

In this edition:



- Message from the Chairman
 - [Message From the Museum](#)
 - [July 4th Highlights](#)
 - [Volunteer Spotlight - Jack Peak](#)
 - [Tell Us What's Next!](#)
 - [Frying Pan Tower Lecture](#)
 - [News from the Gift Shop](#)
-

Museum Events for All Ages

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

Aug 1 - Coral
Crafters

Sept 5 - Jawsome
Sharks

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

Sept 19 - WWII
Anti-Aircraft Trainer

Upcoming Member and Community Events:

**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**

From the Chairman

Happy summer! I hope you are staying cool!

The 4th of July has come and gone and Southport celebrated once again. I trust you were able to enjoy some of the wonderful events.

Since this is our August edition, an early Happy Labor Day to you all!

As I noted in the previous edition, we entered hurricane season on June 1. If you have not yet done it, dust off your hurricane plans and review/update them. Make sure you have your hurricane supplies. Get prepared, be prepared, and stay prepared!

The theme of my comments this month is thanks and/or goodbye.

First, thanks to our very own Wayne Berry! Wayne was the Honorary Grand Marshal for Southport's 4th of July parade. What a deserving selection. For many years, Wayne has volunteered and worked for many organizations (yes, this includes the Friends!) as well as the City of Southport and he continues to volunteer his time! Thank you Wayne (and you too, Jill!) for all that you do!

Secondly, thanks and goodbye to Nicolette Manthos who joined us this summer in the Ship's Chandlery (Museum Gift Shop). Nikki is returning to Virginia to prepare for the academic year (she is a history teacher) and athletic seasons at James Wood High School. Thank you for all your efforts this summer! Maybe we'll see you next year!??

Thirdly, thanks and goodbye to Toni Soles. Toni joined the Museum staff in June of 2023 as the Visitor Services and Volunteer Coordinator. She is moving on to the Cape Fear Museum of History and Science in Wilmington. A few of the Friends were pleased to be able to present her with a cake on

her last day of work (the 4th of July!). It has been wonderful working with you, Toni, and we will miss you!



I to r: Tom Hale, Toni Foster Soles, Mary Carneiro, Kevin Fitzgerald, Donnie Joyner

Lastly, I am sad to share that Claire McNaught crossed the bar on June 17 after valiantly fighting cancer for four years. Claire was a wonderful volunteer at the Museum and served many years on the Board of Directors as well.

As noted in her Caring Bridge page, "she made each one of us a better person and certainly made this world a brighter place. She left exactly as she wished, in her home, quietly, just one week after deciding she was no longer going to be in treatment."

If you wish to honor her with a gesture to pay forward her incredible generosity to this world, I've listed her chosen charities.

- Friends of the NC Maritime Museum of Southport 204 E Moore St Southport NC 28461NC
- WARM - an organization which provides critical repairs and accessibility upgrades to the needy in the Cape Fear area. warmnc.org 909 Market St Wilmington NC 28401
- Estuarium (Claire's brother's legacy work); nce@ncpfs.org
- Friends of the Stokes Shelter 1111 Dodgetown Rd Walnut Cove NC 27052Lower Cape Fear Life Care (hospice) 1414 Physicians Dr Wilmington NC 27401
- Friends of the Sauratown Mountains - Preserves the Sauratown, Pilot Mountain, and Hanging Rock State Parks. POB 353 Danbury NC 27016
- Paws Place Dog Rescue 242 George II Highway SE Winnabow NC 28479

We will miss you, Claire. Thanks for the joy that you brought to so many of us!

As always, remember to visit the Ship's Chandlery (Museum Gift Shop) as there are some fantastic items available.

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

Smooth Seas while you stay cool,



Message from the Museum

It has been a busy summer at the North Carolina Maritime Museum at Southport! For example, over 2,900 visitors stopped by during the week of the North Carolina 4th of July festival alone!

Want to enjoy what the museum has to offer but want to stay away from the crowds? As summer starts to wind down and schools return to session, August and September can be the perfect time of year to pay a visit to the NCMMSPT and join us for one of our public programs. All programming that the North Carolina Maritime Museum at Southport offers is family friendly and FREE to attend - and all made possible by your donations to the Friends of the North Carolina Maritime Museum at Southport.

