

SKEETER NEWS

A newsletter from The Steamer VIRGINIA V Foundation

SPRING 2019 * VOL. 97, NO. 1



From left to right: Lead Shipwright Chris beginning to open up the planking on the port bow, the ship on the dry dock at Pacific Fishermen Shipyard, and the stern of the ship high and dry.

2019 Haul-Out: A Fungal Surprise

By Heron Scott, Executive Director

Haul-outs are difficult and full of surprises for old wooden ships and the VIRGINIA V is no exception. We planned on the ship going in for the proverbial “shave and a haircut” this go around but were surprised to discover that a plank on the port bow of the ship was rotten. Even more surprising was the age of this plank; it had only been on the ship for six years. This is not an ideal lifespan for planking. We’d like at least 20 years out of each plank!

After deciding to remove the plank and the one below it, our shock grew. We found a significant white fungal bloom centered on that plank. This fungus had infected most of the frames the plank landed on, and, most discouraging yet, the forefoot of the ship. The forefoot is the structural assembly that connects the stem and the keel together (you could think of it as a giant knee). This fungus had penetrated that timber causing surface rot and degradation.

Learning this, our collective hearts sank. Why? Because, at the end of the day, fungus and rot are incredibly difficult to remove from a piece of wood. The best and preferred solution is to remove the infected wood. If we apply that logic to the port bow, the project to

do so becomes quite massive. When you couple that with the fact that we just replaced the forefoot and the stem six years ago (hence the new plank), this is doubly discouraging.

That being said, we believe this fungus is an anomaly. Our best guess is that the spores were already present in the wood when the new plank was put on, and, once in the water, slowly spread to other parts of the structure, such as the planks, frames, and forefoot. Based on our professional survey of that area and the rest of the planks on both sides of the bow, we are reasonably certain the problem was local to that one particular plank.

So what do we do about it? First, we have decided that we cannot completely address the problem this year. We are replacing the two bad planks, pickling the area with penetrating epoxy, and, once the planks are in, we’ll be dousing the whole area with a fungicide. This will restore the structural integrity of the hull and, potentially, slow down the growth of the fungus. We will be able to safely operate the ship in 2019 and will be approved to do so by the United States Coast Guard. Our programs, charters, and other activities will proceed as normal in 2019.

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.



Board of Trustees

Larry Benson	President
Nina Altman	Vice-President
David Allais	Treasurer

Garret Holt
Mel Flavel
Grant Johnson
Giorgio Pompei
Doug Weeks

Staff

Heron Scott	Executive Director
Caitlin Spence	Membership Manager
Margaret Saunders	Programs Manager
Capt. Dale Pederson	Senior Captain
Joe Schmitt	Director of Engineering
Ed Brown	Senior Docent
Herb Hunt	Port Captain

**Send us your
comments, suggestions,
and stories!**

PO Box 9566
Seattle, WA 98109

From the Executive

2018 is in the books! I hope you enjoyed it as much as we did on the SS VIRGINIA V. Please take a moment to look over our 2018 Annual Report detailing some of the highlights for us last year. If you'd like a color copy of this report, you can find one on our website under the "About Us" tab, and don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or comments.

I have several new staffing changes to announce this issue. First off, both Alyssa Matthews, our Programs Manager, and Mike Ritter, our Development Director, moved on from their respective positions this fall. We were fortunate to have them both on our team during some pivotal moments and we wish them the best in their new endeavors.

In the Programs Manager role, I am please to introduce you to Margaret Saunders. Margaret has been with the Foundation since December, and you can read more about her work on page five of this issue. We are excited to continue to build our youth programs and activities with her support!

Rather than re-hire for the Development Director, we ultimately decided that a different direction was needed for the Foundation. We created a new position, the Membership and Communications Manager, and I am happy to report we recently hired Caitlin Spence to fill this role. Caitlin brings a wealth of experience in nonprofit communications and community engagement. She will manage all the communications (newsletter, website, social media) of the Foundation as well as support and grow our membership base.

As you may have already read, we ran into some unexpected problems with our 2019 haul-out, but, rest assured, our normal slate of programs and activities will continue this year. Opening Day of Yachting Season is coming up, as well as a new program, our Spring Members Happy Hour Cruise on May 19th. This event will be a fun-filled opportunity for us to show our appreciation for your continued support.

Our annual fundraiser, the VIRGINIA V's Birthday Cruise, is also just around the corner on June 15th. This is a fantastic event that raises critical funds to keep the old girl open and operational. Your support is especially important this year, as we look to raise funds for an unanticipated haul-out in 2020. We hope you will join us!

Thank you all for helping to keep up the steam on the VIRGINIA V, we can't do it without you.

