



Fall/Winter 2020

Fo'c'sle News

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



Left: Solaris, Apollonia, and Clearwater rafted up together in Albany in late June on the RiverWise: North Hudson Voyage. Right: Solaris and Apollonia pass the Mid-Hudson Bridge in August on the RiverWise: South Hudson Voyage.

RiverWise: A New Tack

When the museum closed its doors in March of this year, we scrambled to figure out how to continue our educational mission without our exhibits, without our school programs, and without in-person events. We had been discussing the possibility of a holistic educational program for several months to broaden our educational mission to include all aspects of the Hudson River's rich history and culture, from boating and knowledge of the river itself, to familiarity with some of the amazing stories of its past.

Our friends at *Clearwater* mentioned they were considering a long-term sail to raise awareness during COVID, and although we ultimately were unable to sail together, the idea sparked something with the museum team. *Solaris* was sitting forlornly at our docks, unable to take passengers. Our friends at the Schooner *Apollonia* were also on our docks. They had been gearing up for their first summer of sailing, only to have it cut short by the shutdown. Together, we decided to go on a sail and bring all of you with us. RiverWise coalesced, combining in-the-moment livestream videos and social media updates with professionally filmed video, making the most of our historic journeys to give us educational material we can use for years to come.

In June, we went north and in August we went south, and you came with us! Hundreds of you watched the videos, commented, liked, and shared, boosting our spirits even as we worked extraordinarily hard both on the vessels and on shore to make sure things went smoothly and we caught as much material as we could. We created blog posts and an interactive educational map to go along with all the videos. And thanks to the gracious support of donors both large and small, we even covered most of our costs. RiverWise was a new tack for the museum, and it's a course we're not going to leave anytime soon. Documentary films are up next, so stay tuned and keep your eyes peeled. You can catch up on what you missed at www.hudsonriverwise.org. Are you RiverWise?

Museum Hours
Open Friday, Saturday, Sunday
12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

STAFF

Lisa Cline,
Executive Director

Maureen Cummins,
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Museum Store Clerk*

Liz Feser,
*Finance & Operations
Manager*

Wayne Ford,
*Boat School Restorations &
Youth Instructor*

Allynne Lange,
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Carla Lesh,
*Collections Manager &
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Sam Merrett
Managing Captain, Solaris

John Phelan
*Boat School Coordinator &
Captain, Solaris*

Jody Sterling
Sailing Program Director

Gregg Swanzey
Grants Manager

Sarah Wassberg Johnson,
*Director of Exhibits &
Outreach*

Tanya Van Renesse
*Sailing Instructor & Solaris
Coordinator*

Senior Boat School Instructors

Michael Puryear,

Bill Sterling

John Van Buren

Andrew Willner

2020: Adjusting Our Sails

When I think back to the halcyon days of January and early February of 2020, I have to shake my head in disbelief - was that really only 9 months ago? Here at the HRMM office we were busy planning the 'BEST YEAR EVER' (yes, we were actually calling it that!). We had just finished our 20+ page 2020 calendar brochure, packed with exciting programs, exhibits and events. We had been innovative and daring over the past few years, trying many new ventures and partnerships; boat building schools, sailing schools, tour boats. Our team had walked a steep path of learning and we were sure that we had many of our hard lessons behind us. Our 2020 offerings reflected these hard-won lessons, and we were sure that we would really have our 'best year ever'. Little did we know what was in store and that the path was going to get a lot steeper. These new lessons were not what we were expecting and they are far from over.

But I am proud to say that we have stayed true to our mission through this year of surprise losses, and we have been able to keep telling the River's story in new and old ways. When this pandemic started, the HRMM history team almost immediately started to generate robust and fascinating virtual blog posts that kept our community engaged and learning. We furiously applied for all possible federal and state support, and we asked you all for help, and we received this help and support. We figured out how to stay safe and keep our visitors safe at each stage - when we partially opened the exhibits in June, then reopened the sailing school and resumed *Solaris* tours in July, and then the Wooden Boat school in August. We even launched *Solaris* and *Apollonia* on a wildly daring venture called RiverWise, a virtual educational voyage from Albany to NY Harbor.

Are these programs paying all the bills? No, they are not yet. Are we still struggling? Yes we are. And we will continue to need to ask for help. But we have received something even more valuable than money and that is the continued affirmation that our community and our partners value this museum and our mission.

