



SAVING LIVES THEN. CHANGING LIVES NOW.

## HULL LIFESAVING MUSEUM

The *Messenger Line* is the museum's periodic newsletter. A life-saving crew initiated a rescue involving a breeches buoy by firing a line-carrying projectile from shore to ship using a small, cannon-like gun. This first, light line, that was used to haul a series of ever-stouter lines to the wreck, was known as *the messenger line*.

# The Messenger Line

November 2010



1117 NANTASKET AVENUE, HULL, MA 02045 • 781-925-5433 • HULLLIFESAVINGMUSEUM.ORG

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### *Here's to Holiday Cheer!!!*

## Pub Night with the Jolly Rogues

Friday, December 3, 7-10 pm, at the Museum

**\$25 museum members; \$30 nonmembers**

The Jolly Rogues will help us ring in the season on Friday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, raising a pint to holiday cheer! The Jolly Rogues are a marvelous, eclectic band of musicians and singers, with a varied, intriguing repertoire of 18th and 19th century material from period commemorative tunes, tavern/drinking songs, romantic ballads, sea shanties, children's ditties, and Irish tunes.

Join us for a foot-stomping good time, as we transform the museum into a festive neighborhood, holiday tavern, filled with joyous Celtic music and hearty pub fare. Don't miss this delightful and relaxed evening of seasonal merriment.

Tickets are available at the door or online at [hulllifesavingmuseum.org](http://hulllifesavingmuseum.org).



## Icebreaker: Northeast Regional Youth Open Water Rowing Championships

Saturday, November 20

9 am - 4 pm

Windmill Point Boathouse, Hull

Come watch the best youth open-water rowers in the region – from New York City, New Haven, New Bedford, Boston Harbor and the Massachusetts coast, Lake Champlain, and Maine's North Haven and Vinalhaven – compete for the coveted "Key to the Harbor." The day offers great opportunities to watch over 200 young people give everything they've got during a day of non-stop round-robin style racing, inspirational



athletics, and sportsmanship. This race is by invitation only; pre-registration is required. Race information is available on the museum's website. With questions, please call 781-925-5433.

## Thanksgiving Open House

Saturday, November 27, 10 - 2

### Free Admission

We are thankful for our wonderful members and community! All are invited to a Thanksgiving Weekend Open House, with free admission, on Saturday, November 27, 10 am – 2 pm. Featured exhibits include *Keeping A Weather Eye*, a fascinating look at Boston Harbor's lifesaving heritage, and the Maritime Program Exhibit, portraying our modern-day "life saving."

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**Hoist, Heave & Haul!**  
**Simple Machines**  
**at Sea**  
**Opening January 22, 2011**  
**10 am – 2 pm;**  
**Free Admission**

SIMPLE MACHINES AT SEA

Get ready to play! We are thrilled to announce that our new hands-on exhibit and curriculum *Hoist, Heave & Haul: Simple Machines at Sea* will open on January 22, 2011. The new family-friendly exhibit draws attention to the numerous simple machines already on display in our historical exhibits — oars, boat ramps, blocks, rudders and more. Visitors of all ages are invited to experiment and invent at design stations throughout the exhibit.

*Hoist, Heave & Haul* has been developed in collaboration with local teachers, and has been funded by the Frances R. Dewing Foundation and the Hull, Hingham, Cohasset and Weymouth Cultural Councils. The exhibit will run through fall 2011. The curriculum, which includes classroom workshop kits, will become a lasting part of the museum's educational offerings. Join us for Simple Saturday!, January 22, 10 am-2 pm.

## South Shore Youth Rowing Winter 2011

***When the Tough Keep Going!***

**Mondays and Wednesdays, 3:30 - 5 pm**

**January 19 - March 12**

**\$120 members, \$160 non-members.**

***A limited number of partial scholarships are available.***

Rowing in winter is utterly sublime. The air is crystalline, the waters are transparent, and the crew is motivated! Often imitated, never equaled, the Hull Lifesaving Museum's South Shore Youth Rowing program joyously explores Boston Harbor and the islands in a welcoming, inclusive atmosphere. It is a co-ed program for middle and high school kids, ages 12-18. No experience is needed – only enthusiasm and a sense of adventure! And, winter season rowing means a seat in the Snow Row, THE not-to-be-missed event of the year! Please register early; space is limited. Registration information is available on the museum's website, [hulllifesavingmuseum.org](http://hulllifesavingmuseum.org). For additional information, call 781-925-5433 or email [info@hulllifesavingmuseum.org](mailto:info@hulllifesavingmuseum.org).

