

## 4th Quarter 2019 Newsletter



## ICEBREAKER MACKINAW MARITIME MUSEUM

# USCGC MACKINAW WAGB 83

"WE MOVE SHIPS WHEN NO ONE ELSE CAN"

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### We're on the Web!

[www.themackinaw.org](http://www.themackinaw.org)

### IMMM Board of Directors

- William Shepler, President
- R.J. Fisher, Vice President
- Randy Powers, Treasurer
- Roger Benter, Secretary
- Chuck Scott, Director
- Tom Spaude, Director
- Bill Marvin, Director
- David Morthland, Director

**SEMPER PARATUS**  
**SEMPER PARATUS**

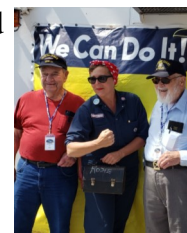
## 2019 WAGB-83 Crew Reunion



A sunny weekend in mid-August greeted over 120 attendees at our reunion for former crew. Folks came from near and far—Texas, California, Florida, Oklahoma, South Dakota and Connecticut to name a few. Friday night's Welcome Reception was a time to register, find old friends and enjoy hors d'oeuvres and beverages while seated on the ship's fantail. It was clear that this was going to be a great weekend!

On Saturday you could find Coasties representing active duty years from the 1940s to the decommissioning crew, wandering throughout the ship. For our tour guests, it

was a bonus to be able to chat with so many former crew.  
(Cont. on page 2)



## From the Desk of the Executive Director



Executive Director  
Lisa Pallagi

As mentioned in the recent edition of our monthly *Scuttlebutt*, I was getting ready to head to the *Historic Naval Ship's Association* annual conference in Manitowoc, WI. It was a great gathering of over 100 people that work at, or work with, our country's floating museums. Michigan was well represented by the *USS Edson* (Bay City), the *Silversides* (Muskegon) and our ship. Once again, we were the only USCG vessel represented!

The three-day conference's sessions dealt with marketing, fundraising, artifact collection, using a museum for other purposes, electrical and HVAC upgrades and so much more. I came away with ideas and applications for use on the Mackinaw. I received many positive comments when sharing some of the unique things that we do on our ship such as our educational tour program, retail sales items and our marketing plan. It is very heartwarming when "The Big Ships" compliment us.

Our season will end soon and the ship will be "put to bed" for the winter. Keep an eye out for our monthly *Scuttlebutt* e-bulletins as well as the quarterly newsletters. We'll keep you updated on what will be new for 2020... could we be opening up more of the ship to tours?

*Semper Paratus! —Lisa Pallagi*

## ICEBREAKER MACKINAW MUSEUM SHIP

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## OUR MISSION STATEMENT



*"The Icebreaker Mackinaw Maritime Museum will collect, preserve, protect and interpret the rich maritime and marine history of the Straits of Mackinac and the Great Lakes. The Museum will feature the USCGC Mackinaw WAGB-83 and the important historical and present day contributions of the US Coast Guard on the Great Lakes. The Museum will present the unique maritime history, economy and ecology of the Straits of Mackinac, the Great Lakes and the State of Michigan through engaging and entertaining educational programming and interpretive exhibits."*

## 2019 WAGB-83 Crew Reunion (Cont. from page 1)



The afternoon was spent visiting, enjoying a hot dog roast and swapping sea stories. We were very fortunate to receive items to display in the museum, and we even conducted a few video-interviews.

The day concluded with a social hour and wonderful buffet dinner at Audie's Restaurant. When asked to stand when your "decade" of service was announced the smiles, applause and pride were all on display.

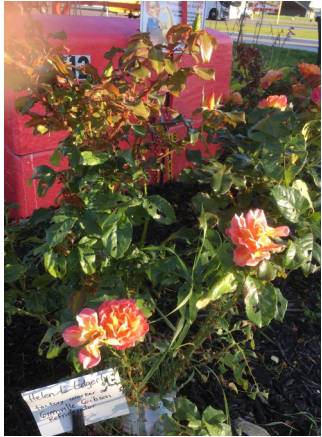
Bill Shepler, IMMM Board President, and Lisa Pallagi, Executive Director, both spoke about the ship and her crew throughout its 62 years of service. Most importantly, they stressed how honored we all feel to be able to tell her story as stewards of this great ship.



***Special thanks to Odawa Casino (Mackinaw City) and Family Fare (St. Ignace and Cheboygan) for their financial and product support.***



## "Rosie Garden" Gets a Fall Spruce -Up!



Pictured: Lori Conaway (left) and Sarah Roundtree (right).

Photo Credits:  
Our own local "Rosie"  
Reenactor, Angie  
Morthland  
(far right)



Rosie's volunteers, Sarah, Lori and Angie, were out last week giving the garden a little TLC. It was a pleasant late summer evening, and visitors walking along Huron Avenue paused to chat and learn about the history of the real "Rosie the Riveters" that worked during WWII to build the ship in Toledo. Inspired, many stopped back to tour the museum ship the next day.



