



The Scuttlebutt

Published in the interest of restoring, preserving and sharing the region's maritime history.

January/February, 2008

Volume XI, Issue I

Calendar

January

29 – Tues. Madeline Committee Meeting, 7 p.m.

February

07 – Thurs. Advanced Crew Training (ACT), 7 p.m.

13 – Wed. MHA Board Meeting 5pm.

21 – Thurs. BCT-III, 7 p.m.

March

04 – Tues. MHA Board Meeting 5pm.

06 – Madeline Comm-Meeting, 7 p.m.

13 – Thurs. BCT – IV, 7 p.m.

27 – Thurs. ACT, 7 p.m.

April

01 – Tues. MHA Board Meeting 5pm.

10 – Thurs. BCT-V, 7 p.m.

17 – Madeline Comm-Meeting, 7 p.m.

24 – Thurs. ACT, 7 p.m.

(All meetings are held at the Heritage Center unless otherwise noted)

WEBSITE MAKEOVER

The MHA website has a new look, and a new address. Check out:

www.maritimeheritagealliance.org

for the latest version. Your feedback on the design and content is invaluable. If you're online, have a look, and then email Mark with any comments. Many thanks to Edgar Bringman for his years of maintaining our website in the past.

GOT EMAIL?

Our recent member survey showed that nearly 75% of the respondents prefer to stay in touch via email. If you have an email address, please send a message to:

kelly@maritimeheritagealliance.org

so that we can add you to our list.

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

It is with great pleasure that I introduce our new Executive Director Mark Thompson. Mark has demonstrated his passion for maritime history for years and among other things, is widely known for his restoration and ownership of the 1929 'Mary J'. Mark shares and understands the mission of the MHA, and his organizational skills will allow us to better serve our members and community with professionalism. Our beloved MHA has reached a point where we need fulltime help. Our numerous and exciting programs demand fulltime coordination, and the MHA Board of Directors enthusiastically supports this position, and looks forward to an exciting 2008 and beyond. Please welcome and encourage him. Congratulations Mark!

Rich Brauer
MHA President

SMALL BOAT COMMITTEE

The Small Boat Committee has been revived and met for the first time on January 15. Topics included an inventory of the vessels and planning for member access to the boats. The consensus was to choose a day and time each week for MHA members to go sailing and experience the simple joy of these small craft. More info will be in the next issue of *The Scuttlebutt*. If you would like to be a member of this committee, contact the office to sign up.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It is a tremendous honor to be your new Executive Director. Because of the countless hours given by MHA volunteers over the past 25 years, I truly have a head start in helping guide our organization into the future. Thank you to the Board of Directors for their vote of confidence.

I grew up sailing with my parents and brothers on Lake St. Clair and have crewed in over 900 yacht races, logged thousands of blue water miles, and been involved in the rebuilding and restoration of more than 30 antique wooden boats.

A home designer and builder by trade, I have spent the past few years working on houses when I have to and boats when I can. To be able to talk about boats and work on boats and do all the boat-related things required of the Executive Director is truly a privilege to be relished. I will work hard every day to make this the organization you want it to be.

Please feel free to contact me any time. I can be reached via email at mark@maritimeheritagealliance.org, or on my cell at 231-645-1625. I look forward to meeting each of you.

Fair winds and following seas,
Mark Thompson

MHA ON THE INTERNET

www.maritimeheritagealliance.org

E-MAIL

kelly@maritimeheritagealliance.org

2007-YEAR IN REVIEW

2007 started off with a bang with the announcement that Rotary Charities of Traverse City had taken ownership of the property on Bayshore Drive donated by Mike Dow. This generous gift from Mr. Dow includes 8 acres of land, numerous buildings, and a small piece of lake frontage on West Grand Traverse Bay. The property is managed by the Grand Traverse Bay Alliance, made up of Rotary Camps and Services, MHA, The Watershed Center, Traverse Area Community Sailing, and the Great Lakes Children's Museum.

On December 19, an Open House was held to show off Building #2, which is utilized for working on small boats, building and repairing parts for "Madeline" and "Welcome", and for storage of all the ship gear.

