

Notes from the Desk of the Executive Director

By Sheila Stewart-Leach

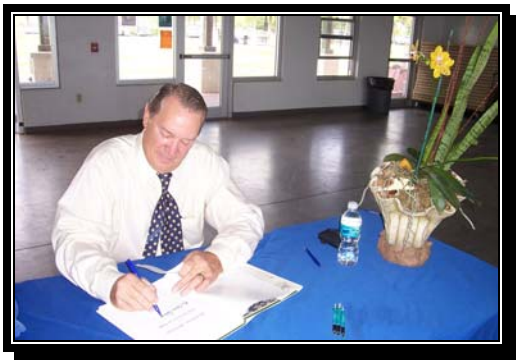
In mid-October, the Board of Trustees of the Maritime and Yachting Museum of Florida asked me to come on board as Interim Director to assist the Museum to achieve museum goals. To quote current Chairman, Eric Crawford's stated museum objectives:

To increase the Museum's professional approach to museum management;
To increase the Museum's profile in the community; and
To strengthen the Museum's assets: leadership, facility and collections.

The following will give an overview of some of our accomplishments over the past few months and a sense of our future path as we work together to achieve the dream of a fabulous new facility for our museum and programming for our community. Also, you will find an article about model boat building by one of our regional experts, William Swan.

Programs

The *Maritime Memoir Series* was begun with exceptional volunteer support and excellent speakers; over 700 people attended the five lectures offered. The planning for the *Evinrude Story* in the Evinrude Gallery in the Frances Langford Pavilion at Indian Riverside Park began and the exhibition opened on April 4. Planning for the fall program has begun. Look for a new schedule in August.



**Book signing at Indian RiverSide Park.
Jeff Rodengen, author of *Evinrude Johnson*
And The Legend of OMC.**

Collections

Management policies and procedures for the museum collection have been put in place and dedicated volunteers have been assisting with needed updates in documentation, record/provenance document organization, condition reports and prioritization for restoration, and computerization. We have purchased PastPerfect and have begun the laborious process of data entry as object files become complete. We have on staff a part-time person who is charged with this effort and have had two high school curatorial interns who have been integral to the process. Collections are at core in our mission and indeed in museums and our staffing of this will be a continuous and important aspect of managing our museum.

We also had as a consultant this spring, Peter Hunn, author of eleven books on the history, restoration and care of antique outboard engines. Peter was the museum's guest in April and spent two days reviewing our engine records for accuracy and historical context.

We will be bringing in additional expertise as we examine our maritime art and artifact collections for inherent and community historical value.

Because we are "looking backward" so to speak in "tidying" our professional approach to collections, we have not been actively soliciting gifts to the collection. As we become more aware of what we have and "holes" that exist within the collection, we will begin social and research "clubs" to help the museum reach its collection goals. That said, currently we are very interested, institutionally in captain's logs that relate to trips begun or having ended in the Treasure Coast or eastern coastal Florida area. We also are very interested in the receipt of original cartography from any period related to these areas and archival material (letters and/or captain's logs and naval architecture and design) related to boating and boat building in our area. Depending on the quality and content of the documents, we would like to use them as a catalyst for new exhibitions.

Mission: The Maritime and Yachting Museum of Florida exists to collect, conserve, exhibit, interpret and promote maritime and yachting history.

The New Museum

As you are probably aware, the Museum has developed a partnership with Martin County to re-build the FIT Evinrude Science Classroom and maintenance shed in Indian Riverside Park for a new museum. The Ralph Evinrude Foundation and the Frances Langford Foundation have pledged \$500,000 each to the new facility. This initial act of faith in the museum is essential as we market our dream to additional friends to make it become a reality.

The Board of Trustees went through a month long series of architect interviews; using the American Association of Museums list of architects who have a history of designing and building museums and the Florida AIA list. The Board received fourteen responses to the request for qualifications. Seven were invited to submit a proposal; these were interviewed and Quinn Evans from Washington, D.C. was chosen. Quinn Evans has a long history of working with museums, one of the most successful being the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum.

Bill Drewer has led several retreats leading to the development of concept drawings; these will be presented in mid-June for Board review. When complete, the museum will develop marketing materials and engage a professional firm for a marketing survey and to begin the quest for the remaining funds for the new facility.