## HLM Membership

Our *Septembership* campaign is off to a great start as we have shifted our membership renewal to an annual fall campaign. Thank you to all who have renewed your membership in the last few weeks for your continued support of the Hull Lifesaving Museum. If you have not yet had a chance to reply, we encourage you to send in your renewal today. Your membership lends vital support to our programs and mission. In return, members receive free unlimited admission for museum visits, discounted prices to our special events, electronic updates on events, 10% discount in our museum store, and our quarterly newsletter, *The Messenger Line*. Members renewing at levels of \$100 or more receive a CAMM (Council of American Maritime Museums) card providing free admission to more than 60 maritime museums across the United States. We have three easy ways to join: on the web: [www.hulllifesavingmuseum.org](http://www.hulllifesavingmuseum.org); by email: [info@hulllifesavingmuseum.org](mailto:info@hulllifesavingmuseum.org); or, by phone: 781-925-5433. Please join us today!

## MAP-Made Adirondack Chairs

**\$150 each; available in Blue, Red, Green, and Melon**  
**Order now for the Holiday**

The MAP apprentice elves are hard at work making Adirondack Chairs. They only have a few time slots left to complete new chairs for the holidays: No new orders can be accepted after Thanksgiving! So, if you are thinking about a very special gift this year - one that tells both your loved one and HLM how much you love them, order now! Information is available on our website or by calling Lory at 781-925-5433.



*HLM Youth Rowers in the 2010 Head of the Weir. From left: Chris Vermilya, Ashley Jenkins, Ricky Tower, Rachel Desjardin, Joe Coffey, Charlotte Gillis. Photograph Courtesy of Lucy Wightman*

## Craig Wolfe, the Man, the Legend

By Ed McCabe, HLM Director of Maritime and New Program Development

St. Catharines, Ontario, right across the river from Niagara Falls, is one of two or three rowing Meccas in the Western Hemisphere. It sits on the Welland Canal that has allowed commerce to flow around the falls into Lake Ontario for decades. St. Kitts, as it is known, annually hosts the premiere event for sliding seat rowers north of the border, the Canadian Henley, as well as occasionally hosting their National Championships. In addition, they also hosted World Championships twice in the last 30 years. And they host a variety of other world championships, including Juniors, Adaptive, and Masters rowing.

This year, the Masters category was made up of 3,000 rowers ages of 27 (hardly seems fair to think of this crowd as masters) to 91 (now he's a master). Boats ranged from 8-oared shells with a coxswain to single shells and everything in between. If you've ever been to the Head of the Charles or a collegiate race, you've seen the tall, lean people with the V-cut shape striding among we mere mortals. Well, this year there was also a scrawny old gent with blonde hair turning grey hanging down his back and blowing in the breeze, in a funky t-shirt with the sleeves cut off, hugging and kissing anyone within reach, and talking trash to anyone who'd listen.

He wasn't talking about the composite shell he'd just bought for an exorbitant price or about the millimeter adjustment to his riggers. In fact, he was telling everyone within earshot how this Olympic racecourse was actually a punk venue compared to the wild waters he normally transits off the coast of Hull. This was the guy at every Park and Rec meeting kvetching about the turf on the practice field. This is the guy yelling at FAA representatives about the noise when planes are landing on Runway 33. This is the guy who tells stories about how he was crawling up into the face of a linebacker from the Pats when fortunately Kitty Dukakis threw her body in between them and led him away. You can hear all of these stories, over and over, at Weinberg's nearly every day. Every time you hear one of the stories, you cannot but pause and ponder if there's a shard of truth in the whole catastrophe. The incredible irony is that at the core, it's all true. It simply is bound together with a filament of "Wolfeisms". Or why let details get in the way of a good story.

Well this time the joke's on us. Craig Lawrence Wolfe, inveterate and often intemperate bow man from Lifesaving



Museum boats of all sizes, single sculler who claims he never goes out in water over his head, who'll invite any young woman casually walking across the grass on the HRA to come for a row, has just returned from St. Kitts, as the Over-65 World Champion. No story, no histrionics, he just went out and won the thing.

