

THE KEEPER

A publication of the Virginia Beach Maritime Museum Inc., t/a The Old Coast Guard Station

Fall/Winter 2009



The Old Coast Guard Station presents the ANNUAL PIG & OYSTER FEST

Saturday, October 3, 2009

AT A NEW TIME: 1:00 to 5:00 P.M.

on the Oceanfront at the 24th Street Park

TICKETS: \$40.00 person (Children 6-12 \$5.00)

Live music by
**THE BLUES
EXCHANGE**

*Great
Door Prizes!*

Ride your bikes!



all proceeds benefit
**The Old Coast
Guard Station**
and its
*Educational Programs,
Research, and Artifact
Conservation & Preservation*

Bring your beach chairs!

*Tickets on Sale
September 1st at the Museum
or from any Museum Board Member*

*Parking available at the
Municipal lot, 25th St. & Pacific Ave.*

The best beach party of the year has a new time! The ANNUAL PIG & OYSTER FEST will be held from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 P.M. in the 24th Street Park and on the Museum grounds. This is our major fund-raiser for the museum, an annual event since 1982. Much more than an event - it's a TRADITION! The menu includes all-you-can-eat barbecue by Thomas Malbon with Mini Malbon's internationally acclaimed barbecue sauce, Frank Craft's home made hush puppies and fried fish, Dick Pouliot's delicious oyster stew, and oysters on the half shell (while they last). Cole slaw, baked beans, rolls, and all the fixin's will be available. Tickets are \$40.00 each; \$5.00 for children 6-12 years. Beer, soft drinks and water are included. Also new this year is the Wine Cellar - a variety of wines by the glass \$3.00. The BLUES EXCHANGE will provide the backbeat. Don't wait too long to get your tickets. Order now and we'll send them via return mail. Or you can pick them up at the museum between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday, or Sunday Noon to 5 p.m. We also take telephone orders. Know our Board Members? They have tickets, too!

It's through your support that the Old Coast Guard Station continues to provide educational exhibits and programs for our residents and visitors to Hampton Roads, and to continue our program of conservation and preservation. Order your tickets now and support your museum - Virginia Beach's FIRST museum: *"Preserving Our Maritime Heritage."*

PLEASE CALL 422-1587 FOR MORE INFORMATION

ACCOMPLISHING OUR MISSION THROUGH RESEARCH.....

The mission of the Old Coast Guard Station is to honor and preserve the history of Virginia's coastal communities and maritime heritage. This is accomplished with tours, educational programs, and continuing research. Many people have taken a tour of the museum or joined us for one of our programs but few know about the research that takes place behind the scenes.



The gravestone of Surfman James E. Belanga located in a small private graveyard on Sandbridge Road.

Ever since the museum opened in 1981, we have been collecting oral histories about the surfmen and their families who served at the Virginia Beach life-saving stations. Through a partnership with the U.S. Coast Guard Historian's Office, J. Peter Rascoe, III, US Coast Guard Reserve, is in the process of converting our oral histories from cassette tape to a digital format, preserving them for future generations. Some of the histories will be posted on the Coast Guard Historian's web site. This is a win-win for both the Coast Guard and our museum.

New information continues to be collected on individual surfmen who worked in Virginia Beach Life-Saving and Coast Guard stations. We often correspond with the families of the



17th Street as Virginia Beach's first business district, 1937. Image courtesy of A. Shepherd Jordan and James M. Jordan IV.

surfmen, trading stories and photographs. Recently, we journeyed through the southern end of the city searching for the graves of five surfmen who lost their lives during the attempted rescue of the German ship *Elisabeth* in 1887. We were long aware of the locations but have just recently confirmed the sites of three graves on Sandbridge Road, have a good lead on the fourth, and have an idea of the site of the fifth grave in a soybean field. The family has been searching for that site for many years. We might have it, but we have to wait until the crops come in.

We share this ever-growing archive of personal histories, documents, photographs, and artifacts. We were a major source for the *Virginian-Pilot* articles on the German U-boats, which ran this summer. In addition, we are currently involved with the City's Resort Area Historic Development Committee gathering images and information of the development of 17th Street as an early business district.

Fielding Lewis Tyler

Kathryn A. Fisher



Aerial view of the 17th Street business district in 1933. Courtesy of Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum.

UP-COMING EVENTS 2009

Event dates and times are subject to change.

