



Kodiak Maritime Museum

PO Box 1876
Kodiak, Alaska 99615

Recognizing, preserving, and interpreting Kodiak's maritime heritage"

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Kodiak, AK
99615
Permit No. 41

Spring 2012



Waterlines

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Thelma C. Rebuild Nearly Complete

With funding from a 2011 Alaska Legislative Grant in place, reconstruction of the legacy fishing vessel *Thelma C* began in mid-January in a work shed at Kodiak College and continued at full speed until the last week of May. Several volunteers will continue work over the summer and plans call for the boat to be restored to its original 1965 configuration by early fall.

The reconstruction effort is part of a larger plan to restore and exhibit the boat as an interpretive display near Kodiak's small boat harbor. Once sited on the harbor spit near the boat launching ramp, a protective roof and pedestrian access decking will be constructed over and around the vessel. Interpretive panels and a cell phone tour will tell the story of the Kodiak salmon industry and give visitors an appreciation for life aboard a commercial salmon boat.

Shipwright Brain Johnson and restoration woodworker Don Corwin led the rebuilding effort. A team of about 20 volunteers also worked on the project while learning wooden boat repair skills from Mr. Johnson.

The team replaced ribs, planks, and decking, repaired the mast, and rebuilt much of the wheelhouse.

Some work still needs to be done. While caulking and sanding are finished on the hull, the galley will be refurbished this summer and final painting of the hull will be accomplished once the boat is sited near the



Shipwright and former *Thelma C* owner Brian Johnson fitting a new plank into the port side hull of the *Thelma C*, April, 2012

harbor. The repaired mast and tuned up rigging will be mounted once the boat is installed at the permanent exhibition site in the harbor next fall.

Architectural design of the exhibit site, roof and walkways, is being accomplished by Barnes Architecture of Anchorage under a contract signed with KMM in May. Construction documents should be complete by August, and construction could begin this fall.

The project to convert the vessel into an interpretive display has been planned for many years, but had been delayed until major funding was obtained from the Legislature last year. (continued on pg. 2)

On the Horizon-

June 8- August 30
KMM Exhibit:
"Faces of the Kodiak King Crab Fishery,"
Dorothy Page Museum,
Wasilla, AK

Mid September
KMM Museum Site
Selection Forum #2
Location and date to
be announced

October 1
Thelma C Moves
to Harbor Site

Nov. 1- Dec. 31
KMM Exhibit:
"Faces of the Kodiak King Crab Fishery,"
Cordova City Museum

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PO Box 1876
Kodiak, AK 99615
(907) 486-0384
info@kodiakmaritimemuseum.org
www.kodiakmaritimemuseum.org

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Join or renew at www.kodiakmaritimemuseum.org

Kodiak Maritime Museum is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization

Volunteers Make KMM Crab Fest Booth a Success

In a new fundraising venture, KMM took over the operation of a longtime food booth at the 2012 Kodiak Crab Fest.

The booth, owned and operated by Alaskan Leader Foundation for the past ten years, features fish and chips made from codfish caught by Alaska Leader longline vessels in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska. Profits from the booth were distributed to local non-profits through an annual ALF grant program.

Earlier this year, longtime ALF Board member and booth operator Richard Thummel decided it was time to let someone else run the booth, and offered the operation and resulting profits to KMM. ALF provided supplies and Mr. Thummel provided logistical oversight.

"It was a great success," said Aldona Kouremetis, KMM Board Member and booth organizer. "We owe it all to the volunteers." Manned by a volunteer team, the booth sold about 1,200 meals



Rob Lachowsky, Tom Kouremetis, and Dan Ogg man the KMM Fish & Chips Booth

From the Wheelhouse —

It's been a very busy spring at KMM, with several major projects underway, including the Thelma C Project, planning for a museum building, planning for the exhibition of the Kodiak King Crab Portraits at other museums in Alaska, and running a Kodiak Crab Festival booth as a fund raising enterprise.

