-focused series with a scholarship opportunity, classes for younger students (6-8 years old), and more sessions of the popular youth sailing 1- week course.

New! REACH/STEM is a series of classes immersing students in the real world science, technology, engineering and math concepts of sailing. Classes are open to middle school age students (10-14). Scholarships are available and we're looking forward to working with more students from underserved communities.

New! Introduction to Youth Sailing - Children ages 6-8 will be introduced to sailing in a supportive environment so each student feels comfortable aboard sailboats, is safe during activities, has fun during the experience, and learns basic sailing concepts while making new friends through this new experience.



More Weeks! Youth Sailing Program - In our most popular 1-week series, students aged 9-17 learn the basics of sailing on the school's 8' Optimist Prams and other sailboats. Sessions meet Monday-Friday, 9:00am to 4:00pm. Beginners and more experienced sailors are welcome.

Expanded! Building & Sailing Boats (with the HRMM Wooden Boat School) - Youth ages 10-17 learn woodworking, boatbuilding, STEM concepts and sailing in this course as they work together to build and launch a vessel. Participants will gain solid experience with cooperation, teamwork, self-confidence, and independence.

More Sessions! First Sail - This course offers adults an introduction to sailing aboard our classic catboat *Tidbit* with a US Sailing certified instructor. Learn the basics of sailing and enjoy two hours on the beautiful Rondout Creek and Hudson River. Beginners and experienced sailors are welcome.

Redesigned! Adult Keelboat Sailing Series - This 3-session class is designed for adult students (18 and older) who are either new to keelboat sailing or who would just like to get out on the water and learn more about keelboat sailing. People may wish to enroll in multiple sessions of this class to strengthen skills.

Redesigned! Adult Centerboard Sailing Series - A 3-session class for adults who are either new to sailing on smaller centerboard boats or for those who would like to get out on the water and practice their centerboard boat sailing skills with a US Sailing certified instructor and two other adults.



More Sessions! US Sailing Basic Keelboat - This 21-hour course includes all the basics of sailing a keelboat. Many of our ambitious students take it more than once. At the end of the course qualified students will have the option of taking the test to qualify for the US Sailing Basic Keelboat certification.

Check out details & register: www.hrmm.org/sailing-school

Have questions? Reach out to Jody Sterling, Sailing School Director, at jsterling@hrmm.org

CAPTAIN'S LICENSE TRAINING



Classes Available This Spring

We're excited to bring back instructor Captain Ken Roberts for a captain's license course. This event is for six-pack through 100 ton master and is ideal for those who are uncertified or for people seeking to refresh their skills in navigation, chart plotting, rules of the road, and safety and regulations. It is the highest level license and is required for operators of both inspected and uninspected vessels. The credential can serve as proof of experience and may reduce insurance costs.

The course is offered through True North Maritime Academy and will be facilitated in the classroom at the Wooden Boat School located at 50 Rondout Landing. The cost is \$1,180 and the registration deadline is Tuesday, March 1, 2022. Sessions take place March 18-April 3, 2022 in-person and will provide training and testing requirements to apply for a US Coast Guard License. True North Maritime Academy facilitates boating certifications for all levels of experience, from the recreational beginner to the commercial captain.



www.hrmm.org/maritime-training

GRANTS IN ACTION

Boat School Improvements

In October, Rycor HVAC of New Paltz installed 7 ductless Mitsubishi super high efficiency heating, cooling, dehumidification, and air purification mini-split systems at the Wooden Boat School. These systems are all electric and will greatly reduce our carbon footprint since they will replace the existing natural gas-fired heating and cooling systems which can now be removed from the roof. This is a great step for HRMM!



These improvements are part of the Rondout Riverport Project which is funded in part by a Heritage Area grant from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation through Title 9 of the Environmental Protection Act of 1993.



