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AMM offers Full Moon Dinner Cruise during April



With George Kirvin Floyd
Chairman, AMM

The Apalachicola Maritime Museum (AMM) is hosting a number of activities this Winter including daily tours aboard the US Coast Guard approved 40 passenger catamaran M/V STARFISH ENTERPRISE. Join us on Tuesday, April 11th for a Sunset and Full Moon Rise dinner cruise amid the ambiance of oil lamps and city lights. The menu for the evening will be pesto chicken parmesan stuffed with mozzarella with a white wine Alfredo on penne pasta with sautéed spinach, kale, tomato, fresh garlic and mushrooms with a touch of caramelized onion, Caprice

salad with goat cheese, a key lime pie for dessert and a selection of beverages.

The AMM Founder, George Kirvin Floyd, will be hosting the event which will take guests on an imaginary trip through time to December of 1846 when eleven paddlewheel boats operated on the river system to transport a staggering 153,386 bales of cotton where an equally amazing fleet of 95 ships and barks, 61 brigs and 88 schooners will be reported by the Customs House this year to provide transport of this "white gold" to European markets. He will also provide updates on projects underway at the AMM including the soon to arrive paddlewheel boat JEAN MARY. The STARFISH is operated by a USCG licensed Master Captains and Crew, is heated, surrounded by clear vinyl windows and has a bathroom with wash basin. The cost is \$75 per person

with proceeds to support the educational mission of the AMM. View a video of the trip or book online at links on the web page at <http://staff.ammfl.org/Trips&News.pdf>. Other trips include Estuary Tours, Working Waterfront Tours, trips to St. George and St. Vincent Island and private excursions for large family, group or wedding trips. Every trip includes educational content about our unique maritime heritage, history, estuary ecology provided in both written trip guides and knowledgeable captains and crew.

Wooden Boat Building Classes/ Open House

During the week starting on Monday, April 3rd, the AMM Wooden Boat School (WBS) will be hosting a week long open house demonstrating construction techniques for wooden touring kayaks. The kayak will be constructed from

laminated strakes made of Okume, a tropical hardwood from the Congo region of Africa. Visitors and Volunteers are welcome to come by to view or take part in the construction project under the direction of AMM WBS program manager Nicholas Cupp. The program is paid for by a sponsor or student who takes home the finished project at the end of the class. There are a wide variety of vessels that are able to be constructed in the AMM WBS programs including the Passagemaker sailing / rowing dory, Whitehall rowing shell, Stand Up Paddleboard (SUP), Pirogue, Canoe and the most popular, wooden kayaks. Examples of all of the foregoing constructed by the WBS staff are on display at the AMM at 103 Water Street.

Overall there are more than 60 boat designs to select from. Boat

construction building sponsorship/ student programs run from \$250 to \$2,500 based on the complexity and size of the vessel selected. There are openings for a week long class starting on April 17th and generally run classes on the first and third Monday week of each month. Contact the program manager via email at WoodenBoatSchool@AMMFL.org or by calling the AMM at 850-653-2500 or coming by the AMM at 103 Water Street in downtown Apalachicola. A review from a the December class follows "First, the class in Apalachicola was a blast. The instructor, Nick Cupp, was terrific. Nick was patient, knowledgeable and skilled and made building a boat a blast. The other student and I hit it off as well and I think we are planning a tour once we complete our boats."

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Chart a course of adventure to the past, present and future

MARITIME MUSEUM

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Paddlewheel Boat JEAN MARY journey

The completion and imminent departure of the paddlewheel boat JEAN MARY for the approximate 1,000 mile journey to Apalachicola. Go to the AMM Facebook page to find recently published 360 degree virtual reality views of the interior cabins and entertainment spaces of the JEAN MARY including the Wheelhouse, Salon, Dining Room, Engine Room, Galley and the cabins. Click on the photo to get an all-around view of each location. Use your mouse to scroll around or up and down, or use your phone/tablet device to view it all by simply moving your device to the angle you would like to view. We think you will enjoy the feeling of this virtual reality experience of being here. Now more than just a journey to her new home port, she has now been officially designated by the Franklin County TDC as a promotional ambassador for our Forgotten Coast.

As this article went to press, the new propulsion system has been installed with resumption of sea trials underway and plans for a 214 mile round trip to Sanford to be undertaken as a final four day sea trial. We are very busy punching through the remaining tasks and look forward to departing on the tour of twenty coastal communities in early April with plans to arrive into her new home port of Apalachicola in late May. With the arrival of April we are now just one month short of the fifth anniversary of commencement of the JEAN MARY restoration which began in late May of 2012 with the haul out on the marine rail in Mayport on the St. John's River. Throughout this very demanding endeavor we have faced and overcome many challenges.

