

Before The Mast

News From The Richardson Maritime Museum

www.richardsonmuseum.org

June 2005



"Master Boatbuilder"
by George Wright

Girls Just Want To Have Fun Building Boats

For the second year in a row, the eighth-grade class of the Springside School, the oldest girls school in Philadelphia, visited Dorchester County and built boats at the Boatworks, May 11-13.

Thirty of the 47 girls in the class spent three days building two 16-foot pulling skiffs on the newly renovated second floor of the century-old Boatworks building. Ten girls each day divided up into two teams to build the skiffs from parts mostly pre-cut by Boatworks volunteers.

They finished up the final day by painting them in their school colors of blue and gold. The boats were taken back to the school for auctioning off for funds for next year's trip.

Other groups of the girls from the school learned how to sail the skipjack *Nathan of Dorchester* and visited area attractions.

Our volunteer boatwrights—Frank Newton, Ron Fortucci, Bob Buczek, Ken Guelta, Ray Henderson and Mark Murphy—taught the girls the use of drills and jigsaws and the art of planing, sanding and painting. For many, it was their first real experience in using tools that will come in handy later in life. At the end of the three days, they all gathered around the finished boats for a group photo to commemorate their hard work.

Marilyn Tinari of the Springside School, who accompanied the class on its trip, thanked the volunteers "and all the good folks in Cambridge for welcoming and working with our girls again."

"They had a wonderful time and a great learning experience," she added.

For us, it again demonstrated our facility's ability to provide quality educational experiences for children. This repeat visit allowed the Boatworks volunteers to further refine our "Youth Build-A-Boat Program," as we have named it.

However, not only does the activity provide a valuable learning experience for the kids, they also have a lot of fun in the process!

Already, groups within the community are taking advantage of this opportunity we offer and several more boats are scheduled to be built by groups of children this summer.

We welcome everyone to stop by and watch the fun! 

*Dedicated to James B. "Mr. Jim" Richardson
and the Unique Wooden Boatbuilding Heritage of
Maryland's Eastern Shore*

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Boatworks volunteer Bob Buczek, right, teaches some of the Springside School girls how to build a boat.



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Reaching Back For The Future

Just as a museum's character and substance derive from its particular focus on the past, its mission is realized through its focus on the future. Reaching back, by delving into the history and impact of traditional Eastern Shore boatbuilding, forms the basis for development and execution of our programs for outreach to present and future generations.

The processes of reaching back and reaching out are complementary functions that take on different forms, some examples of which are featured in this issue:



The Springside School girls embody our focus on the future.

into sharp, vivid relief, giving full meaning to "Putting History on the Water."

• Our Founders' Day Reception was a related "past and future" benchmark, recognizing the vision and effort of original members and the progress made toward the goals they set more than a decade ago.

Over the coming year, structured research into the many aspects of Eastern Shore boatbuilding will be the subject of discussion and program development. We will need volunteers interested in research, analysis and publication in the diverse areas of genealogy, tradecraft, evolution of unique Chesapeake Bay vessel types, and the impact those vessels, their builders and operators had on both regional and national maritime history.

Come join us in "Putting History on the Water"! 

—Frank Newton



• Our growing Youth Build-A-Boat Program introduces the basics of wooden boat construction (skills of the past) to young people (embodiment of the future.)

• The upcoming visit of the tall ship *Kalmar Nyckel*, a 17th-Century replica, brings the past

Important Notices:

Security Codes: We will soon be assigning new security codes at the Museum. If you do not currently need regular access to the building, you will not be assigned a new code and all old codes will be deactivated. If you have a key to the Museum and no longer have need of access, please return it to us as soon as possible.

Meetings & Minutes: Executive Committee meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at 5:00 p.m. at the Museum. Any member is welcome to attend. Members may sign up to receive meeting minutes by email by sending a request to ccmiller@richardsonmuseum.org.

Efforts Above & Beyond

Our entire crew has been busy the past few months and you will see their names in many of this issue's articles, contributing their time and talents to a multitude of activities. We do want to make special mention of a number of individuals, however, who have been making exceptional efforts on behalf of the organization.

Vice President **Paul Myers** continues to somehow find the time in his busy schedule to coordinate special events for us, the latest being the Community Carnival we held at the Boatworks over Memorial Day weekend. He also helped out with Heritage Day, Founders' Day and is adding his efforts to those planning the *Kalmar Nyckel* reception. (You can read more about each of these elsewhere in this issue.)