BUSINESS SUPPORTERS



Catskill Woodworking, located in Historic Kingston, has been proudly working with architects, designers, general contractors, and homeowners for over 30 years to create custom woodwork of enduring quality. Their team of highly skilled project managers, engineers, draftsmen, cabinetmakers, and millworkers take pride in attention to detail and work closely with clients to ensure that they meet every expectation. Catskill Woodworking is recognized for their skill in developing innovative design solutions and for unsurpassed ability to coordinate with other trades.

Learn more at www.catskillwoodworking.com

Become a Business Supporter!

We rely on sponsorship from local businesses to help bring to life programs and exhibits that inspire continued interest in the maritime history of the Hudson River.

Perks include name and logo placement, passes and tours, and discounts on *Solaris* charters and facility rentals. Learn more at www.hrmm.org/business-supporters.



Ulster Savings Bank



Solar Sal Boats



MELTZER & HILL WEALTH ADVISORY
WELLS FARGO ADVISORS FINANCIAL NETWORK



CLASSIC HARBOR LINE
NEW YORK, NY

New York Boat Company



The Rondout Rower



Hudson River Ice Yacht Club



SEVEN SENTINELS DOCUMENTARY

Help us finish the story!



Of the dozens of lighthouses and lights that once dotted the Hudson River, only seven remain. This iconic American river, at the heart of the rise of New York City and westward expansion into the interior of the continent, was also a transportation super highway long before automobiles were invented. Throughout it all, the lighthouses kept watch, guarding the safety of the Hudson's waterborne traffic.

But no comprehensive history of these lighthouses exists. Until now.

The idea for this film has grown out of decades of Hudson River lighthouse interpretation, including research, exhibits, articles, short films, presentations, and the book. Together with filmmaker Jeff Mertz of Moonbow Imaging, we are creating a feature-length documentary film: "Seven Sentinels: Lighthouses of the Hudson River." This beautifully shot film will place the lighthouses in historic context, tell the fascinating stories of the buildings themselves and their keepers, and outline how these seven have survived to the present day, and how to preserve them for generations to come.

Over the summer of 2020 and 2021 we have collected film footage of each of the seven lighthouses, plus expert interviews. Now comes the hard part. We need to spend time reviewing the collected footage, storyboarding each chapter of the film, finding historic images and film footage, editing each chapter, color correcting, sound editing, and all the other tasks necessary to make a film flow and look great. We also need to license music, hire an illustrator, pay for interview transcription, and finish a few remaining interviews with folks who were not available in 2021. Your funding will help us reach our goal of producing a beautiful, historically accurate, and engaging story, which will launch in Summer, 2022.

Please consider helping us reach our goal. Supporters through Indiegogo can receive great perks like:

- Digital access & DVDs
- Signed Hudson River Lighthouse books
- Lighthouse tours
- Supporters-only film screenings
- Special credits
- And more!

This project is made possible in part through support from Ulster Savings Bank, Rondout Savings Bank, and the County of Ulster's Ulster County Cultural Services & Promotion Fund administered by Arts Mid-Hudson.



www.hrmm.org

Scan the code with your phone to watch the trailer!



WOODEN BOAT SCHOOL



Get Crafty this Winter

The Wooden Boat School is excited to offer more classes in 2022. This year staff launched Basics of Woodworking for Kids, a 10-week series introducing students to the basics of woodworking and carpentry.

We are happy to bring back YouthBoat! This immersive after school boat building experience begins in February. Students ages 11-18 work alongside shipwrights to follow building plans, use tools and materials, and put STEM skills to work as they build a boat in the school's wood shop under the guidance

of skilled shipwrights and craftspeople. Starting in January staff will host a few new classes where students can learn to build wood projects such as picture frames and firewood log racks. We are also pleased to offer a Captain's License class in March for the avid boater interested in getting their certification. Register now to sign up for classes where you can build your very own kayak, canoe, or even stand-up paddle board. Our instructors will walk you through the process and you will leave with your very own handmade-by-you boat to recreate this summer!

DIY Custom Picture Frame - Jan 8

Bring your art to this 1-day class and leave with a custom frame. Students will learn basic woodworking skills with a focus on spline joinery.

Build Your Own Ukelele - Jan 14-16

Passionate about music? Build your own musical instrument with guitar maker and instructor Bill Sterling.

