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1 message

Friends of the NC Maritime Museum at Southport

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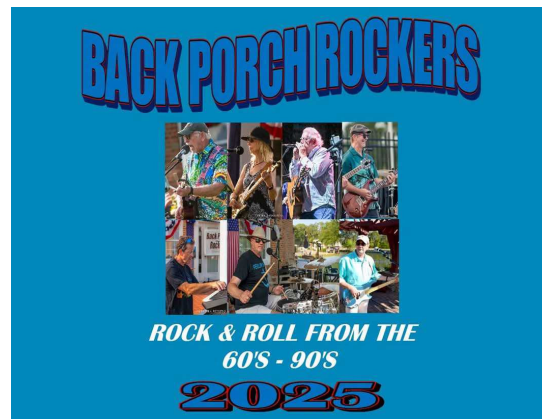
Sunday 1 June, 5:00-7:00,
Back Porch Rockers,
Fort Johnston Lawn

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Friends of NC Maritime Museum Southport
is hosting a free concert on the lawn!

Bring a chair, a blanket, your neighbors
and friends.

Raffle tickets for two Kayaks will be given to
anyone who joins to that evening to
become a Friend of the NCMM!!



Bring your con!

Friends of the NC Maritime Museum at Southport, thank you for your support of the Museum. The April Benefit and the National Maritime Day presentation were well attended and great marketing for the Museum and the Friends Organization. This month's issue includes captivating topics that we think you'll thoroughly enjoy. We have an interview with Mrs. Helene "Cookie" Remmer, upcoming Museum events, and news from our Board Chair, Mr. Tom Hale.

Read ON.....

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Friends and Supporters of the NC Maritime Museum at Southport –

Wow, there is a lot going on! As I noted before (yes, I am sounding like the proverbial broken record), the Mullett Wrapper is undergoing some changes and this is our 3rd edition! The major change is that the Friends will be preparing and publishing the Mullett Wrapper vice the Crew (John, Shannon, or Toni). The Publicity and Volunteer Recruitment Committee (chaired by Tammy Newton) has volunteered to take the lead in conjunction with Cathy Dudley. Please continue to bear with us as we implement some changes. If you have anything to share, please don't hesitate to let us know!

Thanks to those of you who attended the March 29 event - "An Evening Under the Stars at Historic Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson" held in conjunction with the Cape Fear Astronomy Club and Friends of Brunswick Town. I hope you enjoyed it – the information and the food truck.

A big thank you to those of you supported the April 11 benefit - Caribbean Night on the Cape Fear. We enjoyed an unforgettable evening (to include the thunderstorm) graciously hosted by Susan and Tom Rabon at their beautiful home overlooking the Cape Fear River. The evening was unbelievable - dinner, cocktails, live entertainment, an auction, and the infamous bourbon raffle! Because of your support, we raised almost \$19000. Wow, such generosity!

On May 22, we celebrated National Maritime Day with a wonderful presentation by Doug Vogt (COO of the NC Port Authority). What is National Maritime Day? In 1933, by a joint resolution, Congress declared May 22nd to be National Maritime Day. The significance of this date is that in 1819, the steamship Savannah sailed from Savannah, Georgia to Liverpool, England on the first successful transoceanic voyage under steam propulsion, thus making a material contribution to the advancement of ocean transportation. This resolution authorizes the President to annually issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe National Maritime Day by displaying the flag at their homes or other suitable places and Government officials to display the flag on all Government buildings on May 22nd of each year.

Doug Vogt, COO of NC Port Authority, provided a great presentation about the port authority mission, infrastructure investment, the advantages of NC ports, and the vital rail and network connectivity. I hope that you enjoyed it!

On **June 1**, we will sponsor a concert on the Garrison lawn from 5-7 PM where we will listen to the wonderful music of the Back Porch Rockers. I hope that you will come out and relax and enjoy.

We are looking to create (and expand?!) events for our members and the public so please be on the lookout for other events! If you have any ideas, please do not hesitate to share with

Cathy Dudley or one of the Board of Directors (BoD).

I want to take a moment to update you on a couple of items that the BoD has been working on over the past months. As you may be aware, the buildings which house our Museum are owned by the city of Southport, as are all of the buildings on the Fort Johnston property including the visitor center and community building. When our Museum first moved into its current location in 2014, the Friends along with the State of NC entered into a 10-year lease agreement for the building and which entity was responsible for costs/expenses to operate our Museum. This arrangement has worked well and allowed our Museum to grow and prosper.

