



# on the Move

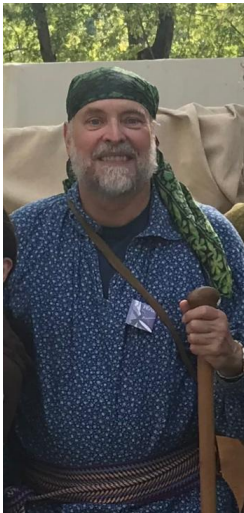
*Local maritime news, events and history from the Chicago Maritime Museum*

## Maritime Groups to Compete for Top Fundraiser at CMMFestival

Join a maritime group or start your own to support the Chicago Maritime Museum at our first virtual fundraiser, **CMMFestival**, October 22.

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Whether you're an **Underwater Explorer**, **Maritime Trailblazer**, **Island Goat Mac Sailor** or a **Harbor Rat**, there's likely a group for you. Groups will compete for top fundraiser and try to meet a \$10,000 matching grant during a rollicking paddle raise hosted live from the Chicago Maritime Museum by a professional auctioneer.



Historical reenactors "**Abraham Lincoln**" and "**Louis le Voyageur**" will offer fun facts about Chicago's maritime history throughout the paddle raise. Feel free to call 'em Louie and Abe when donating to applaud their contributions.

Keynote speaker for the event is Chicago's very own around-the-world sailor, Captain Bill Pinkney. The **CMMFestival** will conclude with a lively maritime music festival featuring renowned folksinger Lee Murdoch.

[Register, Sponsor or Crowdsource a Group for the CMMFestival Here](#)

## CMMFestival is a Nod to Chicago Maritime Festivals of the Past (Part 2 )

As the Chicago Maritime Museum's first "gala gone virtual," **CMMFestival**, is coming to living rooms, dens and kitchens all over Chicagoland and beyond on October 22 via Zoom, a legacy is renewed, and past Chicago Maritime Festivals are fondly remembered. **CMMFestival** will conclude with a **Lee Murdock Concert**, a performance dedicated to the maritime heritage that built and sustains Chicago and its people.

This year's online festival is a throwback to CMM's long-lived and much beloved partner, the Chicago Maritime Festival. Following is Part Two of the story of how the folk music festival grew from a simple idea to an international event with broad appeal.

After 1987, the Chicago Maritime Society became troubled with the financial strain of trying to keep open the North Pier museum, which included a high commercial rental rate.



The folk festival was later revived by Tom and Chris Kastle.

"The rebirth of the fest started at a Civil War symposium that Ted Karamanski invited Chris Kastle and I to attend at the Chicago History Museum," recalls Tom Kastle. "There, we met the then director, Lonnie Bunch, who went on to be the director of the Smithsonian. Lonnie was new to Chicago and remarked that he was looking forward to learning more about the maritime history of Chicago, This seemed like the perfect opportunity to partner with an iconic Chicago institution and the Chicago Maritime Festival was born.

Organizing partners included the Chicago Historical Society (soon to be the Chicago History Museum), the Chicago Maritime Society (soon to be the Chicago Maritime Museum), and Common Times, a non-profit arts organization that Chris and Tom founded a few years before to promote folk music, storytelling and folk arts.

Early on, the festival's goal was to celebrate Chicago's diverse maritime community that included everyone from commercial shipping to shipwreck archeologists, marine scientists, historians, recreational boaters and more. It became a conference bringing all things maritime, music, history, science, crafts, art and more together.

Starting in 2003, the Chicago Maritime Festival produced the most diverse maritime program ever staged in the Great Lakes region, reaching almost 45,000 people over the years. The seminars, workshops, concerts, and exhibits were presented by a wide variety of individuals and organizations from the maritime communities all over the world.

"A major feature of the fest was an outreach program to students, seniors, and people with disabilities that has served over 28,000 participants," says Kastle. "It also served to give the Chicago Maritime Society programming and the opportunity to network with nearly every museum, maritime organization and yacht club in the Chicago area."

In 2014, the festival was supported by 57 sponsors and 20 different maritime organizations, with performers hailing from all over the globe. The festival moved to the Old Town School of Folk Music in 2015 and spent the last two years there and at the Grafton Pub next door. Thanks to the work of CMM board member Bill Strauss, Chicago Maritime Festival concerts can be viewed today on YouTube.

