



Shipshape

Volume XVI, Issue XI

4th Qtr 2013

“The Queen of the Great Lakes”

S.S. Milwaukee Clipper



Dedication, giving and enthusiasm come to mind as I look back over 8 short months as a board member, and one as President. I stand in awe of what the volunteers of the *Clipper* have accomplished this year. Challenging goals were overcome and completed using good old sweat and improvisation. We are blessed with outstanding supporters and volunteers.

I am looking forward to next year and the opportunities it brings to the *Clipper*. I would like to wish all of you and your family a very happy holiday.

John Stein



A thousand welcomes to John our new President !!

CLIPPER AUCTION AND BRUNCH

Muskegon Country Club May 18th, 2014

Put the date on your schedule. WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!! We are looking for new and different items, trips and overnight stays to auction. Again we need your help. Let's make this the best auction to date!! Also we are in need of additional volunteers for the auction planning and the day of the event. If you would like to help, call Gene Fethke at 231-722-2375.



Article from Ray Hilt

Another summer season has come and gone, and it is difficult to keep track of where the year has gone. We are removing the ship models on the 17th and getting them back up to Ken Jillbert in Manistee. They were a great attraction again this year, and I am very grateful to him for loaning them to us. The ship's store had some new items in stock, and they will be offered for sale at the auction/brunch coming up in May 2014. There were a number of antique boat motors (referred to as rowboat motors) and an early 1 HP inboard engine on display in the Ginman Room along with the *Clipper* and *Juniata* ship models, as well as wall posters about early engines, including one built in Muskegon. There were also collections of early photos of the interior of the *Juniata*, and a series of pictures of the only wedding reception we have been allowed to have onboard.

One display that we did not get finished for this year was the display of deck chairs from different Great Lakes passenger steamships. Part of the problem was it took longer to get the large *Juniata* deck chair finished, and we also did not get the room finished. That will be remedied for next season. One thing that slows us down is manpower. Remember all of us are volunteers, and paid with the satisfaction of what we are accomplishing to save our magnificent ship. We sure could use more volunteers for working on the auction, on the ship in many categories, tour guides, archiving our extensive collection, and on and on. You can get dirty or not, it is your choice, but we all have a lot of fun along with our jobs, and we have volunteer parties scattered throughout the year. We have our last one for the year coming up just after Christmas. Join us--you won't be sorry!

Our president's wife, who has extensive experience in retailing, has agreed to work with us regarding improvements in the ship's store in both it's presentation and it's stock. We would like to have the store stocked with items that are Great Lakes and nautical in nature that are not seen everywhere. It just might be worth taking a trek down to the ship and looking at it next season for that special gift you might be looking for.

I am looking for full length store mannequins, both male and female to model some of the original *Clipper* clothing for the museum. We have the clothing, but do not have the display mannequins. Could use a few half models also, but we need mostly full length models. If anyone knows of a source for these, please let me know.

In regard to the Auction/ Brunch, the auction committee is going to have new items to bid on, and elaboration on some of our prior offerings. Don't forget to get tickets!

Ray Hilt
Milwaukee Clipper Museum and Ship's Store

I hope all of you have a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas





Here we are with the last newsletter of year 2013. In review of this past year, all in all it's been a pretty good year all things considered.

We started out with that great presentation aboard the *Queen Mary* in Long Beach, Ca. and the Shippossium II conference. The *Milwaukee Clipper* was part of the program and was well received and our thanks to Ralph McCrea for help in making it happen. The tours of the various museum ships, ranging from the *Battery Iowa* on down to the *Presidential Yacht Patomic*, on up to San Francisco harbor. It was a very interesting and compact seven days, seeing and listening to the various successes, failures and in between problems our category has encountered.

One of many questions was, "where are the future volunteers coming from and what great values in the next generation are going to put on these historic vessels?"

Speaking of historic vessels, how would you like to be the group that is trying to preserve the historic *S.S. United States*, the fastest ocean liner afloat? It cost \$500,000 to \$600,000 each month to insure the vessel at it's Philadelphia dock? More about that later.

Our annual Spring Auction was once again a very successful operation, thanks to Gene Fethke and his great group of people, which by the way are well into working on next years' event May 18, 2014.

Jim Plant and his well informed tour guides, also had another fine year. Not only were there the local people, but from out of the area, and from out of state. That should tell you something about the tourist value of this operation! The summer weather cooperated most of the time on tour days, only once did we have to shut down due to the weather.

Stan Huey retired from McGuyver Country and Rick Lacy has taken over and doing an excellent job. He is a retired Navy man and in civilian life was a machinist. For his navy shipboard duties, he was in charge of damage control. In that position you must be able to handle any number of problems that come up. So with his background, he should be able to keep us moving right along. He also has a son, Bill, who has shown some of his great welding ability on a few of our problems.

Rick Wilson is still our lead man in the welding department and is doing a fine job here and with other veteran groups.

We were pleased to put up another plaque in honor of all the work Sandy and Dave Ferski have done in restoring the Captains Stateroom. All that remains, is to find some of the original furniture. On this occasion there was a group of volunteers, from The First Catholic Slovak Union Branch #595, aka "Tatra Hall" to help celebrate this occasion. I'm hoping we may be able to recruit some new volunteers from that group!