All Olympic rowing races take place on a 2,000 meter, dead straight race course. Big boats cover this distance in the high 6-minute range. Smaller boats do so at proportionally slower, but by no means slow, times. In masters rowing, they race over a 1,000 meter course. That is a screaming sprint by any measure. It means you line up at the head of your lane, stern held by the rowing equivalent of tennis's ball boy. They have NASCAR type starting lights, and you're off as the boats burst out in their own secret starting sequence, with the first thirty seconds on all after-burners. While the adrenaline and endorphins are firing, make the most of it. Then the lactic acid begins to seep into the muscle fibers, the oxygen debt begins to cash in its bills, and the pain starts. The question here is not fitness; everyone in the finals of the Worlds is fit. Thirty-six people from around the world came to St. Kitts to take their shot, six remain standing. No one on the line last isn't highly skilled, highly motivated, fit, and strong to a razor's edge. Now it comes down to Corazon, heart. Who's got the most? By the 500 meter mark all the adrenaline is gone, everything is screaming in pain - and you're only half way. This is about the time that many rowers give up. You simply aren't designed to hurt this much. This is the time that you start the little mental checklist of excuses about why you should back down a bit. You've made it to the finals, your ticket is punched, you can retire, honor intact. That is unless you simply hate to lose. With 250 meters to go, two and a half football fields, three minutes of unrelenting effort down, one remaining, the zone is entered. Here is where those few not bothering with excuses see the "white light of anaerobic debt". No more pain, boat no longer touching the water, flight, pure and simple.

On this day, one Eberhard Mislow, scion of the Düsseldorf Rowing Club, held the lead with 200 meters to go. This was where C. L. Wolfe decided that he'd had enough of this fluffy rowing; now he was going to pull like he had in innumerable Snow Rows past, whole body twanging, legs driving, laying back like he was in the Gut on a January morning. Through the white light and out the other side! Herr Mislow looked up at the scrawny putz waiting for him at the finish line, 4.39 seconds faster, time made up in the last minute, in the last 200 meters.

What do the rest of us do now? Does this mean we have to listen to the stories without the vein of incredulity? Do we have to admit that he's not actually full of bull? I guess so; it's in the record book, Craig Lawrence Wolfe, World Masters Rowing Champion, Hull, Mass.,USA.

# Some Musings on Why I Support the Hull Lifesaving Museum

By Nowell Bloomenthal

How could it be that, having come to Hull for decades of summers, until recently I never really knew about the Hull Lifesaving Museum, its mission, programs and activities? For me, “discovering” HLM has been nothing short of a miracle.

My first experience with HLM came one day a few years ago when walking by HLM’s Windmill Point Boathouse in Pemberton (the former U.S. Coast Guard Station), I was asked by a staff member if I would like to join a crew embarking on a row in Hull Bay. When I looked in disbelief and explained that I had never really rowed a boat before, I was entreated to take an introductory lesson and give it a go. Although there were sore muscles and blisters to show that day for my participation, I was warmly embraced and encouraged to continue rowing with them on a regular basis.

At first, I thought that this rowing thing would only be a benefit to my sorely deficient physical fitness. However, to my surprise, I came to realize that this one HLM program was also designed to do far more than improve physical health by providing an understanding of maritime history, teach the importance of discipline, teamwork and boating skills, educate about local waters and the Boston Harbor islands, tides, currents and weather, establish respect for the water, nature and the environment, and promote camaraderie, long lasting friendships, self confidence and inner serenity. Wow!

And that was only the beginning.

In the same manner as peeling a sweet Vidalia onion, over time I came to learn about the other layers of HLM that engender a love for the preservation and promotion of maritime history and education as well as social service and community responsibility.

HLM’s museum, located on Nantasket Avenue in Hull, is a one of a kind place steeped in the history of the former U.S. Life Saving Service and the credo of the famous hero, Joshua James. I must admit to hiding away on more than one occasion on the top floor of the museum to steep myself in its archives and collections to learn about those courageous souls who risked their lives in treacherous waves and weather to rescue strangers on shipwrecked vessels, which, back in the day, were often visible just offshore. The self sacrifice of those who “had to go out but did not have to come back” to save others permeates HLM, as captured by its modern slogan “Saving lives then, Changing lives now.”

