

# Steamboat Era Museum: A Transitional Year

## 2013 Annual Report





*The Steamboat Era Museum collects and preserves artifacts of the Steamboat Era on the Chesapeake Bay. Through the design of dynamic exhibits and educational programs, the Museum illustrates and interprets the important economic and lifestyle changes Steamboats brought to Virginia and Maryland communities on the Bay from 1813 until 1937.*





## President's Message



### Board of Directors

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2013 will be recorded in the Captain's log as a year of transition. After months of searching for a new director, our Board unanimously selected Barbara Brecher from a very competitive field of candidates. Since coming aboard in September, Barbara has hit the deck running.

We also have transitioned to new Volunteer Coordinator Co-chairs of Fran Kelly and Barbara Baxter. Last year, Joanne Pheris stepped down after serving several years in that role while Nancy Newlin graciously took on that responsibility through the end of 2013.

Other changes which took place last fall were updating our Museum's logo and the decision to begin charging a \$5 admission fee, with children under 12 and active military free. After years of relying on donations at the door, it became apparent we could no longer depend on visitor donations to cover our basic expenses.

Our three major fundraising events last year were very successful.. The second annual Irvington Crab Festival was a sell-out, thanks to chair, Frank Tetrick, and his team. SEM's net income from the festival nearly doubled over the previous year! Also, the income from our Holiday House Tour & More and Mah Jong events, along with the generosity of our members and supporters, helped us end the year on a positive financial sounding.

Our ship remains strong and steady thanks to the support from our staff and volunteers, our donors, and our community.

We are truly indebted to your kind support. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Eric F. Nost  
President



Eric Nost introduces the museum's new Executive Director, Barbara Brecher, at a reception in September.

## Museum 2013

In 2013 we began planning for new exhibits, rearranging and redesigning several of the existing exhibits, writing new descriptive labels and giving the museum an overall new “look” for the 2014 season.



The process began with a redesigned logo.

Through a series of questions provided by Katherine Bruce, the graphic designer for this project, the board of directors and others in the community were able to give direction for the rebranding of the museum. With this input she presented 3 options to the museum director and executive committee. The choice of the committee was unanimous and the new logo was introduced to the full board and others to great reviews. You will be seeing this logo on museum communications as well as museum oriented products in the shop.

In addition to the new mark, work began on redesigning the gift shop. Sales in October and November reduced the inventory to just a few items, which were donated to the Grace Church sale. Beginning in December the design of Museum related items as well as choosing inventory was underway. Look for museum t-shirts, mugs, puzzles and more as well as unique, USA handmade items.



A new exhibit arrived at the museum in September. The large diorama, depicting the stages of building a steamboat at the Sparrow Point shipbuild yard in Baltimore, was not exhibited during the 2013 season. The diorama was designed and built by Gerge Frayne, Bill Wright and the late Bob Butler. It was kept under wraps so it could be exhibited, during the 2014 season, in the newly arranged main exhibit hall.

At the December 2013 board meeting, an admission fee to the museum was approved. The board made the painful decision because it realized the museum could no longer rely on door donations to cover expenses. General admission will be \$5.00. Children under 12 and active military will be free. Of course, additional door donations are always appreciated!

At the end of last year board member Fran Kelly and volunteer Barbara Baxter agreed to take on the enormous task of volunteer co-coordinators. This task became more complicated due to the decision to charge admission, which requires a volunteer be at the reception desk at all times. Fran and Barbara began the task of finding more volunteers and scheduling two people for each time slot.

The Virginia Foundation for the Humanities grant for the collection of oral histories was completed. In 2013, we began the process of exploring various methods of enhancing the visitor experience through these histories. In addition, more oral histories were uploaded on YouTube and the museum website.

## Events 2013

2013 was another busy year at the Museum. In addition to an increase in visitors, which kept our docents busy, there were a number of special events which helped support the museum and its mission.

### Irvington Crab Festival



The 2013 Crab Festival was a huge success. A sold out event with over 750 attendees, the “all you can eat” crab dinner raised over \$20,000. A very special thank you to board member Frank Tetrick and his volunteer crew for making it the best “crab pickin’ party” on the Northern Neck! Music was once again provided by *Jumbo Lump Daddy and the Backfin Boys*.

The following businesses and individuals made it all happen. We are grateful to our sponsors for their generosity and hope you will thank them too, by supporting their businesses.