Negotiations to renew the lease for another ten years began in late 2023 but really began in earnest in 2024. The lease agreement has been back and forth between the City and the State multiple times and the BoD is hopeful that it will be finalized and signed soon. The BoD is excited to have both the City and the State recognize the importance of keeping our Museum in downtown Southport.

The State recently provided us a draft Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that will define each entity's role – the State and the Friends of the Museum - in the supporting our Museum. The BoD has commenced review of the initial draft. The BoD will keep you informed of progress on the lease agreement and the MOA.

You may remember that the legislature generously appropriated the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR) \$2 million for capital improvements at the NC Maritime Museum at Southport in the 2023 appropriations bill. With the conclusion of the lease and MOA negotiations, we expect DNCR to move quickly with their plans for those improvements (the State is already making forward progress on this). They have committed to the BoD that they will share their ideas and solicit our thoughts/recommendations. The BoD will update you as we know more.

You may also remember that the legislature generously appropriated a grant (in the 2023 appropriations bill) in the amount of \$250,000 to the Friends of the NC Maritime Museum at Southport for a fire suppression system at the NC Maritime Museum at Southport. In late 2024, a stand alone committee of BoD members was stood up to research and make recommendations to the BoD. Initial design recommendations were gathered from a contractor and reviewed by the BoD and the State. Upon further discussion with State, it was decided to roll this project into the overall capital improvement plan mentioned above. This project will be like taking a ship or boat into a shipyard/boatyard and there will likely be a major disruption to operations at the Museum. The BoD will update you as we know more.

The BoD is pleased to welcome Randy Jones as our newest member. Randy is filling a vacancy on the BoD; his term will expire at the end of 2025. Welcome Aboard, Randy!

Leading up to the April benefit, the BoD had discussed and approved a new award where we might honor and recognize members with a lifetime of volunteer service. At our May BoD meeting, we were privileged to present Claire McNaught with The Claire McNaught Lifetime Achievement Award in Volunteering.

“At our benefit, the evening was cut short due to the weather, but more importantly, we were missing a special person so I am going to read my comments as if we were back at the benefit. On this special night, we want to honor a special friend. This individual loves the Friends and the Museum. It is apparent in all her actions no matter how big or small. One area that this individual excels in is volunteerism at the Museum. Whether as a smiling face at the front desk or keeping her colleagues in line and on a wise course as a Director on the Board, she is unbelievable. In the past 7+ years, she has volunteered over 2000 hours. The Board of Directors has approved the creation of The **Claire McNaught Lifetime Achievement Award in Volunteering** in honor of Claire.

The citation for The Claire McNaught Lifetime Achievement Award in Volunteering reads as follows -

Presented in recognition of a lifetime of outstanding volunteer service to the NC

Maritime Museum at Southport. This award honors Claire McNaught whose long-standing commitment and heartfelt contributions have helped bring maritime history to life for the public. Through consistent engagement with the public and years of service, Claire has helped preserve history, educate visitors, and create a welcoming environment for all. Your years of service serve as an inspiration to others and exemplify the true spirit of volunteerism.

Claire, as we honor you this evening for the inspiration of this award, I'd/we'd like to present you with a token of appreciation for your tremendous volunteer efforts supporting the Friends and the Museum. Thank you, Claire, for your wonderful service and volunteerism!

A reminder that Hurricane season is right around the corner. Please look at your preparedness plans and prepare. Yes, we hope that we do not experience a hurricane but we must be ready in case.

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 share a love of our Museum, Southport, and maritime history. Please submit the form at our website (www.friendsncmmsouthport.com) and join the many other volunteers with 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!

Speaking of the Ship's Chandlery, remember to visit it as there are some fantastic items available! It is a significant fundraiser for the Friends.

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

FRIENDS EVENTS



NATIONAL MARITIME DAY!

May 22nd was National Maritime Day. First created in 1933 to mark the 1819 voyage of the Savannah, the first steamship to cross the Atlantic Ocean. In honor of this day, the Friends of the North Carolina Maritime Museum at Southport hosted an informational event with Doug Vogt, COO of the NC Port Authority, at Indian Trail Meeting Hall. A United States Merchant

Marine Academy graduate bringing over 20 years in port and terminal operations to our NC Ports, delighted the captive audience with facts and figures of our state ports.

Interest was especially in the growing Wilmington port location, attracting ships from worldwide for its superior vessel and gate productivity. We see these majestic sea faring ships all the time accessing our Cape Fear on their way in and out of that nearby port. Did you know that in the past fiscal year the average single turn time for these ships (even the 1200 foot longest vessels) is only 19 minutes at the gate? Or the average net moves per hour for the vessel productivity is 41 ships? Wilmington serves as the highest container truck gate and crane productivity on the U.S. East Coast!! Kudos to Friend of the Museum Kevin Fitzgerald, for organizing .