The Old Coast Guard Station
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STAFF

Fielding Lewis Tyler	Executive Director
Julie J. Pouliot	Administrative Director, Museum Store Manager
Kathryn A. Fisher	Director of Education, Programs and Volunteers
Daneille E. Rhoads	Museum Store Sales Associate
Carol A. McCarthy	Museum Store Sales Associate
Dorothy B. Cranfill	Museum Store Sales Associate

MUSEUM HOURS:

Monday - Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Sunday Noon to 5:00 p.m.
Closed Monday in Winter (Oct. 1 - Memorial Day)

ADMISSION :

Museum members receive free admission.
Adults \$4.00; Senior Citizens &
Active Duty Military \$3.00;
Young people 6-18 \$2.00; under six are free.
Exhibits are included in museum admission.
The Museum Store may be visited without charge.

REVENUE CUTTER SERVICE

June 30 – September 13

An exhibit featuring the ships, men, and missions of the US Revenue Cutter Service, a predecessor of the Coast Guard, from 1790 to 1915.

THE U. S. COAST GUARD TODAY

September 15 - November 15, 2009

This new exhibit explores the current expanded missions of the U. S. Coast Guard to protect the public, the environment, and U. S. economic security interests in any maritime region in which those interest may be at risk, including international waters and America's coasts, ports, and inland waterways.

FAMILY FUN DAY: **CAPTAIN FISHBONES'**

TRICK OR TREAT! October 31, 2009 11:00 am – 3:00 pm
It's no trick! Join Captain Fishbones, the Moody Crewe pirates, and our friends from other Hampton Roads museums for a day of fun and education. For a special treat, folk musician **Bob Zentz** will entertain with songs and tales. Costumes encouraged! Free and open to the general public. *Bob Zentz performs courtesy of a grant from the Virginia Beach Foundation.*

ANNUAL PIG & OYSTER FEST

Saturday, October 3, 2009

Join us at the 24th Street Park for the best beach party of the year! Saturday October 3, from 1-5 pm. Tickets on sale September 1, 2009. Call 422-1587 for more information.
PLEASE NOTE NEW EVENT TIME!

ANNUAL MUSEUM STORE HOLIDAY SALE and FAMILY FUN DAY: HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Saturday December 5, 2009 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Support the Old Coast Guard Station and find the perfect gift for everyone on your list! 20% off on all items (except consignment and books).

Join **Captain Fishbones**, folk musician **Bob Zentz**, and local authors as we welcome the holiday season with songs, stories, activities, book signings and refreshments. Fun for the whole family. Free and open to the public.

Bob Zentz performs courtesy of a grant from the Virginia Beach Foundation.

A DAY AT THE BEACH

November 17, 2009 - January 17, 2010

Vintage photographic images of families enjoying the beach during the late 1800s up to 1960. Includes a 3-D display, "Beachcombing Treasures." Museum Lower Gallery.

Annual Meeting of the Membership

The Annual Meeting of the Museum Membership will be held on Saturday, October 3, 2009, at the Annual Pig & Oyster Fest at the Old Coast Guard Station grounds at 3:30 p.m. The Annual Meeting of the Virginia Beach Maritime Museum, Inc., t/a the Old Coast Guard Station will be held as stated above for the purpose of electing the Board of Directors and any other business that may properly come before the meeting. The Members of record as of 30 September 2009 will be entitled to receive notice of and vote at this meeting. The meeting will include presentation of the Annual Report by Museum Executive Director Fielding L. Tyler, and Board President Kimberly Goold. Should you be unable to attend, you are requested to vote by Proxy. A Proxy form is printed below for your use. We look forward to your participation.

PROXY

(RETURN THIS FORM ONLY IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP)

I, the undersigned, as a member of record of the Virginia Beach Maritime Museum, Inc., t/a The Old Coast Guard Station as of September 2009, do hereby appoint the Chairman of the Proxy Committee, as my representative at the Annual Meeting of the Membership, Saturday, October 3, 2009, and do hereby authorize and direct him to cast my vote for any matters that may come before this meeting.

PRINT NAME: _____ DATE: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

Detach and mail to the Old Coast Guard Station, P.O. Box 1035, Va. Beach VA 23451

PIG & OYSTER FEST 2009 ISSUE

Non-Profit Org.
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PAID
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Virginia Beach Maritime Museum Inc, t/a
THE OLD COAST GUARD STATION
Post Office Box 1035
Virginia Beach VA 23451