As this newsletter goes to press, I am one month away from my 5 year anniversary here at HRMM. In that time I have been enormously impressed by the creativity and dedication of our staff, board of directors, and volunteers. I am very proud of what we have accomplished together. I would not have chosen the hardships of 2020, but hardships come with lessons, especially one that we all need to keep learning - we cannot control the wind, but we can adjust our sails.



- Lisa Cline, Executive Director

RIVERWISE, CONT'D.

New Partnership with Apollonia



Solaris and Apollonia on the first day of the RiverWise: South Hudson Voyage in August, 2020.

This season the solar powered *Solaris* and sailing vessel Schooner *Apollonia* embarked on a two-part 145-mile carbon neutral voyage from Albany to NYC, giving rise to the new Hudson River Maritime program RiverWise. This trip harnessed the power of the sun and the wind in an environmentally conscious program. As anyone who has had the pleasure of being a passenger on *Solaris* or *Apollonia* knows, these are boats that move in harmony with natural forces. We

work along with the tides, currents, and winds and do not power through and fight them. This is the same approach we took to the RiverWise journey. While underway we focused on the real experience of the voyage and also the incredible historical sites we passed along the way. This program provided content to viewers during the pandemic from the safety and comfort of their own homes.

In addition we brought professional camera people who gathered amazing footage and interviews which will be released as future educational content, including mini-documentaries! This is part of a larger initiative to encourage everyone to become "RiverWise," learning about the maritime heritage, ecology, and current activity on the Hudson River.

Additionally, the RiverWise voyage marked an exciting partnership between the Hudson River Maritime Museum and the Schooner *Apollonia*. Together we are looking to history to create viable, sustainable, and relevant solutions to current problems.

Our RiverWise Sponsors

We are grateful to the many sponsors who supported both RiverWise trips! Their support helped us offset many of the costs of bringing amazing Hudson River stories to everyone. Sponsors include: The Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, the Sam and Ellen Phelan Family Foundation, the Daley Family Foundation, Mid-Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union, Suncommon, Sustainable Energy Systems/Solar Sal Boats, Ann Loeding, David Eaton, and the many who donated to our PledgeIt campaign.

We are also thankful to the marinas and organizations who donated docking along the way, including Riverview Marine Services, Scarano Boat Building, Donovan's Shady Harbor Marina, Town of Athens, Town of Saugerties, Garrison Yacht Club, Trinity Cruises, Nyack Boat Club, North Cove Marina, and South Street Seaport Museum.

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WAYS TO SUPPORT

Museum Combines Pilot Gala and Year End Appeal

You may have wondered this September where our Pilot Gala was? Obviously the pandemic has prevented us from having an in-person event, so the Board of Trustees decided to combine the Pilot Gala and our Year End Appeal into one big fundraiser we're calling the "UnGala." We're hoping to raise \$50,000 to get us through the winter and you can help!

Where normally you might attend the Pilot Gala, bid on items at our silent and live auctions, or donate to the Year End Appeal, this year we are asking you to combine all those donations into one. You can earmark portions of your donation for specific programs, or for general support.

Your support means we can continue our educational mission to help everyone better understand the Hudson River and its history. Check your mailbox for a physical invitation, or visit www.hrmm.org/pilot-gala for more information or to donate online.

And if you're wondering what has happened to the *Pilot Log*? Don't worry! It's still coming, just a little late. We'll be releasing it digitally this fall instead of in print to save funds, but it's chock full of amazing history articles by staff, volunteers, and contributing scholars. So keep an eye to your email inbox for digital delivery!

RiverWise Films Underway



Some of our filmmaking crew aboard Solaris for RiverWise: South Hudson Voyage.

As many of you know, one of our RiverWise journey goals was to collect high quality documentary film footage of the Hudson River and all its engaging and historic people and places. But we're not done yet! We'll be collecting more footage throughout the fall and winter and start turning them into documentary films! We're already planning to release a film about the RiverWise journey itself in December, so watch for announcements of the release date.

Coming up next is a series of documentary films about the last seven lighthouses on the Hudson. You may have seen the documentary shorts on Jeffrey's Hook and the Statue of Liberty we made for the RiverWise: South Hudson Journey (available on our YouTube channel), but additional films for all the lighthouses, including interviews with lighthouse keepers and stewards, tours of the interiors, and more historic photos are forthcoming.

In addition, we're putting together films on the history of Sail Freight, Shipbuilding, and Tugboats & Towing on the Hudson. We've already completed some interviews and gathered historic photos for some of these films, but we'll be continuing that work next spring and summer.

