



Readin' Both Pages

A membership publication of the Sail, Power & Steam Museum

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Captains Jim Sharp and Will McLean at the helm of the Schooner Bowdoin

Schooner Bowdoin: History and Rendevous

Traveling through Mystic, Connecticut, in 1967, Capt. Jim Sharp saw an old schooner, stripped of her rigging and everything of value and bound for the scrap heap (actually, the plan was to sink what remained of her). With her beautiful lines and ground-breaking history of Arctic exploration, he couldn't let that happen, so Sharp and his friend, Ransom Kelly of Boothbay, towed her with Kelly's party boat to Camden, and Sharp began the restoration of the renowned *Schooner Bowdoin*. Since then, she has returned to the Arctic several times, plied the waters of Maine in the commercial windjammer trade, and now calls Maine Maritime Academy "home" where she serves as a sail training vessel.

Sharp's stories of adventures aboard the boat are numerous, but his favorite is of the time he sailed her close to shore, through dense fog, to salute her 96-year old former captain, owner, and Arctic explorer, Admiral Donald MacMillan. The fog cleared with moments to spare, giving Sharp the opportunity to fire off the cannon in front of MacMillan's shorefront home, giving MacMillan the opportunity to see his beloved vessel well on her way to new adventures.

This past September, *Bowdoin* stopped in Rockland Harbor to once again honor an old friend. Sailing by to salute the Sail Power and Steam Museum in honor of Capt. Sharp, she and her crew of trainees from MMA docked at the Rockland Public Landing and were visited by over 200 spectators in a 3-hour "Open Boat" event.

Following the public open house, Jim and Meg were invited to join the crew for an afternoon sail (picture above). The day ended with a reception at the museum that evening, treating guests to a panel discussion by Capt. Jim Sharp; Genevieve LeMoine, curator at the Peary MacMillan Arctic Museum at Bowdoin College; and Capt. Will McLean, who currently captains the vessel for Maine Maritime Academy.

Founded in 2007, the Museum's mission is to enrich the lives of visitors, volunteers, and the general public through hands-on, interactive, and educational experiences with historically significant sailing, power, and steam driven vessels, ships, and small boats while providing instruction as to their origins, construction, and original commercial and recreational purposes.

Board of Directors:

Capt. Jim Sharp, Chairman & Founder; Meg Sharp, Co-Founder; Capt. Ken Barnes; Gordon Bok; Tom Goettel; Barbara Mogel; Ann Morris; George Orestis; Mark Siegenthaler; Matthew Vokey.

The Sail Power and Steam Museum is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Your gifts to the museum are fully tax-deductible.



...and I drove home in the snow with 12 boats on a trailer.

Let me prove how boat crazy I have become in my old age— what great fodder for the nay-sayers— something to crow about. I was determined to start this season and open the sailing school I thought



about, dreamed of and was all fired up over for many, many years. Get the kids out in a boat and they won't be able to afford drugs, phones, or cars. Put 'em at the tiller and they are their own captain of their own boat. It's an all-consuming occupation. So, The Mid-coast Sailing Center, a division of the Sail Power Steam Museum was created. Already her bag of tricks includes 10 Optimist Prams, three Sunfish, two Beetle

Catboats, two Herreshoff 12 ½, two restored Friendship sloops, one Muscongus Sloop, one Payson Catboat, one O'Day Widgeon! 22 boats—WOW!



It is the challenge that is the essence of an Opti. The challenge of beating the other guy. Those nay-sayers expostulated, "but the Apprentice Shop already does that" and I say, "they sure do and aren't we glad. Someone to race against." Think of the North End against the South. It matters not who wins but to get more kids on the water, and that is what we're all about. Oh by the way, we teach adults as well. Think of a lovely two-hour sail in the evening watching the moon rise over the lighthouse on the Rockland Breakwater. Dispel the gloom of the work-day in one easy lesson.

We went for a sentimental sail on the old Schooner Bowdoin in September. We had a right smart breeze, and this boat needs a good hat full of wind to get up and go. She picked up her heels, and with a full mainsail she stood up to a 35 knot westerly. We passed a yacht that was double reefed with a handkerchief of a spiffy jib that was standing on her ear clawing for 4 knots and we, comfy as a couch cat, were making twice that, lounging languorously by the wheel. Some able is the old Bowdoin, but then she is used to Arctic gales. The adage expressed by Admiral Donald Macmillan still rings in my brain, "she'll shake you up a good one, but she'll always bring you home." That made me think of our crossing of the Bay of Fundy with my family one time with a ragin' gale—o-wind, water washing all over that poor little schooner. She's a wonderful vessel!