Winter classroom training for prospective crew aboard the big boats ran from January to April, with classes held each month. Approximately 12 people completed the sessions and began their hands-on training in May and June aboard "Madeline".

The MHA Board decided in March to begin an intensive strategic planning process to examine and update the short and long term goals of the organization. Jim Wiesing from the MSU Extension office in Traverse City served as the facilitator and, with nearly 30 people attending the 1st session, many great ideas were put forward. In numerous sessions that followed, these raw concepts were then refined and drafted into workable action plans. A set of four organizational goals were developed and endorsed by the MHA Board in April, and will serve as guiding principles as MHA begins its next 25 years.

Spring found the MHA engaged in a variety of activities. Work bees brought in volunteers to work on "Madeline" and "Welcome", getting them ready for the busy sailing

season, the Spring Potluck and Business Meeting was held, and a 25th Anniversary Committee was formed to plan the big celebration.

"Madeline" had a demanding schedule for summer sailing which took her to Sturgeon Bay, Port Washington, and Kenosha in Wisconsin, and then a trip across the lake to South Haven, before returning home to TC. In September, several Community and Heritage Sails were held.

In June, the annual MHA Boat Auction was held at our new facility on West Bayshore Drive. Attendance was good, and this year credit cards were accepted. Once again, auctioneer, Ron Bancroft did a great job! Many MHA volunteers turned out for the event which helped to make it a big success. A special thank you goes to Larry Hathaway for coordinating the boat collection and setup.

In the office, the Ship's Store was reorganized, and with the help of Bob Core, Howard Byrne, Bob Dost, and Joe Anthony, new cabinets were built to house the merchandise. Sherri Freels, Sally Byle, and Judy King then reorganized and inventoried the goods.

The Cherry Festival saw the MHA's Mackinac boat "Gracie L" on display for the Heritage Day picnic held at Hannah Park. MHA volunteers manned the boat display and Jon Pettit did a great job talking to visitors about her place in the history of the Grand Traverse region.

On July 10, an \$18,000 grant was received from the Oleson Foundation to help with the completion of "Welcome". Captain Joe Neihardt and crew sailed her several times through the summer and reported they were pleased with the progress to date.

In August the Collectors Foundation awarded a 5-year, \$50,000 matching grant to help launch the Restoration Shop mentoring program. This exciting new program by the

MHA, to be located in Building #1, will mentor high school students through the art and science of antique boat restoration.

On Saturday and Sunday, August 25th and 26th, the 25th Anniversary Celebration was held at our home harbor on M-22. The event featured tall ship tours, historic re-enactments, games and prizes, food, entertainment, and much more. Over 2000 people attended the event and learned more about the MHA. This enormous success was due to the dedicated service of many, many volunteers.

Working with students at the NMC Art Department, new crew training manuals were created and made available to crew members. A \$20 fee was requested to cover the costs of production.

On Thursday, November 8th, the fall potluck and business meeting was held. Board President Rich Brauer discussed future plans for the MHA, including the Restoration Shop mentoring program, to be launched in Fall 08.

"Madeline" and "Welcome" have been cocooned for the winter and the bubblers are in place to prevent freezing.

With the continuing growth of the MHA, the Board of Directors created a Personnel Committee to begin the search for an Executive Director, interview candidates, and make a recommendation to the full Board. After reviewing 30 resumes and interviewing several people, a decision was made to recommend the hiring of Mark Thompson (see other articles in this issue.)

The Madeline Committee is making plans to sail the entire length of Lake Superior during the 2008 sailing season.

2007 was a great year of growth for the Maritime Heritage Alliance, with many opportunities and experiences for our membership, and 2008 is sure to offer many more.

ADVANCED CREW TRAINING

While class dates were previously announced, Capt. Jay Ruzak who is spearheading this year's Advanced Crew Training, has announced the schedule. Please give the office a call to sign up for these classes:

ACT Class Schedule 2008

Feb. 7 Subject: Chart reading, DR, plotting, speed/time distance problems
Trainers: Brian Smith, Jay Ruzak

Note: Please bring any charting tools you have. Charts will be provided

Mar. 27 Subject: Rules of the road, lights, aids to navigation, Trainers: Ken Stepnitz, Carol Merillat

Note: Bring "Navigation Rules" book if you have it.