One of HLM’s signature programs designed to “change lives now” is its Maritime Apprentice Program called MAP, for short. I am often surprised when I talk to others about HLM that many do not know about MAP, its importance, and its far reaching success. MAP operates out of HLM’s Seaport Boatshop in Boston and, in partnership with the State Department of Youth Services, prepares inner city

youth who are the most at risk for a life of public welfare and crime for careers in the maritime trades and completion of their high school education.

Without programs such as MAP, the dangers and social and economic cost to our society will only increase, particularly at this time with the ever present concern of reduced funding from foundations and governmental agencies. Most people who read this article can only be thankful that they do not have to walk in the shoes of these unfortunate teens. We owe it to them and to ourselves to try to improve their lives by supporting this important program.

Peeling the onion some more, other layers of HLM become visible, such as

- Youth and Adult Rowing and Races
- Lecture Series on a variety of maritime and other topics
- Children’s Programs
- Group Tours
- Special Events, i.e. Harbor Illumination, Sea and Sky Easel Show, etc., etc.

Space does not allow me to elaborate on all of the innovative activities and programs of HLM. Suffice to say that they are all designed to promote the long lasting enrichment of those who participate and the communities in which they live.

As in the case of the core of the sweet onion, HLM derives its essence from its staff, directors, members and volunteers who are some of the most caring, dedicated, inspired and creative people I have met. If any group walks the walk, it is these folks and they never cease to inspire me to promote their good work in changing lives for the better.

Since that day of my first acquaintance with HLM, I have come to realize that this endeavor called HLM represents far more than a row around Hull Bay. As a proud member I fully support all that HLM stands for and encourage and ask that you do the same. There is no question that you and the world will be the better for it.

Let it run.

*Nowell in the Vice President of HLM’s Board of Directors.*

## Sea & Sky Art Show

Thank you to all the artists and dedicated volunteers who helped make our October easel show such a delightful event. The show opened on Friday, October 15. With a crisp October wind in the air, it was a great pleasure to spend the evening in the wonderful company of artists and art lovers, enjoying food, wine and feast of sea & sky scenes that brought the warm breezes of summer right into the show. Special thanks to Sally Chisholm, Marjorie Osborne Whorf, Trish Turner, Susan Denniston and Irene Kozmin for their longstanding support and guidance of the show!

We are already eagerly looking forward to next fall. We’ll be celebrating the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Sea & Sky Art Show with a return to a full museum exhibit, with both juried and non-juried entry options. So, start painting!

## Sandcastle Crew Kicks Sand!

Thanks to the high spirits and extraordinary talents of our team, HLM made a proud showing at this year's Sandcastles for Causes competition at the Endless Summer Waterfront Festival on September 25. The HLM team recreated a bit of local history with our sculpture of the "Wreck of the *Diana*", a ship on her maiden voyage from Liverpool, England that wrecked on the rocks near Boston Light in 1841. We may not have taken the trophy (that went to the High School Drama kids), but we sure had fun.



*From left to right: Jody Hodgdon, Nowell Bloomenthal, Karyn Stauss, Denise Messina, Trish Baggott, Cora Meginsky, and Debbie deBastos. Photo courtesy of Lucy Wightman for the Hull Times.*

## Head of the Weir 2010

It has become something of a grim joke – the kind at which you chuckle while shaking your head. Is the weather at the Head of the Weir some kind of curse, retribution, or organizational karma? Until two days before the October 23 race, forecasters still were calling for light breezes from the south, and we heaved sighs of relief. Then the compass began to turn, and the numbers to rise. Before we knew it, we were facing conditions that have become all too familiar over the past few years: winds out of the west northwest at 20 mph and rising, with gusts up to 35. Ouch!

You gotta love open water rowers and paddlers, though. (Not to mention Hull's stalwart Harbormaster, Kurt Bornheim, who gave us the thumbs-up.) A total of 175 rowers and paddlers ages 12 - to - serious gray-hairs registered in 44 boats, 40 of which crossed the finish line. The four that succumbed to vicious conditions gave way by turning back, being towed to the finish, being driven ashore, and sinking! The 40 that made the full 5.5-mile passage out the Weir River and across Hull Bay reported formidable battles with self and nature, and a tremendous feeling of satisfaction to have completed the race. Finish times, all available on HLM's website, ranged from 54 minutes to 1 hour and 55 minutes. The courage of those last boats! Going fast takes one kind of strength; going the distance takes another.

