

# SKEETER NEWS

A newsletter from The Steamer VIRGINIA V Foundation



FALL 2019 \* VOL. 97, NO. 3



From left to right: Guests examine shipbuilding tools with shipwright Eric Rasmussen; Chief Engineer Greg Sarantos shows Goodwill Youth Maritime students how to oil the engine; and Drama on Deck campers rehearse their scenes in costume.

## This Season's Adventures in Education

By Margaret Saunders, Programs Manager

Now that school is back in session, we are taking a moment to look back on our busy 2019 season. As we continue to expand our programs and partnerships, here are three lessons we gleaned from this year's adventures in education aboard the VIRGINIA V.

### 1. New programs bring new faces aboard

We took part in several new speaking opportunities throughout the spring and summer. In April, we joined Atlas Obscura's map of unique and unusual destinations in Seattle by hosting a lecture on the history of the Puget Sound Mosquito Fleet, presented by Senior Docent Ed Brown. Ed returned to give another historical lecture on the VIRGINIA V for MOHAI's History Café in July. We were happy to see that many attendees of these events were completely new to the ship! Trying something new helped us introduce those who would not otherwise learn about the VIRGINIA V to this unique piece of maritime history.

### 2. Let young people step up and dive in

We hosted three field trips for high school students in Ballard Maritime Academy, Goodwill Youth Maritime Program, and Seattle Skills Center. While aboard, students participated in hands-on drills including oiling

the engine, cleating lines, handling the fire-hose, and even steering the ship! Talking about what it's like to work in maritime is all well and good but giving young people the chance to experience a day-in-the-life of a mariner is better. Though they may have never stepped foot on a steamship before, these students never failed to rise to the occasion – showing a willingness to dive in and lend a hand to peers and crew.

### 3. Above all else, make it fun

We welcomed two summer camps this year: Drama on Deck and Seafaring Adventure Camp. Utilizing history lessons, games, and their imaginations, the Drama on Deck campers wrote and performed their own scenes about the Storm of 1934. Seafaring Adventure campers raced each other in life-jacket and other dockside drills, and learned to navigate from Captain Herb Hunt. Seeing the campers' joy and excitement made these some of my favorite summer moments! They showed us that having fun is a key part of learning, and the best way to make lifelong memories.

A big thank you to all our volunteers who dedicated their time to create these experiences for our students and guests. We look forward to next year's adventures!

## SKEETER NEWS

is produced by

The Steamer Virginia V Foundation

### Our Mission:

To promote the Puget Sound's maritime heritage through the restoration, preservation, operation, and interpretation of the National Historic Landmark Vessel, the S.S. Virginia V.



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comments, suggestions,  
and stories!**

PO Box 9566  
Seattle, WA 98109

(206) 624-9119 \* [info@virginiav.org](mailto:info@virginiav.org)

## From the Executive

As many of you know, I will be leaving my role as the Executive Director of the Steamer Virginia V Foundation effective October 24th, 2019. I have accepted a position as Executive Director of the Port Townsend School of Woodworking, and my wife and I are excited to begin a new chapter of our life just outside the bustle of Seattle.

Serving as the Executive Director of this organization has been an incredible honor. During these last six years, I have learned to be a better listener, manager, and steam engineer; all skills which the VIRGINIA V community has helped me hone. I leave this organization a more competent human than when I started in 2013, and I am forever grateful to have had the opportunity to work with this ship and this community.

As we look ahead to the VIRGINIA V's centennial in 2022, there is a lot to be excited about. The ship has a great slate of programs for both youth and adults, excellent partnerships with like-minded organizations, and a great team of staff members and volunteers dedicated to keeping the ship active. I am confident that what we have built over the past six years will continue to grow and thrive, and I look forward to celebrating alongside you all as the VIRGINIA V steams into the next century.

The only remaining question is who will usher in the VIRGINIA V's next 100 years as Executive Director? The board has convened a search committee led by member Doug Weeks. This committee is made up of board members, staff, and volunteers; a representational cross section of our community. They will be accepting applications until October 4th, 2019. The job posting can be found on our website; please feel free to share the opportunity with your personal network.

