



# Fo'c'sle News

Newsletter of the Hudson River Maritime Museum  
50 Rondout Landing, Kingston, NY 12401 | [www.hrmm.org](http://www.hrmm.org) | 845-338-0071



## *El Galeón* Draws Thousands to Rondout

In August 2016, Vikings took over Kingston when thousands visited the Kingston waterfront to see the world's largest Viking ship, *Draken Harald Hårfagre*. In 2017, it was Spain's turn. From August 5 to 8, the Hudson River Maritime Museum hosted *El Galeón Andalucía*, a replica Spanish galleon owned by the Fundación Nao Victoria. More than 5,000 visitors toured the extraordinary ship while she was docked at the Museum, a record number according to her crew.

"The best part of having historic vessels such as *El Galeón* visit the Museum's docks are the thousands of visitors from the Hudson River Valley that come to Kingston's Rondout Riverport and enjoy our historic waterfront," says Bob Burhans, president of the Board of Trustees.

Galleons were armed merchant vessels employed by the Spanish crown from the 16th through 18th centuries. Galleons sailed around the world, exploring, establishing trade routes, and connecting Spain, the Americas, and the Philippines. *El Galeón* is a floating museum with more than 3,400 square feet of deck space filled with exhibits for visitors to explore. She is the product of three years of archival research; the design process took six months, and construction lasted 17 months. She is 164 feet long, with a 33 foot beam, 10.5 foot draft and 500 ton gross tonnage. Since her launching in 2009, *El Galeón* has sailed the world, traveling more than 48,000 nautical miles through the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans.

HRMM was *El Galeón's* second-to-last stop in her four-year North American tour before she returned home to Sevilla, Spain. After nearly a year of planning, she sailed directly from Nova Scotia to Kingston. HRMM plans to bring more historic replicas to the Rondout for the community's enjoyment and education.

### Museum Hours

Open Thursdays - Sundays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

In late April 2018, the Museum will resume a 7 days/week, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. schedule.

Please check [hrmm.org](http://hrmm.org) before planning your visit.

# FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As we wind down from our busy season, we have a moment to reflect on the past year. At HRMM, we can list so many accomplishments both on and off the water.

The heart of our collective endeavor is telling the history of the Hudson River. This year we opened our hugely popular Modeler's Craft exhibit, in which we display nearly 100 models, some of which had to be extensively restored. And we debuted our collaborative exhibit, "Caring for the River Together," mounted with Clearwater, Riverkeeper, and NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.

Outside, we finished the new façade on our main building – a huge effort by volunteers, trustees and local contractors. More modern and inviting, our new entrance has literally changed the face of the Museum. Enhancing our curb appeal even more, the Boat School was selected for new public artwork as part of the annual O+ Festival. Matt Pleva's new mural on the Boat School is truly amazing; it features the lighthouse, the Clearwater and the Rondout skyline.

On the waterfront, we launched noteworthy boats: the *Woody Guthrie*, completing a challenging but remarkable and total restoration of this historic sloop; the *Tidbit*, our lovely donated catboat; and the mighty little *Hercules*, another donation that has become our new workboat. She has the magical effect of making anyone at her helm – even me – look like a real captain.

Our programming grew dramatically as well. With a huge assist from the Kingston Sailing Club, we launched the Riverport Sailing School. With the D&H Canal Museum and the Century House Museum, we added new car and walking tours. With help from the City of Kingston, Jeff Farber and his crew, we restarted trips to the lighthouse. We boosted our annual Hudson River Day in June by adding the Boat Building Challenge in which contestants built an entire boat in four hours. Our annual Pilot Club Gala, at which we honored Allan Bowdery, was our most successful ever.

For students, we added an afternoon session to our YouthBoat Program, now in its second year. With the Rondout Rowing Club, we increased YouthBoat's rowing component to get more kids on the water. And our acclaimed Hudson River Stewards Program will enter its fourth year in 2018.

All of this activity takes work. With our small staff, this means volunteers shoulder much of the burden. There is no way that I can express our tremendous gratitude to our volunteer corps, now close to 100 strong. Let's just say that we could not be here without these folks, some of whom clock-in at the campus every day, rain or shine.

As we look forward to an even better 2018, I want to thank you for your loyalty and generosity. With your help, HRMM will always be here to educate, engage and empower visitors and students of all ages.



– Lisa Cline

# DEVELOPMENT DISPATCH

## Allan Bowdry Honored at Pilot Club Gala

More than 120 trustees, members, donors, staff, and guests gathered at the Museum on Saturday, September 23, for the annual Pilot Club Gala.

