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Museum Events for All Ages

Skippers Crew - hands-on activities combining art and history. Ages 8 and below:

June 6 - Tiny Tanks
June 20 - For a Real Great Dad
 August 1 - Coral Crafters

Anchors Aweigh - Focus on geography, history, and archeology. Ages 9 and Up:

June 10 - Cyphers & Codes
June 24 - Seal the Deal
July 8 - 18th Century Toys and Games
July 15 - Civil War Blockade Runners

Deep Dive - Held on 3rd Saturday with info on local and national history.

July 25 - 18th Century Dentistry

Upcoming Member and Community Events:

Frying Pan Tower. A presentation from the curator of the Frying Pan Tower and a raffle for a tour to the tower. Scheduled for **June 11**, 7 pm St James Community Center.

Annual View From the Porch! The space is limited to Benefactor and Lifetime members and Volunteers with a front row seat to observe

From the Chairman

A belated Happy Mother's Day to all you Moms! A belated Happy Armed Forces Day to all. A belated Happy Memorial Day to all!

When is Armed Forces Day? Armed Forces Day has been observed on the 3rd Saturday of May for more than seven decades. How is Armed Forces Day different from Veterans Day and Memorial Day? Armed Forces Day celebrates both active and former members of the U.S. military. Meanwhile, Veterans Day commemorates former service members every November 11, and Memorial Day, observed on the last Monday of May, specifically honors people who died while serving.

June 1st means we are entering hurricane season. Dust off your hurricane plans and review/update them. Make sure you have your hurricane supplies. Get prepared, be prepared, and stay prepared!

May 22nd is National Maritime Day. Please see the great article (in the newsletter) written by Kevin Fitzgerald.

A couple of notes on some presentations that we've organized. We're sorry that the speaker for the Frying Pan Shoal Light in May fell through at the last minute. The presentation has been rescheduled for June 11 at 7PM at the St James Conference Center. Come join us!! I hope that those of you who signed up for the behind the scenes look at Old Baldy (May 20) enjoyed yourselves! We are so happy that we could organize these two events to learn a bit more about some local maritime history. If you have any ideas on possible speakers/lectures, please let me know.

As you all know, this year we celebrate America at 250! I would encourage you to look at the NC First In Freedom Celebrations Guide (NCFirstInFreedomFestival.com) to see local celebrations. Of course, the 4th of July is around the corner and Southport certainly knows how to celebrate our Nation's birthday. This year is certain to be extra special!!!

the Southport Annual
4th of July Parade.

October - Southport Boat Tour. Returning event that was very popular in 2025. Date to be determined and another Members Only!

December - Annual meeting and Volunteer Appreciation

Set Sail with the Latest from the Friends of the Maritime Museum

As always, remember to visit the Ship's Chandlery (Museum Gift Shop) as there are some fantastic items available. Look at the new T-shirts! Speaking of the Ship's Chandlery, Welcome Aboard to Nicolette Manthos who is joining us during the busy summer months in the Ship's Chandlery. Niki is a graduate of Christopher Newport University and is a History teacher at James Wood High School in Virginia.

A repeat but important request from me -> Fellow members and supporters, we need your help. Our Volunteers are an integral part of our daily operations. They are our face to the public welcoming new visitors and serving customers in the gift shop (the Ship's Chandlery). Many others help build new exhibits or help in our library. All the Friends and volunteers share a love of **our** Museum, Southport, and maritime history. The form is located at our website (www.friendsncmmsouthport.com/volunteer). Please join the many other volunteers who have a love of maritime history. Of course, if you've a friend who loves Southport and maritime history, ask them to consider joining the Friends!

Thank you for your continued interest in preserving and sharing our maritime history, especially with the Friends and at **our** Museum! If, at any time, you have any questions, issues, or ideas, please do not hesitate to discuss them with me.

Happy 4th of July, and of course, Fair Winds,



Members & Friends Enjoy a Day at Old Baldy

Members and Friends recently enjoyed a memorable trip to Bald Head Island and the historic Old Baldy Lighthouse, North Carolina's oldest standing lighthouse. The day included opportunities to explore the lighthouse grounds and Smith Island museum, climb the iconic lighthouse and learn more about the island's rich maritime history.

Special presentations were provided by Jennifer Wiggen from the Bald Head Island Conservancy and Jake Grossman from the Old Baldy Foundation.

The trip offered a wonderful blend of history, education, and coastal scenery giving members a deeper appreciation for one of North Carolina's most treasured landmarks.



Left: Randy Jones, Friends board member with Jake Grossman from Old Baldy Foundation.

