

# Piscataqua Maritime Commission

## Newsletter

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

Summer 2013



USCGC Eagle

by Larry Job, Vice Chair

For the third time in nine years, “America’s Tall Ship”, the USCGC *Eagle*, a 300-foot barque, is again being hosted by your Piscataqua Maritime Commission (PMC). This is something of which PMC members, volunteers, sponsors, and the entire Seacoast can be justifiably proud. It is rare that the *Eagle* graces any city with her presence, let alone three times, and it’s a safe bet ours is the only city under 30,000 people that she has returned to this often. Certainly the Coast Guard has an appreciation for the long maritime heritage of the Seacoast, as the third oldest city in America, and birth place of ship legends like *Ranger*, *America*, *Congress*, *Kearsarge*, and *Albacore*. Of course it doesn’t hurt that your PMC and its 100+ volunteers have 25 years of experience in the care and feeding of Tall Ships. We bring much to the event that most *Eagle* port calls do not: marketing, logistics, the Parade of Sail, Captain’s Reception, the Volunteer & Crew Barbeque, and our historic venues open to the crew as the City’s guests.

Many of us are familiar with some of the *Eagle’s* amazing statistics - it’s 300 feet long, has a 148-foot tall mainmast, and two other masts; 23 sails carry 22,000 square feet of canvas, five miles of rigging, and over 200 individually-named lines to control her sails. *Eagle* carries a crew of 80, and a cadet trainee compliment of 120. She has recorded a speed under sail of over 17 knots! She is the largest Tall Ship in America, and the only active commissioned sailing vessel in the American military.

## *Eagle*, America’s Tall Ship, Returns to Portsmouth!

**On August 2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> for the Parade of Sail and Public Tours.**

But how many know the fascinating history of America’s Tall Ship? It begins with her 1936 launch in Nazi Germany. It’s true! She was the second of four sister ships, and was launched as the *Horst Wessel*. She was named after the Nazi “martyr” and composer of the Nazi Party anthem. The Coast Guard has old movie footage of Rudolph Hess giving her launching speech with Hitler in attendance. Legend has it (probably apocryphal) that Hitler once stayed in her cabin. After the war she was taken by the US as war reparations and rechristened *Eagle*. Her sisters are still with us - the (current) *Gorch Foch* of Germany, (built in 1958), the *Sagres III* of Portugal, and the *Mircea* of Romania, all training ships for their countries’ respective navies. The original *Gorch Foch*, was taken by Russia (and then the Ukraine), and sailed as their training ship *Tovarishch* for many years.

### **Sail Portsmouth™ 2013 Fast Facts**

#### **Parade of Sail:**

Watch *Eagle’s* 148-foot main mast clear the new Memorial Bridge by under five feet!

Rendezvous with *Eagle* at buoy 2KR off the mouth of the Piscataqua at 3:45 pm, August 2. Monitor Ch 13 and listen for the Portsmouth Pilot on *Eagle* make the security announcement, “*Eagle* inbound Portsmouth”. That is the signal for the Parade to start, which should be around 4:00 pm.

See **Fast Facts** (p. 2)

## Fast Facts *continued from page 1*

You can also watch the Parade from shore. See the main vessels form up and head up the river, followed by private vessels.

Also joining *Eagle* for the Parade will be the Gundalow Company's *Piscataqua*, the Tugboat *Shackle*, The Gundalow *Pisca*, as well as the Portsmouth City Fireboat *Sagamore*, and the Naval Shipyard tug and fireboat *Keokuk*, with their powerful hoses spraying.

### Important:

The Coast Guard requires that you maintain a distance from all the participating major vessels of at least 200 yards.

### The order of sail will be:

1. City of Portsmouth Fireboat *Sagamore*.
2. USCGC *Eagle*.
3. The Tugboat *Shackle*.
4. The Gundalow *Piscataqua*.
5. The Shipyard Fireboat *Keokuk*.
6. Private vessels. You must remain astern of the Shipyard Fireboat, the last major vessel in the Parade.

### Note:

The Gundalow and the fireboats will join the Parade in progress off Fort Constitution in Newcastle.

### Public Tours:

Saturday, August 3, 9:30 am-7:00 pm, Sunday August 4, 9:30 am-7:00 pm. Admission free.

### Parking:

Free parking at Albacore Park and The Bethel Assembly of God Church; or park at the Municipal Parking Garage at High and Hanover Streets, or elsewhere in downtown Portsmouth.



