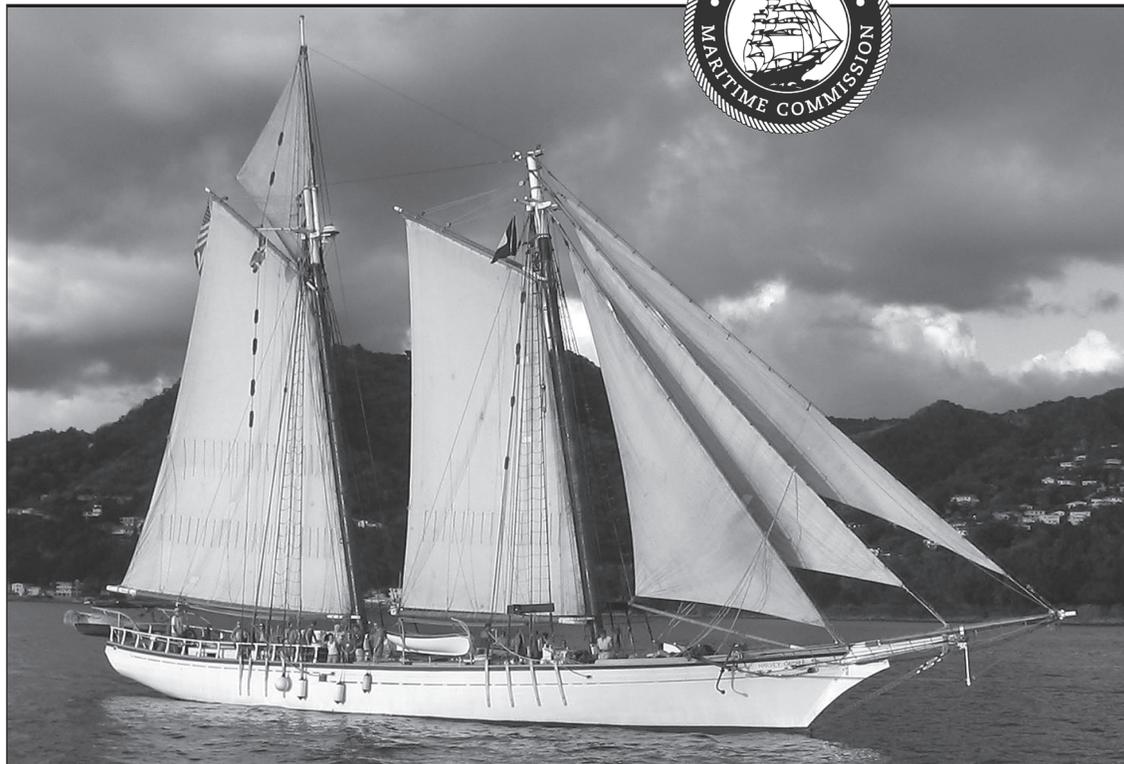


Piscataqua Maritime Commission

Newsletter

To Inform and Educate the Public About the
Maritime History of the Piscataqua River Basin

Winter/Spring 2013



Harvey Gamage

The Anchorage Inns Sea Challenge 2013!

by Larry Job, PMC Vice-Chair

PMC ANNOUNCES PARTNERSHIP WITH SEACOAST YOUTH SERVICES

We look forward to the 2013 Anchorage Inns Sea Challenge. This year's Sea Challenge will bring to nearly 100 the number of at-risk Seacoast youth that have completed the program. The trainees are out on the ocean aboard a two-masted schooner for a week of day and night sail training. This year the PMC and Seacoast Youth Services (SYS) are excited to announce their new partnership. SYS is a 12-year-old New Hampshire non-profit that works with young people who will benefit from guidance and structured opportunities to better themselves. SYS has developed multiple programs for juvenile court diversion, substance abuse, parental support, and personal development.

SYS will be using their counseling experience and network to select 20 trainees from the Seacoast, aged 14 to 17, for this year's voyage. They will also send one of their counselors on the trip to work with the youngsters aboard. Vic Maloney,

Executive Director of SYS, said; "An opportunity like this may awaken these children to realize what they are capable of, and that there is a giant world out there that they can't see, feel, smell, or experience on a computer. They will get an education about the sea and sailing, but the real-life lessons will be the most valuable. We are thrilled to be working with Larry and the other folks at the Piscataqua Maritime Commission to provide these kids the chance of a lifetime."

