

June 10, 2018

Vallejo Shipmates:

It has been quite some time since I've updated you on things at the museum and progress on the Sail Project. This note aims to explain and remedy that situation.

As most of you know, I served on Vallejo as a Radioman from July 1969 until July 1975. I retired in 1989 while serving at Mare Island and have been active at Mare Island Museum and in the Save-Our-Sail Project since 2011.

Early in 2017 the Board of Directors (of which I am the Secretary) learned that the Foundation was in arrears regarding tax filings (state and federal). Consequently, the state attorney general's office revoked our 501c3 (nonprofit) status.

As you may recall from verbal briefings I presented at the past two reunions, the foundation's founder (and Board President) is elderly, and had, since the foundation was established, maintained total control of the finances. Quarterly financial reports to the BOD were vague and usually inaccurate. But because the founder was contributing significant amounts of money to keep us afloat, his idiosyncrasies were tolerated.

When the BOD learned of the loss of nonprofit status, the founder was unceremoniously "retired". A new President was elected, as was a full-time Executive Director. We immediately went to work to regain our 501c3 status, and I am happy to report that we were successful in doing that. Effective May 30, 2018 we regained nonprofit status, and because we successfully proved that the root cause was addressed and corrected, the action was made retroactive.

While we were operating as a "for profit" corporation, we could not legally solicit contributions. Because we could not seem to deactivate the nonprofit "Donate" buttons on our web sites, the sites were totally deactivated until the end of May when the situation was solved. The sites www.mareislandmuseum.org and www.saveoursail.com are again active.

While all this was going on, very little in the form of "planning" could be accomplished. And a protracted discussion regarding the "property line" of our leased property prevented breaking-ground on the Sail Project in front of the museum. Some Directors have retired from the BOD, including John Chamberlin who was the SOS Project Manager. I have assumed that responsibility.

Also during our idle time, the two buildings immediately to our north have been totally renovated and will soon open as Savage & Cooke Distillery. One of the two gents behind Savage & Cooke is being VERY supportive of the museum. You literally will not believe the property improvements that have occurred near the museum. I will include some photos.

The good news on the Sail Project is that the City of Vallejo, Lennar Mare Island (our property managers) and Savage & Cooke met with me last week to discuss ideas they have for building our monument to the builders and sailors of the 658. Rather than us having to use what precious little parking space we have at the museum, the idea is to build the monument very near where the sail now sits, on Building Ways #2. Savage and Cooke plans to makes Building Ways #1 an outdoor concert venue. Imagine concert-goers looking over at a beautiful, properly lighted monument featuring the sail while listening to live music. The crane gantries are in the process of being blasted and painted as I write this. They also will be appropriately lighted.

There are many details yet to be resolved, but at last week's "concept" meeting it was agreed that we should be able to finish the job by October 2019! Wouldn't it be great to have a grand-opening ceremony during a reunion on the (53rd) anniversary of the launching of our boat? (Launch was October 23rd, 1966.) I am excited about the possibilities!

Additional meetings will occur soon, and I will try to keep you all advised of our progress. I know this project is LONG overdue and believe me I appreciate your continued support! Please take the time to respond to blinne@pacbell.net with your comments on this change of venue (move to the Building Ways). Also, keep an eye on Jim Carter's web site for more information – www.ssb658.org is the place.

Regards,

W.F. Bill Linné

Photos:

Image1 is a recent view of the sail after some old structures were demolished behind the museum and a new (temporary) fence installed.

Image2 shows the caliber of work done by Savage & Cooke.

Image3 shows the tend that housed the grand unveiling ceremony for S&C, but also shows a crane gantry after blasting and painting. All the gantries will look that nice when finished.

Sail fm West shows a rendering of what the sail would have looked like in front of the museum. We intend to build a monument much like that, but on Building Ways #2.

Historic Core Master show one idea that was proposed for orienting the sail much as she was at launch, with the boat outline on the ground to give visitors an idea of the scale.







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