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Subject: June Fleet News
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RS

Shipmates,

How is it June already? I swear it was just February but now the year is half over.

I am sad to report the passing of Alyce Guthrie, longtime Executive Vice President of PT Boats Inc. She will be dearly missed by the HNSA community which she has been a member of for at least 20 years. She dedicated much of her life to preserving the legacy of mosquito boats and in that she was an unqualified success. The two boats she helped save will outlive her and continue her mission of educating people on the service of the plywood pirates. <https://www.memorialparkfuneralandcemetery.com/obituaries/Alyce-Guthrie/?fbclid=IwAR3aTRQLkP8ddcC4BvEsIQ3hgWZXWQBTImZZRfKj0B3MGYLKEQvbb3uVO9k#!/Obituary>

We are currently working on updating HNSA's website. The old one was no longer being supported and, given the choice between paying to either maintain what we had or build a new one, we decided to change our host service. We have had issues with the old website, particularly the member management side of it, and we chose this new provider based on how much easier it is for members to renew and for us to use the back of house tools. I am extremely excited about the possibilities. Registration for the conference will go live as soon as we can launch the website and we will likely launch while still finishing some sections. Stay tuned for more information on that and read to the bottom for more info on conference registration.

The Royal Institute of Naval Architects has posted a call for papers for their Historic Ships 2023 conference from November 28-29, 2023, in Greenwich, London, UK. See attached flier for more details.

This past weekend was Museum Ship Radio Weekend. Over 100 ships participated in the event, mostly HNSA members. Please let me know if your ship is unfamiliar with the program so you can get involved next June.

We are working on our August edition of Anchor Watch. If you have any articles, or even digital media, you would like to submit, send them to editor@hnsa.org or to my email by June 30. We are accepting articles of all types including project updates, museum theories, volunteers to spotlight, upcoming events, restoration tips, etc.

I will be out of the office for a few days this week. On Wednesday I will be visiting the ships in Buffalo for the first time and on Thursday I will be on USS *Cod* in Cleveland for the first time.

Reports

I have a pair of interesting reports attached, one from AARP focusing on projected visitation in 2023, and another from the American Association for State and Local History analyzing 2022's visitation numbers. Both are worth your time.

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AARP's report on 2023 travel trends shows barriers to travel are no longer pandemic related. Participants said they are not traveling for financial reasons. Both the cost of traveling and the fear of financial unknowns because of inflation are affecting travel plans, especially among retirees. Both of these percentages are up compared to the last several years. The majority of people polled who said they will not travel this year believe it will be safe in 2024 which leaves the potential for continued growth in the future.

Another interesting point from the AARP report is airline complications and fear of covid means road trips are up and flights are down. That means you are likely to see more guests from neighboring states and fewer flying in from the other side of the country or overseas. This is a huge opportunity for your museum! The guests who flew in were always less likely to come back. If you can impress the ones who live within driving range and continue to innovate and add new stuff for them to see and do in the future, they will keep coming back over the years.

On the other hand, the AASLH annual report has some interesting information on how the size of a museum determines its recovery rate. It shows visitation to museums of all sizes continued to recover over 2022; however, small museums and extremely large museums are recovering much faster than mid-sized institutions. Small museums tend to rely primarily on their local community for visitation so without a lockdown these museums tend to still get visitation. Large museums on the other hand, have a budget for marketing to attract guests back and have brand recognition. If you, as a visitor, are going to a city for the first time, you visit the big well-known museums. Mid-sized museums neither have the budget for marketing, nor the clout to attract guests who only have enough time to see one museum. That guest will usually pick the larger, more well-known institution.

It was also cool seeing the trend in growth at history museums leading up to the pandemic. It's good to see a growing number of people choosing to spend their time at institutions like ours.

I'm interested in hearing how your museum's recovery and visitation has been doing. These reports don't take regional differences into account, and I'd love to know if your site is seeing similar trends to those reported or if they don't apply to you.