Lastly, please consider joining us for our Members Appreciation Cruise on Saturday, October 19th. We'll head through the Fremont Cut while enjoying light refreshments, drinks from Pike Brewing and Chateau Saint Michelle, and sea-worthy activities like our knot tying challenge. Tickets are free for Members and four of their guests. This will be one of my last cruises before I leave my post and I'd love to see you all there.

**Heron Scott**

Executive Director of The Steamer Virginia V Foundation

# Thank you, 2019 Birkenfeld Interns!

By Margaret Saunders, Programs Manager



From Left to Right: Intern Carlton Redpath overlooking Lake Union Park from the fore deck; Intern Xavier Auer and Heron Scott sanding on top of the wheelhouse; and Intern Jose Reyes awaiting passengers to board.

You may recall meeting our 2019 C. Keith Birkenfeld interns in our last issue, or maybe you ran into them on board during one of our summer cruises! After a busy two months of sailing, we are sad to say goodbye, but wish them all the best as they head into the winds of their next adventures in the fall.

In evaluating this year's program, we reached out to our interns to learn what skills they gained from the experience. Although their maritime skills were undoubtedly strengthened, it was transferable soft skills that rose to the top. One intern reported, "My communication skills improved thanks to this internship, because I had to be in touch with the other crew members while we worked to make sure everything ran safely." They also cited critical thinking and interpersonal skills, and were appreciative of the crew for welcoming them. Another intern said, "The people I worked with were role models. They took me under their wing and taught me to set higher goals for myself." Interns enjoyed our new partnership with Seattle Maritime Academy as well, which gave them more exposure to other maritime career paths and peers with similar interests.

We also received great feedback from the volunteers who worked with the interns. It was the interns' work ethic that really stood out: "They are welcome on my

deck anytime! If they started without a skillset they jumped right in and learned the required skills." Another volunteer wrote, "I'd hire any of them in a heartbeat for most any job." Volunteers said they felt the most important facets of our internship are the emphasis on hands-on learning, networking, and the opportunity to be paid for their work in a unique maritime setting. In the future, they would like to be able to offer interns more opportunities to work on their navigation skills, assist with engine room maintenance, and spend more time with the deck crew in the wheelhouse. One volunteer told us, **"Working with interns is becoming one of my primary reasons for volunteering. They are affirming that the future is bright."**

We hope to make all these improvements and more as we look forward to recruiting our 2020 next year! Thank you once again for making the VIRGINIA V a great place for Seattle teens to jumpstart their maritime careers.

*If you would like to learn more about the C. Keith Birkenfeld Summer Internship or know a student who would be interested in applying next year, please contact Margaret Saunders at [margaret@virginiav.org](mailto:margaret@virginiav.org).*

# Calendar of Events

**Welcome aboard!** The following is a preview of public events scheduled aboard the *Virginia V*. For details and the latest updates, go to [www.virginiav.org/calendar](http://www.virginiav.org/calendar). Questions? (206) 624-9119 or [info@virginiav.org](mailto:info@virginiav.org)

## October

### Open Ship Days In Bold

12:00 - 5:00 PM on Lake Union

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

## November

### Open Ship Days In Bold

12:00 - 5:00 PM on Lake Union

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

## December

### Open Ship Days In Bold

12:00 - 5:00 PM on Lake Union

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

### 04 FRIDAY, 8:00 - 11:00PM DRYFT Concert

Dockside acoustic concert with rotating artists. TICKETS: \$25/person booked through AirBNB Experiences.

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Dockside acoustic concert with rotating artists. TICKETS: \$25/person booked through AirBNB Experiences.

### 13 FRIDAY, 8:00 - 11:00PM DRYFT Concert

Dockside acoustic concert with rotating artists. TICKETS: \$25/person booked through AirBNB Experiences.