This is an exciting and groundbreaking new project for us - helping bring the story of the Hudson River and its importance both locally and nationally to a global audience through the magic of film and the internet. But making movies is expensive! We encourage you to consider a stretch donation as part of the UnGala to support these films.

WAYS TO SUPPORT

Museum Plans Online Store, Photo Contest Prints



"Northbound Tug & Barge Breaking Through the Morning Mist" by Mark Heller, the Hudson Riverscapes Photo Contest Grand Prize Winner.

We are pleased to announce that by popular demand the museum is finally opening an online store. We will be featuring custom items, starting with *Solaris* baseball caps, custom branded tumblers, wet bags, and more.

Of special interest to many who followed the Hudson Riverscapes Photo Contest online is the announcement that we will have several of the photos available as prints and sets of cards! The Hudson Riverscapes grand prize winning image by Mark Heller, seen at left, will be included. You can purchase these in the museum store or online.

We hope to have the online store up and running in plenty of time for holiday shopping, so stay tuned for updates!

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- Woodstock Library

GRANTS & AWARDS

CFA: Rondout Riverport Project

In December, 2018 the Hudson River Maritime Museum received grant funding from the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) with funds from the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) totaling \$430,000. The museum is now embarking on the Rondout Riverport Phase 2 Project that will address two themes – green sustainable practices and sense of place – at the Museum’s 1.25-acre 15,340 square foot facilities on the Kingston waterfront.

A \$667,000 design and build project will be initiated this fall that resonates for the Heritage Area and takes into account ADA requirements, urban needs and resiliency, and adaptations that respond to climate change, sea level rise and increased likelihood of flooding events for the Museum grounds and streetscape in front of the building. This design process will be especially cognizant of the interface between Rondout Creek waterfront, pedestrian promenade, bikeability in the urban environment and adjacent Greenline and regional connections to the Hudson River Water Trail, Hudson River Valley Greenway, Empire State Trail and adjacent Trolley tracks that connect Lower Broadway to Kingston Point Park.

Our plan is to make improvements that will:

- Improve energy efficiencies in the heating and cooling systems and add solar capacity through rooftop panels atop the Riverport Wooden Boat School
- Enhance the visitor experience, including walkway improvements, benches, landscaping and recycling containers
- Integrate connections to the adjacent Kingston Greenline and Empire State Trail
- Improve the façade, HRMM grounds and streetscape along the Strand, including the adjacent trolley tracks and paving
- Install hardware to provide public WiFi throughout the campus
- Design, fabricate and install wayfinding kiosks and signage to help visitors orient, navigate and appreciate the waterfront area, the City of Kingston and the regional context.

In collaboration with Dutton Architecture, PLLC and Wagner Hodgson Landscape Architects we will develop a schematic design leading to the creation of a 3-D massing model in sketch-up depicting all existing exterior site elements for use in the ideation phase initially and as a final presentation tool depicting proposed site design from a variety of perspectives and vantage points.

We gratefully acknowledge the support of the State of New York for this project and confirm that the opinions, results, findings and/or interpretations are the responsibility of the Hudson River Maritime Museum and do not necessarily represent the opinions, interpretations or policy of the State or the funding agency.

SOLARIS

Solaris' Brief but Popular Season

On July 17, 2020 *Solaris* began offering public tours again, more than half of which were completely new! To reduce the number of people on board to allow for social distancing, *Solaris* deckhands were trained to double as tour guides, creating some of their own guided tours based on their knowledge and interest.

Carried over from last year were our Industrial Waterfront tour, Sunset Cruise, and Fall Foliage tours. On the Industrial Waterfront tour, we explored the extensive industrial history of the Rondout Creek, with sites such as the bones of the famous steamboat *Mary Powell* and the first lock on the Delaware and Hudson Canal. We added to our Fall Foliage tour a wealth of information on natural history and ecology.

We also launched several new tours, including an Ecology tour, which explored the tidal estuary's unique and amazing ecology, the Lazy Sunday Family Cruise, and a Dual Lighthouse tour that cruised past two of the Hudson River's most beautiful lighthouses. Our newest tour, the Lantern Cruise, has become one of the most successful. This spooky tour happens in complete darkness, and features historically accurate stories of mystery and intrigue, told by our talented volunteer historians and storytellers.

After a slow and hesitant start to our season, we have seen significant rise in interest and will be running our tours throughout October and into November!



