

July 2021



on the Move

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

Captain Dave Truitt Takes Helm at CMM



CMM is pleased to announce the election of a long-time museum board member and one of CMM's original founders, Captain Dave Truitt, as the museum's new chairman after the recent retirement of Doug Walker.

A Hyde Park native and highly regarded community philanthropist, Captain Dave is a former Flotilla Commander with the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary. During his lengthy career, Truitt has served on nautical organizations including as chairman of the *USS Midway* Memorial Committee for the Navy League and as founding chairman of the Chicago Marine Heritage Society. He also serves and supports the Great Lakes Naval Museum, the Pritzker Military Museum & Library, and the Christmas Tree Ship.

"As I take on this new role, I offer my sincere appreciation to Doug Walker, whose leadership has brought us to where we are today," says Truitt. "Doug has led us through multiple challenges including the recovery from the 2020 flooding, weathering of the pandemic closure, supporting us through our first major fundraising campaign, and the reopening of the museum. We appreciate his years of service and support of the CMM."

Also as part of the organizational change, Jerry Thomas, President Emeritus has been named CMM Vice-Chairman. In this role, he will continue to manage the operations side of the museum.

Tom Kastle will host CMMFestival “Waterways for All” Benefit in October



Performer, founder of the Chicago Maritime Festival, professional mariner, tall ships captain, and longtime CMS/CMM member and sometimes board member, Tom Kastle will serve as host and provide musical entertainment for the 2021 CMMFestival scheduled for October 21, 2021.

Following a successful inaugural event last year, the museum renews its efforts to engage key audiences to connect with CMM’s mission. “Waterways for All” will be the theme of the 2021 festival.

“This year, we hope to acknowledge and celebrate the many ways diverse

and overlooked groups interact with our waterways,” says CMM Vice-Chairman and president emeritus Jerry Thomas, who is leading the benefit committee in conjunction with last year’s chair Lorraine Freeman. “Who better to tell this story than our good friend, Great Lakes mariner, and musician, Tom Kastle.”

The CMMFestival committee is busy planning an event that will include compelling video, lively maritime folk music, and a chance to partner with, and support, the museum. More details, including an engaging marketing campaign, to come.

the Curator's Corner by Dylan Hoffmann

Binnacle from S.S. Harvester



One of CMM's most colorful, eye-catching artifacts is a compass and navigational instrument housing station called a binnacle. The instrument was salvaged from the *S.S. Harvester*, a 525-foot all-steel, single screw propelled bulk carrier. Built in Lorain, Ohio in 1911, the ship served on the Great Lakes until being scrapped in 1977.

The binnacle was built by Whyte, Thomson & Co. in Glasgow, Scotland. The large red and green balls on either side of the binnacle are not decorations - they are used to calibrate the compass inside the binnacle. Since metal can affect a compass, housing one on a large steel ship will impact the calibration.

To correct this error, the heavy iron balls can be adjusted in and out on both sides until the heading on the compass is correct. If there is still an error, it will be noted on a chart kept next to the binnacle. This is known as the deviation for that compass.

Carleton D. Northam was a superintendent of the Steam Power Department and Steamship Maintenance at Wisconsin Steel, a division of International Harvester Co in South Chicago. His responsibilities included the ore boats *S.S. Harvester* and *S.S. International*. In the late 1960s, he retired from the company, and he was presented with the binnacle of the *S.S. Harvester*.

Joanne Northam Dunn (Carleton's daughter) and her husband Lewis found the binnacle in the corner of her parents' basement and immediately fell in love with it. They liked it so much, they took it home with them to Florida.

After many years of service on the Great Lakes, the binnacle's condition had deteriorated. Cortney Ross, a yacht builder on Clearwater Beach was contracted to restore the binnacle. The binnacle occupied the home of Joanne and Lewis for more than 30 years. In 2006, the Dunn's donated the binnacle of the *S.S. Harvester* to the Chicago Maritime Museum.

Captain Bill Pinkney Inducted into
National Sailing Hall of Fame



Chicago-born Captain Bill Pinkney will be inducted into the National Sailing Hall of Fame with a Lifetime Achievement Award in October for his adventures on the high seas. Stay tuned for an upcoming CMM exhibit on the fascinating life and lessons from the first African American to solo circumnavigate the globe through all five capes. [Read more here.](#)

A Man and His River



Mullady Launch celebrates Ed Mullady and his life for the Kankakee River. [Read more here.](#)

Can Drones Prevent Drownings on Lake Michigan?



Nearly half of the people who drown in the Great Lakes every year drown in Lake Michigan. One city in West Michigan is adding a specialized drone to its water rescue tools arsenal.

[Read more here.](#)

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.

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

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