### 11 FRIDAY, 8:00 - 10:00PM Chantey Sing

Organized by the Northwest Seaport, this group will charm you with their melodies and knowledge of maritime music. TICKETS: Free

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Organized by the Northwest Seaport, this group will charm you with their melodies and knowledge of maritime music. TICKETS: Free

### 20 FRIDAY, 8:00 - 11:00PM DRYFT Concert

Dockside acoustic concert with rotating artists. TICKETS: \$25/person booked through AirBNB Experiences.

### 18 FRIDAY, 8:00 - 11:00PM DRYFT Concert

Dockside acoustic concert with rotating artists. TICKETS: \$25/person booked through AirBNB Experiences.

### 15 FRIDAY, 8:00 - 11:00PM DRYFT Concert

Dockside acoustic concert with rotating artists. TICKETS: \$25/person booked through AirBNB Experiences.

### 22 SUNDAY, 7:00 - 9:45PM Christmas Ships Dinner Cruise

Sailing to Lake Washington to see the Christmas Ships. Price includes dinner buffet. TICKETS: \$85/general, \$70/members, & \$30/kids ages 12 and under.

### 19 SATURDAY, 1:30 - 3:30PM Members Appreciation Cruise

Two-hour cruise to celebrate our Members and Members-to-be! TICKETS: \$15/general & Free/Members + 4 guests.

### 30 SATURDAY, 10:00AM - 6:00PM Greet the Season

Enjoy crafts, snacks, music, and more at this dockside event for the whole family. TICKETS: Free

### 23 MONDAY, 7:30 - 9:30PM Christmas Ships Grand Finale Dessert Cruise

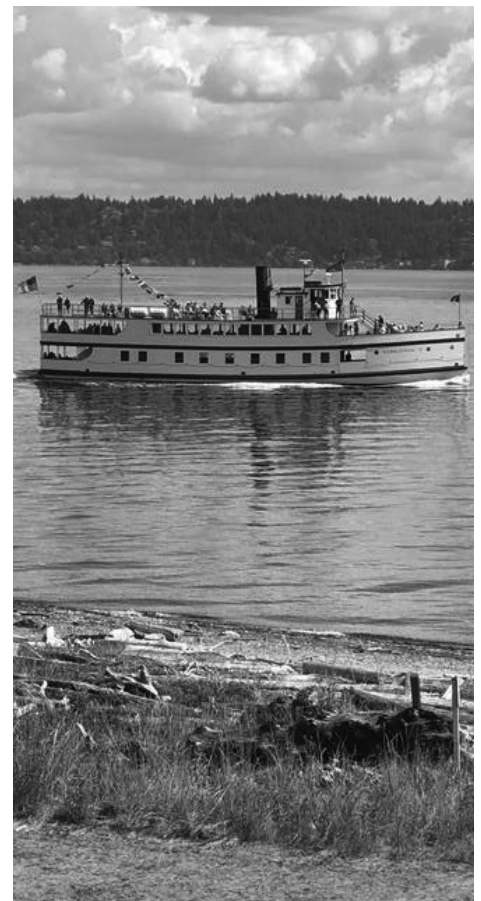
Sailing to Gasworks Park to see the Christmas Ships grand finale. Price includes dessert buffet. TICKETS: \$70/general, \$60/members, & \$25/kids ages 12 and under.

**Thank you** to our corporate sponsors for recognizing the need for ongoing preservation and operation of the S.S. *Virginia V* as a vital part of Puget Sound's maritime history.