2020 Challenges



Solaris being towed from South Street Seaport after motor problems during RiverWise: South Hudson Voyage.

This was our second season operating *Solaris* but due to COVID at times it felt like the first season all over again. With a delayed start to the season, *Solaris* did not begin regular programming until Mid July. That said, once we began programming we realized just how lucky we are to have an elegant spacious totally open air vessel. As per NYS safety guidelines we operated *Solaris* at reduced capacity and the reduction in numbers led to a more relaxed and luxurious atmosphere. While on the RiverWise voyage we also experienced some mechanical problems due to a manufacturer defect with our outboard motor. This was luckily still under warranty and so we were able to replace the motor with no further trouble. Even with these

cont'd on page 8...

WOODEN BOAT SCHOOL

Boat School Reopening



New timber framed structure going up at the Boat School. Learn to timber frame with our Intro to Square Rule Timber Framing class.

There is no question we had a different summer than usual at the Wooden Boat School, but I'm sure everyone else did as well. After postponing and canceling all the summer classes we turned our focus to restoration work. Some of the highlights were finishing up the replacement of the stem and repairing a plank on a 16ft Penn-Yann. Restoring the finish and applying a flawless paint job on a classic wherry and repairing several split planks on a Lawley Tender. The four boats of our wooden Opti fleet that were built in the boat school also got a fresh coat of paint and several coats of varnish. They are now ready for next year's youth sailing program. We currently have a Snekke, built in Norway of Norwegian Pine, under the shed for restoration, and have a few other projects lined up to keep Wayne busy.

In even bigger news we have started to hold some adult woodworking classes again. We have put in place COVID protocols to ensure the students and instructors stay safe and have limited the class sizes to ensure plenty of room to work in the shop. We started out by resuming Foundations of Woodworking and Build Your Own Guitar, both classes started in the spring, but had to be stopped prior to completion. We have also held a sold out Live Edge Table building class that went so well we added another session in November. To see all the classes that are scheduled for the fall check out the Woodworking page of the website at hmm.org/woodworking

Solaris Challenges Cont'd

setbacks we have had a successful second season that will be continuing until November 1st.

Solaris is a demonstration vessel and we are constantly learning about the technology and pushing the boundaries. We have a large solar array that manages to keep our battery bank charged. We have never had to cancel programming due to lack of charge, something I find remarkable. Even on a cloudy day we get enough solar gain to maintain a reasonable speed. That said, I would be remiss not to mention our motor problems in New York Harbor. We did experience a failure at South Street Seaport in Manhattan. When attempting to leave their docks the motor would not engage. We went through a series of troubleshooting scenarios and determined that the issue was the motor itself. Fortunately it was covered under warranty, and upon a thorough autopsy we discovered that a seal on the gearbox had leaked gear oil which in turn had shorted out the motor itself. Although this was inconvenient, to say the least, we are grateful that the motor was covered under warranty and to learn that the issue was a defective part that has been replaced. This is par for the course with pushing the limits of new technology and we are happy to advance the cause!

- Sam Merrett, Managing Captain, Solaris & Captain, Apollonia

SAILING SCHOOL

Summer Sailing Programs a Success!

We had tremendous success this summer with our sailing classes! Our sailing school is the only US Sailing certified school in the Hudson Valley, and thus we have very high learning standards. Our staff worked hard to completely restructure the sailing program to make it safe and accessible to all ages, and the work paid off. We scheduled over 40 classes, and many sold out in just a few hours after they were posted.

In past years, we have run a large-scale program for our youth sailors, often using more than 10 sailboats each day in our week-long sailing intensive. This year, we held exclusively centerboard classes, with class sizes of three or four students, allowing for social distance and a more individualized experience. Beginner students would sign up for our youth basic class, where they would learn sailing basics with a quick chalk talk, then go out onto the river and sail with an instructor. More advanced students would take clinic classes, where they would get some more water time with the instructor in a nearby safety boat. Our adult classes, previously held exclusively on keelboats, were also held on a centerboard boat and run very similarly to the youth classes, with a maximum class size of three students. The centerboard sailing classes enabled adults to get a close-to-the-water, hands-on experience, including capsizing practice, which set a solid foundation for them to build upon in future centerboard boat and keelboat classes.



Sailing into the sunset aboard one of our keelboats.

Women's Sailing Conference Goes Virtual



Skipper Dawn Riley during a race.