DIY Firewood Log Rack - Jan 22-23

Wayne Ford will guide students through construction of a wood structure to help keep their logs and kindling dry.

Live Edge Table Build - Jan 29

What makes these pieces unique? Live edge finishes allow wood to retain its original shape and radiant natural appearance.

YouthBoat - Feb 15-May 19

An afterschool series for ages 11-18 allowing kids to put STEM skills to use as they build and launch a boat.

(More courses listed online!)



A group sets out onto the Rondout Creek following a Build Your Own Skin-on-Frame Solo/Tandem Canoe course. The Wooden Boat School will offer this course again in June, along with courses on building a stand up paddleboard and skin-on-frame F1 kayak.



www.hrmm.org/boat-school

Instagram: @hrmmwoodenboatschool

Becky Sellinger, Wooden Boat School Manager & Instructor
bsellinger@hrmm.org

SOLARIS & 2022



Solaris had an impressive season in 2021: She moved over 4,000 passengers from May to October. Over 1,600 people visited the lighthouse onboard, over the course of 150 lighthouse tours. Over 250 people learned about Lenape history and culture aboard from Justin Wexler and Harv Hillowitz, and 239 took the working waterfront cruise. We also brought over 370 people out into a Frederick Church painting on the river with our sunset cruises, and over 300 more enjoyed our Lantern Cruises as an end of the season finale.

Ships are amazing things in themselves, but they're nothing without their crews and those who care for them. Without the combined efforts and enthusiasm of our crew and volunteers, we could not have accomplished nearly so much. This ranged from Wayne and the Boat School volunteers working on repairs and maintenance, to our captains and crew ensuring we kept all of our passengers in the boat and safe from dock to dock. Our deck and dock hands spent tireless hours keeping *Solaris* clean and bright, as well as ensuring we had a place to dock. Our office staff were a critical part of arranging school programs and charters. Our educators and volunteer guides came out in all conditions and every possible time of day to run school programs, guide tours, and generally help the crew whenever needed.

For a few volunteers, we were a regular part of their week, including Fran, Mark, Greg, Bob, and Gene, who together led 163 tours. They all came in on short notice to help several times, and their efforts were critical to making us a destination in high demand this season, and making sure *Solaris* rarely left the dock without packed seats. This season has been an accomplishment in which the entire museum played a part, and we should all be proud of these results.

Planning for the 2022 season is underway, with some promising additions to the schedule. These will include specific children's programming, an expansion of our expert-led cruises, and operations from our new Rhinecliff Dock. Our well-received standards, such as lighthouse tours, sunset cruises, and live music will also continue, and we hope to bring back many of the same artists we had this year, as well as new acts who have expressed interest. If you know of anyone you'd like to see perform on *Solaris*, please let us and them know!



Hopefully we will see a decline in COVID cases by the Spring, and this will allow us to bring back more school programming. We are currently offering three programs for schools at the museum, two of which involve *Solaris*, and thus will have to wait for spring. One is a joint program with the Trolley Museum of New York, which has gone quite well the few times it has been run this season. Both focus on the ecology and history of the Rondout Creek, bringing together ecology and the history of maritime trade on the Hudson and Rondout, and at the same time giving many of the kids their first experience on the water.

With all the successes of 2021 and a promising season coming up in 2022, there's good reason to believe *Solaris* will meet or exceed the very high bar set this year. There's no doubt we can build on this year's success in May, and we look forward to having many of the same crew back, while welcoming a few new faces onboard.

- Steve Woods, Education & *Solaris* Charter Coordinator

CURATORIAL CORNER

A Fresh Face from Upriver

A new arrival to the Hudson River Maritime Museum collection is "The Mariner" by Albany area artist David Cunningham Lithgow.

David Cunningham Lithgow: Sculptor, Painter, Muralist, Author, was born in 1868 in Glasgow, Scotland. He emigrated to the US in 1888 with his sister, Jessie and settled in Albany, NY. In 1890, he married his wife, Amelia. He opened an artist studio at 57 North Pearl Street in Albany. He was Albany's most famous turn of the century artist, who was commissioned to create murals and oil paintings, build sculptures, illustrate books, and work with the historical dioramas and a mural for the New York State Museum in Albany. He died in 1958.