Shannon Walker

Museum Site Manager



A Packed Porch and the Best Seat in Southport for our 250th!

If this year's Fourth of July Parade was any indication, the Museum's **"Crow's Nest" porch** is one of the most sought-after places to celebrate Independence Day in Southport! The porch was filled with **Benefactor and Lifetime Members** of the Friends of the North Carolina Maritime Museum at Southport and their guests, all enjoying one of the best views of the parade.

Southport has been celebrating America's independence for more than two centuries, and this year's North Carolina Fourth of July Festival was one for the history books. Tens of thousands of visitors filled the streets of historic Southport to celebrate one of the country's oldest and most beloved Independence Day traditions.

For members gathered on the front porch of the North Carolina Maritime Museum at Southport, it was truly the **best seat in town to** celebrate America's **250th Anniversary of American Independence**, and enjoy one of Southport's most cherished traditions from a comfortable vantage point in the heart of downtown.

Members were treated to far more than a front-row seat. The Friends hosted a delicious **smorgasbord of food and refreshments**, providing plenty to enjoy throughout the morning. And when the July heat reminded everyone that summer had truly arrived, members could step inside the Museum to cool off in the air conditioning—a welcome escape during one of Southport's famously steamy Fourth of July celebrations.

Access to the Museum's "Crow's Nest" is **by confirmed invitation only**, with each eligible member welcome to bring one guest. Located on **Moore Street** at the beginning of the parade route, the Museum offers a prime viewing location where many of the parade's best performances take place. It's also where the local television station records parade coverage, making it one of the liveliest spots along the route.

Adding to the festive atmosphere was the Museum's beloved mascot, **Skipper**, who delighted children by handing out red, white, and blue treasures along the parade route. Smiles, laughter, and patriotic spirit were everywhere you looked.

Benefactor and Lifetime Members enjoy this exclusive Fourth of July experience along with many other membership benefits, including:

- 10% discount on all Museum Store purchases
- Invitations to members-only events
- Priority registration for youth camps and classes
- Discounts on youth camps and classes
- Previews of new exhibits
- Invitations to exclusive curator lectures
- Reserved "Crow's Nest" seating for special events, including the Fourth of July Parade

If you're already picturing yourself on the porch next Independence Day, now is the perfect time to become a Friend or upgrade your membership. **Leave the folding chairs and blankets at home, skip the baking sun, and celebrate in comfort with friends, refreshments, and one of the finest views of Southport's Fourth of July Parade.**

To learn more about **Benefactor and Lifetime Memberships** and all the benefits they offer, visit <https://www.friendsncmmsouthport.com/membership>.

We hope to welcome you to the porch for next year's celebration!

Volunteer Spotlight - Jack Peak



What motivated you to start volunteering at the Maritime museum?

I gave up sailing recently so I wanted something to keep me connected to the maritime culture and a way to contribute to our new community.

What qualities does a good museum volunteer possess?

Friendly, welcoming, knowledgeable.

What does the staff here excel at?

Local maritime knowledge. Providing hands on maritime historical experiences.

How long have you been with us and where did you originate from?

Still a newbie- 3 years. Cape Cod, MA

What are your hobbies? Billiards, biking, swimming, reading, previously - sailboat racing.

List three adjectives to describe yourself: reserved, responsible, curious.

What are you currently reading?

Frankl's *Man's Search for Meaning*,
Recently- *The Wide, Wide Sea. The Wager*

What is an accomplishment you are really proud of?

Hosted Public Access TV Talk Shows in CT and on Cape Cod about local issues

What questions do museum visitors ask most often? "Where's the bathroom?"

Which museum artifact has the most fascinating history in your opinion?

Map of shipwrecks; The Periscope.

The Cape Fear area is loaded with history, if we could add something additional to the Maritime museum to focus on as an exhibit what would you choose?

Bring back the Frying Pan underwater webcam tv and set up a fish ID chart next to it; post a current nautical chart next to the antique chart.