Right: Jennifer Wiggen with the BHI Conservancy discussing wildlife and the environment on Bald Head Island



Yep, that's a skull

Volunteer Spotlight - ZuZu Ayuubo



Zuzu Ayuubo was an exchange student from Ghana studying at South Brunswick High School. To fulfil her community service requirement she chose to volunteer with the museum. Those who got a chance to meet and work with Zuzu will tell you what a delight it was to have her as part of our volunteer group.

You are interning from Ghana, how did you decide on Southport?

I think Southport is a really great place to be and it's very historical. I love the people here, everyone is nice and welcoming. And I think moving to Southport was really great

What makes you interested in maritime history?

The one thing that makes me interested in the maritime history is the beauty of the artifacts that were used in the sea and/or river. I also like the nostalgia that they bring. Everything in those days are really amazing in today's world.

How does our museum here differ from a similar one in your country? I would say there is not much difference from this museum and a similar one from back home. Most of the museums in Ghana are actually castles that the British people built for use in the slave trade and how people go there to learn about it.

What is the single greatest contribution this museum brings to the community?

This museum helps people in the community understand the great history this place has and how the Lower cape fear has made this place a very nice historic place.

What are your hobbies? I love to watch movies, play soccer and solve math problems. I also love to cook.

List three adjectives to describe yourself? Outgoing, smart and entertaining.

Do you have a favorite memory from your time here at the museum? My favorite memory of volunteering here is when I was asked by a man to take him around the museum, Queen of the tour. I was very nervous and proud of myself for being able to talk about the exhibits in the museum. I didn't know i could do it, buy yay! I did it..

What does the staff here excel at? The staff here are really amazing. They excel at everything they do. They excel best at welcoming and engaging visitors to the museum. They also keep up with cleaning the museum.

If you came back in 10 years, what would you like to see different? I would like to see the museum become bigger with artifacts like the canoes and boats.

What will you miss most about your time here? I am going to miss the kids coming here and running around looking for the scavenger hunts and asking for help.

Volunteering at the Maritime Museum is a great way to meet new people, learn new skills, and make a difference in your community. Volunteering doesn't have to involve a long-term commitment or take a huge amount of time out of your busy day. Our volunteers commit to a few hours each week, bringing their talents and time to share our maritime history.

I'm Interested in Volunteering!

A Day with the Pilot Boat Captains

Pilot boats

Cathy Dudley



Watch on

On May 13th board member Kevin Fitzgerald joined the Cape Fear Pilot boat captains taking them to board the 685 ft long ,M/V Maersk Nansha. This is his story:

I was with pilot Bill Heu (picture attached), who has been a Cape Fear River pilot since 2005. He started working for the Bald Head Ferry prior to taking a job with Moran Tug boats , working his way up to a docking pilot and then doing his apprenticeship with the Cape Fear Pilots.

While transiting up the Cape Fear River he pointed out the many obstacles for maneuvering the ship between the tides and river current. I was surprised to see how narrow the ship channel was as we approached the container terminal in Wilmington. For the much larger container ships (1200 ft long) that had been calling the port, those ships would have to squeeze into the dock and just about block the channel for any ships going further upriver.

Currently the pilots handle about 60 ships per month with 8 pilots in total working - 4 pilots work two weeks on and two weeks off. It was a real treat to be able to join the pilot and see what they do, but it also reminded me of my old shipping days as a deck officer and seeing how the pilots worked over 40 years ago.

Summer is Here and We're all Stocked Up!

We're getting daily shipments of new items in the gift shop, so stop by and take advantage of your 10% member discount.

We have many items commemorating America's 250th anniversary including books detailing the southern campaigns during the revolutionary war.

We also have many new toys and books and new t-shirts.



Top: New stickers commemorating the nation's 250th birthday.

Bottom: New children's books and special wood magnets from local artist Jenni Christenbury. These engravings were made from family photos of the original weather tower, now being rebuilt on the Fort Johnston grounds.

Volunteer Appreciation Outing



May 4th The Maritime Museum at Southport Volunteer Coordinator, Ms Toni Soles, led a field trip for Museum volunteers to Fort Caswell. The tour guide shared The Fort's History and volunteers were able to tour the fort that was built (beginning) in 1826. Fort Caswell staff provided information on the wildlife of the area and waterways. This unique opportunity equips volunteers with historical information about one of the Forts that sits at the lower Cape Fear.



TOGETHER WE CAN!!

Shout Out Loud on Social Media about our Maritime Museum. All you have to do is access below links to write a review of our Southport treasure!! Share your review afterwards on your Facebook page. Let's all set off a maritime fire of Likes!!!



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