

August 2020



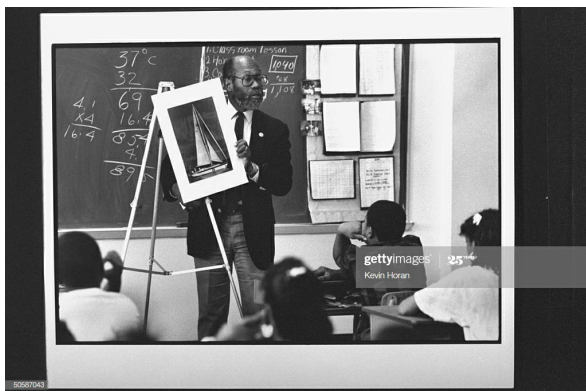
# on the Move

*Local maritime news, events and history from the Chicago Maritime Museum*

**Calling All Underwater Divers, Shanty Singers,  
Mac Race Sailors and Model Ship Builders!**



Join us for the first-ever **CMM Festival** virtual fundraiser, featuring Chicago's very-own around-the-world sailor, **Captain Bill Pinkney**, and renowned maritime folk musician **Lee Murdock**, set for Thursday, October 22.



In what is sure to be a rollicking evening of friendly competition, at-home participants are encouraged to join sponsored maritime groups when they register for the event. We anticipate these sponsored groups will form competitive teams that might be: **Mac Race Sailors, Maritime History Buffs, Fishermen, Canoe & Kayakers, Underwater Divers, Chicago Riverwalkers, Shanty Singers** or **Model Ship Builders** to vie for the honor of being the top fundraisers. See the **CMMFestival sponsorship package** on the website to learn more about opportunities for naming rights and perks for these groups of CMM supporters.

The CMM board envisions that a portion of the **CMMFestival** will be presented from the repaired and renovated CMM Museum, with local historical reenactors standing by to add excitement. The evening's professional auctioneer will interact in real-time with the festival attendees and provide the opportunity to show support for the museum, its programs, and exhibits.

The event's keynote speaker, Captain Pinkney, is the fifth American to sail around the world passing through all five great capes and the world's first black man to sail the great capes route via Cape Horn, considered the most dangerous. An original "tele-teacher," long before COVID-19, Captain Pinkney was teaching schoolchildren about the science of sailing via satellite aboard his sailboat **Commitment** in 1990 during his solo voyage around the world.

A lively after-party music festival will open with a concert by maritime folk musician, storyteller and historian Lee Murdock.

Registration is free and easy. More event details can be found on our [CMMFestival webpage](#). To register now, click the button below.

**Please register before October 15.**

[Register Now](#)

---

*the Curator's Corner* by Dylan Hoffmann

## **Whaleback Ore Carrier *John Ericsson***



Alexander Maxwell's captivation with the whaleback ore carrier **John Ericsson** began when he saw a picture of the ship in his textbook at Evanston Township High School in 1920.

Obsessed with ships and nautical lore, he ran away from home and landed a job as a deckhand on an ore boat. He saw the **John Ericsson** loading iron ore at Two Harbors, Minnesota and was able to work out a transfer with a crew member on the mighty whaleback. For thirty dollars a month he painted every exterior surface, cleaned cabins, and fought to open and close the 400-pound hatch covers on the **Ericsson**.

In the fall of 1922, Alexander returned home, finished high school, then graduated college and became an engineer. He never lost his passion for ships and sailing. In the 1930s he decided to build a model of the **John Ericsson**, working from a set of original blueprints from the United States Steel Corporation.

He tracked down the **John Ericsson** to its berth in Port Colbourne on the Welland Canal and took several photographs. The completed model inspired by Alexander Maxwell's childhood recollections and the original blueprints and photographs were given to the Chicago Maritime Museum by his daughter Diana Maxwell in 1991.

In May, the Chicago Maritime Museum sustained a devastating stormwater sewage backup and the model of the **John Ericsson** was affected. The hand-built model was in a display case; however, it took on some water. The **Ericsson** model was quickly removed from the scene. We are fortunate that expert model builder, Glenn Braun, is working diligently to clean and restore this exceptional model.

Thank you to all who have donated to our recovery efforts. Your generosity and support are instrumental in preserving the collection.

---

## Great Lakes Water Temperatures are Blowing Away Records

An exceptionally hot weather pattern has pushed water temperatures in most of the lakes to the highest levels on record.



[Read More Here](#)

---

## Once a Neglected Waterway, Chicago River Begins to Thrive



Margaret Frisbie joined Good Day Chicago to talk more about the health of the Chicago River during the time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Watch Clip Here](#)

---

## ***A Most Beautiful Thing Documents Chicago's First Black Rowing Team***

Read how these boys from the Chicago's West Side became not just the country's first all-Black rowing team but did so against a backdrop of poverty, racism, and death.



[Read Article Here](#)

---

## **Maritime Event Calendar**

Check out local maritime events at the Chicago Maritime Museum website calendar page:

<https://www.chicagomaritimemuseum.org/events.html>

Submit maritime events in the Chicagoland area or story ideas to Mary Ann O'Rourke at [maorourke@ameritech.net](mailto:maorourke@ameritech.net).

---

*We hope you've enjoyed our monthly e-newsletter, On the Move.  
If you have a Chicago maritime story idea please forward it to  
maorourke@ameritech.net*