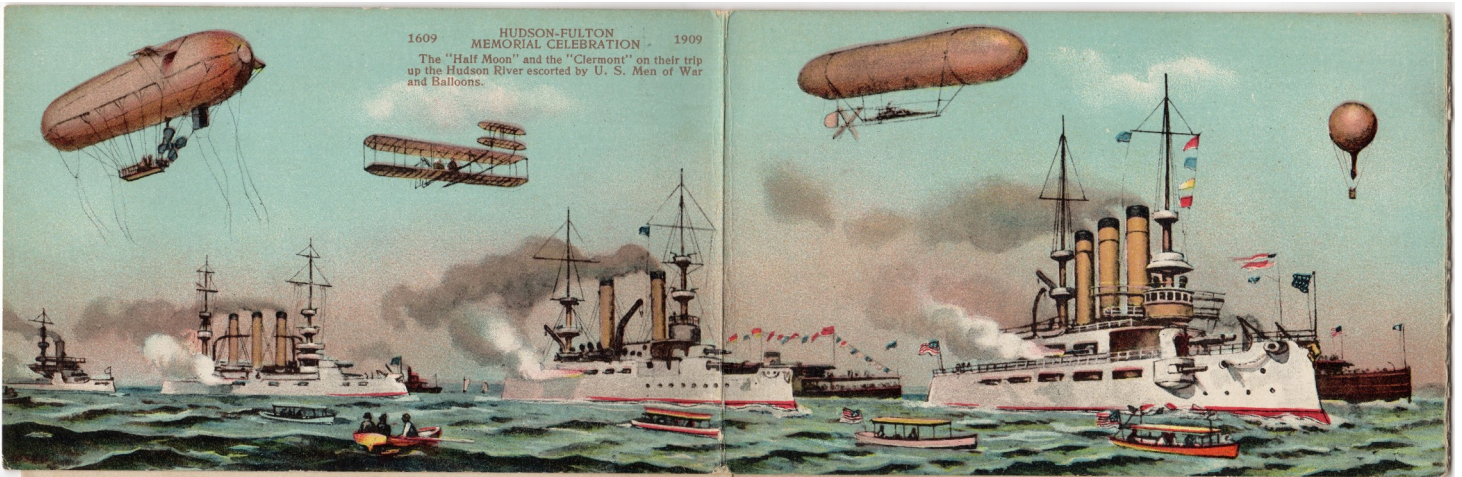
Originally scheduled for March 30, 2020, the Fourth Annual Women's Sailing Conference was rescheduled for November 6 & 7 and completely sold out. But COVID hasn't given up yet, so we've recently retooled the event as 100% virtual.

The conference features amazing speakers like Captain Dawn Riley (at left), an experienced racer and sailing instructor who runs the Oakcliff Sailing School in Oyster Bay, Long Island, and Tracy Edwards, captain of the *Maiden*, which participated in the Whitbread Around the World Race with an all-women crew in 1989-1990 and was featured in a 2019 documentary film by the same name.

The new format allows for more participants and a reduced price. Cost for the whole conference is now just \$50 per household and there are still spaces open! Registration is open to everyone, women and men, and for sailors of all levels of experience (including inexperienced!). Scholarships are also available for low-income households. To register or for more information, visit www.hrmm.org/sailing-conference or email jestering@hrmm.org.

CURATORIAL CORNER

Recent donations to the Museum collection



Four-fold postcard from the 1909 Hudson-Fulton Celebration. Notice all the different forms of transportation.

Fascinating donations to the museum's collection continue to come in from generous donors. Recent offerings include postcards, prints, a brass name plate from the Hudson River Day Line steamboat Washington Irving, a ship's wheel, a photo album of Hudson River steamboats and a wonderful model of the steamboat Mary Powell. The Collections Committee, made up of staff, board and volunteers, carefully considers each donation at regular meetings. Some of these items travel across the country to make it home to the banks of the Hudson River. The museum is grateful for the thoughtfulness of the donors in making sure these pieces of Hudson River history are able to help the museum tell the story of the Hudson River for years to come!

Archives Volunteers Lighten Workload

The team of Hudson River Maritime Museum Archives volunteers work both at home and in the Archives room on a variety of projects. At home projects include, but are not limited to: researching, transcribing, and indexing historic newspapers, (thank you George Thompson and Carl Mayer!); digitizing slides and assisting researchers with genealogy questions (thank you Joan Mayer!); transcribing printed articles for use by researchers and on the HRMM History Blog (thank you Adam Kaplan!).