All along we held fast to the objective of delivering a vessel capable of meeting the challenges of the Apalachicola Chattahoochee Flint river system. Many unexpected and underestimated hurdles were encountered and ultimately overcome in the renovation effort which is now very near completion. We are sure that in the near future we will be faced with many new challenges in the passage to Apalachicola and subsequent operations on the river and bay. Throughout the endeavor, we maintained the commitment that delays were preferential to deficiencies. With a project that began with a three to six month scope now having spanned over sixty, the resulting outcome is breathtaking albeit a very difficult achievement.

The most significant recent task was the upgrade to the propulsion system on the paddlewheel that will boost torque by 560% while lowering the pressure by increasing the displacement on hydraulic wheel motors by 249%. In addition, we had the valves altered by Ring Power to allow 60 GPM of flow rather than the original 48 GPM to utilize the full amount of flow from the hydraulic pumps. These changes have taken months to plan and implement, but the difference in speed should be very close to the theoretical hull speed of 12.4 knots versus the barely acceptable speed of 4.5 knots of the original configuration. Speed is a parabolic curve requiring exponentially greater torque to increase linear speed so the resulting speed is not precisely calculable. Moreover the effect of possible cavitation may be offset by varying the depth of the wheel in the water, but probably will have a negative effect as RPM of the wheel increases. Whatever the resulting max speed is, we feel certain it will be a sizable improvement and equally important, we expect that

the larger displacement of the new wheel motors will greatly lower the pressure required on the hydraulic system from around 4,000 PSI to around 2,000 PSI which will greatly reduce strain on the pumps and promote much longer life of the components.

On the promotional front, we received a grant from the Franklin County TDC in November of last year to host a promotional event at each of the twenty most significant coastal communities along the way. To this end we have begun planning the educational program that will be coordinated with and conducted for those communities. The emerging plan is to provide the opportunity to come aboard and view this remarkable achievement, to make trips of short duration operated by a captain and crew in period uniform, to provide tasty treats from the galley, to have all on board televisions running a centrally controlled continuous video with educational and promotional content about the history of the boat and the renovation effort, historical role that paddlewheel boats played in Florida, the opportunity to visit the Forgotten Coast of Franklin County to enjoy the treasures of our people, places and the unique opportunities to experience maritime history and heritage in person. We expect this remarkable reflection on the paddlewheel boats of the Antebellum era will soon become a new cornerstone of international appeal that will expand on the appeal of historical travel and life in our forgotten coast. The planned journey to Apalachicola is shown in a red line of the nautical chart of Florida.

The contemplated promotional stopovers include the following cities.

EAST COAST : Jacksonville,

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Jacksonville Beach, St. Augustine, Palm Coast, Daytona Beach / Port Orange, Melbourne / Palm Bay, Vero Beach, Port Saint Lucie.

WEST COAST : Cape Coral / Fort Myers, Port Charlotte, Sarasota, St. Petersburg, Tampa / Clearwater, Tarpon Springs, Crystal River.
NORTHWEST COAST : Cedar Key, Saint Marks, Ochlocknee Bay, Carrabelle, Apalachicola.

During each stopover, we will host a day long reception with hors-horderves with a desk full of promotional literature and trip information. We may do short tours as fundraisers for local community charitable organizations.

In preparation for the promotional trip, we will undertake a 107 mile voyage on the St. John's River which also has a rich history stemming from the paddlewheel era. The trip will run southward (upriver) from Green Cove Springs where she is currently docked. We will travel to and make our first overnight stop at Palatka. Then we depart early the next morning to continue travel upriver with brief stops at San Mateo, Welaka, and Georgetown before traveling on to Lake George where we will overnight at Silver Glen Spring run before starting on to Sanford at lake Monroe before embarking on the journey back to the docks at Green Cove Springs. It is our plan that the paddlewheel boat will make overnight trips spanning from a few days to week long trips. The shorter excursions will be to the barrier islands The ponds at St. Vincent, Lower Anchorage off of Little St. George and Ballast Cover on Dog Island ... and to other nearby coastal cities, bays and the archipelago of small islands and rivers in the river delta region. Longer trips will go all the way to Columbus, GA in the fashion of historical riverboats that once flourished in the 19th and early 20th century. She will carry up to 12 passengers and offer opulent accommodations, extraordinary dining and an unparalleled educational experience.