SYS and your PMC will be working together over the next several months organizing the event, working with parents and trainees, and arranging for the 131-foot topsail Schooner *Harvey Gamage* to come to Portsmouth in July. The *Harvey Gamage* is the largest vessel used to date in the Sea Challenge. With her 100-foot mainmast and 24-foot beam, she can spread 5,000 square feet of sail. Her captain and crew of nine are experienced working with youth. As they head down the Piscataqua River to the Atlantic, the trainees truly move

into a new and different world. The majority have never been on a boat before, and they begin their first week in years with no electronic interference in their lives – no iPods, cell phones, computers, TV, or video games! They begin by memorizing the names of the myriad lines that control the big ship's seven sails. Academics aboard include studies in Sail Theory, Navigation, and Marine Biology.

From the first day, they are given responsibilities for maintaining and controlling the ship. For seven days they may well not step foot on the mainland again, either staying at sea, or stopping at offshore islands for hikes, shallows walks, educational classes, and cookouts.

By the end of the week the crew is standing back, and the kids will be bringing the *Harvey Gamage* up the river home. These single weeks have proven to be life-changing for many trainees. One counselor who sailed on two prior Challenges, said "On both my cruises we had young people experience breakthroughs in this environment that I was unable to achieve in months of counseling on land".

Message from the Chairman

As with any volunteer organization, the PMC exists through the efforts of its volunteers, its Board and its sponsors. Also, as with any volunteer organization, it goes through changes over time. The PMC now finds itself in one of those changing times.

Over the last year, we have lost a number of Board members and volunteers. It is always difficult to lose good Board members and volunteers, for they are the lifeblood of the PMC. However, when people get job promotions and now commute long distances or increased work responsibilities, when people get married and have babies, when people move away, their life changes and they cannot give time to the PMC as before.

That is where we find ourselves today. We have lost a number of Board members and key volunteers. We are turning to our members and supporters to fill those holes.

Putting together the annual Tall Ship events takes a lot of planning and work, and the volunteers and Board members are the key to our success. If you have ever wanted to do more, but didn't know where to start, now is your chance. We are looking for key volunteers to take an area of responsibility and run with it. There are lots of things to do, such as merchandising, day sails, our web site, the boat parade, and many other tasks to accomplish.

Please feel free to call me at 603-905-9740, or go to our web site www.sailportsmouth.org and leave us a message.

We truly have fun doing this event for the community. In fact, it is more fun than a human being should be allowed to have. I encourage and invite you to become a larger part by volunteering to help us.

Thank you for considering becoming a larger part of the PMC.

Donald Coker, PMC Chair



Sea Challenge

Sail Portsmouth 2013 – What's on the Horizon?

By Larry Job, PMC Vice-Chair

Your PMC is in contact with the Sail Training and Tall Ships industry year round. Portsmouth has hosted visiting Tall Ships with a maritime festival every year for nearly 25 years now – to our knowledge the longest record of any port in the United States! Sometimes a single ship, but most years in the last decade our port has feted two, three, four, and once even five vessels.

But every year seems to come down to a nail-biter around January and February as ships firm up their schedules. Every Sail Portsmouth Festival is different, depending on what ships we can bring in and what they are willing to do while they are here.

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*Sail Portsmouth is a trademark of the Piscataqua
Maritime Commission

Many Thanks to our Generous Supporters:

Sail Portsmouth 2012 Sea Challenge 2012

Anchorage Inns of Portsmouth,
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Portsmouth Pilots
Portsmouth Rotary Club
Public Service of New Hampshire
Seacoast Eye Center
Stinson Associates
The Fabulous Find Thrift Shop
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Dear Friends of the Piscataqua,

The Piscataqua Maritime Commission, Inc. (PMC) is a non-profit (501c3) organization dedicated to maintaining, promoting, and educating people about the Seacoast's rich maritime history. This history extends from earliest Colonial times, to the romantic age of tall wooden ships, through today's commercial ships and nuclear submarines.

Under the leadership of our Chairman, Donald Coker, the PMC again had a successful year. We held our Event, Sail Portsmouth 2012, at the Fish Pier, and had two guests, the *Providence*, and the *Pride of Baltimore II*. Our wonderful Volunteers, our generous sponsors, and the exhibitors, all combined in making the Tall Ship visit of 2012 memorable. Our event had a festive air, as exhibitors and vendors participated under our tent.