**Lump Back Fin \$5,000+**  
Chesapeake Bank

**Big Claw \$2,000+**  
Bank of Lancaster

**Jimmie \$1,000+**  
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River & Creek  
Tide's Inn  
Town of Irvington  
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White Stone Pharmacy

**Old Bay \$250+**  
Jim Dan Dee  
Rappahannock Record  
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**Crab Pot \$125+**  
Anonymous  
Anonymous  
The Dandelion



Frank Tetrick, chair of the 2013 Crab Festival, adjusts a sign announcing the event.



Enjoying the food!



*Jumbo Lump Daddy and the Backfin Boys* kept the place hoppin'.



Theresa Ransome serves up hot dogs.

### Mah Jong

The Mah Jong events continued to be very popular. Not only did they help raise funds for the museum, the participants enjoyed lunch followed by spirited (and friendly) competition.







## Holiday House Tour

The Holiday House Tour on December 7, 2013 was a great success. All of the houses were off Fleets Bay Road and included a “Southern” Bed and Breakfast, a highly customized 10,000 square foot transitional home with a barn housing vintage cars and an upscale paired residence, one traditional and the other contemporary.

Thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Philip Bolling, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Lawler, Mr. and Mrs. Jamie Stalnaker, and Ms. Susan Moenssens for graciously opening their homes in support of the Museum.



The Stalnaker Home



Susan Moenssens's Flowering Fields Bed and Breakfast



The Lawler Home



The Bolling Home



Book signings at the Museum.

## & More!

During the House Tour, four local authors signed and sold their books at the Museum. The books included *Chippiepierre's Magic Paintbrush Tail-A Steamboat Adventure* by Barbara Deitz, *Dewi and the Seeds of Doom* and *Vin and Dorky Duet* by Maggie Lyons, *Houses of Irvington-Architecture of an American Village*, by Steven Reiss and *Rivah Friends-A Northern Neck Adventure with Cralle Cove and Hank* by Barbara Brecher. A percentage of the sales was donated to the Museum.

Once again, the Holiday House Tour & More would not have taken place without the support of our amazing volunteers.

## Volunteer Thank You

On December 10 a thank-you coffee was held for volunteers. Jo Anne Pheris and Nancy Newlin were honored for coordinating and scheduling volunteers during the 2013 season. Anne McClintock was given a pin in celebration of her many years of volunteer work.

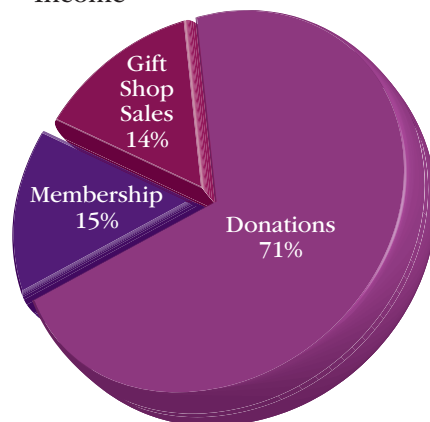
The theme of the event was “Steamboat Era” desserts. Volunteers made desserts and finger food from their grandmothers’, mothers’ and aunts’ recipes. Each volunteers received a mug, a chocolate lollipop in the shape of a steamboat and a small booklet containing all the recipes made for the party. The recipe booklet was so successful, we are working on a larger Steamboat Era Recipe book. Look for it in the gift shop in 2014.

As always, we thank our volunteers without whom the museum would not exist.

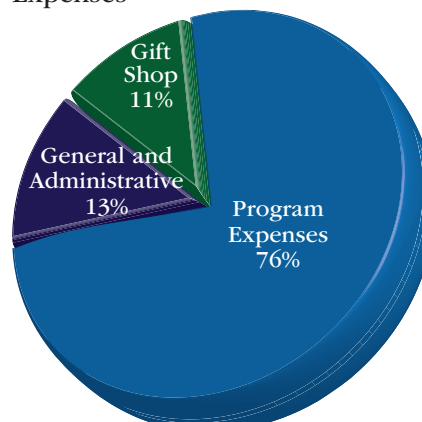


## 2013 Financials\*

Income



Expenses



*\*If you would like to see more in depth financial information, please contact the museum office.*

## Donations and Memberships 2013

### Gifts in-kind and donations

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Engineering Companies  
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Mr. & Mrs. Richard T. Wilson, III

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**\$500-\$999**

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Mr. & Mrs. Eric Nost

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**\$250-\$499**

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Mr. & Mrs. Greg Kirkbride  
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Mr. William Otley  
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Barbara Baxter  
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Jackie Burrell  
Mary Anne Campbell  
Don Conord  
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Virginia Fleet  
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Kathy Meyer  
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