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!

Tell Us What's Next!

Your ideas help shape the programs and events we offer. Please take a moment to complete our quick poll and let us know what interests you most. Your feedback will help us chart the course for future events and activities. Thank you for sharing your thoughts!

Click [here](#) to cast your vote for one of the following:

- Guided tour of Ft Fisher and the Underwater Archeology center
- Guided tour of Fort Caswell
- Tour and lecture with the Bald Head island Conservancy
- Guided tour of the Care Fear Museum of History and Science in Wilmington

Frying Pan Tower

On Thursday June 11th, the Friends sponsored a presentation for a full audience by Richard Neal, Executive Director of FPTower Inc. The event took place at the Homer Wright Event Center in St. James.

Frying Pan Tower, which sits off the end of Frying Pan Shoals 34 miles offshore from Bald Head Island in the Atlantic Ocean, served as a navigational aid for merchant mariners warning them of the dangers of the Frying Pan Shoals nearby. Many ship wrecks dot these shoals. Richard Neal had purchased the tower from the government in 2010 which ceased functioning as an active light beacon in 1992. Richard had a vision to revitalize the site as a hub for environmental stewardship and adventure-based education.

While volunteers supported restoration efforts many researchers and partner organizations used the site for maritime safety and marine science initiatives. Maintenance is also done by these volunteers on the tower to not only preserve the structure but to enhance marine research on the reef that the structure sits on. Richard

has made it a point to also include marine safety on the water by fund raising for life saving water apparatus for coastal beaches in North Carolina.

What began as Richard Neal's vision soon became a shared mission embraced by thousands of supporters. Over the years, countless volunteer hours, generous donor contributions, corporate sponsorships, scientific collaborations, educational programs, maritime safety initiatives, and community partnerships helped transform Frying Pan Tower into far more than a historic offshore structure. It became a nationally recognized example of what can be accomplished when individuals, organizations, researchers, and coastal communities work together in support of preservation, public safety, scientific discovery, and education.

A couple of notable points that Richard made during his presentation are that he himself has taken significant risks to equip the tower for communication. To do that he needed a land-based antenna that could communicate with the tower. His determination and problem-solving skills helped in working with the local TV stations to put an antenna on the very tall TV station tower. He himself is a certified Competent Climber/Rescuer/Rigger and has climbed the enormous TV tower to work on the communication equipment on it.

Also notable is the many trips Richard made to the Frying Pan Tower by various boat owners in Wilmington and Southport. Every trip offshore involves significant planning and risk. He recalled one trip almost didn't make it when an engine fire broke out, and the boat captain had to call Mayday to be rescued. Unfortunately, he had to jettison expensive equipment overboard including a large propane tank that was needed on the tower.

The tower itself is self sufficient to allow overnight stays on the tower. It is equipped with solar panels for electricity and rainwater is collected on the slightly concave deck of the tower which then is filtered and purified through a reverse osmosis machine. Today, FPTower Inc. continues its mission of advancing maritime safety, marine science, and public education supporting coastal communities closer to shore while preserving the remarkable legacy of Frying Pan Tower.

To learn more about the history of Frying Pan Tower go to www.fptower.org or view the tower on YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/@FPTower>

<https://fptower.org/fptower-inc-expands-mission-following-ownership-transition-of-frying-pan-shoals-light-tower/>

News from the Gift Shop

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, books, t-shirts, hats, and jewelry. Something for everyone!

The Gift Shop hours are 10:00 to 4:00 pm Tuesday thru Saturday.



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!!!

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Trip Advisor](#)

[Yelp](#)

[View this email in your browser](#)

You are receiving this email because of your relationship with NC Maritime Museum at Southport. Please [reconfirm](#) your interest in receiving emails from us. If you do not wish to receive any more emails, you can [unsubscribe here](#).

This message was sent to gerardhaviland@gmail.com by southportform@gmail.com@email.benchmarkapps.com
204 E Moore St., Southport, North Carolina, 28461

 [Unsubscribe](#) | [Manage Subscription](#)



This is a Test Email only.

This message was sent for the sole purpose of testing a draft message.