Again this past year, The PMC sponsored the Youth Voyage, now known as the Sea Challenge for young people. The Sea Challenge, while not as high-profile as Sail Portsmouth, is an extremely valuable part of our work. It fosters both self-reliance and teamwork, and has incalculable benefits in boosting the young peoples' levels of confidence, self-worth, leadership, motivation, and more. We are honored to support this effort. We put the young people and a counselor aboard the 125-foot *Spirit of Massachusetts*, for their trip into the North Atlantic. We will also host Sea Challenge 2013!

The PMC also sponsored a maritime-related talk this year about the War of 1812, an effort we will continue. There is no charge for our talks, and we serve refreshments.

As you probably know, maintaining historic sailing vessels, keeping them seaworthy, and hosting them, are all expensive propositions. The current economy makes it even more challenging. Many large seaport cities heavily subsidize the ship visits, but the PMC relies only on our sponsors, admission fees, and our own resources. We are unwilling to raise admission fees to the point that people must forego visiting the Tall Ships!

The love of the sea and its history and traditions are an integral part of local history, and we seek a strong and involved membership - members that support our work with their dues, provide the dedicated core of Volunteers, and with their efforts, enable us to keep our costs down. Without this work, knowledge of our maritime heritage may soon fade. The PMC is composed of people, like yourselves, who believe that it is important to sustain and cherish this heritage. The romance of the sea, and the sense of wonder that tall ships inspire in children - and in the child in all of us - are important enough to keep alive and vibrant.

We invite you to join the PMCI and assist us in fulfilling our mission. You can join us in hosting the visits of Tall Ships to our beautiful Seacoast, the most visible part of our work, but we can also use your assistance as we continue to work on our educational and outreach programs in the coming year.

Our membership year runs from January through December. We offer member discounts on ship-visit admissions, merchandise, and events. Our Newsletter is issued several times throughout the year. Membership is a nominal \$15 per year. You may pay in advance and take advantage of a discount, \$40 for three years. Membership is tax-deductible, and we never share our membership information with other parties. Just fill out and mail in the 'coupon' below, along with your check, and join us today!

We look forward to having you on board!!

Carl S. Gurtman

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Join

the Piscataqua Maritime Commission

Name _____

Business _____

Mailing Address _____

City, State & ZIP Code _____

Phone _____

E-Mail _____

Membership fees help support our mission.

Fill out the coupon, clip, and mail with your check to:

PMC
PO Box 545
Portsmouth, NH 03802-0545.

Membership Options: Youth 15 and under ___\$5.00

Individual ___\$15.00 Senior 60 and over ___\$12.00

Family ___\$25.00 Senior Family ___\$20.00

I would like to Volunteer for Tall Ship Events

Other areas of interest _____

Members receive discounts on Event admissions and merchandise

Annual Membership Meeting

The Piscataqua Maritime Commission will be holding its Annual Membership Meeting on Tuesday evening, March 5th, 2013, at 6:00 PM, at the Rusty Hammer, at the corner of State and Pleasant Streets, in Portsmouth, NH. All members are encouraged to attend, and all interested members of the public are invited to attend as well.

The PMC will be providing food and refreshments, and there will be a cash bar.

There will be a presentation from our Chairman that recaps the past year, and discusses the challenges that face us in the years ahead, as well as reports from Board members on their areas of responsibility. There will be an election of new Board Members for the coming year. The slate of Board Members proposed is the same as the current Board; Neil Cohn, Donald Coker, George Doran, Lyn Doran, Carl Gurtman, Larry Job, Peri Lagasse, Nita Libby and Penny Walsh.

Please come and provide your input. We look forward to seeing you there!



Harvey Gamage



Pick up a bargain on PMC merchandise

The PMC expanded has its merchandise to include "tee"-shirts for Sail Portsmouth, tote bags designed to keep things cold, and foam swords, pirate caps and such for kids. Your purchase helps support our events and our mission.

Visit PMC Online!

www.pmcportsmouth.org
www.sailportsmouth.org

Please visit us online for information about our events, photos, and more. You can also find us on Facebook by searching for Portsmouth NH Tall Ships, and follow us on Twitter @TallShipsNH.