Progress Fund

Capital dollars like the Evinrude and Langford gifts will build our building; the museum however must also fund the ongoing operation of the office, support staff, marketing study and materials, research and development costs. A challenge to any museum at any point in their maturity, this is especially challenging for our small institution. We are asking our members and friends to contribute to the Progress Fund in addition to their annual membership and supporting events. I hope you will consider being a part of this effort.

Management

Two additional staff were added: Linda Rech has taken on the responsibility of calendar management, program and collections assistance, audience and membership communication and receptionist; Denise Buderus is the museum's new bookkeeper, as well as human resource and office manager. With such a small staff, everyone does a little of everything relying heavily on generous volunteer support and assistance.

The Museum Board voted in March to invite bids for our first audit: Berger, Toombs CPA's won the bid and will be beginning that process in early summer with results to the Board by August. The annual audit process will enable the museum to apply for government and foundation funding

hitherto unavailable. Annual audits also give our stakeholders the assurance that our assets and resources are used as our mission dictates. Using our audit, with program and collections reports, the museum will be able to produce an annual report for our members and supporters each fall.

Rendezvous

The Museum will be producing an antique boat show and festival in early 2009; this fun and educational week-end event will bring back memories of the many (eighteen) Regattas that occurred for many years; actually I am told that the museum grew out of the amazing interest and success of early Regattas. Rusty Sedlack is our hardworking visionary Chairman of Rendezvous. Rusty would love to hear your ideas and use some of your time and energy so let us know if you'd like to be involved.

Museum Store

The Museum has opened a small retail store for books and souvenir items at both the Museum and the satellite Evinrude Gallery. Books written by our *Memoir* speakers, Curt Whitar, Peter Hunn and Tony Wilson, poster reproductions of vintage Evinrude ads are offered as well as museum logo items. Members receive a 10% discount on their purchases.

Program Donations assure that the Museum can provide ongoing programs and services. We thank:

Internship Program: Zeta Technology

Maritime Memoirs: Martin County Parks and Rec.

Karlin Daniel Auctioneers

Gregg and Nancy Burdick

Rita and Tracy Armstrong

First Bank of Indiantown

Zeta Technology

Tin Roof Cottages & Marina

Evinrude Story Exhibition: Ralph Evinrude Foundation

Kadey-Krogen Yachts

Blessing of the Fleet: Garlington Landeweer Marine, Inc.

Ralph Evinrude Society

The Museum Board has developed a special individual annual membership level to encourage camaraderie and support. The membership contribution is \$1000 to 10,000; a member can pledge their gift and contribute at their convenience; just let us know if you are interested! The Society will be hosted at quarterly events focusing on our favorite topics: maritime and recreational boating. New members include Eric and Jeanne Crawford and Tom Evinrude.

A Great Time To Be A Ship Modeler

William Swan

If you have ever thought about becoming a ship modeler now is the time. Never before has there been such a time when so many kits have become available or so much information in the form of plans and blueprints become so widely disseminated.

This is especially true for the modeler of steel era ships right through today's vessels. Government archives have opened up, secrecy concerns have relaxed and the internet has become a portal to this vast store of knowledge.

The countless available plans and blueprints allow the scratch builder vast opportunity to build the subject of choice. Kit builders are literally afloat in a huge sea of available models. Companies all over the world are producing kits in different forms.

For the new builder that wants to minimize startup costs there is paper modeling (also called card models as the paper is not the ordinary thin writing material we are used to). All you need to start are small sharp scissors, white glue, a hobby knife and patience. The kits provide pre-colored parts so that painting is not even necessary. Even better is that some companies based on the internet offer FREE starter models for the new builder to download. The range of subjects in paper is enormous and not terribly expensive.

Models in other materials are even more plentiful. Most of us are familiar with models made of injection molded plastic and many recall old familiar names like Revell and Monogram. Well, in the new world of modeling today there are many more companies producing an enormous array of models in plastic. New for many is another form of plastic called resin. This is used by low production facilities to produce models of less popular subjects. Other companies produce metal kits. In addition to the manufacturers of the ship models themselves a whole industry has grown to provide alternate parts or detail enhancing parts made in resin or photo etched brass or steel.