After a reception in the East Gallery, guests moved to the Homeport and Education Center where Allan Bowdry, past president of the Board of Trustees, received the Roger Mabie Award for Service to the Hudson Valley and its History, the Museum's highest honor.

A New York City native, Allan grew up in Illinois and studied at Columbia University. In his third year at New York Law School, he took a maritime law course simply because a friend was teaching it; the same friend later told him that a small maritime firm was hiring.

With several switches between insurance companies and law



*Lynn and Allan Bowdry*



*Executive Director Lisa Cline updated the dinner guests on the Museum's activities in the last year.*

firms, he practiced maritime law until his retirement in 2001. He still serves as an arbitrator on maritime cases.

Allan became involved with the Museum in 2009, "after meeting and being seduced by Jack Weeks at a local gathering," he says. Allan has been an HRMM trustee, treasurer, acting executive director, first vice president, president, and now serves again as a trustee.

The award is named for Roger W. Mabie (1917-2008) – a founding HRMM trustee and a former president.

The gala included a silent auction and a live auction with HRMM volunteer Zef Fessenden as auctioneer. The auctions raised more than \$25,000 to support the Museum's educational program and operations.

## Digitally Preserving Our Past

This year HRMM received funding from the New York State Council on the Arts, Arts Mid-Hudson and the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley to support our initiative to preserve all items of the collection digitally. Assistant Curator Carla Lesh, who manages this process, has digitized more than 20,000 items over the past two years.

So far, 225 images have been uploaded to Hudson River Valley Heritage ([hrvh.org](http://hrvh.org)) where thousands have already viewed them. The Museum has sent images to the Hudson

Valley Mall for display in its renovation and to the Kingston Times for its Shipping News feature.

HRMM's goal is to ensure the collection is available for years to come and allow anyone to enjoy the history of the Hudson River valley via the internet. We look forward to sharing our first online exhibit, focused on the Day Line, by the end of 2017. The Museum thanks the New York State Council on the Arts, Arts Mid-Hudson and the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley for their generous support for this project.

# EDUCATION UPDATE

## Museum Expands Education Programs

During 2017, HRMM significantly expanded education programs to reach more students and attract new audiences.

The Hudson River Stewards Program, which brings fourth grade students from all over the area to learn about the history, environment, and culture of the Hudson River, had another successful year, serving more than 800 students from three school districts.

“All three districts have already contacted the HRMM about continuing the program in 2018,” says Director of Education Sarah Wassberg, “And the Museum is looking to expand to new districts, too.”

In 2018, the Museum will partner with the YMCA in a Summer Rowing Program on the Rondout to promote the sport of rowing in all its forms.

The YouthBoat Program, which serves both Ulster BOCES students and local high school students, will continue in 2018. (See below.)

HRMM increased its collaborative walking and car tours with the D&H Canal Museum, the Reher Center for Immigrant Culture and History, and other local partners.

It expanded its highly successful series of lectures and films on local and regional history topics in the Kingston Home Port and Education Center.

During the summer, HRMM opened the Riverport Sailing School in conjunction with the Kingston Sailing Club. After two weeks of sailing workshops for youth and teens, the rave reviews and demands for more programs led to the creation of a youth sail racing program with the Kingston Sailing Club as part of their Sunday regattas this fall. Each of those "Racing Sundays" sold out.

The Riverport Sailing School has expanded into adult programming with two land-based "Sailing 101" classes, which focus on the theoretical aspects of sailing, this fall and "Sailing 102," which will take place on the water in the spring.

The RWBS recently wrapped up a three-week high school rowing program led by Nelsie Aybar-Grau, who is on loan from the Rondout Rowing Club.

All of these programs rely on donations to maintain free or low cost access for area students. Please consider making a donation today at [www.hrmm.org/donate](http://www.hrmm.org/donate).

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## YouthBoat Programs Build Momentum

What started as an experiment with four Ulster BOCES students in the spring of 2016 has grown into a vibrant YouthBoat, program that provides Ulster BOCES students and local high school students with hands-on experience building boats and participating in on-the-water activities.

YouthBoat aims “to empower youth, build character, and foster teamwork through the traditional craft of wooden boat-building.” Students learn valuable woodworking and industrial skills and gain self-confidence, a sense of purpose, and a feeling of accomplishment.

Students work with master shipwright Wayne Ford, who is supported by six dedicated volunteers.

Through the building boats, YouthBoat actually is “building kids,” says Ford.



All students visit the Riverport Wooden Boat School three days a week for YouthBoat – BOCES students in the morning, high schools students after school.

The partnership with the Ulster BOCES Career and Tech Center provides BOCES students with a community-based learning experience required for a NYS Career Development and Occupational Studies Commencement Credential.