Last November, with Legislative finding in hand, the museum moved the *Thelma C* from storage behind the Salvation Army to a work site at Kodiak College. In February, two shipwrights and dozens of volunteers began shoveling snow, pulling old caulking out the hull, carrying timber into the shed, steaming, shaping and driving planks and ribs, and rebuilding the mast. Besides the shipwright's daily work schedule, many people spent many unpaid evenings and Saturdays with tools in their hands. Brian Johnson and Don Corwin also contributed many evenings and Saturdays to the project, far beyond their contracted hours.

Without the hard work and vast knowledge of Brian and Don and without the work accomplished over many unpaid evenings and Saturdays by them and dozens of enthusiastic volunteers, the boat could not have been rebuilt in the time we had to do it. KMM owes them much for their efforts.

KMM's museum building plans are also moving ahead. With a new \$200,000 Legislative Grant, the museum will soon issue an RFP for a museum concept design. The City of Kodiak has indicated a willingness to lease a site near the harbor for a maritime museum once public consensus has gelled on the best location. The museum is considering three sites near the harbor and continues to gather public comment. Read more on page 3 and on the KMM website.

Another project underway began with the success of KMM's "Faces of the Kodiak King Crab Fishery," exhibition at the Baranov Museum last May. Encouraged by the enthusiastic public response to the portraits in Kodiak, the exhibit begins an off-island tour June 8 at the Dorothy Page Museum in Wasilla, with stops in Homer and Cordova next winter.

You may have also noticed - and enjoyed- our latest fundraising effort- our takeover of the Alaska Leader Foundation's fish and chips booth at the Kodiak Crab Festival.

All of these endeavors have involved the efforts of our amazing board members and many volunteers. Without them, none of these projects would have been possible. Our many donors have also contributed mightily to these successes. A big thank you to everyone who has helped KMM in large and small ways.

KODIAK MARITIME MUSEUM

P.O. Box 1876, Kodiak, AK 99615 (907) 486-0384
info@kodiakmaritimemuseum.org /www.kodiakmaritimemuseum.org

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Executive Director Toby Sullivan

Meet KMM Board President Ken Reinke

Ken Reinke was elected President of the KMM Board of Directors in January and was first elected to the Board in 2005. As Executive Director of Threshold Services he brings a cool head, a common sense attitude, and strong working knowledge of the non-profit sector to the helm of KMM.



Ken came to Alaska from Florida in 1978, driving up the Al-Can with his brother in a Volkswagen beetle. After various adventures including meeting Governor Jay Hammond in Fairbanks, and working briefly at a salmon processing plant in Kenai, Ken and his brother flew to Kodiak to see what was there. They were promptly hired to work at the Uganik Bay Cannery, then owned by New England Fish Company. Ken worked for the Uganik Cannery in varied capacities and seasons for more than 20 years.

One summer, Harbormaster Marty Owen was visiting Uganik and handed Ken one of KMM's "Harbor Guides," which compliment the interpretive signs installed by KMM on Shelikof St in 2002. The "Guide," impressed Ken and when he moved to town in 2005, he threw his name into the running for a KMM Board seat, and was easily elected.

Ken has been busy this past winter helping to plan the Thelma C Project and working the booth at the Crab Fest, and is looking forward to beginning the planning for a KMM museum building.

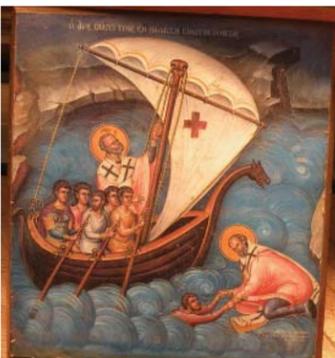
Thelma C, continued from page 1

The boat was donated to KMM in 2006 by its final owner Mark Thomas.

While the reconstruction effort was underway, several reminders of the boat's past were revealed by volunteers and visitors, including a handpainted icon of St. Nicholas, the patron saint of mariners. The icon had been placed in the galley by Brian Johnson when he owned the boat in the 1990s. It had been painted over while the boat was in storage, several years before the reconstruction effort began.

Volunteer Suzanne Bobo discovered the icon in the galley and carefully scraped off a layer of green spray paint to reveal the lovely image to the right.