## Captain's Reception

Take the opportunity to walk aboard the *Eagle* in the cool of the evening with other Reception guests. The Reception is 6:00 to 9:00+ pm, Saturday, August 3rd, in the tent on the dock. Tickets must be purchased in advance and are \$45. Tickets are \$40 for PMC Members. Reception includes buffet dinner, *Eagle* tours, cash bar, and remarks from the *Eagle*'s captain and others. Tickets may be reserved by calling (603) 431-SHIP (7447).

## Under The Tent

by George Doran, Exhibit Chair

This year's Exhibitor Tent is expected to fully complement the arrival of the USCGC *Eagle*!

To start your day, we have a new food vendor, Hebert's Seafood Restaurant, Portsmouth, which will provide offerings from the sea; chowders, lobster rolls, etc., as well as hamburgers, hot dogs, French fries, and breakfast sandwiches.

The PMC is proud to introduce Linda Petrat, a former PMC Board Member, who has authored a book vividly describing her (mostly) single-handed sail from Kittery, down the coast, and across Florida to Sarasota. She sailed her 22' racing sloop, *A Summer Wind*. A true highlight in our tent will be the return of the Knot Tyers Guild. This group, though headquartered in the United Kingdom, has members in the U.S. Children and adults alike immediately learn how to tie, work with, and create, nautical knots under a professional's supervision.

This year we'll again be having Pirates; they'll be Rogue's Armada. Pirates are always a great crowd-pleaser, especially with our younger guests.

Many more Exhibitors are still in the planning process.

Nautical music will be provided by the UNH Marine Docent Chanty Singers. As in the past, we have been fortunate in having representation from the historic homes of Portsmouth, including the Moffatt-Ladd House and Strawberry Banke.

Since admission to the *Eagle* is free to the public, we anticipate a large, eager crowd to be at the State Pier early Saturday morning.

If you know of some nautically-related group you consider should be Exhibiting at Sail Portsmouth 2013 please have them contact George Doran at [grdoran@comcast.net](mailto:grdoran@comcast.net)

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Portsmouth Naval Shipyard  
Portsmouth Pilots  
Public Service of New Hampshire (PSNH)  
Two Way Communications



Harvey Gamage

## Sea Challenge Nears Milestone!

by Larry Job, Vice Chair

The fifth year of the Sea Challenge will mark 100 Seacoast youth going to sea for a week of 24/7 training and learning aboard a 131' schooner - thanks to PMC's sponsors, members, volunteers, and Board. It's an achievement of which we can all be proud. This year's new partnership with Seacoast Youth Services (SYS) to canvas and select our

trainees has proven remarkably successful. SYS has stepped up in helping to organize the voyage as well as participating in fund-raising, and will send two counselors to go on the trip and work with the trainees, instead of one, as has been done in the past. Vic Maloney, Executive Director of SYS, said; "It's going to be an amazing opportunity for these kids to grow in self-confidence and leadership - if only I could find a way to go with them!"

This year marks our first use of the 131' *Harvey Gamage*, in place of the 125' *Spirit of Massachusetts*. Harvey Gamage's extra length and capacity allows us to send two additional trainees and the extra counselor. The *Harvey Gamage* was built in 1973 in South Bristol, ME, with lines reminiscent of the original coasting schooners. She was designed, and has always operated, as a sail-training vessel, sailing the New England coast in warm weather and the Caribbean in winter. This year's Sea Challenge departs from Fort Point in Newcastle on July 16, and returns on July 24.

*"It's going to be an amazing opportunity for these kids to grow in self-confidence and leadership - if only I could find a way to go with them!"*

VIC MALONEY  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF SYS

## Volunteers Needed!

by Lyn Doran, Volunteer Chair

Once again, the Piscataqua Maritime Commission is pleased to host the USCGC Eagle. During the Eagle's 2009, visit more than 10,000 visitors lined up to tour the Coast Guard's sail training vessel, better known as "America's Tall Ship", during its three-day stay. Those of you who have volunteered in the past know better than anyone else what it takes to make one of these events safe and successful.

The initial e-mail calling for volunteer help has already gone out. If you have not been a part of this fun-filled happening in the past, and would like to participate, please check out our website at [www.sailportsmouth.org](http://www.sailportsmouth.org) for information on how to contact us.

As a Sail Portsmouth Volunteer, you will receive an official Volunteer "tee"-shirt, and you are invited to our Volunteer Cookout on Sunday evening. And, of course, you will be able to tour the ship.

Sign up now to be a part of one of the premiere events the Seacoast has to offer!

# 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



PNSY Fireboat *Keokuk* (YTB-771) welcoming Tall Ships

## Visit PMC Online!

[www.pmcportsmouth.org](http://www.pmcportsmouth.org)

[www.sailportsmouth.org](http://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.



## Pick up a bargain on PMC merchandise

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