## Volunteers Needed and Appreciated!

*"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart."*

**Batten down the hatches:** Help us winterize the station by draining and storing garden hoses, reseal window caulking, exchange screens for storm windows.

**Help Children Play:** Make simple repairs to the play ship in the loft.

**Recruit Corporate Sponsors:** Identify potential leads to assist in underwriting the Snow Row.

**Design Posters:** Create graphic images for our upcoming Station and Racing events.

**Repair Window Sashes:** Replace broken lines and pulleys on aging windows.

**Create a Facebook Historical Postcard App**

**Assist in Marketing:** Distribute posters, and virally spread the word of upcoming Lectures, Snow Row, and other Special Events.

**Polish the Lens:** For those with a knack for attention to detail, clean the mirrors of our Gurnet Light, 3<sup>rd</sup> order Fresnel Lens.

**Lend a hand on Boat Repairs:** Assist our Maritime Program team in maintaining the fleet.

To learn more please contact Corinne Leung at 781-925-5433 or [corinne@hulllifesavingmuseum.org](mailto:corinne@hulllifesavingmuseum.org).



## Thank You!

**Dolly Bicknell and Stephen Gore** – Illumination photos

**Tina Bongo and members of the Trial Court**

**Community Service Program** - Yard cleanup

**Mary Connelly** – Coffee maker (and lots of love)

**Jim Dobis and Henry Faaland**— Coffee maker and microwave

**Bobbi Kalb** – Lecture assistance

**Bob MacIntyre** – Vintage outboard engine

**Al Mahegan** – Woodenboat Magazine, issues #1 – 198

**Art Milmore** – Bronze fitting from Mayflower Steamship

**USCG Chiefs** – Unrigging the breeches buoy for winter storage

**Head of the Weir** - Dolly Bicknell, John Capellupo, Steve Clancy, Steve Cooper, Stephen Gore, Ann & Bob Howard, Adolfo Leung, Don Ritz, Martha Schiffhauer, Soup & dessert donors, Town of Hull DPW, Fire & Police Departments, and Harbormaster, Al Mahegan, Kevin Morris, Nancy Santry, Jimmie Vallaincourt, Weymouth Harbormaster, Lucy Wightman

**Sandcastle Crew** – Trish Baggott, Nowell Bloomenthal, David deBastos, Debbie deBastos, Jody Hodgson, Skip MacKinnon, Joanna Maloof, Denise Messina, Cory Meginsky, Karyn Stauss

**Sea & Sky Team** - Sally Chisholm, Susan Denniston, Irene Kozmin, Trish Turner, Marjorie Whorf



**Hull Lifesaving Museum**  
**P.O. Box 221**  
**Hull, Massachusetts 02045**  
**www.hulllifesavingmuseum.org**  
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Museum



## Museum Hours

**Open year-round:** Monday, Wednesday, and Friday,  
10 am - 1 pm

**July - October:** Also Open Weekends, 10 am - 2 pm

**November - June:** Closed weekends

Additional Hours and guided tours are available by  
appointment.

### **HLM Office Hours:**

Monday - Thursday: 9 am - 5 pm

Friday: 9 am - 1 pm

**Please Note:** HLM will be closed December 18 - January 2

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

**November 18** - Lecture: The Coconut Grove Fire

**November 20** - Icebreaker: Northeast Regional Youth Open  
Water Rowing Championships

**November 24** - Adirondack Chair Holiday Order deadline

**November 27** - Thanksgiving Weekend Open House

**December 3** - Pub Night!

**December 18** - HLM closed for two-week furlough

**January 19, 2011** - Youth Rowing Winter Season begins

**January 22** - Simple Machine Exhibit Opening

**March 12** - The Snow Row!

**July 30** - Harbor Illumination!

**The Coconut Grove Fire**  
**with author Stephanie Schorow**  
**Mary Jeanette Murray Bathhouse**  
**Thursday, November 18, 2010**  
**7:00 pm**

**Co-sponsored by the DCR, the Friends of the Hull  
Public Library, and the Hull Lifesaving Museum**

On November 28, 1942, America witnessed the most deadly nightclub fire to date, with a tragic loss of 492 people. The fire led to a reform of fire codes and safety standards across the country. Author Stephanie Schorow will recount the night's terrible events, including stories of those lost in the fire and those who survived, giving insight into the fire that stunned the city of Boston and changed American history.

