

Haul Out at Pilot's Point Marina

Every two years the *Quinnipiack* is hauled out for a Coast Guard hull inspection. This year's haul out took place on a beautiful sunny day in October. After an uneventful transit over to Pilot's Point Marina in Westbrook, the *Quinnipiack* was lifted out of the water and left in the sling overnight and then placed on blocks. The crew installed a temporary framework over the deck and stern covered with plastic to protect the crew and volunteers from the weather. Portable heaters under the cover help to keep the temperature moderate.

Captain Jon Wisch has been overseeing the project working with the crew, volunteers and shipwright Richard Fewtrell to complete numerous planned maintenance and repair projects, some of which can only be done while the boat is out of the water. These include installing a new transom, replacing three planks on the hull, repainting the bottom of the boat, and replacing the zincs on the hull, rudder and shaft. The propeller and shaft have been sent to Hale Propeller in Old Saybrook for regularly scheduled maintenance and the rudder has been pulled off for inspection. The main cabin top will be replaced and the topside of the boat will receive a new coat of green paint. The boat is scheduled to be dry docked for eight weeks. Once she is returned to the water, she'll be docked at Pilot's Point Marina for the winter.



Quinnipiack in the sling during haul out

Over the winter, volunteers will continue maintenance work such as scraping, sanding, and painting (an endless task on a wooden vessel), while Captain Jon (also a shipwright) and Richard will continue to work on wood-related projects. Volunteers and master woodworkers Chuck Peterson and Sid Hubelbank are reconditioning the fire hose box and quarter deck boxes over the winter, as well as, the helm box that encloses the rudder gear, the radar box and the name boards. In the spring, a new boom and running rigging will be installed before the start of the 2008 sailing season.

The anticipated costs for the haul out will be approximately \$75,000. Grants from the Woman's Seamen's Friend Society and the Lewis G. Schaeneman, Jr. Foundation will help cover a portion of the costs, but additional funds are needed. In addition to these grants, Schooner Inc is grateful for the donations of in-kind services and materials from MacKenzie Machine, Pilot's Point Marina and Reclamation Lumber. These contributions are vitally important in helping Schooner to keep the haul out expenses as low as possible.

Volunteer parties will be scheduled for anyone who wants to lend a hand on board over the winter. Contact the Schooner Inc office at (203) 865-1737 if you'd like to help.

Grants Help Fund Haul Out Expenses

We are pleased to announce that Schooner Inc has been awarded two grants to help cover the haul out expenses.

The Woman's Seamen's Friend Society has donated \$8,000 for boat repairs. Schooner has a long standing relationship with the Society and is grateful for their steadfast support over the years.

This is our first grant award from the Lewis G. Schaeneman, Jr. Foundation. They donated \$5,000 for haul out expenses. We are very pleased to have established this partnership and welcome the foundation's active interest in Schooner's mission and willingness to help us achieve our goals.

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From the Executive Director

Beth McCabe

Each season brings with it change. Hauling out the *Quinnipiack* signals the end of our 2007 sailing season, but by no means has life at Schooner slowed down. Our “slow season” is filled with all of the tasks we put off during the summer and fall. And it’s an important time for us to plan for next year.

This fall, in particular, there is an excitement in the air brought on by the commitment to develop a strategic plan to guide Schooner Inc over the next three to five years. Of course, nothing worthwhile was ever gained without great effort, and so it is with the strategic plan—from assessing where we are now to where we want to be and how to get there will be a challenge, but the board and staff are ready to do the work necessary to create a bold vision for the future.

The strategic plan will be completed in the spring and will include an action plan for the board and staff. We look forward to sharing this report with you.

As we move forward, Schooner Inc is poised for tremendous growth over the next few years. In the meantime, we still need to balance the 2007-2008 budgets. Program fees cover only half of Schooner Inc’s expenses—the remainder comes from donations from individuals, corporations, foundations and special events. The Annual Appeal is an important part of our fund-raising plan providing unrestricted funds that can be used wherever they are needed most. With 100% participation from our Board of Directors, Schooner Inc’s leadership has demonstrated its commitment to the organization’s future.

We hope you will give generously to this year’s campaign. Your support ensures that we will continue to provide innovative education programs on the *Quinnipiack*, at shore sites and in the classroom. Best wishes for a safe and Happy New Year.

Professional Memberships – Schooner Inc

American Canoe Association
 American Sail Training Association
 American Schooner Association
 Connecticut Science Teachers Association
 Connecticut Camping Association
 Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce
 Long Wharf Business Association
 National Science Teachers Association
 New Haven Citywide Youth Coalition
 Southeast New England Marine Educators
 US Sailing

Sheffield Island Trip a Highlight of the Season

Each year Chase Collegiate School of Waterbury sends their high school students on a three-day sleep-away program at the beginning of the school year to build relationships between the students and to develop teamwork and leadership skills. For the past two years Chase has worked with Soundwaters and Schooner Inc to provide programming for the sophomore class. This year 45 students sailed from Stamford to Sheffield Island, at the mouth of Norwalk Harbor.

Much of Sheffield Island serves as a nature refuge for coastal birds and other wildlife and has no facilities with electricity or plumbing. The island's historic lighthouse was built in 1868 but was retired in 1902. The island is currently owned by the Norwalk Seaport Association.

The Chase program started on September 4 in Stamford with all students being divided between the schooners *Quinnipiack* and *Soundwaters* for the transit to Sheffield Island. During their watches, students rotated through education stations, raised sails and became part of the crew. Once ashore, the watches worked together in teams to set up tents, cook dinner and wash dishes. Team-based free time included exploring the island where they discovered ruins of an old hotel and the island's lighthouse. Throughout the trip, chaperones and crew members stayed with the students overseeing their activities.

On Day 2, the groups woke at 6 am to cook breakfast and prepare lunch for the entire crew. After a full day of sailing and stations, the schooners returned to Sheffield Island for a swim call. The evening was spent baking apples in the campfire and telling ghost stories. The *Quinnipiack's* First Mate, Dan Thompson, provided a fiddle accompaniment for a sing along and dancing.

The morning of the final day, students stowed gear, repacked tents and made breakfast and lunch. Under the direction of the lighthouse keeper, the students also built a seawall on the island to protect the lighthouse from beach erosion that threatens to wash away this historic landmark. It also served as a way of giving back to the island they had called home for a few days.



Chase students charting weather conditions

“While the program served to reinforce relationships that already existed between the students, it was great to see them develop meaningful connections with the crew who served as mentors over the three days,” said Kristen Andrews, Director of Education who participated in the program.

The *Quinnipiack* crew called the program one of the highlights of their season. “We always enjoy the opportunity to work with other education vessels,” said Beth McCabe. “It’s a chance for all of our staff—educators and crew—to share ideas, and we hope to continue finding ways to collaborate with Soundwaters.”

Farewell to *Quinnipiack* Crew-A Job Well Done

The *Quinnipiack's* crew works on a seasonal contract from March until the end of November. This year's crew was one of our best ever, working as a cohesive unit preparing the boat for the season, conducting public sails and charters, teaching students in school programs and kids in summer camps, and sailing the *Quinnipiack* to other ports such as Mamaroneck, NY, Norwalk, Stamford and Essex. After having maintained the topside of the boat all season, the fall haul out gave them the opportunity to work on the boat's inner structure.

We'd like to thank all of the crew members for their hard work and professionalism and to wish them well in their future endeavors. *Tanya Anderson, Captain Tanya Banks-Christensen, Henry Casey, Rob Evans, Sarah Herard, Bill Laughlin, Nicole Reed, Deon Sandoval, Aaron Thal, Dan Thompson, and Captain Jon Wisch.*

Schooner-Sage Partnership Receives Chamber Award

The Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Luncheon was held in October at the Omni New Haven Hotel. During the luncheon, Dave McCoart of Sage American Grill received the Non-Profit Partnership Award. This was the first year that an award was presented recognizing a partnership between a for-profit business and a not-for-profit organization in the New Haven area.

“As soon as we heard about the newly created award, we thought of Dave,” said Beth McCabe, Executive Director at Schooner Inc. “He does so much for Schooner and the community at large that we couldn’t imagine anyone else who was as deserving of this award.” Dave’s contributions through the restaurant represent his personal commitment to improving the quality of life for everyone in New Haven. He understands how important nonprofit organizations are to the region’s economy and how collaborating can produce mutual benefits.

During the award presentation, some of Dave’s contributions to Schooner Inc were noted: Sage has been the lead restaurant for Schooner’s wine gala for the past five years with Dave handling many of the food-related logistics. In 2006, Sage and Schooner co-hosted a Haunted Halloween Party with the “haunted” *Quinnipiack* docked outside and the entire restaurant decorated for the party. Schooner has conducted its Annual Dinner at Sage for the past seven years and uses the site for board retreats and other meetings.

“We are proud of our collaboration with Sage and Dave McCoart,” said McCabe, “and we are very pleased that he was recognized at the Chamber Annual Meeting to an audience of over 500 Chamber members.”



(L to R) Dave McCoart, Tony Rescigno and Michael Morand during the award presentation

Schooner Volunteers Help with Coastal Cleanup

Organized by The Ocean Conservancy, International Coastal Cleanup Day is the world’s oldest and largest volunteer effort to clean up the marine environment. This year’s event was September 15. Schooner Inc, in partnership with Save the Sound, took on Lighthouse Point Park as our cleanup site. Schooner Inc uses this park for our summer camp programs, school shore programs and annual Wine Gala event, so it’s fitting that we should help to keep it clean.

Although it was a rainy, windy day, some die-hard volunteers picked up cigarette butts, cups, food wrappers, plastic grocery bags, plastic and glass bottles, cans, bait containers, six-pack holders, balloons, fishing line, and other types of garbage. All of the information was recorded and the data sheets sent to The Ocean Conservancy. They will compile and study it to learn more about the global debris problem, educate the public and find solutions to stop marine debris at its source. The final totals for this year have not been completed, but last year 957 volunteers in Connecticut collected over 7,000 pounds of trash cleaning up 55 miles of the state’s shoreline.

Our thanks to all of the volunteers who helped make Long Island Sound and Lighthouse Point Park a cleaner and more beautiful place.

Wish List

Check your attic, basement and storage bins for these items that Schooner can use. Call the office if you can help.

- Binoculars
- 2 matching wooden cabinets or bookcases with glass fronts
- Full size refrigerator/freezer
- DVD player
- Wall mounted screen
- Kid-size tables and chairs
- Pirate dress-up clothes
- Adobe Acrobat Professional
- Adobe Acrobat – InDesign
- Coffee maker
- Microwave
- Flat screen computer monitors

Strategic Plan Underway

Following a retreat in September, the Schooner Inc board of directors voted to develop a formal strategic plan that will guide the organization over the next three to five years.

Clemow Consulting Group has been hired to facilitate the strategic planning process due to be completed by spring 2008. Led by Susan Clemow, CCG has a strong track record of working with non-profit groups to build financial security through organizational planning and development. Through the strategic planning process, we are looking to create a vision of what we want Schooner to be and to chart a course that will enable us to reach that vision in a deliberate and thoughtful manner.



Once the strategic plan is complete, we will consider conducting a feasibility study to see if Schooner Inc is ready to launch a capital campaign. Throughout all of this we are working to improve Schooner's infrastructure and to strengthen our place within the community. Stay tuned for more information as the process moves forward.

Annual Appeal Kick-off

Through the Board Leadership Campaign, the Schooner Inc board of directors, with 100% participation, has raised \$82,650 to kick off this year's Annual Appeal Campaign. The Annual Appeal is an important part of Schooner Inc's overall fund-raising plan as these unrestricted funds can be used wherever the need is greatest such as boat repairs or maintenance, program supplies, or office technology.

We would like to thank the following donors who have contributed to the appeal as of press time.

Dave Adams
Margaret and Jim Andreassi
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Joel Zackin and Celeste Suggs
Ed & Pat Zona

In honor of
Randy Reinhold

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Welcome Schooner Interns

There are two new faces in the Schooner Inc office. April Barnes and Meghan Brown, both students at Quinnipiac University, are serving internships that will give them professional experience in their majors while helping Schooner.

Meghan Brown is a junior from New Hampshire majoring in Public Relations and minoring in Marketing. She has been working with Carol Kasper, Director of Development, on projects as varied as researching displays to creating a media list and targeted mailing lists to researching marketing opportunities in the greater New Haven area.

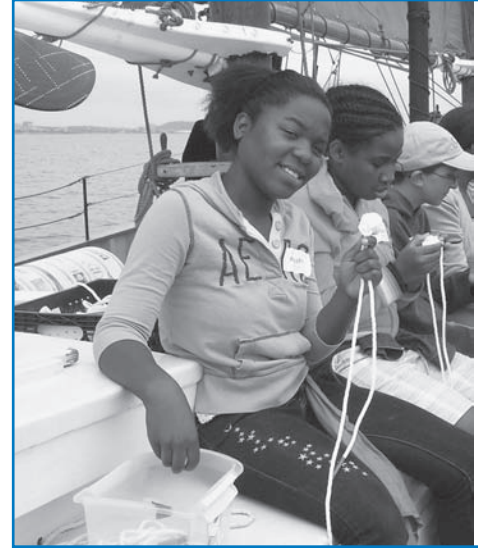
April Barnes is a senior from Maine. She is a Sociology major in the Elementary Education Masters program. Working with Kristen Andrews, Director of Education, April has been teaching programs with all of the preparation and follow up duties that our programs include. She has also been working to enhance portions of the Schooner Inc curriculum.

G.I.R.L.S Program Presented Challenges and Fun

Twenty-three girls, from New Haven in grades 6-8 spent three days in August learning about Long Island Sound and themselves through a new program called Girls Involved in Research/Science, Leadership and Sailing (G.I.R.L.S). Funded through a grant from the Community Fund for Women and Girls, the adventure challenged these young women to try unfamiliar activities and develop new skills while learning about marine science and sailing on board the *Quinnipiack*.

“Most of the girls had never been on a boat before,” said Kristen Andrews, Schooner’s Director of Education, “so the program activities were new and took them out of their comfort zone, but by the second and third day you could really see a difference in their self-confidence and willingness to try new things.”

Everyone learned how to sail the *Quinnipiack* under the supervision of Captain Tanya Banks-Christensen and her crew, including how to steer the boat, plot their location within New Haven Harbor, how the various parts of the boat work, how to communicate signals, and how to tie knots. In addition, participants learned about the marine life of Long Island Sound and how to identify the different animals they caught in the otter trawl net.



Anesha White learns how to tie a monkey’s fist, a nautical knot used to add weight to the end of the rope so it can be thrown

A graduation ceremony offered participants the opportunity to share with their families what they had learned during the program, including tours of the *Quinnipiack*. The program introduced these young women to skills and concepts that will help them at home and school even if they never set foot on a boat again.

Schooner Inc is currently seeking funding for the G.I.R.L.S. program so that we can offer it again in 2008.

Wine Gala Picture Perfect at Lighthouse Point

With picture perfect weather and Long Island Sound as a backdrop, Schooner Inc’s 6th annual *Wine by the Sound* was a great success. Attended by 250 guests, the gala raised more than \$41,000 for the organization’s environmental education programs.



(L to R) Stocky Clark (Schooner Board member), Maryann Ott (NewAlliance Foundation sponsor), Louise Endel (Schooner Advisory Board), Kim Healey (NewAlliance Foundation sponsor) enjoying the gala’s festivities

The participating restaurants included Sage American Grill & Oyster Bar, Atticus Book Store-Café, Cosi, F.J. Soleo’s, Foster’s, H. Mangels Confectioner, JEFFREY’s: a restaurant, Sloppy Jose’s, Temple Grill Tuscano Restaurant, The Villa Gourmet and Villarina’s – Pasta, Gifts and More. Schooner is grateful to all of the restaurants, beer crafters and wine distributors who donated all of the wine, beer and food. Thanks also to all the other contributors and event sponsors who gave so generously of their time, money and talents.

Save September 18, 2008, as the date for next year’s gala.

Estate Plan

Have you remembered Schooner Inc in your estate plans? Contact the office for more information.





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Visit to Essex



The lower Connecticut River provides a different backdrop for the Quinnipiack's sails

chartered the *Quinnipiack* for evening sails and the crew welcomed the public on board for dock-side tours.

Schooner Inc would like to thank Dauntless Marina for graciously providing their facilities to the crew and our thanks to the Museum staff for hosting our visit. Plans are already underway to visit Essex again next year so stay tuned for details in the spring newsletter.

In September, the *Quinnipiack* traveled up the Connecticut River to Essex for a week-long visit as part of our growing partnership with the Connecticut River Museum. The Museum offered a members-only sail and held a dock-side reception for its Founder's Club. Students from New Haven's Sound School enjoyed three days of programs honing their navigation skills on the river. One of the highlights: a bald eagle swooping down to snatch a fish from the water. In addition, Smith Barney and the Clinton Lions Club

Join Us!

A Schooner membership helps us to promote the conservation of Connecticut's marine resources through education.

Member Benefits:

- ❁ Public sails on *Quinnipiack*
- ❁ Discounts on summer programs
- ❁ Newsletter, *Waterline*
- ❁ Member programs
- ❁ 10% discount on all merchandise

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