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: HELENE REMER

If you visit the NC Maritime Museum Southport on a Thursday afternoon, you will be greeted by Ms Helene "Cookie" Remer . Mrs. Remer is a proud 93 years young and is beloved by our staff and regular visitors.

What motivated you to start volunteering at the Maritime Museum? I had been involved in a historic restoration of a sailing ship, the Hudson River Sloop *Clearwater*. I was a founding member of that group and served as its executive director for about 7 years.

How long have you been with us and where did you originate from? I started as a volunteer at the Maritime Museum about 4 years ago. My late husband and I came from the Hudson River Valley in New York.

What is the single greatest contribution this museum brings to the community? It brings historic background that most visitors don't know.

What does the staff here excel at? John is an exceptional director. He has so much knowledge about so many things. Toni is so good at her work and so skillful in many

phases. Shannon excels at her department.

Why do you think learning about Maritime history is important? Most of the important features of maritime history, sailing ships, river work, sailing large sail ships are no longer with us. Maritime history is the only way they can be remembered.

What are your hobbies? Travel was a big one, but I am now too old to do that. Reading, music and social life fill that gap.

List three adjectives to describe yourself - conversational, friendly, intelligent

What are you currently reading? "Daughters and Rebels" by Jessica Mitford .

What is an accomplishment you are really proud of? Having been involved in cleaning up the Hudson River, which is now swimmable.

What is your dream job? It was being one of the founders and the director of the Sloop Clearwater

How did you find out about volunteering at the museum? I believe someone took me to see it.

What qualities does a good museum volunteer possess? I think friendliness to the visitors is most important. They have to believe that you are there to help in every way, from describing the exhibits to recommending restaurants



As the public face of the museum, they are responsible for welcoming visitors and ensuring a positive experience - from the little ones to the curious ones. Would you consider joining us? We are currently in need of help running our gift shop or being a greeter at the front desk.

For More Information visit our [website](#) or call 910-477-5154 and ask for Ms Toni Soles



GIFT SHOP NEWS

We are currently looking for volunteers for the Gift Shop. The profits are provided to the Museum for their education programs for the community. You can volunteer for an hour, 2 hours, 4 hours, or a day. We would like for you to consider volunteering. If interested, please contact Tammy Newton (808) 342-7818 or Tamrenewton@gmail.com



The 4th of July in Southport!

The Maritime Museum of Southport will be open to the public on July 4 from 12:00 to 8:00 pm. The Museum will be closed during the 4th of July Parade.



Maritime Question Corner

What ships can be in port during Zulu?

Answer is NONE. The US Coast Guard uses specific terms on understanding the port conditions based on the weather characteristics. The terms used help ship operators know how to respond to tropical weather.

Whiskey: Set when gale force winds are expected to arrive at the port within 72 hours. Port remains open to all commercial traffic, but oceangoing ships and barges must report their intention to remain in port or depart. If they are departing, they must do so within 12 hours of gale-force winds.

Yankee: Gale force winds predicted within 24 hours. Vessels seeking to depart must arrange immediate departure. Cargo operations must cease with 18 kph winds. Transfer hoses must be disconnected with

22 kph winds. Ships seeking to arrive in port should seek an alternate destination.

Zulu: Gale force winds within 12 hours. The port is closed.

From the Museum Manager:

As American begins to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, a crucial event took place in current day Southport. We are proud to be partnering with numerous organizations including the Town of Southport to remember this impactful date in North Carolina history.

In March 1775, North Carolinians realized the situation between the People of North Carolina and Royal Governor Josiah Martin was falling apart. Reorganization and improvements to the state militia commenced without the approval of the Royal Governor. On May 8th everything changed as news reached the Lower Cape Fear of the fighting at Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts. Twelve days later, on May 20, the county of Mecklenburg published their resolves separating them from British Rule. Frayed tempers boiled over in North Carolina and Royal Governor Josiah Martin decided it was time to send his family away to the safety of New York. Fearing for his own safety, Martin fled New Bern on May 31, 1775. Two days later he arrived at Fort Johnston but found his situation was not much better.