Tom Bell and his crew were determined to get the port side of the boat deck finished. They got it all chipped, undercoated and primed, and most of the finish coat on before the weather turned. Save something for next year, right? So we battened down the hatches for the winter months and are thankful for what was accomplished.

JoAn Pietila and her group of ladies have once again done a fine job of housekeeping throughout the season and now have covered and bedded down all the ships great collection of Warren McArthur furniture for the winter months.

We also had Ray Boomer retiring and Pat Haug taking over that position. Boomer has been a volunteer as long as I can remember. The ship is docked at the Grand Truck carferry dock and Ray worked for G.T., so I think he was there when I brought the ship in and has been there ever since, always willing to help wherever he could.

The only sad news to report is the passing of Captain Chuck Carriere. Chuck and I became shipmates on the *Clipper* shortly after she first came out. Also around that time, there was a quiet gal working in the Soda Bowl, by the name of Marilyn, that Chuck took a fancy to. So on May 9, 1953, he and Marilyn were married. Chuck spent most of his working time sailing the Great Lakes and East Coast. His last seafaring job was as Captain of the *S.S. Beattle*, a passenger ship out of the Detroit area. After retiring here in Muskegon, both he and Marilyn did security duty out in the security trailer. He was helping with the layup work this fall, when he became ill. He will be greatly missed by all.

I almost forgot to mention the nice party that the *Clipper* Board threw for the end -of-season for all of the year 2013 volunteers, and now we are looking forward to the annual Christmas Party.

Without the great group of volunteers, past-and-present, the *Clipper* would never be in the great shape she is in now and next year will even be better.

Wishing everyone a joyful holiday season and a healthy Happy New Year.



Smooth Sailing
Captain Bob Prierer



BE ACTIVE!!

by Jim Plant

The secret to staying healthy is to be active and have many friends. Join our *Clipper* volunteers. Even though December weather makes it difficult to think about warmer weather, it's a good time to think about what fun and rewarding things you might put on your schedule for next Summer. You will be sharing your time with very nice people and at the same time doing your waistline a favor.

The activities (exercises) are numerous: painting, cleaning, and welding, to mention a few -- good for the waist line with all the bending and stretching. These activities are held every Tuesday and Thursday and some Saturdays during the warm Spring, Summer and Fall weather, usually about four to six hours. If you like to get up early there is a breakfast get together occasionally at a near by restaurant before the "exercises" begin. Camaraderie is the name of this part of the day's activities.

If you are not in need of the above exercises, on Saturday and Sunday the ship is open for tours from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The activities involved include climbing up and down the four flights of stairs as you guide tour guests through our "Big Lady" -- an easy way to get in your stair climber exercises, all the while, you are meeting some very interesting tour guests that come from all over the U.S. and some foreign countries. We have a very inclusive tour guide manual that will get you up to speed on the history of the *Clipper* so you will be at ease answering most questions the guests ask.

Skills to perform most jobs can be learned on the "job". The volunteers include very knowledgeable people to teach the proper skills necessary. Tools and materials are provided. The only cost to the volunteers is their time and hopefully, their enthusiasm for helping restore and preserve one of Muskegon's National Historic Landmarks.

There are a few perks: You'll enjoy one of the best views of Muskegon Lake as you work with your *Clipper* friends. Pop and water are furnished at break times. Occasionally volunteers bring cookies or other snacks to share. Several volunteer parties through the year have always enjoyed popularity and are eagerly anticipated.

So—don't put it off, stay active, it's not only healthful, it's fun. Call me, Jim Plant, at 213-744-5101 to get more information on how to become part of the *Clipper* family.

Dear Everyone,



As I mentioned in previous newsletters, I am compiling *Clipper* stories for a large picture "coffee table" book. My request to you is to write down your experiences about our "Big Girl". E-mail your writings to me at mlplant@comcast.net, or mail them to me at 3009 Memorial Dr., Muskegon, MI 49445. Even phone me for a chat. 231-744-5101.

The Clipper Story-- Part One is titled "The Ship and her people" -- Part Two is "The Volunteers and Their Boat" .

I'm missing the following issues of the *Clipper* newsletters: (# means the quarters-- the months may be different)--**June #2, 1998; Sept #3, 1998; June # 2, 2000; Sept #3, 2001; June #2, 2003; Sept #3, 2003; March #1, 2005.** I hope some one has one or all these copies. Please, mail them to me and I will copy them and promptly return them to the sender, OR please, send me the copies you make. If I can get the ones listed I'll have a complete set of the *Clipper* newsletter from day one.

Thank you,
Marylouise Plant

Received from a faithful supporter:

Dear *Milwaukee Clipper* personnel,

I found the enclosed newspaper clipping in one of my piles of memorabilia and thought you might be interested in seeing it. I don't need it back, nor do I know the year.

It reminded me of the day back in June of 1946, when my parents, brother and I took the *Clipper* across Lake Michigan on our way from Flint to Yellowstone Park, in celebration of my high school graduation and my brothers' leaving the Navy.