Secretary **Robert Richardson** did a great job in putting together the Founders' Day reception and is coordinating the new limited-edition Christmas ornaments that we will be offering later this year (more about that in the next issue.) Rich is also lending us his considerable computer expertise in developing our new database system and helping with some office technology upgrades.

We have **Ray Henderson** to thank for crafting the beautiful wooden caulking mallet replicas that we gave to each of the founders at the reception. He continues to astound us with his extraordinary craftsmanship.

Another of our unsung heroes is **Roger Pfost**, who again this year has volunteered for docent duty at the Museum every Wednesday afternoon throughout the summer, in addition to helping out at short notice for bus tours. Not content just to sit in the docent chair, he also sits on the tractor at the Boatworks and helps keep us one step ahead of the grass and weeds.

However, when the grass starts winning, we thank **Tom Gasper** for coming through with his heavier duty equipment to give us a fighting chance once again.

New Crew

The Board of Trustees has welcomed three new members, continuing its efforts to build the depth and talents of the Board.

Mike Starling, Vice President for Engineering and Operations at National Public Radio, has not only joined the Board, but taken on the difficult role of Fundraising Committee Chairman. He is currently chairing the *Kalmar Nyckel* reception planning and spearheading the Capital Campaign process. He also arranged for the oral history recording of boatbuilder Calvert Cannon as part of the national StoryCorps program.

George Simmons, owner of Bayside Realty, and **Scott Tompkins**, retired IBM and Lockheed Martin executive, are both new Board Members and, like Mike, focusing their efforts primarily on the various facets of fundraising.

Thanks also go to boatwright **Ron Fortucci**, who helped us out at the Boatworks during the Springside Schools girls' visit. He did a wonderful job with the kids and we hope he will continue to come by to lend a hand when he has time.

We also have two new docents welcoming visitors to the Museum. **Barbara Barkley** and **Ernie Hanmer** are generously giving their time to the Museum this summer.

Many thanks to these and all of our volunteers for their continued efforts in moving this organization forward into our very bright future.



Ron Fortucci

Photos by Stella Nimplold



Roger Pfost

Volunteer Maryland

However, that future will take even more new crew members—more volunteers to help with the activities and programs that we are creating to work more with the local community and beyond. In support of this need, we have applied and been accepted into the Volunteer Maryland program.

Participation in this valuable program will provide us with the services of a **Volunteer Maryland Coordinator** for one year, full time, at a modest cost to the Museum. The VMC will focus entirely on setting up a sustainable program for recruiting, training and retaining the volunteers who are the lifeblood of this organization.

While we have a Volunteer Maryland Coordinator already recruited, we have not yet received confirmation of her acceptance into the program, so we will leave that announcement to the next issue. ⚓



Ken Guelta

by Pat Murphy

Were you to peek under Ken Guelta's button-down shirt, I'm pretty sure you would find a big red "S" on his tee. Ken is a real-life "Superman in residence" at the Boatworks.

I stopped by to see him not long ago only to find he was off on one of his rescue missions. Engine problems had left the skipjack *Nathan of Dorchester* stranded. Who better to send than the motor specialist?

When next I tried to meet with Mr. Guelta, he was whisked away on emergency once again, this time to fill in as crew member on a skipjack charter.

The Museum is gracious about sharing its volunteer from Church Creek. "Mr. Fix-It," as he's been called, first came to the Boatworks a couple of years ago, searching for a boat pattern suitable for his restored 1909 Arcadia marine engine.

There he met Frank Newton and joined the *Nathan's* crew, then slid into volunteering at the Museum and Boatworks. "I've always been a repair/maintain kind of person and that's what I do here," Ken explained.

Ken's first team project was the restoration of a sailboat to be auctioned off by the Museum. Dedicated volunteers worked throughout a cold Maryland winter, resurrecting the Hampton to her former glory just in time for the spring Boat Show.

What motivates someone to this level of self-sacrifice? Ken says, "I get interested in stuff and I just want to do it," downplaying his strong work ethic and integrity.

For more than 30 years, Ken worked 12-hour days in concrete pipe manufacturing, first in quality control then management. At day's end, he would return home and work his 30-head cattle farm. Didn't I say he was Superman?

No doubt the farm came to mind when Ken joined volunteers with respirators and white suits to clean out the Boatworks' upper level prior to its renovation. "Pigeons lived here for 20 years and we had to shovel the pigeon

manure out, bucket after bucket of it. You couldn't breathe and it was hot," he described.