## Introducing Mark Lynch, A "Gulliver" in his Field of the Very Small



When Mark Lynch from Lansing, Michigan, contacted us in July with photos sharing the progress he had made on his scale model of the *Mackinaw*, we knew we were looking at a true labor of love and the work of a master-class artist.

Since then, he's come very near to completing the project, and we knew you would be just as blown away by his skill and dedication to detail as we are! Below are photos of his models of the ill-fated *Edmund Fitzgerald* and Whitefish Point Light.

*See his story beginning on page 6.*







## Join Us!

Over the past 13 years we have proven that the museum is an exciting and viable attraction for Mackinaw City and the area. Annually, we host over 20,000 tour guests. Our interactive Educational Tour Program has taught over 800 children knot-tying, safety aboard, communications and the history of the ship. And our Overnight Encampment Program allows the unique experience of sleeping aboard an actual USCG Icebreaker.

**Our success depends on the support of people—like you—who love the Mackinaw.**  
**Known as the “Queen of the Great Lakes,” she is the iconic centerpiece of our area’s rich maritime history.**

Our membership program gives you an easy way to contribute to the museum and also enjoy some great perks. The levels of support and their associated benefits are listed below.

Our Business Sponsorship program gives you an easy way to contribute to the museum and also promote your business. For your \$100 tax-deductible donation, you will receive listing on our website’s “Sponsor” page, in our quarterly newsletters and aboard the ship. We will provide you with passes for 4 people to watch the 4th of July Fireworks aboard the ship, and your employees are always welcome to tour, free of charge.

### “Friends of the Mackinaw” Support Program Application

Annual Membership Level:

- ☐ \$50.00 Petty Officer   
 ☐ \$100.00 Chief Petty Officer   
 ☐ \$250.00 Chief Warrant Officer   
 ☐ \$500.00 Ensign  
☐ \$100.00 Business Sponsor   
☐ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Donation

Name \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ I would like to Volunteer (please contact me)

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Send to:  
 IMMM  
 PO Box 39  
 Mackinaw City, MI 49701

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVU \_\_\_\_\_

We accept Visa, MasterCard & Discover  
 4th Quarter 2019

IMMM is a Non-Profit 501 (C) 3 Organization

### IMMM Levels of Support and Benefits for “Friends of the Mackinaw”

| Level                 | Amount    | Inaugural Gift*          | Admission Benefits                         |
|-----------------------|-----------|--------------------------|--|
| Petty Officer         | \$ 50.00  |                          | Unlimited for member + 1 guest, per visit  |
| Chief Petty Officer   | \$ 100.00 | Lapel Pin or Key Chain   | Unlimited for member + 2 guests, per visit |
| Chief Warrant Officer | \$ 250.00 | Icebreaker Mackinaw DVD  | Unlimited for member + 3 guests, per visit |
| Ensign                | \$ 500.00 | Icebreaker Mackinaw Book | Unlimited for member + 4 guests, per visit |

- Inaugural Gift will be presented for first-year membership ONLY unless level of support is increased.
- Cardholders will receive, in addition to the above listed benefits: a 10% discount on Ship’s Store retail items, e-mail receipt of our newsletter and notices of special events and invitation to watch 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks aboard the ship.

\*An equal value Inaugural Gift may be substituted due to availability.

## Of Course, Donations Are Always Welcome!

We have an endowment fund through the Straits Area Community Foundation! [www.cfnem.org/sacf/](http://www.cfnem.org/sacf/)  
 OR you can donate directly through our website: <https://www.themackinaw.org/product/donate/>

Your donation is tax-deductible.



## PLEASE PATRONIZE OUR BUSINESS PARTNERS

Alice's Kandy & Korn, Mackinaw City  
 Citizens National Bank, Cheboygan  
 Keyhole Bar & Grill, Mackinaw City  
 Lamplighter Motel, Mackinaw City  
 Mackinaw Mill Creek Camping, Mackinaw City  
 Seaway Painting, Livonia  
 Paws Fur Fun, Mackinaw City  
 First Community Bank, Cheboygan  
 East Lake Resort, Fibre  
 Mackinaw City KOA, Mackinaw City  
 Mitchell Graphics, Petoskey  
 Wheeler Chevrolet-Buick, Cheboygan  
 Audie's Restaurant, Mackinaw City  
 Mama Mia's Pizza, Mackinaw City  
 Calcite Credit Union, Cheboygan  
 Seasons of Mackinaw, Mackinaw City  
 Mackinaw Bakery, Mackinaw City  
 Mark Mercer, D.D.S., St. Ignace  
 Habitec Security, Charlevoix  
 Plaunt Transportation, Cheboygan  
 Walstrom Dock and Dredge, Harbor Springs  
 Tee Pee Campground, Mackinaw City  
 Family Fare Supermarket, Cheboygan