Fort Johnston, the protector of the Cape Fear, was in poor shape and many of the garrison troops had deserted their post. The North Carolina Provincial Congress was now in control of the colony and the Committees of Safety in the counties were now in charge of law and order. Realizing his predicament, Martin started work on rallying citizens to the King. He held meetings with representatives of the Highland Scots from the Cross Creek area. On June 16, 1775, Martin issued a proclamation calling on all true patriots to rally to the King. Across the colony armed militia march to the support of either the King or North Carolina. As June turned to July, both sides gathered supplies and supporters.

Fearing for his safety, on July 17, Josiah Martin abandoned the fort for the protection of the *HMS Cruizer*. The Wilmington Committee of Safety ordered the New Hanover County militia to Brunswick County to meet up with the assembled Brunswick County militia. Apprised of the movement of the militia units in the area, Captain John Collett, the commander of Fort Johnson, realized his force of less than two dozen men could not stop an attack. The sailors and marines from the *Cruzier*, were tasked with removing as many military supplies as possible to keep them from falling into the colonial's hands. In addition, the decision was made to dismount the artillery. On the evening of July 18, 500 militiamen under the command of Colonels John Ashe, Cornelius Harnett, and Robert Howe, marched on Fort Johnston. British sailors in the Cape Fear noticed flames starting in the numerous buildings inside the fort. By sunrise July 19, the fort was destroyed, and the members of the Bladen, Brunswick and New Hanover County militias celebrated the

removal of British rule from the colony. North Carolina would become a new state, make a new constitution for its people, and create its own destiny.

Join us for the 250th anniversary of this historic event on the grounds of Fort Johnston. The program titled "*In the Glorious Cause of Liberty: The 250th Anniversary of the Burning of Fort Johnston*" will run from 10:00am to 10:00pm and will consist of two parts. The daytime component will consist of a free symposium, living history demonstrations, musket and artillery demonstrations. The evening event nighttime commemoration of luminaries to represent the burning of the fort and the lighting of liberty's flame in North Carolina. Delve into the stories and individuals behind this turning point in history and the impact that it would have on the lives of the citizens of the Cape Fear and the new republic.



Naming Contest for our Newsletter!

Currently named "*Mullet Wrapper*", the Board is interested in hearing from you! Send us your recommendations, suggestions, and ideas for a new name.

We have received a few recommendations, one member suggested we NOT change the name and another recommended "**Squid's Ink!**" What do you think, let us hear from you! Enter your suggestion on our [website](#), or email us at southportfom@gmail.com



Join museum staff in June, July and early August for these free upcoming programs:

Anchors Aweigh

Anchors Aweigh is a series of hands-on activities that focus on a specific part of Lower Cape Fear and North Carolina history. The free programs are geared toward families and all ages. Anchors Aweigh is drop-in style and runs from 11 a.m. to 2

p.m. Join museum staff for these upcoming Anchors Aweigh programs:

June 4, Got the Blues? Dyeing with Indigo: Learn about indigo production in the Lower Cape Fear during the 18th century and dye your own handkerchief with real indigo to take home.

June 11, School of the Soldier: Learn more about the life of a soldier during the American Revolution. You'll also get a chance to try your hand at the drill and making your own sand fill musket round.

June 18, Paper Marbling: Learn about paper marbling and then, using a centuries old process, create your own marbled masterpiece to take home with you.

June 25, Seal the Deal: Write a letter the 18th century way: w/ink, quill, & wax seal.

July 2, Paint-A-Revolutionary: Practice your painting skills by decorating a miniature Revolutionary War soldier to take home with you.

Skipper's Crew

The Skipper's Crew series is designed for all ages but specifically geared toward younger patrons. Skipper's Crew features hands-on activities and take-home crafts focusing on combining arts and history. The free program runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Lights will be dimmed and interactive's muted during the first two hours to provide a calmer environment for those with sensory sensitivities. Join museum staff for these upcoming Skipper's Crew programs:

June 7, Little Ships for Little Hands: Build your own wooden boat. If weather permits, you can even go outside & see how well your ship floats in our kiddie pool.

Aug. 2, Go Fish! Go "fish" for a wooden fish swimming in a sea of blue tissue paper, then decorate your fish before taking it home.

For more information on museum programs, visit ncmaritimemuseumssouthport.com or call 910-477-5151.

FUN FACT!

In 1744, the Governor of North Carolina, Gabriel Johnston, directed a fort be constructed for the defense of the Cape Fear River region. This was in response to invasions by pirates and privateers, and numerous Spanish attackers. Johnston's Fort, which would come to be known as Fort Johnston, was approved for construction in April 1745 by the NC General Assembly.

- Wikipedia: History of Southport, NC

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