More information and photos of the project can be found on the KMM website and on our blog at www.kodiakmaritimemuseum.blogspot.com.



Legislature Funds KMM Building Design

In April, the Alaska State Legislature approved a \$200,000 grant to KMM to fund a maritime museum preliminary building design. The project will identify building requirements for programming, exhibit, staff, and meeting spaces for a maritime museum in downtown Kodiak, and from those requirements develop a schematic design.

The museum currently operates out of a small harbor office owned by the City of Kodiak in Dog Bay. The office lacks storage and exhibit space, which limits the museum's ability to collect and care for donated objects except in emergency situations.

With the new funding, the museum plans to issue an RFP in the fall, seeking design proposals from qualified firms.

A 2006 Kodiak Maritime Museum Building Feasibility Study prepared by the McDowell Group described three building options, ranging from 4,200 to 6,000 square feet, and costing from \$3.7 to \$4.3 million.



Three City-owned sites under consideration for a Kodiak Maritime Museum as described in a recent engineering report.

Also identified in the study were annual operating costs of between \$150,000 and \$450,000, depending on the size of the building, staffing, and other variables.

KMM Board and staff have identified these annual operating costs as a critical factor facing the project.

KMM Begins 2nd Harbor Tour Season

Kodiak Maritime Museum kicked off the 2012 cruise ship season on April 10 by welcoming passengers from the *Crystal Serenity* on a tour of St. Paul Harbor and St. Herman Harbor (Dog Bay) to visit the Bering sea crab fleet.

Wayne Baker, owner / operator of the F/V *Trailblazer*, and longtime friend of KMM, welcomed California residents Rudy and Marilyn Cutino on board and gave a hands on tour of the engine room, living quarters, wheelhouse and deck.

The *Trailblazer* was featured on the Discovery Channel's *Deadliest Catch* in 2008. The boat fished opilio crabs near the Pribilof Islands in February and March this year.

The *Crystal Serenity* was on the last leg of a round-the-Pacific cruise which began in Los Angeles in January. The ship toured East Asia before sailing to Alaska.

Among the insights Mr. Baker imparted to the Cutinos was the price of winter fishing in the Bering Sea. This year's ice pack was exceptionally thick, and damaged the hull aft of recently reinforced bow plating.



Crystal Serenity passengers Marilyn and Rudy Cutino with Trailblazer skipper Wayne Baker on a recent KMM tour.

"We beer-canned the hull pretty good, even with the reinforced bow," explained Mr. Baker. He plans to take the boat to a shipyard later this year to weld more plating to the midship section.

KMM will conduct weekly St. Paul harbor tours all summer for both cruise ship and independent travelers. Check our website for scheduling and pricing details.

Where Is the Best Place For a Maritime Museum?

While waiting for capital funding and researching options to fund a museum building's operating expenses, the museum has been actively seeking a suitable building site in downtown Kodiak.

The museum has proposed siting the museum on one of three City-owned sites near the harbor. Discussions with the City about the sites are ongoing. (The sites under consideration are shown in photo at left)

Site 1 is at the north corner of the harbor, where the Harbor public restrooms are located.

Site 2 is on the Harbor Spit, adjacent to Alaska Fresh Seafoods, and is generally where the old Kodiak Western/ Spanky's Cafe Building once stood.

Site 3 is between the gazebo and the fish washing station along the channel on the Harbor Spit.

The City Council is conditionally in favor of providing one of the sites for a maritime museum. but wants to hear from the public including sport and commercial fishermen, nearby business owners, and the general public before making a decision.

After consideration of a recent site analysis and some public comment, report, KMM Board and staff believe a building on Site 2 would have minimum interference on views of the channel, would be cheaper to build on than Site 1, which would require pilings, and would have a minimum effect on existing parking. The site would be easily accessible to pedestrians and would enhance the visitor experience in the harbor area while having a minimum impact on other uses. Other downtown sites have been considered but found wanting, for various reasons.

KMM is seeking input from the public on the three sites to present to the Council. Public meetings will be conducted in the fall- please keep an eye out for meeting announcements.

Read more about the building site process on our website and **take this online building site survey :**

www.surveymonkey.com/s/ZLRTDGL