Watch clips of the Chicago Maritime Festival [here](#):

“My favorite memory of the festival is the tradition of ‘singing’ the festival in and out with a cappella shanty songs offered by many at the beginning and closing of each day” says Kastle.



He also fondly recalls the outreach programs for kids who had never known maritime Chicago before, the generous hosts and tireless volunteers, the songs and stories told in a variety of languages, and the impromptu sessions that would happen at a moment’s notice.

“The Chicago Maritime Festival is at a semi-permanent hiatus at the present time and is, perhaps, a project for the next generation to restore and launch,” concludes Kastle, who provided his talent to the **CMMFestival 2020** as both actor and musician. Kastle lent his voice to the promotional video produced by James Forni of Octane Rich Media, and will be live from Madison, Wisconsin welcoming this year’s Festival attendees by hosting the Zoom Room. Check in with Tom at 6:20 on October 22.

Registration to the October 22 **CMMFestival** is free and easy. For more event details and to register click [here](#). Please register before October 15.

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*the Curator's Corner* by Dylan Hoffmann

## I&M Canal Diorama





A recent acquisition by the Chicago Maritime Museum represents a well-defined era in the history of Chicago's waterways. Connecting the Great Lakes to the Mississippi River system via the I&M Canal in 1848 was key to early trading and resulted in rapid population growth in Chicago.

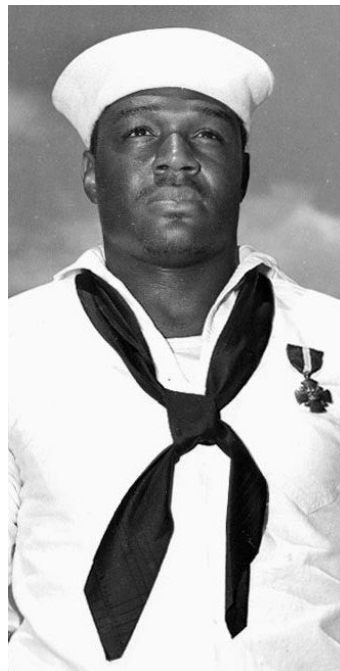
Pat and Ron Pelky donated a diorama of the I&M Canal showing a steamer, – ***City of Pekin*** passing through a lock, and lumber being unloaded from the barge, ***City of Henry***. The diorama was built by Pat's father, the late William Anderson, a Chicago area cabinet maker. He served in the Navy during WWII on a landing craft that stormed the beaches of Normandy. He also built a model of the landing craft, now belonging to the U.S. Navy Museum in Washington, D.C.

Along with the diorama, the acquisition included scaled drawings of the ***City of Henry*** and the ***City of Pekin***, model shop supplies, and a firsthand account of a voyage from Chicago to Frankfort, Kentucky via inland waterways. In 1932, William Anderson served as a crew member and documented his journey aboard ***Misty***, a thirty-foot pleasure craft that made the trip via the Chicago, Illinois, Mississippi, Ohio, and Kentucky Rivers.

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## A Military 1st: A Supercarrier Is Named After an African American Sailor

Doris "Dorie" Miller, U.S. Navy mess attendant 2nd class, became one of the first American heroes of World War II for his actions during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.



[Read More Here](#)

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## Opinion: Illinois is Ugly Enough. Why Make it Worse with a New Barge Terminal on the Illinois River?



The proposal threatens a scenic, wooded stretch just northeast of Seneca in Grundy County, about a 90-minute drive from downtown Chicago. Neighbors aren't happy.

[Read More Here](#)

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## Endangered Mussels in Illinois Play a Crucial Role as Environmental Sentinels

Some of Illinois' most rare mussel species can only be found in Elgin's Poplar Creek, including the ellipse, which is a mussel species of greatest conservation concern in Illinois.

[Read Article Here](#)

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## Maritime Event Calendar

Check out local maritime events at the Chicago Maritime Museum website calendar page:

<https://www.chicagomaritimemuseum.org/events.html>

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

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*We hope you've enjoyed our monthly e-newsletter, On the Move.  
If you have a Chicago maritime story idea please forward it to  
maorourke@ameritech.net*