The new Boatworks second floor is a bright, ready-for-action place. When 30 eighth-grade girls came to learn the wooden boat craft this spring, Ken was there. He introduced them to tools. "They had no idea how to use a plane," Ken grins.

Initially, he spent 25 hours cutting out the parts. Later he helped supervise the girls as they assembled their "Six-Hour Canoes."

While Ken readily admits to his preference for mechanics (he still works two days each week maintaining

farm equipment,) most often it is his carpentry skills that are needed.

Years of working along side his father building houses prepared him for helping with remodeling at the Museum and Boatworks, where he also helped construct its first fishing skiff. He has spent months of labor on the ongoing Dovetail project. Detail was paramount as he precisely duplicated and installed its ribs.

This tan, agile man with the ready smile

attributes his physical capabilities today to a lifetime of regular exercise. As a teen, Ken and two friends bought a set of barbells. "We built a little shack in the woods and we'd lift weights at night," he explained. Now he works out at the gym three days a week—on his volunteer days.

Ken's wife, Edwina, an accomplished gardener and quilter, says they still enjoy taking their 25-foot power boat out on the Choptank when the fishing is good. Ken's first motor boat was one he built in his early teens. He used it for racing and it brought him "a mess of trophies."

Volunteers don't often receive trophies for their efforts, but if they did, Ken, yours would be a big one. From all of us at the Museum, thank you! ☀

Photos by Juanita Angel



At left, Ken works on a skiff at the Boatworks. Above center, he and Ray Henderson pass on their woodworking skills to Caroline Bates of the Springside School.



JOIN US IN WELCOMING THE TALL SHIP...

On Friday, August 5, we will be hosting an exclusive reception to welcome the tall ship *Kalmar Nyckel* on her first visit to Cambridge. A limited number of tickets and sponsorships are available for this special event, to be held at dockside and aboard the ship.

The *Kalmar Nyckel* is a three-masted pinnace launched in 1997. She is a replica of the original ship that brought the first permanent settlers from Sweden to the Delaware Valley in 1638. Based in Wilmington, Delaware, this dramatic vessel will be docking at Long Wharf in Cambridge for only a few days.

Our welcoming reception will allow you a variety of unique ways to join in the excitement of her visit. Even before the ship arrives, the fun will begin. The skipjack *Nathan of Dorchester* will set sail and escort the *Kalmar Nyckel* to port, exchanging cannon salutes along the way.

At Long Wharf, you will enjoy a catered dockside reception under tent starting at 4:30 p.m., with musical entertainment. During the reception, you will be invited to board the *Kalmar Nyckel*, where the crew will lead tours of the ship and relate stories capturing the majesty of this historic vessel. A few select guests will have an exclusive dinner with Captain Hiott on the ship's quarterdeck.

At 6:00, participate in the excitement of a live auction with a number of fabulous items up for bid, including a four-night golf package, a helicopter tour, a fabulous getaway at an exclusive resort, rare wine, antiques and more. All proceeds will benefit the Museum.

Finally, some guests will be able to top off their evening with a Sunset Cruise on the *Kalmar Nyckel*, embarking at 7:00.

Tickets are very limited and available as follows:

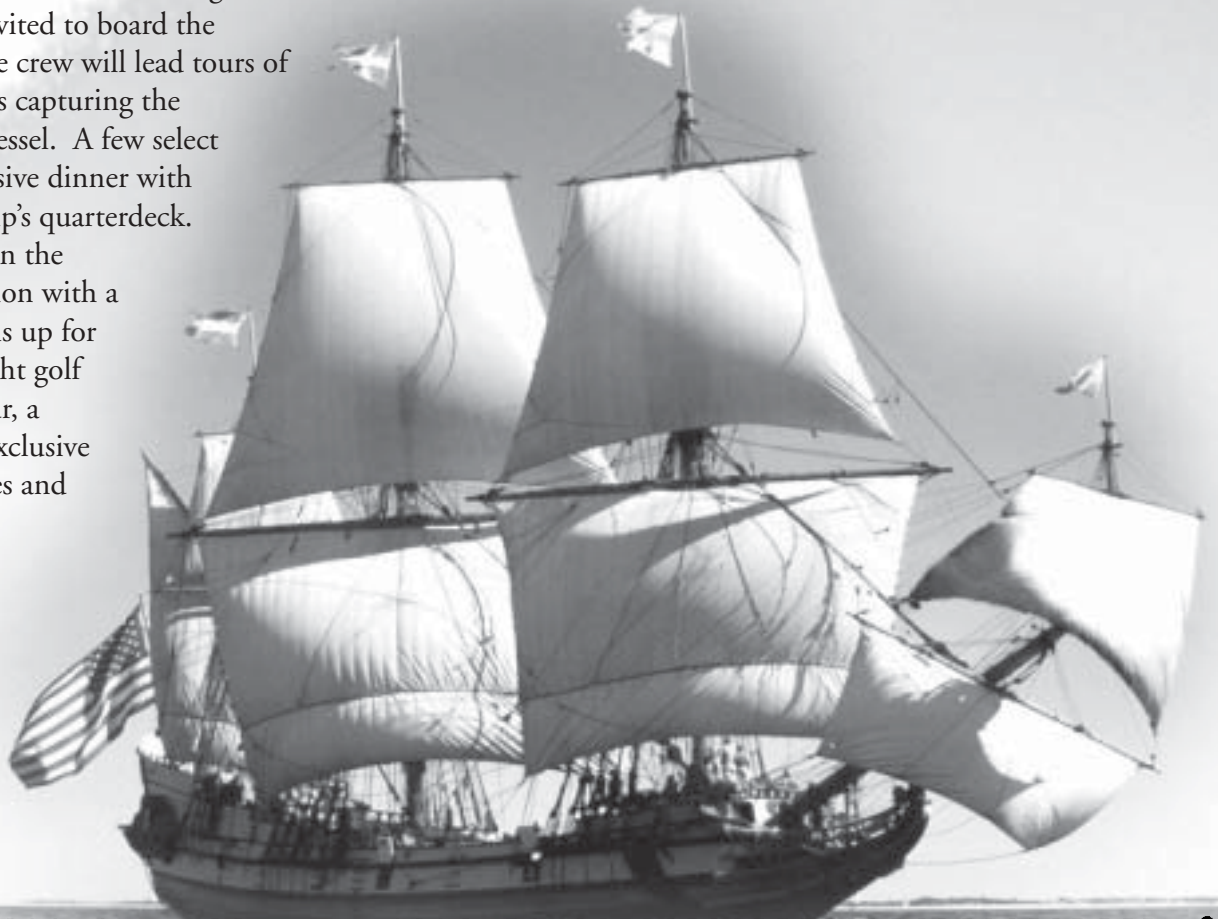
Captain's Quarterdeck Ticket: Only 4 available, \$250 per person. Includes Dockside Reception, exclusive dinner on the Captain's Quarterdeck, auction, tour of the *Kalmar Nyckel*, and Sunset Cruise.

Commander Ticket: Only 32 available, \$200 per person. Includes Dockside Reception, auction, tour of the *Kalmar Nyckel*, and Sunset Cruise.

Ensign Ticket: Only 70 available, \$100 per person. Includes Dockside Reception, auction, and tour of the *Kalmar Nyckel*.

Tickets will be sold in advance ONLY, and may be ordered by sending in the form on the back of this newsletter, or by calling the Museum at 410-221-1871, Cyndy Carrington Miller at 410-770-9410, or email info@richardsonmuseum.org. ☎

KALMAR NYCKEL!



COMMUNITY CARNIVAL

On Memorial Day weekend, we held an old-fashioned Community Carnival at the Boatworks. The event was cosponsored by the Bay Country Festival.

Paul Myers, Museum Vice President, thanked the City of Cambridge and its residents and the many businesses and individuals who contributed to the carnival's success. Volunteers from the Museum and Bay Country Festival manned the booths, ISG helped underwrite the insurance costs, and J. M. Clayton, E. S. Hubbert, Kool Ice, Fox's Pizza and Gabbin's Soft Ice Cream all came through with last-minute help with food concessions and ice. ⚓



Hannah Mayhew, front, and Leslie Adelman enjoy a ride down the Super Slide at the Community Carnival

HERITAGE DAY



Don Willey, standing, had Alex Katz, left, and Caleb Levine tied up in knots with his demonstrations of knot-tying.

We joined other Dorchester County museums and attractions in celebrating Heritage Day on May 14, promoting the recognition and appreciation of the unique heritage of the county.

The Museum and Boatworks were open extended hours and featured numerous activities throughout the day for children and adults. Model boatbuilder and knot-master Don Willey gave knot-tying demonstrations and classes, while children were encouraged to draw pictures of their "perfect" boat in a special area for kids. Kids of all ages were enchanted by stories of Dorchester County lore told by Tom Flowers as only this icon of the county can tell them. Ann Foley and Gloria Johnson-Mansfield stopped by to autograph copies of their *Images of America* books on Cambridge and Dorchester County.

