



Waterlines ~~~~~

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Upcoming Events

Sunday, May 15, 2011
 KMM Fundraiser
 Buffet/ Silent Auction
 4:00 - 7:00
 Henry's Great Alaskan
 Restaurant

May 6 - May 31, 2011
 "When Crab Was King:
 Faces of the Kodiak
 King Crab Fishery Exhibit"
 Baranov Museum

"When Crab Was King" Photo Portrait Exhibition

Kodiak Maritime Museum will exhibit "When Crab Was King: Faces of the Kodiak King Crab Fishery," at the Baranov Museum May 6 to May 31. The exhibit will feature 20 large format black and white photographic portraits of people who participated in KMM's oral history project, "When Crab Was King."

The photo project will allow visitors to put faces to the voices from the oral history. The exhibit images were taken over the past winter by local photographer Alf Pryor at his Dead Humpy Studios on Shelikof St..

Funding for the project was provided by Alaska State Museums and the Alaska Humanities Forum.

Since 2008, the oral history project has recorded the stories

of dozens of fishermen, cannery workers, bartenders, business people, and others who lived through the Kodiak King Crab Fishery from the mid-1950s through the last Kodiak King Crab season in 1982.

KMM is considering installing a cell phone audio tour at the exhibit, which would allow visitors to hear the oral history segments while viewing the images. Some technical and funding hurdles remain however, before this component of the exhibit can be implemented.

Excerpts of the oral history have been produced into award winning three-minute radio shows by local radio reporter Maggie Wall. They have been broadcast weekly on KMXT and KVOK since 2008.



Carmen Lunde, manager of Solly's Office Bar during Kodiak's King Crab heyday in the 1970s. From "When Crab Was King: Faces of the Kodiak King Crab Fishery."

KMM Gears Up For May 15 Fundraiser at Henry's Restaurant

Fundraiser

Sunday, May 15, 2011
 4 - 7 p.m.

Henry's Great Alaskan Restaurant

Proceeds to benefit



Great door prizes
 Silent Auction
 Fabulous Hors d'oeuvres

\$25/ticket

Tickets available at

Kodiak Inn Boat Westerns, Henry's Great Alaskan Restaurant, American Legion, Tony's Bar, Uperuk Lounge

Event Sponsored by



Must be present to win door prizes
 (Kodiak CHARR permit #104)
 For further info call CHARR (486-5343), (907-467-2571) and (907-486-4984)

Kodiak Maritime Museum will hold a fundraiser event 4-7 p.m. Sunday, May 15, at Henry's Great Alaskan Restaurant in Kodiak. Proceeds from the event, sponsored by the Kodiak chapter of the Cabaret, Hotel, and Liquor Retailers Association, (CHARR) will be split between KMM and the Kodiak Humane Society.

Tickets are \$25.00 from KMM, Kodiak Humane Society, and CHARR board members.

Highlights of the evening include an extensive hors d'oeuvres table, silent auction, and dozens of door prizes. Henry's will be closed to the public for the event, but will keep the bar and pull tab operation open for guests.

Among the items being auctioned is a set of four illustrated charts of Captain James Cook's Alaska voyages, donated by Henry's Restaurant.

Carmen Lunde, President of Kodiak CHARR, sees the event as a way to help two of CHARR's favorite non-profits.

"Both the Maritime Museum and the Humane Society do great work," she said recently. "We're happy to support them."

CHARR operates the pull tab bar in Henry's Restaurant under contract with pull tab license holder Kodiak Chamber of Commerce. CHARR has donated about \$400,000 in pull tab proceeds to Kodiak non-profits since 2003, according to Lunde.

From the wheelhouse —

A couple of weeks ago I listened as Maggie Wall, our intrepid king crab oral history interviewer and radio producer, played an interview with fisherman Pete Kendrick. The board and I have listened to a lot of good oral histories over the past three years, but the interview with Pete went to the heart of the idea that history is really a long string of stories that tell us where we've come from and why we are where we are.

In his interview, Pete told a story about two fishermen he knew in the early 1980s— Bill Larraway and Dennis Oberding, crewmen on the Irene H at the time. One day while setting a crab pot, a bight of the line somehow flipped around Dennis's neck. The line went tight as the pot sank and the boat moved away, snapped him head first into the stern rail and then into the water. Somehow the line came off his neck as he went over, but the blow against the rail had rendered him unconscious and he lay motionless in the water. This all happened very quickly, in maybe three or four seconds. Bill made an instant decision— he threw a set of buoys over the side, and jumped after them. He held Dennis's head out of the water and clung to the buoys until the boat circled back and the other crewmembers hoisted them aboard. Dennis's neck was broken, but he lived. He wouldn't have if Bill hadn't jumped in to save him.

At the time Pete had not been fishing long, and he realized he would really have to step up his game to be on the same level as people who didn't even think about it before jumping over the side into freezing water to help a fellow fisherman. But as he tells it now, the lesson of that incident is not necessarily about the bald facts, or the heroism, though they are undeniable. Instead, it's about the importance of remembering and telling stories about people we once knew as a way to help us appreciate the fragility of our own lives and the importance of other people, and to help us see the present in the long context of the past.

Dennis and Bill are no longer with us— Dennis lost when the Barbarossa sank in the Bering Sea in the early 90s, Bill from illness in 2001. As Pete said the other day, "it's kind of our duty to tell these stories, because these guys aren't here to tell them themselves. It's a way to honor them."

We the living are the keepers of their memories, but it's not just for them that we do that — these stories illuminate our own lives too, as well as the community of the living these men are, in a way, still a part of. Stories are at the heart of this museum, the thing we endeavor to recognize, preserve, and interpret, as our mission statement says. The board and I try to keep that in mind as we go about the mundane details of fundraising and strategic planning and exhibit coordination. I hope you will think about the stories you know, and keep them, and tell them to people you know, and maybe someday, to this museum too.