April 24 Subject: GPS, Routes, waypoints, techniques, Trainers: Jan Hale, Randy McClure

Note: Bring personal GPS units if you wish. We will use Madeline's unit for instruction.

Any questions call or E-Mail to Capt. Jay Ruzak, 231 947-2214 (home), 231 409-0950 (cell),
greyhareinn@hughes.net.

WELCOME UPDATE

The work continues over the winter to make "Welcome" USCG-certified to carry passengers. This certification will open many opportunities for "Welcome" and the MHA. Our re-enactors are already looking forward to a weekend cruise to Power Island! There is much work to be accomplished this winter and spring, so if you are interested in helping, or becoming part of the crew, stop by the work shop on Tuesdays or Wednesdays from 9 am to 2 pm. This spring we will get the top mast and yard up and she will at last look like the square-rigged tall ship she is. We will be sailing her this summer, learning to handle the square rig, and training crew interested in sailing aboard "Welcome". You are invited to stop by, anytime you see the gate to the coal dock open, and take a look at this great historical vessel. Don't forget your work gloves!!

If you have questions, please contact Jim Graczyk at bahdler@charter.net, ph. 231-620-7671, or Randy McClure at rmcclure@chartermi.net, ph 231-929-7062.

LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED

MHA is looking for volunteers who can help with our extensive maritime library. No experience is needed for this very important project. If you can donate an afternoon, call Kelly at 231-946-2647.

WHAT'S A SCUTTLEBUTT?

For those of you that have wondered, a "scuttlebutt" is a barrel that would sit on a ship's deck to catch rain water for the crew to drink. When standing around the "scuttlebutt", sailors would often catch up on the latest news aboard, thus the modern slang usage of the term for news, gossip, or information. The term is still used today for both the Water Fountain and Gossip/News.

NEW WORKSHOP HOURS

The "Peter J. Henry Boat Shop" will now be open Monday – Saturday, 9 am to 2 pm daily. Stop by and see what's happening. Several small boats are currently being restored, a new Main boom is being built for "Madeline", and construction will be starting soon on the Restoration Shop in Building #1.

BASIC CREW TRAINING 2008

2008 Basic Crew Training got off to a great start on Jan. 10th with more than 30 new crew members signed up for the session. Here (left) some of the new crew are busy filling out paper work with current crew members Pete VanBerlo, Mate and Jon Pettit, AB on hand to assist with the training.





2008 BOAT AUCTION PLANNING

It is time to begin planning for the 2008 22nd Annual Boat Auction to be held on June 7th. There are Gift-A-Boat brochures in the office and, as a project for NMC graphic art students, new and improved brochures will be available in late April. Please help spread the word that MHA is a great place to donate to.

Last year's Auction, with the sail of a couple of boats afterwards, ended up being one of our most successful Auctions to date. This year we hope to increase radio and television ads and over all promotion to make it even more successful than last year! Many volunteers go into making our largest fundraiser of the year a success. Please contact Kelly at the office (231-946-2647) and see what you can do to help.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

With the Board's decision to hire Mark Thompson as MHA's Executive Director, his position on the Board of Directors opened. The Board also was faced with the replacement of Flip Sinkule who had to resign his position due to family illness. The Board was able to appoint excellent replacements for these gentlemen with Randy McClure taking over for Mark's spot and Jim Rowlett filling Flip's.

Randy McClure is retired from both the Air Force Reserves and General Motors. He graduated from Michigan State University with a business degree and, after graduation, served 4 years on active duty with the Air

Force. After his tour he joined General Motors working for Truck and Bus in Pontiac, Michigan. His GM career encompassed manufacturing, purchasing, engineering planning and program management, ending as the Corvette Planning Program Manager prior to retirement in 2004. In the Air Force Reserves he served as an Aircraft Maintenance officer. He was promoted to Colonel and commanded the 927th Logistics Group. He has a Masters degree from CMU in management, and now lives in Traverse City with his wife Sue and step daughter Erica.