At the Boatworks, Jack Sammons introduced visitors to the work of the Modelers Guild and showed off its new work area, and guests were able to view progress on the Reese Todd Dovetail work boat, currently undergoing restoration. ⚓

FOUNDERS' DAY

On June 2, we honored the individuals and organizations who came together in 1992 to found the Museum, with a special Founders' Day reception. Many of the original founders were able to attend, as were representatives of some of the founding contributors. Each was presented with a finely crafted replica of a caulking mallet, created by Boatworks volunteer Ray Henderson.

Held in conjunction with a Dorchester Chamber of Commerce After Hours get-together, the event allowed the community an opportunity to thank those who had the determination and foresight to create a special museum dedicated to the wooden boatbuilding traditions of Dorchester County and Maryland's Eastern Shore. ⚓



Many of the original founders of the Richardson Maritime Museum were on hand for the Founders' Day Reception, including (seated, left to right) Clarence Booze, Jim Brighton, Bonnie Shertenlieb, Betty & John White, Bud Hankins, Melvin Hickman, representing American Legion Post 91, and Russell Baker, representing the Nathan Foundation.

Standing, center, are Richardson Chairman of the Board Victor MacSorley, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director and Richardson Board Member John Nussear, and Museum President Frank Newton.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

**We thank all of our generous members and contributors,
but out of respect for their privacy,
we do not list them in the website version of our newsletter.**

Raffle Results

Shirley Kailianu of the Dorchester Chamber of Commerce held the winning ticket in our Tax-Relief Raffle. She purchased the ticket with four other individuals, who all split the \$10,000 grand prize.

Sharing the prize with Shirley were Chamber Executive Director and Richardson Board Member John Nussear, Joy Loeffler, Sandra Potter and Charlotte Spedden. Mary Calloway of the Dorchester County Tourism Department helped us out by drawing the winning ticket on April 5.

Shirley, a lifelong resident of Dorchester County, was excited to be named a winner and “to be able to share the bounty with friends.”

She and the Chamber have been continued supporters of the Museum and our activities and we congratulate this very deserving winner of our grand prize.

Many thanks go to all of you who purchased or sold tickets and helped us with this important fundraising effort. ⚓



Museum President Frank Newton, above left, presented the \$10,000 raffle prize to Shirley Kailianu and John Nussear.

Vice President Paul Myers, below left, held the bowl as Mary Calloway chose the winning ticket.



Brannock Update And Future Plans

Many have asked us, “What is happening with the Brannocks?” As of the last issue, we were still unsure of the status of the arrangement. However, the details have clarified since then, so we can bring you up to date.

While we were all enthusiastic about the plans to acquire the collection and archives of the **Brannock Maritime Museum**, some issues developed that raised our concerns and complicated the agreement.

The Brannock organization subsequently decided to pursue other options for the placement of its collection and we agreed with their decision. While we wish them the best, and are disappointed in the lost opportunity for two significant maritime heritage organizations in Dorchester County to join forces, we are excited about our own future plans.

Moving forward on our own will allow us to focus on our core mission, the boatbuilding. A scaled down **Phase One** of our plans for the Maryland Avenue property will create a significant expansion and development of the Boatworks facility, leaving additional museum space for a later phase.

This will allow us to focus our efforts on “Putting History on the Water”—building and restoring traditional wooden boats and passing on the art and skills to future generations. ⚓





JAMES B. RICHARDSON FOUNDATION, INC.
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The James B. Richardson Foundation, Inc.
 is a proud partner of the
 Leave A Legacy® program.

KALMAR NYCKEL RECEPTION & CRUISE

Join us in welcoming the tall ship *Kalmar Nyckel* to Cambridge on Friday, August 5, with a very exclusive dockside reception. (See page 5 for details.)
 Tickets are limited and available by advanced purchase only.



Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone (required): _____

Email: _____

Payment Type Total Enclosed: \$ _____

CHECK payable to **Richardson Maritime Museum**

VISA MasterCard Exp. Date ____/____

Card # _____

Signature _____

The James B. Richardson Foundation, Inc., is a 501(c)(3) organization .
 A portion of each ticket price is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Number of tickets Cost Per Ticket

_____ **Captain's Quarterdeck \$250**
 (\$150 tax deductible)

_____ **Commander \$200**
 (\$100 tax deductible)

_____ **Ensign \$100**
 (\$40 tax deductible)

(See page 5 for each ticket's
 availability & benefits)

Additional Donation:

Mail to:
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P.O. Box 1198
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