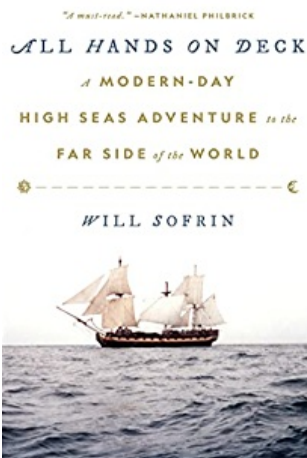




# on the Move

Local maritime news, events and history from the Chicago Maritime Museum

## ALL HANDS ON DECK Author Will Sofrin Book Signing



On Saturday, April 22 at the Chicago Maritime Museum, author Will Sofrin will present a thrilling video as he signs his memoir **All Hands on Deck**, the epic adventure delivering the Tall Ship **HMS Rose** to Hollywood for the film, **Master and Commander**. A story of reinvention, of hard work on the high seas, of love, and of survival, the book is receiving rave reviews from the literary and sailing community alike:

**"Fact stalks fiction in this epic tale. Huzzah!"**

– Peter Weir, Academy Award–winning co-writer, producer, and director of *Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World*

**"A thrilling account. Readers needn't have ever set foot on a boat to enjoy this**

**story."**

– Tracy Edwards, trailblazing round-the-world sailor

Join us for a book signing, video presentation and discussion from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. and again from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Families are welcome. Because of limited seating, however, we ask that you reserve your spot. Click [here](#) to reserve your spot or call us at 773-376-1982.

CMM was selected for this Chicago premier and book signing. **All Hands on Deck** will be available for purchase at the museum just four days after its release date. Reserve this book to support CMM. CMM members will receive a 10% discount. Copies will be held at the front desk for those unable to attend either of Sofrin's presentation.

Please note, there is no charge for the presentation, but the standard museum admission applies unless you are a CMM member.

Free parking in the North Lot of the Bridgeport Art Center, at 1200 W. 35th St., River Level Chicago.

For more information, visit the events page on our website at [chicagomaritimemuseum.org](http://chicagomaritimemuseum.org).

RESERVE YOUR SEAT AND BOOK COPY HERE

## CMM Curator Receives Master's Degree in Museum Studies

CMM curator, Dylan Hoffmann, recently received a Master of Arts in Museum Studies Degree from **Johns Hopkins University**. The two-year program, mostly administered on-line, focuses on the evolving role of museums in the 21st century with an emphasis on attracting new visitors, increasing engagement, and adapting museum experiences for today's



diverse audiences.

"I look forward to applying the skills I learned from esteemed JHU faculty and fellow graduate students, and I am grateful for CMM's financial and professional support," says Dylan. "The experience provided me the opportunity to meet museum professionals from all over the world and learn best practices."

The program involved a two-week seminar in New York attending local museums like South Street Seaport, Intrepid Museum, Brooklyn Navy Yard, MOMA and the MET. "Meeting staff from some of the world's top museums was a truly enlightening experience."

Dylan began his career in Geographic Information Systems until he switched gears by earning a MA in Education from National-Louis University, to become a middle school teacher, first in Nashville and then in Oak Park, Illinois. In 2016, just as CMM had moved to its new location in Bridgeport, Dylan began volunteering in the collections department. Recognizing his talent and skills, CMM hired Dylan as a full-time curator in 2018.

"Dylan's skills and expertise help to tell our maritime stories," says CMM vice chair Jerry Thomas. "He understands the relationship between history and artifacts – the stories we tell and objects that support those stories. With his additional knowledge from Johns Hopkins, he is truly a major asset to the museum."

If knowledge is the key to preparing for the unexpected, Dylan has armored himself with new skills and information. In addition to his Johns Hopkins Master's Degree, Dylan also received a Small Museum Pro Certificate in 2019 from the American Association of State and Local History.

## Save the Date: CMMFestival Fundraiser "All Hands on Deck" Scheduled for Thursday, October 26



The CMM fundraiser planning committee is busy planning for the annual museum fundraiser. Themed "**All Hands on Deck**" the fundraiser date has been set for Thursday, October 26.

Last year, nearly 100 patrons, both on-line and in-person, which raised \$100,000 for the museum.

"This year, we are truly hoping for all hands on deck to support and grow our museum," says Vice Chair Jerry Thomas. "CMM wishes to thank all who participated and donated last year. We hope to carry your momentum into this year as you continue to support exciting new plans for the museum." It is never too late or early to support CMM's future.

[DONATE HERE](#)

Winnetka Debutante Joined Navy Reserve to

# Help the War Effort



Sallie Welsh from Winnetka never expected to wear a military uniform. A Winnetka debutante and Vassar grad, life suddenly became grim when WWII broke out.