Many thanks to the volunteers who, with careful attention to COVID-safe protocols, have been working onsite since June, 2020: Charlie Potter continues his work as part of the model boat crew swabbing the decks and getting the boat models back into "ship shape"; Steamboat scholar Jerry Mastropaolo sorts through the details of large collections as part of preparing them for use by researchers, and answers lots of research questions; Fran Drakert turns her hand to all manner of Archives-related tasks (in addition to the many other ways she helps the museum). A current project is an inventory of the 3000+ boat-related technical drawings from the 1890s to the 1950s. And then there's the corps of Contributing Scholars who graciously share their knowledge of Hudson River history by writing History Blog posts, suggesting Hudson River music, and answering research questions. Thank you to the wonderful Hudson River Maritime Museum volunteers who make it possible to bring Hudson River history to the public, even in the midst of a pandemic!



Volunteer Fran Drakert unfolds a technical drawing for cataloging.

LOCAL HISTORY

Mary Powell Exhibit Now Open



Few vessels of any era or type have captured the public's affection and imagination the way the sidewheeler *Mary Powell* has. The Hudson River Maritime Museum is celebrating the 100th anniversary of her dismantling this year with a new exhibit exploring her legacy and highlighting artifacts from her storied career. Chief among these is the wheel from her pilothouse, on loan from the Senate House State Historic Site in Kingston. The exhibit also features her steam whistle, the monogrammed lunette from one of her paddle boxes, contemporaneous lithographs and photographs and an exceptionally accurate model of the steamboat by Robert Irving Schellig. The model was donated to the museum earlier this year by John Merino Jr of Alexandria, Virginia. A new work by Hudson Valley artist Len Tantillo is included, completed in 2019 and painstakingly illustrating the *Mary Powell* in the Rondout Creek in the late nineteenth century. Len has graciously given us images illustrating the process he uses to create digital models for his detailed paintings, which you can currently see playing in the exhibit.

First placed in service in 1862, the *Mary Powell* achieved immediate acclaim for her speed, the attentiveness of her service and her beautiful lines. At 288 feet in length after her lengthening in 1862-1863, she had a capacity of approximately 1500 and achieved a speed of over 22 mph. She carried more than her share of celebrities, including President Grant, Grand Duke Alexis of Russia, Walt Whitman, John Burroughs, Oscar Wilde and almost certainly FDR as a young man. The *Mary Powell* made a ceremonial cruise for the opening of the Brooklyn Bridge in 1883 and carried passengers to the dedication of the Statue of Liberty in 1886. The steamboat was renowned in Europe as the best way to see the Hudson River or the "American Rhine" as it was often referred to.

The *Mary Powell* was also notable as a witness to a remarkable period of change in American history. Launched during the last days of the Pony Express, she operated throughout the Civil War, carried Custer's body to West Point, witnessed the rise of New York City's skyscrapers and retired from service in an era of automobiles and airplanes.

The creation of the exhibit was interrupted by the closure of the Museum this spring and there are still several enhancements that we hope to add, including a virtual tour. Please join the staff of the museum in thanking all of the exhibit's contributors, donors and especially our Museum Fabricator Ron Searl for ensuring that the exhibit would be ready in spite of our challenges! And please be sure to visit us in person to see the exhibit for yourself!

The museum is open Fridays through Sundays, 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM with COVID cleaning, social distancing, capacity limits, unidirectional traffic, and mask protocols in place. Remember - members get free admission any time!



Hudson River Maritime Museum
50 Rondout Landing
Kingston, NY 12401

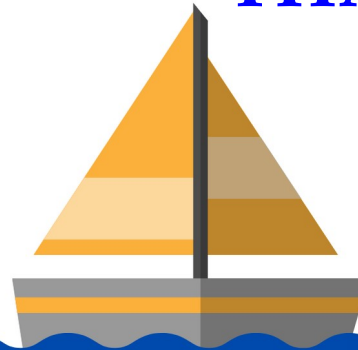
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While Solaris was docked at the Rondout Lighthouse in August for filming, we saw our friends aboard the Clearwater headed out of Rondout Creek for a sail!

THANK YOU

For Your Support!



To everyone who donated to our COVID fundraiser and the RiverWise voyages, who renewed their memberships, who took classes, and booked Solaris charters, thank you for helping keep the museum afloat!