The most popular scales for modeling steel ships today are 1/700 and 1/350 which have become unofficial standards. There are other scales available for builders like 1/400 and 1/600 but there is little variety in these scales. Paper models march to the beat of a different drum as scales of these ships vary widely with the greater numbers falling in the 1/250 realm. However they are available in many other scales and



Sample of model boat in Museum Gallery -
Lateen Fishing Model

do offer the advantage of being able to be scaled up or down by the modeler before starting by using smart photocopiers.

Modelers of ships from earlier eras are not left out. There is also a huge selection of kits in wood, plastic and resin of sail and early steam civilian and military vessels. Scales of these ships vary widely with no true "standard".

Today's ship modeler has the choice of thousands of subjects to model in kit form alone and an almost endless variety for the scratch builder as well.

It is indeed a great time to be a ship modeler.

William Swan has built more than 350 ship models; he writes model kit reviews and lives in Lake Worth with his wife. He can be reached at: meas32@mac.com.

RESOURCES

Mr. Swan has offered these sites for your own model and shipbuilding techniques for ships of the steel era:

www.steelnavy.com
www.modelwarships.com
www.modelshipwrights.com

For dealers of ship models:

www.freetimehobbies.com
www.pacificfront.com
www.nntmodell.com (German site with an English section)
www.whiteenslgnmodels.com

For wood models:

www.modelexpo-online.com

Volunteers we LOVE!

Old Men's Boat Club (Boat Restoration)

Bill Lersch Dennis Hageman
Peter Fallon Stephen Kalbfleisch
Greger Anderson Brian McKelvey
Bill Burroughs Michael Rhodes
Tim Donley Ken Speranza
John Gold Robert Williams
Robert Salo

Combustion Crew (Engine Restoration)

Robert Salo
Bill Lersch

Rudder Club (Programming)

Rita Armstrong Peter Fallon
Tracy Armstrong Mary Lersch
Karlin Daniel Gregg Burdick

Banner Club (Marketing)

Debbie Porch
Jennifer Burdick
Adrienne Moore

Galley Crew (Hospitality)

Rita Armstrong MaryLou Marshall
Tracy Armstrong Mary Lersch
Donna Berger Bea Radliff
Mary Lou Andre

Deck Crew (Set-Up and Maintenance)

Bill Lersch Walter Bennett
Peter Fallon Robert Salo
George Ulrichey

First Mates (Collections Research)

Charlie Wood Bill Lersch
Bea Radliff Peter Fallon

Evinrude Crew (Gallery Docents)

Bea Radliff
Peter Wood

Memberships - Honorariums and Memorials

Many members support the Museum and honor their loved ones and colleagues through Honorariums and Memorials: These were received from January – April 2008.

In Memory of John Ranger from M/M William O'Connor
In Memory of William L. Bull from St. Lucie Model Boat Club

In Memory of John Ranger from the Sunshine Club at Warfield Elementary School

**We love our members; we just need a few more!
Please share the following form with your friends and see if they can be enticed to venture onto our Dream's voyage.**

Join the Museum!

Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State & Zip Code: _____

Email: _____ Phone Number: _____

Membership Levels

Individual:

___ Student Membership
 (Up to 22 with college ID) \$15
___ Senior Membership (65+) \$25

Household:

___ Basic: \$50 - \$99
___ Snowbird: \$40 - \$99

Supporting:

___ \$100 - \$249
___ \$250 - \$499
___ \$500 - \$999

Ralph Evinrude Society

___ \$1000
___ \$2500
___ \$5000
___ \$10000

___ I don't want to be a member, but I would like to give a donation of \$ _____

VISA _____ MC _____ Discover _____

Number: _____ Expiration: _____

Signature: _____

Thank you for your generosity!
Please mail to:

**Maritime & Yachting Museum
PO Box 1448, Stuart, FL 34994
(772) 692-1234**

**We are located at:
3250 S. Kanner Highway, Stuart, FL 34995**



Change of Watch 2008 with incoming Chairman, Eric Crawford, and founders, Gregg Burdick and Rusty Sedlack.