Read More Here from the Winnetka Historical Society

## Strategic Maritime Solutions Presents "What's the Point: Marine Electronics Installation and Operation" at CMM on Saturday April 15th 4 PM to 6 PM



There is no point more important to boaters' safety than the GPS waypoint. Understanding where to find your position using multiple every day marine electronics devices and knowing how to report it will save your life in an emergency.

Join us at CMM for Strategic Maritime Solutions' presentation on "What's the Point: Marine Electronics Installation and Operation" on Saturday April 15th 4 PM to 6 PM for:

- Practical instruction and demonstration from experts in VHF, DSC, radar, and AIS use
- Examine actual search and rescue cases that highlight the importance of the POINT in multiple scenarios.
- Gain confidence in the use of your VHF and marine electronics to enhance your safety on the water.
- Understand when to report your position, who to report to, and how to do so to ensure the correct response.

Chris Boss is a twenty-year veteran of the Milwaukee Police Department Harbor Patrol and Dive Team. He has responded to hundreds of search and rescue cases throughout Lake Michigan. He is also a licensed Coast Guard Master working in the commercial sector piloting 100-ton vessels. Chris will draw on his extensive experience to provide realistic, scenario-based training to make sure you are safe while boating.

John Barry is an experienced marine electronics installer, currently running Technical Marine Support, Inc. He has decades of experience installing electronics on boats. He has trained installers worldwide as an NMEA instructor and holds FCC GROL and FCC GMDSS licenses. John will share his experience with marine electronics installation and operation to make sure you are confident while boating.

**Chicago Maritime Museum members will receive a ten percent ticket discount.** Please call CMM at (773)376-1982 to receive your discount code. To register for the seminar, click [here](#).

[Register for the Seminar Here](#)

## Help Clean up the Shores of Bubbly Creek Chicago River Day is May 13<sup>th</sup> and We Need Your Help



Litter not only hides the beauty of the Earth, but it is also detrimental to the health of humans, wildlife and the watershed. Thankfully, Friends of the Chicago River is doing something about it. Last year, FOTCR brought out over 2,000 volunteers for 60 -70 sites cleanups along the river.

Demonstrate your desire for a litter-free Chicago-Calumet river system as a volunteer at the Bubbly Creek location for Chicago River Day, May 13, 2023 from 9am – 12pm.

[To Volunteer Register Here](#)

## *Curator's Corner by Dylan Hoffmann*

### Howie LaBrant Canoe Won Awards at Century of Progress World's Fair



A 17-foot canoe, constructed of plywood by Howie LaBrant, is one of nearly one-hundred small watercrafts residing in the **Ralph Frese Canoe Collection** at the Chicago Maritime Museum.

Howie LaBrant was born in Winnipeg, Canada and relocated to Rockford in the 1920s. He trained on the Rock and Pecatonica Rivers, where he raced canoes as a member of the Rockford Canoe Club. Howie met Bob Pomrencki, from the Columbia Canoe Club, and together, they took gold and silver hardware in all regattas and **American Canoe Association** (ACA) competitions in the early 1930s, including the nationals held at the Century of Progress Exposition in 1933.

An innovator and founding member of the ACA., Howie LaBrant developed a method of constructing sleek, v-bottom canoes out of waterproof plywood. He was motivated by the cheap cost of plywood in comparison to the more expensive wood and canvas canoes that existed on the market. At the time, a sheet of plywood cost a few dollars, while a wood and canvas canoe sold for \$75-\$85.

In 1941, Howie LaBrant and Bob Pomrencki teamed up for the 450-mile

Mississippi River race from Lake Itasca to Minneapolis-St. Paul. They used a high kneeling stance, in this homemade plywood canoe, and finished in first place. Throughout the ten-day race they out paddled professional guides and college athletes.

Howie Labrant was an inspiration to many within the paddling community, including Ralph Frese, a founding member of the Chicago Maritime Society. In 1980, the United States Canoe Association established "The LaBrant Award", which recognizes individuals for demonstrating outstanding contributions to the sport of canoeing. Ralph Frese acquired this prized canoe from Howie Labrant and donated it to the Chicago Maritime Museum, where both of their legacies will live on.

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## Opinion: Save Promontory Point



Chicago Tribune editorial says landmark status would be a victory for preservation and access.

[Learn More Here](#)

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## Maritime Event Calendar

Check out local maritime events at the Chicago Maritime Museum [website calendar page](#).

Submit maritime events in the Chicagoland area or story ideas to Mary Ann O'Rourke at [maorourke58@gmail.com](mailto:maorourke58@gmail.com).

### Ready to join or renew your membership?

Information about our membership offers can be found [here](#). If you need further membership support please email us at [cmm@chicagomaritimemuseum.org](mailto:cmm@chicagomaritimemuseum.org)

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*We hope you've enjoyed our monthly e-newsletter, On the Move.*