YouthBoat programs are free to ensure that all students have the opportunity to participate. To support YouthBoat, please visit [www.hrmm.org/donate](http://www.hrmm.org/donate).

# CURATORIAL CORNER

## “Caring for the River Together”

In September 2017, the Museum unveiled a new exhibit panel: “Caring for the River Together: How Four Organizations Restored the Hudson River after a Century of Neglect.”

The exhibit spotlights Scenic Hudson, Riverkeeper, the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Hudson River Estuary Program, all founded between 1963 and 1970, for their pioneering and ongoing work to address ecological threats to the Hudson River and surrounding land.

The exhibit includes a running slide show on the history of Hudson River cleanup efforts after a century of neglect and information on how citizens can get involved to keep the river a beautiful, productive, healthy place for generations to come. “Caring for the River Together” was funded in part by a grant from the Hudson River Valley Heritage National Heritage Area.



## HRVH.org Hosts Museum’s Night Line Images

Hudson River Valley Heritage (hrvh.org) has uploaded a set of images from the Museum’s archives that capture the history of the Hudson River Night Line.

From their earliest days, Hudson River steamboats ran at night as well as during the day. Although not as numerous as their daytime counterparts, night boats quickly became popular, especially with businessmen who wanted to travel between New York and Albany without missing daylight working hours. Smaller night boats carried cargo—mostly food products, including milk—to New York City from upriver ports as well as transporting some passengers.

Early overnight steamers ran before the invention of radio and radar, even before channel markers and other navigation aids that we take for granted now. Accidents were inevitable. In 1845, the steamship *Swallow*, running at night—and possibly racing—during an April snow squall, lost her way and ran up on a large

rock off Athens. The vessel broke in two, panicking passengers jumped into the frigid river, and 15 people died.



By the 1860s, night boats had become large, elegant vessels favored by wealthy New Yorkers. They featured crystal chandeliers, gilded woodwork, elegant dining rooms, fine cuisine, live beautifully appointed state-rooms, and live music. Saratoga, an elegant town, attracted passengers who took night boats to Albany, then traveled to Saratoga by train. Many honeymooners routinely chose the Albany Night Boat, a practice that continued to the end of the night boat era.

In the twentieth century, the Hudson River night boats fell into a steep decline. By the 1930s, neglect, the Great Depression, and changing transportation options caused the night boats to lose not only their previous wealthy passengers but also their glamorous reputation. The last Albany Night Boat made its roundtrip voyage from Manhattan in January 1941.

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

## “Head of the Rondout” Pulls in Rowers and Fans

HRMM and the Rondout Rowing Club hosted the inaugural “Head of the Rondout” rowing competition on Sunday, October 15, on the Rondout Creek.

“Head” races are time-trial rowing competitions. In Kingston, boats launched one by one at the Museum, rowed up the Rondout toward the Eddyville Bridge, circled back, and raced from the bridge to the Rondout Lighthouse. The three-mile course required crews to navigate around some obstacles.

“This was a warm-up event for crews racing the Head of the Charles regatta in Boston the following weekend,” says HRMM Trustee Scott Johnson, who coaches the Kingston High School Varsity Crew team and organized this competition. Two teams from Rondout Rowing Club were competing on the Charles, “so this was ideal practice for us,” he says.

The Head of the Rondout was open to all rowers, free of charge. Competitors ranged from middle school students to adults. Approximately 150 rowers in 25 boats of various sizes participated in the competition. Approximately 400-500 spectators cheered the teams on from the shore.

In addition to youth crews, boats from RCC, the Hudson Valley Rowing Association, and other rowing teams and clubs competed.

“Rondout Creek offers ideal conditions for a head race,” says Lisa Cline, executive director of HRMM. “The Hudson River Valley has a long history of rowing, and we’re really excited to support this new race here in Kingston. The Head of the Rondout is another sign of the powerful resurgence of the sport of rowing in our area.”

The competition is another successful product of the long partnership between HRMM and RRC. Both groups have already decided to make the race an annual event.



### ***Submerged Resources***

The Hudson River Maritime Museum has published “Preserving and Interpreting the Hudson River’s Submerged Heritage: Linking Submerged Resources to the Hudson Valley Landscape.” This report, edited by Ellie Burhans, grew out of the Shipwreck Symposium, held at the Museum on May 20, 2017. Funded by the Hudson River Valley Greenway, the symposium focused on submerged cultural resources in the Hudson River and encouraged the preservation and interpretation of shipwrecks. To learn more, and to read the report, visit [www.hrmm.org/submerged-resources-project.html](http://www.hrmm.org/submerged-resources-project.html).