KODIAK MARITIME MUSEUM

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Remembering Ed Opheim Sr. 1910-2011

Kodiak fisherman, author, and master boat builder Ed Opheim, Sr. died Feb. 24, 2011 at the age of 100. The following is from a 2003 Kodiak Maritime Museum interview.

Ed Opheim, Sr. was born May 10, 1910 on Popof Island in the Shumagins. "I was weaned on codfish. It was served at every meal," Opheim said.

The Opheim family subsequently moved Outside, but when Ed was 12 he returned to Kodiak with his brother and father to fish cod out of Ouzinkie. Spruce Island became his home for the rest of his life.

To make a living Ed fished, tendered for a clam cannery on the Alaska Peninsula, raised foxes, ran a pool hall and logged with what he figured was the first chain saw on Kodiak, ordered from the Sears catalog.

As a boy Ed had watched Nick Pestrikoff build dories and eventually he built them too. With his two sons, Ed Jr. and Norman, he built more than six hundred of them from native spruce. For decades they were ubiquitous in the salmon gillnet fleet until aluminum and fiberglass skiffs replaced them in the 1980s.

He also survived and rebuilt after the 1964 earthquake and resulting tsunami deposited his boat shop, house and shed on the beach and left his barn drifting out of the bay.

In his later years, Opheim wrote articles like "How I Made No Money Raising Foxes," and books including "The Memoirs and Saga of a Cod Fisherman's Son: Ten Years of Dory-Fishing Cod (1923-1933) at Sunny Cove, Spruce Island, Alaska."

Last year Reed Oswald donated an Opheim dory to KMM. It will eventually become part of an exhibit on Kodiak fisheries.



Profile: KMM President Aldona Kouremetis



KMM Board President Aldona Kouremetis has been a board member since 2004, and President since 2008.

Originally born in Vilnius, Lithuania, Aldona emigrated to the U.S. with her family as a small child after World War II. Growing up in Rome, New York, she trained as a nurse but found herself increasingly drawn to the sea. She made her first sailboat voyage in 1973 and since then has sailed the Caribbean, to Columbia, Panama and Venezuela, across the Atlantic to England, and spent two summers sailing in the Mediterranean.

Aldona retired from nursing in 2008 and has since devoted her energies to husband Tom, their two dogs, entertaining visitors from around the world at their home in Kodiak and in their set-net cabin in Uganik Bay, and keeping KMM on the right heading.



Do you know this King Crab fisherman or processor? Brian Nixon sent us this photo taken aboard the F/V Deep Sea in the early 1950s. The Deep Sea was built in the late 1940s by pioneer processor Lowell Wakefield to catch and process crab. The ship continued processing until the late 1970s.

Kodiak Harbor Tours to Begin in May

Kodiak Maritime Museum will begin scheduled guided tours of Kodiak Harbor, starting in May and continuing through the summer. The tours will give visitors an inside look at the world of the commercial fisherman, and a brief history of the harbor. The museum hopes visitors will come away with a deeper understanding of Kodiak's unique bond with the sea.

Highlights of the tour will include a walk along the harbor to learn about the different kinds of fishing boats and gear, and a visit to a local processing plant. Along the way, visitors will be encouraged to try on raingear, handle buoys, lines, and halibut longline gear, and heft a king crab pot. Guides will also introduce visitors into the art of knot tying.

For information on the tours, or to inquire about hiring on as a tour guide, please contact the museum at 486-0384.

Uganik Bay Cannery Items donated to KMM

Mike Shupe, owner of the Uganik Cannery in Uganik Bay, recently donated a collection of historic objects to KMM. The collection includes canning and office equipment, photos, and documents related to the operation of the cannery, which canned salmon from the late 1940s to the mid 1990s.

The collection will be boxed up and brought to Kodiak in the next few weeks by Pam and Dave Pingree, lodge owners in Uganik. The collection will be stored at the Baranov Museum until KMM is able to store the items itself.

Finding storage for KMM's growing collections of artifacts, documents and photographs was prioritized at KMM's Strategic Planning Session in December.

KMM Building Plan Update

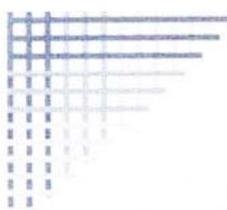
At a December strategic planning session, the KMM Board reaffirmed its commitment to buying or constructing a museum building by 2020. The future museum building would provide space for exhibits, programs, and administrative offices. The museum presently has no exhibit or collections storage space. It maintains an administrative office in a City-owned building on Near Island. The board also identified finding permanent collections storage space as a priority for the museum.

The December session was facilitated by Foraker Vice President, Programs, Laurie Wolfe as part of KMM's participation in Foraker's Pre-Development Program, which helps Alaskan non-profits plan for large capital projects. Foraker Group is an Anchorage non-profit dedicated to "increasing the leadership and management skills of professionals and volunteers working in Alaska's nonprofit and tribal organizations."

KMM was chosen to participate in the Pre-D program in January 2010, along with the Kodiak Library Association, and the Alutiiq Museum. All three Kodiak organizations have set their sights on buildings of their own. The Pre-D program is funded by Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, Denali Commission, Mat-Su Health Foundation and Rasmuson Foundation.

Since the December meeting KMM and City officials have met to discuss the possible donation of a City owned site near the harbor for construction of a maritime museum building.

At the meeting, the board also restated its commitment to refurbishing the Thelma C, and installing signage and a Peggy Dyson / Marine Communications interpretive exhibit near the harbor. The board also updated KMM's mission statement to better reflect the organization's core values. It now reads, "To recognize, preserve, and interpret Kodiak's maritime heritage."



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