Kilwin's Quality Chocolates & Confections, Petoskey  
 Pizza Palace, Mackinaw City  
 Teysen's Gift Shop, Mackinaw City  
 Spray's Landscape Nursery & Garden Center, Cheboygan  
 Shepler's Mackinac Island Ferry, Mackinaw City  
 Pancake Chef Restaurant, Mackinaw City  
 Kokosing Industrial | Durocher Marine Div., Cheboygan  
 Darrow Brothers Excavating, Mackinaw City  
 Odawa Casino, Petoskey  
 Tahquamenon Boat Service | Toonerville Trolley, Newberry  
 Enchanted Knights, Mackinaw City  
 Avery Color Studios, Gwinn  
 Alexander's Plumbing and Heating, Carp Lake  
 Know Your Ships, Ann Arbor  
 Big Stone Bay Fishery, Mackinaw City  
 Hunt's Mackinaw Pastie & Cookie Co., Mackinaw City  
 Candy Corner | Windjammer Gifts, Mackinaw City  
 Michigan Outdoor Advertising, Petoskey  
 Dr. Roger Benter, Chiropractor  
 Sault Printing Co., Sault Ste. Marie  
 Blarney Castle Oil, Bear Lake  
 Family Fare Supermarket, St. Ignace  
 Ramsby Well Drilling, Indian River

## BECOME A BUSINESS SPONSOR. JOIN TODAY!

CALL FOR MORE INFO  
 (231) 436-9825

*Icebreaker Mackinaw Museum Ship is proud to partner with these wonderful Straits area business community organizations and their members!*



## CCTI Event Held Aboard WAGB-83

In an annual tradition whose time-honored rituals and rites of passage are a closely held secret, the *Chief's Call to Initiation*, or "CCTI", is sanctioned by the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard and the commander of the Coast Guard. And once again this year, WAGB-83 and her staff were honored to host CPOs and their fresh crop of E-7 initiates. Our thanks to U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City for providing a little extra excitement near the fantail.



Video Credit: CPO Nicholas Mersch, CG Station St. Ignace



## Attention to Detail—in 1/96 Scale! *Edited Transcript of a Conversation with Mark Lynch*

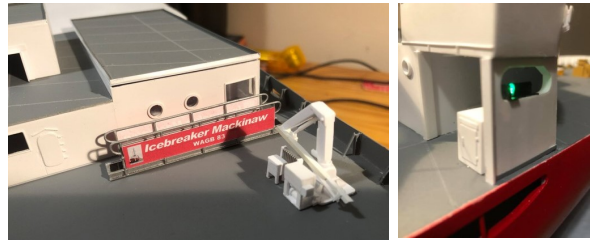
“Fortunately, I was a child before cell phones and video games were a distraction, and my entertainment back then was building models, so making and building things has been an obsession my entire life.

“I’m a retired graphic artist and before that a draftsman. I spent part of my career building courtroom exhibits for attorneys and other professional organizations. A lot of the things I’ve built were one and done, therefore lost to the ages, but it provided great experience that I am grateful for.”



*“I’ve always been fascinated with ships, probably because I’m a want-a-be sailor, I guess. If I had it to do all over, I most likely would have been in the navy or on a lake freighter.” —Mark Lynch*



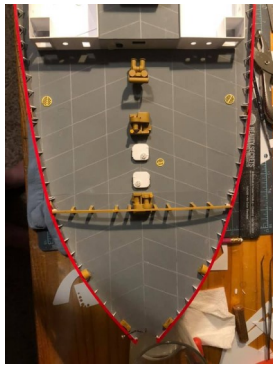
*Attention to Detail (continued from page 6)*

"Two years ago I visited the *Mackinaw* and was so inspired by the museum that I returned last year with the intention to build a replica.

"I obtained the construction drawings from the Library of Congress and rescaled them to 1/96 scale or 1/8" = 1 foot. The ship is constructed mostly of styrene with a wood substructure. The hull is plated with a layer of .40 styrene and double plated where the ship's ice plating is located. I used hundreds of small plate pieces to give the hull a more realistic look. (As we all know, ships don't have a smooth car body type appearance.) All the deck components, i.e.: cranes, davits, winches, fairleads, etc. are all made of styrene. These items are the most time consuming to build.

"Finally, I installed some navigational and cabin interior lighting for added effect. I used 20 mini GOR (grain of rice) bulbs at 1.5 volts each.

"I want to thank the IMMM staff for being so helpful in allowing me to take reference photos and measurements of the ship. You have a beautiful museum, and you all excel in your duties to preserve and display this great ship." — *Mark Lynch*



Be sure to view  
more of Mark's  
work on his  
[website!](#)