Captain Jim & Meg Sharp

Midcoast Sailing Center Opens in 2019

Our first year: The Midcoast Sailing Center provided sailing experiences for 15 youth sailors, with a grand total of 83 hours of sailing instruction! Additionally, we had 13 adults join us for 48 hours of instruction, and 6 of the 13 returned for multiple sessions.

On July 9th and 11th, we hosted groups from the Landing Place in Rockland, and were thrilled to get four students, their group leader, and an intern out on the water for their first time!

The Landing Place Youth Center is a welcoming, non-judgmental, and reliable safe haven where local youth can respectfully engage in activities, spend time with friends, relax, learn new skills, receive compassionate mentorship from trained staff.

Our Instructor: We were excited to have Mark Phillips join the SPSM and Sharp's Wharf South this spring to help us with waterfront related projects, but his skill and experience in sailing and teaching were the icing on the cake! Mark has been sailing since his youth, starting in the Thousand Islands region of the St. Lawrence River. His love of all

things aquatic led him to become a US Sailing Small Boat Sailing instructor, an American Red Cross Lifeguard, as well as an ARC Water Safety Instructor. Mark is also an avid scuba diver.

Mark studied music and geography at Kutztown University in Pennsylvania. He served as a Survey Technician on the NOAA Ships RUDE and RAINIER before teaching music in Maine's public schools. After teaching, Mark pursued work in boatyards and became an ABYC certified Marine Systems Technician while maintaining a moderate performance schedule as a singer/songwriter.



Our Sailing Program Needs YOU (and a chase boat)!

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

New To The Museum Collection



Thanks to the Rockland Historical Society, we've added an exhibit indicating the locations of lime kilns around Rockland Harbor in 1855.

At that time, Rockland was home to 136 lime kilns, 33 wharfs, and 12 shipyards! Shown here are Museum Founder, Capt. Jim Sharp and David Hoch, former employee of the Rockland-Rockport Lime Company. Mr. Hoch was charged with closing down the last active lime kiln in Rockland in 1958 in the north end of Rockland Harbor where Prock Marine, SteelPro, and O'Hara's fishing fleet now reside.

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New To The Museum Collection (cont.)

A Metinic Island “Chopping Tray” has been added to our fleet. A flat-bottomed punt with a sculling station at each end, they were designed to be beached on the shore when bringing the day’s catch home to the island.



New to the museum and sitting comfortably in the Payson Shop.

Designed by Woodbury Snow, she was built with eastern white cedar planking and oak railing and seats, she was donated by John Root (Rockland Code enforcement officer) and his father Dr. John Root. The elder Root built this “Choppin’ Tray” and one other (which was lost at sea after his kids failed to pull her up on the beach far enough to miss the coming tide). Built at Woodbury Snow’s shop on Suffolk Street and using Snow’s boat form, she was used to raise the family’s moorings along with other kid-related activities and probable mischief out in the harbor.

Wish we had a photo of Snow’s shop as Dr. Root describes a warm gathering place for a group of local men, warmed by a coal fired, pot-bellied stove as they told tales and worked with wood -- the perfect setting for a Norman Rockwell painting. Dr. Root was introduced to Snow by his long-time friend, Lucian Green, another talented woodworker, and the resulting stories of camaraderie are truly heart-warming.

The Piney Cup now also calls the Sail Power & Steam Museum “home.” The 1938 competition for the international Fisherman’s Trophy between *The Gertrude L. Thebaud* and *The Bluenose* was different than previous years. The series was a best-of-five instead of a best-of-three, and all races were sailed off the coast of Massachusetts. The first race on October 9 was won

by the *Gertrude L. Thebaud*, the second was won by *Bluenose*. After some controversy, the *Bluenose* made some modifications to her hull between races, and she handily won the third race by 6 minutes. However, she suffered a 39’ tear in her sail and her fore topmast snapped in the 4th race, and the *Thebaud* won the day, leaving the final race as the decision maker. In the end, the *Bluenose* kept her place and the competition cup. This was the last race between North Atlantic sail-driven fishing schooners. As a consolation prize, Captain Ben Pine of the *Thebaud* was awarded a small silver cup, engraved “Piney.” The cup has been generously loaned by J.P. Boudreau of Gloucester.

Admiral Donald MacMillan’s “pocket compass” was donated to the museum by longtime museum supporter, Charlie Oakes. Given to Oakes’s father by MacMillan himself, we were also gifted a photograph of a young Inuit girl who appears to be holding this very instrument. Come and see it!



The Sail, Power & Steam Museum
The Old Snow Shipyard
75 Mechanic Street, Rockland, ME 04841
207-701-7627

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