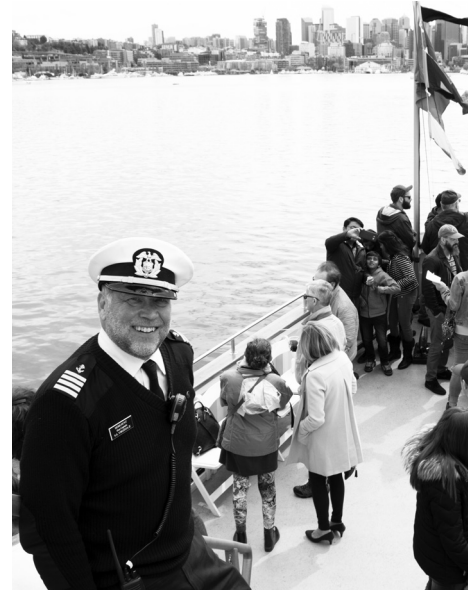
# Summer Yearbook 2019



Left to Right: Row 1- Passengers on the Spring Members Cruise; & Ballard Maritime Academy students doing fire drills. Row 2- Goodwill Youth Maritime student on the fore deck; V5 waiting at the Ballard Locks; & Intern Carlton Redpath working on the wheelhouse. Row 3- The V5 on Opening Day & V5 circumnavigating Vashon.

# Volunteer Appreciation with the Port Captain

by Heron Scott, Executive Director



From left to right: Port Captain, Herb Hunt, supervising a crew member at the wheel; Herb in the wheelhouse with Seafaring Adventure campers; and Herb on a cruise with the Lake Union Drydock Company.

*This season, volunteers donated more than 1,100 hours serving as deck crew on over 50 cruises aboard the VIRGINIA V. As the point person for these volunteers, Port Captain Herb Hunt knows just how instrumental these contributions are to the continued operation and preservation of the ship.*

## **Why do you think people volunteer on the VIRGINIA V?**

I think it's because people have a love for being on the water and the V5 is such an awesome representation of the maritime industry's past and present. It's also just cool; taking the ship through the locks, learning new skills, and joining a boating community that welcomes all. We also get a lot of folks coming on board working towards a US Coast Guard license which requires a certain amount of sea time. These volunteers tend to be really helpful as they come with a deep level of experience and we can elevate them to key positions on board. I think it's a great service the ship can provide to the maritime community.

## **Who are some volunteers who have stood out to you this summer?**

I'm very impressed and appreciative of the volunteers that have been able to commit so much time to the

vessel this season. Will Wagner is a stand out. He's taking pretty much every single underway trip on the boat. And Randi Shartin is a stand out in that area as well; working the bar and being a consistent friendly face to all on board. I'd also like to acknowledge volunteers like Stewart Pugh who travel great distances to meet the ship and volunteer on board. This takes an already big commitment to another level. Lastly, I love seeing the partner teams like Wendy and Dennis Case stepping on board to handle lines and help keep the ship operational. Really nice to have them on board along with many others that make up the team.

## **How can volunteers help fulfill the mission of the organization?**

The obvious one is we need them. Without our volunteer core, this ship would not be able to leave the dock. Our Certificate of Inspection (COI) demands we have four crew members and one licensed Master. Our mission to keep the ship operational cannot be fulfilled without our deck volunteers. Beyond that, our volunteers are the lifeblood of the V5; they care for the ship, they love the ship, and they keep our passengers and vessel safe. They also create a community of stewards, and because of that, she is assured a future.



# From the Archives

by Ed Brown, Senior Docent



Above: This photo shows the VIRGINIA V steaming along her usual West Pass Route, not long after her foredeck elevator was installed. The Barlow Marine Freight Elevator was invented in 1910, and by 1930 the four posts of the elevator system was a familiar sight on nearly all Puget Sound freight-handling vessels. The inventor, Captain Harry Barlow, was originally from Lopez Island and saw a need for a more efficient way of transferring freight from ship to shore than by steep gangplanks and winches. Virginia V was equipped with such an elevator from the late 1920's until her retirement from commercial passenger and freight service in 1940.



Above: Photographs taken on deck during the rebuild of 1934 allow us some of the best early looks into the interior of the vessel. This photo, looking forward past the boiler towards the ship's bow (where all that remains is the tall stem of the ship) also affords us a better view of the freight elevator. It had a platform which could be raised to match the height of the dock, where freight could easily be loaded on with hand trucks and then lowered down into the ship's hold. The elevator motor was located directly below it, roughly where the ship's blackwater tank is now.

**The Steamer Virginia V Foundation**  
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