Awards

The 2023 Marsh Volunteer Awards are now open for nominations! National Historic Ships UK's annual Marsh Volunteer Awards are a fantastic way to recognize and reward your hard-working historic vessel volunteers. In partnership with the Marsh Charitable Trust, we are offering three awards this year to recognize the significant contribution volunteers make to the conservation or operation of historic vessels in the UK. You can nominate your volunteers in three categories, Individual (£750 cash prize), Group (£1000 cash prize), and Shipshape Network (£1000 cash prize - for an individual or group of volunteers connected to a project listed on the Shipshape Network). Applications are open from 1 June - 31 July 2023. Read more & enter at www.nationalhistoricships.org.uk/volunteer-award

NHHC's 3rd annual awards program has closed, and they are making decisions on their

applications. Honorees will be awarded at this year's banquet dinner at the HNSA conference in Albany, NY.

HNSA is also accepting nominations for awards. Thank you to everyone who has already applied, these are a great way for our entire community to recognize the hard work of your staff or volunteers. Check out the HNSA website to see what awards we offer and who has received the award in the past. Send me a paragraph stating the nominee, the award you are nominating them for, and why you think they have earned the award by July 28th. <https://www.hnsa.org/about-us/awards/>

HNSA's scholarship program is back for its third year. See the attached application. Our goal is to help people attend the conference who would not otherwise be able to. This includes folks who have never been before, students and people interested in joining the field who are not yet associated with a museum, and people from museums who are having a hard time which includes most of our organizations after the last couple years. Much of the funding for this scholarship program comes from other ships and individual contributions. Please reach out with any questions and with your applications.

Artifact Opportunities

There is a 40' liberty boat at the Mahan Foundation Collection in Basking Ridge, NJ looking for a new home. It is a 1980's USN utility boat with a working engine. The boat is not complete but can be made work again or would look good on deck, as a lawn ornament, or in the water alongside your museum ship. Trust me, I already have two. It is 40' long, 12' wide, and about 17,000lbs. The boat is free but the organization accepting it has to pay to transport it before September. Reach out to me for more information.

The National Electronics Museum in Linthicum, MD is relocating to a smaller facility at the end of the year. They are looking to transfer ownership of an SPG-55 radar antenna, a tow-fish, and a Navy radar indicator to another museum. All moving costs will be on the new owner. Contact Aubrey Quasney aquasney.nem@gmail.com for more information.

Conference Updates

We are all looking forward to seeing you at the annual conference in Albany, NY, hosted by USS Slater from Monday September 18th to Thursday September 21st. The schedule isn't fully fleshed out, but the opening reception will not be until 1730/5:30pm EST. This means you can fly in that day rather than over the weekend when airfare is more expensive. Likewise, the closing banquet will be from 1900-2130/7:00-9:30pm on Thursday leaving you all day Friday to fly home before the weekend.

While conference registration is not live yet due to the new website construction you can start making travel arrangements. The conference will be at the Hilton Albany, and you can call the 1-800-Hilton reservation line and provide the code "4HNS" to book your room or go to <https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/historic-naval-ships-2023/>. Be sure to book your reservation before August 26th. The discounted rate is \$159 a night.

We are still accepting proposals to present at the conference. This year's topics will include presentations on education, restoration, insurance and safety compliance, and fundraising. If you have a session proposal outside of those areas please submit them

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Make sure to reply to my email address with your award nominations, presentation ideas, scholarship applications, and Anchor Watch articles. I'd love to hear about your visitation trends and if they match the attached reports. Don't forget to book your conference airfare and hotel reservations.

See you in Albany in September,
Ryan

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The Royal Institution of Naval Architects Presents:
Historic Ships 2023:
Historic Vessels - Sustainable Futures
28-29 November 2023, Greenwich, London, UK

CALL FOR PAPERS

In partnership with Royal Museums Greenwich and National Historic Ships UK (NHS-UK), and supported by the Museum Ships Committee of the International Congress of Maritime Museums, the successful Historic Ships conference returns for the eighth instalment. The Royal Institution of Naval Architects is not only proud of the current achievements in the marine industry, but also our maritime heritage. The history of the world is the history of the sea, that through trade and war shaped our modern existence.

In partnership with:

