

# On The Horizon

February 2023

Volume 64 Number 1

Editor: Lt/C Ned Dexter, P

Photographers: P/C Dave Blades, N; Susan Rudy, N; Possibly others as cited.

Dundalk Sail & Power Squadron — **We Are**

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB

For Boaters, By Boaters™



BALTIMORE



United States Power Squadron

## UPCOMING EVENTS



Feb 15

**DSPS General Meeting!** At the Bowman Restaurant, 9306 Harford Road, Parkville MD 21234 – We're in the Back!

Mar 15

**ELECTION NIGHT!! Help us select our new Commander and Bridge!** At the Bowman Restaurant, 9306 Harford Road, Parkville MD 21234. [See the Nominating Committee's Recommendations under the Secretary's Report!](#)

Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86088334991?pwd=T0VrVERIQTdMN2FDSCtmMDh2SWJmQT09>, ID: 860 8833 4991 ,Passcode: 145412

Mar 18

**CHANGE OF WATCH!** 12 noon to 4 pm at Baltimore Yacht Club, 800 Baltimore Yacht Club Road, Essex, MD.

Mar 30-  
Apr 2

**DISTRICT 5 SPRING CONFERENCE!** Info here:

[https://www.uspsd5.org/modules/mod\\_events/assets/event\\_gen.php?ml=1&event\\_id=22405](https://www.uspsd5.org/modules/mod_events/assets/event_gen.php?ml=1&event_id=22405) At the [Princess Royale Hotel](#) 91st St. Oceanfront Ocean City MD 21842, 410 524 7777

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Page 2	Commander's Report	Page 6	Nat'l & D5 News
Page 3	XO's Report	Page 6	Birthdays
Pages 3-4	SEO's Report	Page 7	<b>CRUISE SCHEDULE!</b>
Page 4	Education/Class Schedules	Page 8-9	VSC Stats
Page 5	Secretary's Report and <b>NOMINATIONS!</b>	Page 10-12	Banana Article

**COMMANDER**  
**John L. Hall, AP**



**Commander's Report:**

**“General Quarters, General Quarters. All hands man your battle stations. The route of travel is forward and up to starboard, down and aft to port. Set material condition 'Zebra' throughout the ship” is the call heard when a ship is in danger.**

**I'm afraid I have to issue that call for the Squadron. “Beat to Quarters!”**

**I'm sure this call will surprise some members. Our individual departments are doing a great job. SEO Susan Rudy, SN and her team have put together a great schedule of courses for both members and the public. AO John Malone, P and his team have provided great speakers and meetings, an exciting cruise schedule and an ambitious plan to recruit new members. Treasurer Jeanie Galvin, P is keeping our bills paid and our books up to date. Secretary Ned Dexter, P is doing a great job with the minutes and is now stepping up to be editor for On the Horizon.**

**In order to support these hard-working departments, we also need leadership. Our new year starts in March. For next year we do not have a Commander nor an Executive Officer. Without the leadership it will make the jobs of the other bridge officers much more difficult.**

**These jobs do require a bit of a commitment, but they are not that hard and there are always people willing to help. The squadron has 11 membership meetings and 11 executive committee meetings per year. The executive committee meets on the first Wednesday of the month and the membership meeting is the third Wednesday of the month. It is expected that a bridge officer will make most of the meetings but with Zoom you are able to participate from anywhere. We've had executive committee meetings include members anchored out on their boats and even travelling through airports.**

**Our mission can be expressed as safe boating through education. While doing that we also make lifelong friends and enjoy great cruises and events. We need YOU to step up and help make this happen. Please call me to talk about how you can help.**

**Thanks!**

**Sincerely,  
John L. Hall , AP, Cdr**

## **EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**Joseph Deady, SN**

Our Squadron Vessel Safety Inspectors continue to promote boating safety and are gearing up for the new year. In 2022 they performed 86 inspections and awarded 60 decals to passing vessels – DSPS is a leading squadron in District 5. They've already done 15 exams this year, despite it being too darn cold! I would like to thank and congratulate our Inspectors for their time and dedication to promoting Boating Safety. And remember, **you too** can become a Vessel Safety Check inspector – pass the course online, go out with one of the approved checkers 5 times, and you can do them yourself!

Executive Officer  
Lt/C Joseph Deady SN

## **EDUCATIONAL OFFICER**

**Susan Rudy, SN**



*Every day on the water is a chance to learn something new!*

EDUCATIONAL OFFICER'S REPORT, Susan Rudy, SN [seo@uspsdundalk.org](mailto:seo@uspsdundalk.org) 410-971-9199

### Fall Class Wrap-up:

We are so pleased to announce that all students have passed their exams! For Boat Handling, congrats to members **Don Grauel, S** and **Bill Mann, S**, and to non-members Alan Toense, John Budar-Danoff, and John Noelle in their first USPS experience. For Marine Electrical Systems, our DSPS members **Lori Piper, Bill Mann, S**, and **John Malone, P**, plus John Barry from Raritan Bay Power Squadron and Brian Sumlin from Weaver's Marina all were successful. **Bravo Zulu to all.**

### Spring Classes are Underway:

We are off to a great start in February with strong enrollment. Cdr **John Hall** is teaching Engine Maintenance in-person plus on Zoom with able assistance from **Roy Stuenes** for mechanical systems demonstrations. We're looking forward to the hands-on learning as an added bonus to this challenging topic. Meanwhile, P/C **Streett Broadbent** has his hands full with 17 students enrolled in ABC3 including 10 Boy Scouts, their Leaders and other members of the public. See the course schedule, which follows.

### Calling all Pilots!

If you previously have taken the USPS Piloting Class, consider upping your game to the grade of "AP". Advanced Piloting is starting March 7 (revised date). Class will include a refresher on Piloting essentials for those who'd like to brush up on skills first. Please contact SEO with your interest by February 20.

### Cruise into Summer...

Boat Handling starts March 28 on Zoom. This is the first advanced grade navigation course to gain grade of "S" (Seaman) and is a must-take for serious boaters.

Cruising & Cruise Planning starts June 6 on Zoom. It's a great way to sail into the boating season.

AS ALWAYS, let me know if there is a class you would like to take. Here is a link to USPS class descriptions.

<https://americasboatingclub.org/index.php/learn/select-type-of-boating/all/all-courses> .

TO REGISTER for our classes, send **name, phone #, email** to: [seo@uspsdundalk.org](mailto:seo@uspsdundalk.org) .

Questions, call: Susan Rudy: 410-971-9199 (leave a message)

Register Online at: <https://americasboatingclub.org/index.php/club-details/?sqdno=1560>

--Susan Rudy

### **EDUCATION SCHEDULE for Spring '23**

#### **Boat Handling**

<b>Tuesdays</b> 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.	<b>Starts:</b> March 28, 2023 for 7 weeks Register by 3/7/23	<b>Location:</b> Remote Learning by Zoom; in-person exam location TBA in Baltimore Area	<b>Cost:</b> \$68 USPS members \$100 non-members
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Boat Handling is the first squadron advanced grade course. Six modules are designed to get you boating with assurance: 1) Rules of the Road, 2) Docking & Undocking, 3) Boating with Confidence, 4) Anchoring, 5) On-Board Emergencies, and 6) Knots and Line Handling. Includes text or ebook. Gain USPS grade of "S".

#### **Advanced Piloting (Marine Navigation Part 2)**

<b>Tuesdays</b> 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.	<b>Starts:</b> March 07, 2023 for 10 weeks Register by 2/20/23	<b>Location:</b> U.U. Church of Fallston, 1127 Old Fallston Road Fallston MD 21047	<b>Cost:</b> \$78 USPS members \$130 non-members
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Build on skills from Part 1 of the Piloting class for navigating in unfamiliar waters, limited visibility, and for extended cruising. Learn to apply manual navigation with GPS, chart plotters, radar & AIS in various coastal conditions of tide, current and wind. Learn course planning, extended cruise navigation, hazard and collision avoidance. Includes student manual or eBook and hard copy of Weekend Navigator. Gain USPS grade of "AP".

#### **Cruising & Cruise Planning**

<b>Tuesdays</b> 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.	<b>Starts:</b> June 6, 2023 for 7 weeks Register by 5/16/23	<b>Location:</b> Remote Learning by Zoom; in-person exam location TBA in Baltimore Area	<b>Cost:</b> \$68 USPS members \$108 non-members
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Gain confidence and practical skills to expand your travels from weekends to extended trips, from local ports and anchorages to foreign locations, alone or to raft up with others. Plan for your trip: for equipment, crews and provisioning, weather, emergencies, security, and more. Includes Student Manual (hard copy).

#### **TO REGISTER:**

Send **name, phone #, email address, and if USPS member** to: [seo@uspsdundalk.org](mailto:seo@uspsdundalk.org)

Questions, call: Squadron Educational Officer Susan Rudy: 410-971-9199 (leave a message)

Register Online at: <https://americasboatingclub.org/index.php/club-details/?sqdno=1560>

For additional descriptions, check the National website <https://americasboatingclub.org/learn>

# SECRETARY

**Ned Dexter, P**



Well, once again, not much to report about from the otherwise dark and glamorous world of notes-taking. However, I am required by the Bylaws, blessed be they, to inform our wonderful Membership of the members who have been nominated to serve us all. Please note how many people are continuing to fill their positions, but that there are some important vacancies – please consider serving! Here’s the report I got from the Nominating Committee:

“As required by Section 6.8 of the Bylaws, the Nominating Committee hereby submits nominations for the position of:

<b>Commander</b>	<b>Open</b>	
<b>Executive Officer</b>	<b>Open</b>	
<b>Squadron Educational Officer</b>	Lt/C Susan F. Rudy, SN	(continuing)
<b>Assistant Educational Officer</b>	Lt Rayned Wiles, AP	(continuing)
<b>Administrative Officer</b>	John Malone, P	(continuing)
<b>Assistant Administrative Officer</b>	P/C Douglas Riley, AP	(continuing)
<b>Treasurer</b>	Lt/C Jeanne Galvin, P	(continuing)
<b>Assistant Treasurer</b>	P/C Ron Basener, SN	(continuing)
<b>Secretary</b>	Lt/C Edward M. Dexter, P	(continuing)
<b>Assistant Secretary</b>	<b>Open</b>	

<b>Executive Committee</b> 1. Rayned Wiles, P 2. Barbara Lash, P 3. P/C Richard D. Bussey, P 4. Bill Mann, S 5. P/D/C Bernie Karpers, Jr., SN	6. Lori Piper 7. <b>(From Floor)</b> 8. <b>(From Floor)</b> 9. <b>(From Floor)</b> 10. <b>(From Floor)</b>	<b>Nominating Committee</b> 1. P/C Tracey Stuenes, P 2. P/C Streett Broadbent, AP 3. P/C David Blades, SN 4. <b>Open</b> 5. P/C John Hall, AP
<b>Rules Committee</b> 1. Donald Grauel, S 2. P/D/C Bernie Karpers, Jr., SN 3. P/C Douglas Riley, AP 4. Roy P. Stuenes, P 5. P/C John Hall, AP	<b>Audit Committee</b> 1. P/C Douglas Riley, AP 2. P/C Richard D. Bussey, P 3. <b>Open</b>	

Respectfully submitted,  
P/C Rick Boardman, AP                      P/C Tracey Stuenes, P                      P/C Streett Broadbent, AP                      P/C David Blades, SN.”

Please be sure to attend the Election Night meeting, in person at the Bowman or via Zoom: Dinner 6 PM, Meeting at 7:30 PM. Zoom Meeting:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86088334991?pwd=T0VrVERIQTdMN2FDSCtmMDh2SWJmQT09>  
Meeting ID: 860 8833 4991, Passcode: 145412, Call in: +13017158592, meeting 86088334991#, password\*145412#.

On a personal level, dear S/V Certainty is resting comfortably on the hard at Maryland Marina, and if we have a warm spring we’ll splash in early May. But the Skipper has declared that in order to properly prepare for our joint retirement, we need a bigger boat, and so the search has begun! Preferably a 36 or 37 with in-mast furling and an adjustable centerboard but we’ll see.

Your humble scribe,  
Ned Dexter, P, Secretary

"*Nomatter what Dexter Rits It Dus to make the Laydes Laf at the tea tabel!*" - Lord Timothy Dexter, Newburyport, Massachusetts, sometime around 1800. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timothy\\_Dexter\\_\(businessman\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timothy_Dexter_(businessman))

**National and District 5 News:**

**About America's Boating Channel – Check it out! Lots of interesting videos!**

**America's Boating Channel™** is produced by United States Power Squadrons® (USPS) under a grant from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund administered by the U.S. Coast Guard. The service features professionally produced high-definition safe boating and boater education videos. **America's Boating Channel** has been recognized with the National Boating Industry Safety Award as the 2021 Top Marine Media Outlet and with the 2022 International Boating & Water Safety Summit Communication Award for the top Video Public Service Announcement (PSA) Series.

**District 5 Spring Conference in Ocean City, MD:** Info here:

[https://www.uspsd5.org/modules/mod\\_events/assets/event\\_gen.php?ml=1&event\\_id=22405](https://www.uspsd5.org/modules/mod_events/assets/event_gen.php?ml=1&event_id=22405) At the [Princess Royale Hotel](#), 91st St. Oceanfront Ocean City MD 21842, 410 524 7777. Last year was a monstrous success, come and join in the fun!

**Squadron News:**



**Happy Birthdays To:**



**January:**

- |                       |                    |              |                 |
|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| • Richard Basely      | Ian Lewis          | Maria Blaker | John Malone     |
| • Dick Bruns, Jr.     | Bill Mann          | Ken Finck    | Edwin Mora      |
| • Glenn Haldeman      | Carole Reilley     | Gary Hutson  | Annika Thompson |
| • Bernie Karpers, Jr. | Christina Thompson |              |                 |

**February:**

- |                  |               |                |                      |
|------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------------|
| • Deseray Blaker | Vincent Lash  | Richard Bussey | Robert Robinson, Jr. |
| • Robin Dodd     | Robert Singer | Ann Gracey     |                      |

**Mardi Gras:** SEO Lt/C Susan Rudy, N, and Treasurer Lt/C Jeanne Galvin, P, go undercover while representing DSPS at the Maryland Yacht Club 's Mardi Gras Party. PS, the band and the food were great.



**DUNDALK SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON—America's Boating Club Baltimore**  
**CRUISE SCHEDULE 2023**

<b>Cruise name</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Destination</b>	<b>Cruise masters</b>
<b>Shakedown Cruise</b>	May 19-21	Baltimore's Inner Harbor (Marina yet to be determined)	Walter Neece 410-728-7275 <a href="mailto:walt@walterworkshardware.com">walt@walterworkshardware.com</a>
<b>Sea Scouts Service Cruise to St. Michaels</b>	June 16-18	Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum 213 N Talbot Street St Michaels, Maryland 21663 (410) 745-2916	Barbara Lash, 443-417-5783 <a href="mailto:barbaralash@gmail.com">barbaralash@gmail.com</a>
<b>Southbound Sailing Cruise</b>	June 19-30	Sail from St. Michaels to points south with Captains Susan Rudy and David Blades	Susan Rudy, David Blades 410-971-9199 <a href="mailto:sfrudy@juno.com">sfrudy@juno.com</a> <a href="mailto:david.blades28@gmail.com">david.blades28@gmail.com</a>
<b>Tolchester Beach Cruise</b>	June 23-25	Tolchester Marina 21085 Tolchester Beach Road Chestertown, Maryland 21620 (410) 778-1400	Ron Basener 443-243-0600 <a href="mailto:anneron1969@gmail.com">anneron1969@gmail.com</a>
<b>Top Gun Cruise</b>	July 5-16	Baltimore to Cape May to NYC to Mystic CT to Newport, RI	Doug Riley 410-236-7144 <a href="mailto:dougriley@verizon.net">dougriley@verizon.net</a>
<b>West River Cruise</b>	August 25-27	Chesapeake Yacht Club 4943 Hine Drive Shady Side, MD 20764 (410) 867-1500	Eileen Riley, Doug Riley 410-825-9632 <a href="mailto:eileencriley@gmail.com">eileencriley@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:douglasbriley@outlook.com">douglasbriley@outlook.com</a>
<b>Wurst Cookout Ever Cruise</b>	Sept. 8-10	Baltimore Yacht Club 800 Baltimore Yacht Club Road Essex, Maryland 21221 <a href="tel:(410)682-2310">(410) 682-2310</a>	John Hall, Mary Hall 410-823-5698 <a href="mailto:mhall767@gmail.com">mhall767@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:jhall767@gmail.com">jhall767@gmail.com</a>
<b>Last Cruise of the Summertime</b>	September 22-24	Lankford Bay Marina 23002 McKinleyville Road Road Hall, Maryland 21661 (410) 778-1414	Tracey Stuenes, Roy Stuenes 443-857-3275 <a href="mailto:webelieve2@comcast.net">webelieve2@comcast.net</a>
<b>Rock Hall Crab Dinner Cruise</b>	October 13-15	North Point Marina 5639 Walnut Street Rock Hall, MD 21661 <a href="tel:(410)639-2907">(410) 639-2907</a>	Jeanne Galvin, Ned Dexter 410-665-5402 <a href="mailto:esx520@hotmail.com">esx520@hotmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:certainty404@comcast.net">certainty404@comcast.net</a>

Cruise masters will promptly contact marinas to confirm slip availability for proposed dates.

Cruise masters will provide details about each cruise in cruise flyers and on the Squadron's website as they become available.

Boaters will make their own slip reservations.



# UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS UPCOMING EVENTS



## Boating Season is Just About Here Save A Life – Get Your VSC Now!!

SAVE A LIFE



Baltimore

Providing FREE & Confidential  
Vessel Safety Checks

"We will come to you."



Please Contact:

Streett@EasyStreett.com



VESSEL SAFETY CHECK (VSC)

To be completed by a U.S. Coast Guard approved Vessel Examiner. See the back of this form for a brief explanation of required items. A Federal Requirements pamphlet is also available.

Date of VSC: \_\_\_\_\_  
Decal Awarded: Yes  No

<p>Owner/Operator Name: _____</p> <p>Owner/Operator has attended a CGAUX, USPS, State or Boating Safety Class: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Location of VSC: County: _____ State: _____</p> <p>Replaced decal used Last Year <input type="checkbox"/> Outdated <input type="checkbox"/> First time <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">VESSEL INFORMATION:</p> <p>Registration or Documentation Number: _____</p> <p>HIN: _____</p> <p>Length: &lt;16 <input type="checkbox"/> 16-25 <input type="checkbox"/> 26-39 <input type="checkbox"/> 40-65 <input type="checkbox"/> &gt;65 <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Powered by: Gas <input type="checkbox"/> Diesel <input type="checkbox"/> Sail <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Area of Operations: Inland <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Type: PWC <input type="checkbox"/> Open <input type="checkbox"/> Cabin <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/></p>
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VESSEL SAFETY CHECK DECAL REQUIREMENTS				RECOMMENDED AND DISCUSSION ITEMS (While encouraged, items below are not VSC requirements)			
Item	Yes	No	N/A	Item	Yes	No	N/A
1. Display of Numbers				I. Marine Radio			
2. Registration/Documentation				II. Dredging Device & Backup			
3. Personal Flotation Devices (PFD)				III. Moths/Hull Erosion/Inhibitors			
4. Visual Distress Signals (VDS)				IV. Anchor & Lifting Area			
5. Fire Extinguishers				V. First Aid and PFD Kits (1 "over")			
6. Ventilation				VI. Inland Visual Distress Signals			
7. Backfire Flame Control				VII. Capacity/Cert. State of Compliance			
8. Sound Producing Device/Bell				VIII. Discussion Items: as applies			
9. No-tailgate Lapses				a. Accident Reporting - Owner Responsibility			
10. Pollution Plans				b. Oil/Bilge Operations			
11. MARPOL Trash Plans				c. National Charts/Navigation Aids			
12. Marine Emission Devices				d. Survival Tips / First Aid			
13. No-tailgate Rules				e. Fueling / Fuel Management			
14. State and/or Local Requirements				f. First Aid / Weather & Sea Conditions			
15. Overall Vessel Condition: as applies				g. Insurance Considerations			
a. Deck Fares of Boards / Clean Bilge				h. Boating Check List			
b. Electrical / Fuel Systems				i. Safe Boating Classes			
c. Quality / Heating Systems				j. Marine Damage Awareness			

I am/We that I have personally examined this vessel and find it meets the above requirements at the time of this Vessel Safety Check: I am a qualified Vessel Examiner of the: CGAUX  USPS  State of \_\_\_\_\_  or \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name of the Examiner: \_\_\_\_\_ Examiner Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Examiner Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Comments: This is a non-official boating log for use in emergency purposes. It is recommended that you correct any deficiencies noted. This checklist is provided for your information. There is no assumption of liability of any kind for advice given or opinions expressed in connection to this examination. By accepting the Vessel Safety Check, the vessel owner hereby certifies that the vessel and equipment is in the condition of safety exhibited during this examination. Please remove the Vessel Safety Check decal if it has been used or is no longer meets these requirements.

I am conducting this Vessel Safety Check of my own accord with full knowledge that it is provided to you as a public service on a volunteer basis without cost, and I understand and agree that my receipt of a Vessel Safety Check decal is not to be construed as a warranty or guarantee as to either the qualifications, knowledge, or skills of the operator, the seaworthiness of the vessel, or the serviceability or adequacy of any equipment on board.

Owner/Operator Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ANBC79 12 (4-09) Previous edition may be used

If you are interested in finding out how to become an examiner for Vessel Safety Checks, contact P/C Streett Broadbent at [Streett@EasyStreett.com](mailto:Streett@EasyStreett.com). You get to see all kinds of boats, and learn what's right and what's wrong!

**Some DSPS VSC Statistics, courtesy of P/C Streett Broadbent:**

<b>Year</b>	<b>No. of VSC's</b>	<b># of Decals Awarded</b>	<b>% Passed</b>	<b>No. of VE's</b>	<b>VSC's / VE</b>	<b>Comments</b>
2023	15	?	0%	6	0.0	So Far!
2022	86	60	70%	6	14.3	
2021	68	47	69%	6	11.3	
2020	34	22	65%	5	6.8	
2019	111	81	73%	5	22.2	
2018	105	67	64%	5	21.0	
2017	87	62	71%	6	14.5	
2016	39	25	64%	6	6.5	
2015	92	71	77%	8	11.5	
2014	93	74	80%	8	11.6	
2013	108	75	69%	8	13.5	
2012	139	91	65%	8	17.4	
2011	100	72	72%	9	11.1	
2010	126	87	69%	9	14.0	
2009	126	92	73%	9	14.0	
2008	140	102	73%	8	17.5	
2007	92	69	75%	7	13.1	
2006	91	72	79%	7	13.0	
2005	134	104	78%	8	16.8	
2004	127	109	86%	7	18.1	
2003	133	103	77%	7	19.0	
2002	193	147	76%	7	27.6	D. Klump did 107 VSC's; Passed 75
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,224</b>	<b>1,632</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>14.3</b>	

## Bananas on Board – Bad Luck or Good Luck?

By Susan Rudy, February 2023

For centuries, sailors of tall ships regarded this delicious fruit as a bad omen to have aboard their vessels. Several cause- and effect- observations supported this belief<sup>1</sup>.

- ❖ Bananas ripen faster in the stagnant hold of a ship and lose value; meanwhile the rotten bananas ferment and release fumes believed to be toxic to sicken the crew.
- ❖ A speedy voyage may solve these problems but brings on more dire consequences. Many ships trying to make speed run aground, or disappear altogether, taking the crew down with them.
- ❖ Sometimes sailors mysteriously fall ill and die just carrying the bananas onboard.



Today, the sickness is attributed to the bite of the poisonous Banana Spider that makes its home in South American banana trees. Sometimes found in the fruit itself, the species *Phoneutria* are large and intimidating arachnids. Once onboard, the spiders, bugs and even snakes freely roam the ship, multiplying and wreaking havoc on the crew!

But for the Tall Ship *Elissa*, the load of bananas she carried from Mexico to Galveston in 1883 brought a stroke of great good luck.

Launched in 1877 in Aberdeen Scotland, *Elissa* was hull No. 294 built by Alexander Hall and Co. The construction of her iron hull and three-masted barque rig was meticulously inspected and carefully recorded with Lloyds of London, reflecting the owner's investment and perfectionist approach. At only 150 feet long she was able to operate efficiently with minimal crew and travel fast due to attention to speed by the ship's designer. Her relatively small size, shallow draft, and maneuverability enabled her to service smaller ports. After launch, she operated successfully as a small tramp sailing ship carrying general cargoes- coal and manufactured goods from Britain outbound and raw materials inbound- travelling between Europe and the Americas and visiting numerous exotic ports along the way.<sup>2</sup>

In late 1883, *Elissa* departed Tampico, Mexico with a hold full of bananas. After a quick trip across the Gulf of Mexico, she arrived in Galveston, Texas on December 26, in time for the holiday celebrations in that thriving Victorian city and bustling island port. *The Galveston Daily News* announced **“Bananas for sale: The British bark *Elissa* having just arrived from Tampico with a small cargo of choice bananas, the same will be sold at Labadie Wharf this day, in lots to suit purchaser. Call early and secure a bargain.”** *Elissa* laid over a month, loaded on 710,344 pounds of cotton, and returned to Liverpool, England in March of 1884. This chance visit to Galveston with a load of bananas was providential in her rescue and restoration by the Galveston Historical Foundation nearly 100-years later.

In the intervening century, *Elissa* passed through several owners, refits and name changes. Eventually she was residing in a scrap yard in Greece awaiting salvage for 190 tons of iron, when marine surveyors recognized her lines and appointments as a graceful sailing ship. Around this time, Galveston Historical Foundation (GHF) had interest in bringing a historical ship to the city to complement the majestic restorations of Victorian Era mansions and marketplaces of the downtown and port areas.

It was by no means a done deal but finding that firm historical connection due to a single load of bananas in 1883 tipped the scales. In 1977, GHF made the long-term commitment to purchase and fund the restoration to *Elissa*'s former sailing glory. After five years and countless hours by volunteers and skilled craftspeople, as well as businesspeople and fund raisers, *Elissa* was inspected, repaired, refitted and restored to her original configuration as a three-masted barque rigged to carry 20 sails.

<sup>1</sup> Adapted from historical display boards onboard *Elissa*, Galveston Historical Foundation

<sup>2</sup> Bellis Bexel, P., *Sailing Ship Elissa*, 1998, Texas A&M University Press, College Station

I was in Galveston in the summer of 1982 and participated as a volunteer in the last weeks of Elissa's restoration. Always a climber, it was no big stretch to be outfitted as a rigger and climb to far corners of the rig to run the lines, make and install baggy wrinkle, mouse the shackles, and tar the ratlines, among the more memorable tasks that bought my ticket to sail training. Late afternoons, the crew ascended up the mast and out along the footropes of the spar arms to learn to set and furl the sails and keep ourselves safe in the process. No harness, but only a line with a loop was worn around the waist and used to clip in as we moved aloft. This was early in the revival of tall ships for sail training, and the Coast Guard had not yet developed the detailed regulations that exist today for training ships and crew safety.

My great fortune was to sail on her very first shake-down cruise under Captain Carl G. Bowman, retired captain of the U.S.C.G. Eagle, before returning to Baltimore for grad school.

There was another Baltimore connection of note. The mountains of blocks needed to outfit and maneuver 10 square sails and 10 fore and aft sails were no longer being manufactured. But the Baltimore purveyor of the South China Sea Marine Trader, an antique and junk shop in Fells Point, had managed to collect old gear from sailing ships as they went down over the years and provided them to GHF. It was the volunteer crews' job to refurbish and install them throughout the rig.

Thus, Elissa began her new life in a second century of sailing, as a part time sail training ship and living history museum. She has made long cruises over these years, including the trip to NYC in 1986 for the Statue of Liberty's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. She continues to hold sail training and conduct days sails every year in the spring. As of this writing, she is in dry dock at Todd Shipyard across bay from Galveston for routine maintenance.

**End Note:**

This past November 2022, we stayed with our nephew in Texas for Thanksgiving. Stefan Berg is a Paramedic for the City of Galveston. We visited the fire station where he works and then went to see Elissa at the dock. It is amazing to gaze up the masts and recall how nimbly I navigated those heights forty years ago and gratifying to see the Galveston Fire Department's incorporation of the Barque Elissa into its crest. Elissa is a Tall Ship for Texas.

ELISSA TODAY ON MARINE TRAFFIC APP





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