It was an exciting and fun occasion as we drove on board, got the car parked, and headed out on deck. Unfortunately, we ended up spending all our time, except for a few difficult walks to the restroom, sitting on deck because it was a very rough trip and our snug place on deck seemed to be where we were least affected by the ship's movements. Many people were sea sick.

Sitting on deck like that, kept us from enjoying the *Clipper* to the fullest, which I so regret. Surprisingly, the sun shone the whole time, and we ended up with sunburned faces.

My husband and I did enjoy a tour one summer soon after you began the restoration work, and I was pleased to recognize some of the inside and appreciate the work you had already done. It's wonderful what you've been able to do since and the progress you've made. I may have told my '46 story when I was there at that time. I'm hoping I will be able to come back for another visit sometime soon.

Best Wishes,
Dorothy Sherburne, Holland, MI



Get well wishes go out to JoAn Pietila, who is a member of the cleaning crew and a member of the *Clipper* board. She was in the hospital for something (not so serious), but while there she fell and severely broke her right arm. She's been in a sling for six weeks now and going to therapy. Also get well wishes to Captain Bob, he had carpal tunnel surgery on his left wrist. Everyone else, please stay healthy and enjoy the holidays.

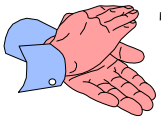
Message retrieved from the S.S. Milwaukee Clipper Preservation Inc.'s Timeline, submitted by Dave Olszewski July 2013:

"Hi, I came there yesterday for touring. It was my first time I see ship there. It was lovely. I glad you take good care of her. Only few ship museums are still in Michigan. Last year S.S. Keewatin moved to Canada. I miss her. I worked on her in 1980. Also I take touring of City of Milwaukee in about 1992. I wish they would move to Muskegon. I hope Milwaukee Clipper will have new home soon and open as Bed and Breakfast, museum and etc. In 1980 I came to that dock. Grand Trunk Car Ferries' two ships were there. One had fire from arson. I can see burning dock there. I was surprised they still not tear down dock there. I hope I will come back there again next year. She is pretty ship. Take good care of ship. "

Thanksgiving holiday just passed, but we want you to know that "all year long" we thank all of you who support us with your time and energy, and of course those of you who support us financially. It's impossible to list each name, but you know who you are and we truly thank you in our hearts. We couldn't do what we do on board without your support to buy the supplies and tools we need. Thank you so much, may you get a puppy for Christmas!

The *Clipper* Crew





Thank you to our sponsors!

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Remember all items donated are tax deductible, we are a 501©3 organization.




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Thank You

John Carlson has donated a nearly new Hobarth mg welder for the ship. It is complete with oxygen tank and spare tips and rods. It is a piece of equipment that is sorely needed onboard, and it is portable. A quality piece of equipment. We are most grateful to John for his timely donation.

Merci

Could your business use some new customers?

Business card size \$120 annually - Quarter Page \$240 - Half Page - \$460 - Full page Ad \$900.

Call 231-755-8066 to reserve your space today. Thank you in advance for your support on the progress of the preservation efforts.

SPECIAL THANKS to some of our local businesses, who help behind the scenes: **MICRGRAPHICS**, who prints the Newsletter and does the mailings; **LAKESIDE EMPORIUM**, and **S & G SHOOTERS** who support our efforts by displaying a canister for donations, and has a supply of newsletters for distribution;

You can always get a copy of the newsletter at **The Convention and Visitors Bureau**. Not to leave out all the other local businesses who support the Spring Auction. We always have multiples of businesses who donate items for the fundraiser. Thanks to our generous supporters - without them, we really would be "Dead-in-the-Water"!

Thanks to all.

FRIENDS OF THE S.S. MILWAUKEE CLIPPER

Support the restoration and preservation of the S. S. Milwaukee Clipper – A National Historic Landmark!

The *S. S. Milwaukee Clipper* Preservation Inc. is a 501(c)3 non profit organization. All donations are tax deductible! Donations will be anonymous unless otherwise requested.

Please accept the enclosed donation of \$ _____ in support of the efforts of *S. S. Milwaukee Clipper* Preservation, Inc. in memory/honor of _____.

Earmark these funds for the following project(s): _____ (Call for suggestions)

Please place my name and address as listed below on the mailing list for *Shipshape*, the quarterly newsletter.

I would be willing to volunteer my time to the following *Clipper* activities:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|
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| Working on the newsletter | Maintenance |
| Museum/Gift Shop assistance | Restoration work |
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I would like to volunteer ! Please contact me at the address below with more information.

Name _____

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Please mail this form to:

S. S. Milwaukee Clipper Preservation Inc.
PO Box 1370
Muskegon, MI 49443-1370
OR

Send the above information via email to: milwaukeeclipper@gmail.com

The *S. S. Milwaukee Clipper* Preservation Inc, a non-profit 501(c)3 corporation, was organized in April, 1997 for the sole purpose of restoring and preserving the steamship *S. S. Milwaukee Clipper* and to create an on-board Great Lakes Maritime Museum to educate and inform the public about our Great Lakes maritime heritage.

Your continuing donations and volunteerism will ensure our success!

Thank you for your support!



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