### ***Volunteer at the Museum Store***

One of HRMM's most popular attractions is our Museum Store, where visitors can purchase a variety of regional and maritime-related clothing, jewelry, accessories and books. But the Museum Store's success depends on our amazing group of Museum Store volunteers. Their knowledge, professionalism and friendly demeanor make visitors feel welcome and inspired. If you would like to join our Museum Store team, please email us at [volunteer@hrmm.org](mailto:volunteer@hrmm.org).

# RIVERPORT WOODEN BOAT SCHOOL

## Bound for Glory The *Woody Guthrie* Sails after Epic Rebuild

On August 25, 2015 the Hudson River sloop *Woody Guthrie* was gingerly placed on blocking in the newly finished Ralph Allen Boat Shed at the Riverport Wooden Boat School for a major refit. The sloop, which the Beacon Sloop Club uses to take passengers on nightly sails, was in extremely poor shape with sunlight showing between its planking.

Two years later, almost to the day, the *Woody* was back in the water and ready for her next 25 years of service. While it probably would have been less expensive to build a new boat, the Beacon Sloop Club decided to repair the Pete Seeger-inspired sloop. Jim Kricker, director of the Boat School, and his crew of experienced shipwrights faced many obstacles during the rebuild, including unforeseen problems deep in the hull, but in



*RWBS Director Jim Kricker assesses the Woody Guthrie's hull in 2015.*

the end they launched a beautiful, traditionally built boat without cutting any corners.

"It was an extensive rebuild – with much more involved and more time consuming than expected," says Jack Weeks, a HRMM trustee who was involved in the project.

The rebuild was open to the general public as part of the Museum's "active history" exhibit. Much of the labor was donated, as were the materials used in the reconstruction.

"It is a boat for which both the Beacon Sloop Club and the Hudson River Maritime Museum can justifiably be proud," says Weeks.



*The Woody back in the water in 2017*

## Here Comes the *Solar Sal*

Solar Sal 44 is a completely solar powered boat currently under construction at the Riverport Wooden Boat School. When launched she will usher in a new era of pollution free, low environmental impact maritime transportation.

At 44 feet long, Solar Sal will be one of the largest solar-powered boats anywhere. She is being built as a prototype for boats carrying passengers and freight on the Hudson River and the New York State canal system. Solar Sal was designed by Capt. David Borton, Ph.D., who commissioned the Boat School to build her. He based her design on the efficient, easily driven hulls developed around the turn of the 20th century to accommodate the period's heavy, low-power engines.

"While she outwardly resembles a vessel from an earlier era, the method of construction and propulsion machinery take advantage of modern technology," says Jim Kricker, director of the Boat School.



The hull is built up from cedar strips joined with epoxy and coated with fiberglass and xynol cloth to produce a very strong, low maintenance boat. The deck and house structures are made of plywood, also coated with epoxy and modern fabrics.

Currently the Solar Sal's hull and structural framing are complete. Decks, pilot house and cabin components are in progress. Bricker expects his team to complete the Solar Sal during the winter. Volunteers are welcome; contact [volunteer@hrmm.org](mailto:volunteer@hrmm.org) for information.



**Hudson River Maritime Museum**  
**50 Rondout Landing**  
**Kingston, NY 12401**



## **Tell Your Story of the Hudson River**

### ***A Call for Oral Histories***

Do you remember bluestone quarrying, boat building, and cement making along the Rondout? Do you recall ice harvesting, commercial fishing, and other local industries on the Hudson River. Do your parents or grandparents have wonderful stories of life on the river and in the Hudson Valley?

The Hudson River Maritime Museum has launched a renewed effort to collect the oral history of work and life on the Hudson River from New York Harbor to Albany, as well as tributaries such as the Rondout Creek. The Museum has compiled a significant collection of oral histories, including recollections of local commercial fishermen and boatmen. These oral histories are invaluable—and irreplaceable—resources for scholars, researchers, exhibit designers and all those interested in preserving our shared experience of life on the river.

The Museum wants to capture as many diverse voices as possible. We want to hear record these stories for reference into the future, especially those of women, immigrants, and working class people along the Rondout, in Kingston and Port Ewen, as well up and down the Hudson River.

Trained staff members and volunteers will conduct the interviews, which normally take one to two hours and will be arranged to fit your schedule. Please contact Carla Lesh, assistant curator, at [clesh@hrmm.org](mailto:clesh@hrmm.org) or (845) 338-0071, ext. 21, to set up your interview. Help us preserve the history of our region.



Firemen on the Hudson River Day Line steamer, *Washington Irving* shovel coal into the fireboxes