Thank you to the Albany Institute of History and Art for arranging for this donation to the Hudson River Maritime Museum.



SHOP LOCAL



The store's leatherbound journals are a favorite item of Karen, our Museum Store Associate

We've been doing lots of work in the store! Purchase general museum admission, become a member, and shop our wonderful selection of souvenirs, apparel, and local history books.



On Saturday November 27 we stayed open late for Small Business Saturday shoppers as well as for the annual Kingston Waterfront Winter Stroll event.

The museum store is your destination for local goods and maritime gifts. Staff are unpacking a generous donation of over 150 books on topics including boat building, river voyages, and seashore ecology. These titles are in great shape and will be available for purchase in the store. They're looking for readers! Also, new in the store are soaps and lotions from local purveyor Hudson Valley Skin Care.

SAIL FREIGHT PLANS AT HRMM

Sail Freight is going to be a big theme at the museum next year, which I think is great. I wrote my master's thesis on sail freight, which might bias me slightly when I say it is one of the most interesting and relevant subjects to the Hudson Valley today. We are currently working on an exhibit covering the past, present and potential of sail freight here in the Hudson Valley and worldwide, which will replace the "Rescuing The River" exhibit when it goes on the road in early 2022.

At the same time, Schooner *Apollonia* is gearing up for her second year of sail freight movement on the Hudson, after a remarkably successful first year of somewhat normal operations. When running the numbers on what's simple to measure, CO2 emissions, she's about 10 times more efficient than the box trucks she replaces. In addition, *Apollonia* and her crew provide dozens of benefits trucks simply don't: When was the last time you saw people learning about the complexity of creating a near-zero carbon supply chain at a truck stop? We saw that happen quite a lot at the dockside with *Apollonia* this year, as well as education about mushroom farming and forestry as it relates to food supply systems and sail freight, which was a very interesting program. Look for a lot more programs with *Apollonia* on the HRMM docks and others through 2022.



For the curious, we will be trying to set up a few lectures on sail freight in early 2022, which should introduce more of what it is and isn't. The definition is pretty simple, "The maritime movement of cargo under primarily wind power," but that covers a lot of area. We'll get into that with our programming and exhibit as it develops. There is also the tie-in between the ecological mission of the museum and sail freight, as well as the historical connection to the sloops and schooners which moved essentially all the cargo on the river before the proliferation of steam, and into the 1880s. This will be a multifaceted topic worth stopping by and seeing the exhibit and other programs on the subject for anyone interested in any part of the river's history and future.

The interrelated item to sail freight is the planned Northeast Grain Race of 2022. This is a contest to deliver grain from a producer to an end user with the least possible use of fossil fuels: You get 1 point for every ton-mile of grains you move, but lose 5 points for each liter of fuel or 10 kilowatt hours of power you take off the grid. Any vehicle can enter a voyage, such as RevX's cargo bikes, and *Apollonia* is currently planning to enter her first cargo run of malt in May. Anyone who'd like to try to beat a sailboat on efficiency anywhere in New England, New York, or New Jersey is welcome to check out the full rules and information on our website under the *Events* tab.

We look forward to seeing you next year and we hope you come out to learn about and support this revival of a 5,000 year old technology which can serve us well in a time of changing climates and peak oil.

-- Steve Woods, Education & *Solaris* Charter Coordinator



Hudson River Maritime Museum
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Kingston, NY 12401

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RESTING SOLARIS

Solaris, our 100% solar-powered tour boat and floating classroom, was hauled out of the water in early December at Rondout Yacht Basin in Kingston. She had some maintenance before the final short trip up the Rondout Creek. We're looking forward to putting her back in the water come Spring. Staff are finalizing the 2022 season calendar of boat tours we're excited to what's to come. We've barely had snow and people are already scheduling private charters!