Jim Rowlett....I got involved with MHA about 1995 after retiring from 38 years in the Chemical industry. With interests in history and sailing I started in crew training and had a great sail on Madeline from TC to Detroit with Joe Neihart as my watch leader. I developed an interest in WELCOME but since I can't even drive a straight nail, they told me to go raise money. So, now and then I do odds and ends where I can't hurt myself or break anything.

2008 MHA Board

Rich Brauer, President
Ed Brown, Vice-President
Bernie Weidenaar, Secretary
& Treasurer
Bob Dost
Bob Hoffman
Randy McClure
Laura Quackenbush
Jim Rowlett
John Tanner
John Welch, TCL&P

SURVEY REVEALS MEMBERS PREFERANCES

We received 85 responses to the survey, or about 25% of those sent out. The overall results show a very positive perception of the MHA. The areas that were most highly-rated were: working towards mission, sense of community, satisfaction with the MHA experience, willingness to

recommend the MHA, and volunteer opportunities. A very impressive 95% of the respondents said they would recommend our organization to a friend.

Communication was rated highly, with much praise going to *The Scuttlebutt* as the main source of MHA information. In communication choices, 74% of the respondents preferred email or a combination of email and direct mail. Many felt the website should be updated more regularly with schedules and other news.

The responses to management-related questions were generally favorable, with several members praising the management team for their good work. A few commented that they would like to see the "Welcome" and "Madeline" groups work more closely together. As for office accessibility, most thought the location was good and that Kelly did a good job responding to messages and email.

In the area of education, most were satisfied with the crew training offered. Comments on this included a need for more in-depth mate training, with an emphasis on crew management and people skills as well as sailing skills.

The overall results seem to indicate that we are headed in the right direction. MHA is so grateful for the enthusiastic response and, as always, for our dedicated and hard working membership!

Survey results and all comments will be used by MHA leadership and also in the Board's work with Northsky Non-profit Network on the completion of the Strategic Planning process that was begun last winter. An Organizational Capacity Assessment has already been completed for MHA and will be used with the Member's Survey and the results of our 2007 Strategic Planning work to assemble a concise and workable plan for MHA's future.

2007 MEMBERSHIP SURVEY RESULTS

Questions:	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. MHA continues to work towards its mission.	0%	3%	7%	35%	54%
2. MHA promotes a feeling of Community within our organization.	2%	7%	20%	35%	36%
3. I usually attend MHA's annual meetings.	35%	7%	15%	19%	21%
4. I believe that MHA currently creates enough opportunities for our members to volunteer and be involved in MHA activities.	3%	7%	15%	33%	38%
5. I would volunteer for MHA activities if the need arose.	1%	3%	13%	37%	45%
6. I would be willing to help with coordination of MHA activities.	10%	25%	25%	21%	19%
7. I have been satisfied with my experience as a member of MHA.	1%	2%	11%	38%	48%
8. I would recommend joining MHA to a friend or colleague.	0%	1%	3%	24%	71%
9. MHA communicates successfully with its membership.	2%	7%	18%	38%	36%
10. I find information about our organization and its activities on the MHA website.	27%	16%	27%	20%	8%
11. I would use the web-site for MHA Calendar information if it was available.	11%	7%	17%	30%	33%
12. I find information about our organization and its activities through the Scuttlebutt newsletter.	0%	1%	4%	28%	68%
13. I am satisfied with the quality of the management team running MHA.	6%	6%	24%	32%	32%
14. I feel our fleet is effectively managed.	2%	8%	12%	45%	33%
15. I feel it is important that our small fleet be available for member use.	1%	5%	21%	23%	50%
16. I am satisfied with the accessibility of the MHA office.	1%	11%	19%	35%	34%
17. I am satisfied with the educational services provided by MHA.	5%	9%	22%	35%	29%

18. I would participate in the educational activities listed if offered.	Boat Building	Marlin Spike	Lectures	Movie Night	Mentoring	Sailing
(number of responses)	30	31	42	37	28	52

19. My preferred form of communication is:	Email	Direct Mail	Email/ Direct Mail	Phone
	29%	23%	45%	22%