Heron Scott

Executive Director of The Steamer Virginia V Foundation

2019 Haul-Out continued



From left to right: the dreaded fungus up close and personal on a frame just aft of the forefoot, the infected forefoot timber with chunks of rotten wood pulled out, and lead shipwright Chris inspects the area after demolition of the rotten planks.



From left to right: Old nail holes plugged with red cedar "boat nails" to restore the integrity of the frames, the first new plank installation, and Chris doing some final shaping on the new plank.

Second, we must eradicate the fungus next year. We don't want to wait our normal two-year haul-out cycle for fear that the fungus will spread even further. The sooner we get after the affected areas the better. This will mean a haul-out again in 2020, at which time we will replace at least a section of the forefoot.

The full extent of the 2020 project is hard to predict at this point as the spread of the fungus is not apparent from inside the ship. The only way to know for sure is to remove planking from the exterior. However, we can make a reasonable guess, and our current thinking is, in addition to the forefoot, six frames and twenty-five planks will need to be replaced. We expect the budget for this project to be around \$300,000. Our goal is to finalize the estimates and planning as soon as possible to begin the grant writing and fundraising needed to accomplish this critical work.

Regarding this year, we expect the ship to be back at Lake Union Park by the end of March and fully operational for our annual Spring Clean and Shakedown cruise on April 20th (Hope you can join us! RSVP at info@virginiav.org).

While this discovery means our preservation work will require more resources than we were expecting, it is a manageable problem. We can solve this with hard work and dedication from our community, staff, and volunteers. If preservation of old wooden steamboats was easy, everyone would be doing it. It's a testament to all of us that we're able to keep the VIRGINIA V going as she approaches her 100th year on this earth.

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/events-cruises. Questions? (206) 624-9119 or info@virginiav.org

May

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	

03 FRIDAY, 8:00 - 11:00 PM DRYFT Concert

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

04 SATURDAY, 11:00 - 3:00 PM Opening Day Cruise

Our first public cruise of the season. A multi-boat parade through Montlake Cut to celebrate the beginning of boating season. TICKETS: \$75/general, \$60/member, & \$30/12 and under. Ticket includes meal.

10 FRIDAY, 8:00 - 10:00 PM NW Seaport Chantey Sing

Maritime themed concert onboard the VIRGINIA V. TICKETS: Free. More information: nwseaport.org

17 FRIDAY, 8:00 - 11:00 PM DRYFT Concert

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

19 SUNDAY, 3:00 - 5:00 PM Happy Hour Cruise

Our new spring public cruise! Come for a drink on a Sunday evening. TICKETS: \$15/general, & FREE/members.



June

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						

07 FRIDAY, 8:00 - 11:00 PM DRYFT Concert

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

08 SATURDAY, 1:00 - 4:00 PM Steamship Saturday

Two one hour narrated cruises departing at 1 and 3 PM. TICKETS: \$20/general, \$15/member, & FREE/12 and under.

14 FRIDAY, 8:00 - 10:00 PM NW Seaport Chantey Sing

Maritime themed concert onboard the VIRGINIA V. TICKETS: Free. More information: nwseaport.org

15 SATURDAY, 6:00 - 9:00 PM VIRGINIA Birthday Cruise

Our annual fundraiser to support the V5! TICKETS: \$100/person & \$500/table of 6

16 SUNDAY, 2:00 - 4:30 PM Fathers Day Cruise

A public cruise with MOHAI featuring kids activities, ice cream, and more! TICKETS: \$30/general, \$25/member.

21 FRIDAY, 8:00 - 10:00 PM DRYFT Concert

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

22 SATURDAY, 1:00 - 4:00 PM Steamship Saturday

Two one hour narrated cruises departing at 1 and 3 PM. TICKETS: \$25/general, \$20/member, & FREE/12 and under.

July

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 THURSDAY, 8:00-11:30 PM Firework Viewing Party

Dockside event for the best view in town from the upper deck. Only 42 tickets to be sold. TICKETS: \$125/general, \$100/member, & \$50/ages 12 and under. Includes appetizers from City Catering. Beer and wine available to purchase.

12 FRIDAY, 8:00 - 11:00 PM DRYFT Concert

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

13 SATURDAY, 1:00 - 4:00 PM Steamship Saturday

Two one hour narrated cruises departing at 1 and 3 PM. TICKETS: \$20/general, \$15/member, & FREE/12 and under.

18 THURSDAY, 7:00 - 9:30 PM Working Waterfront

A public cruise with MOHAI featuring historical narration, activities, and more! TICKETS: \$30/general, \$25/member, & FREE/kids 12 and under.

20 SATURDAY, 2:30 - 5:00 PM Locks Cruise to BBI

A one way trip through the Ballard locks to Eagle Harbor. TICKETS: \$30/general, \$20/member, & FREE/12 and under.

27 SATURDAY, 1:00 - 4:00 PM Steamship Saturday

Two one hour narrated cruises departing at 1 and 3 PM. TICKETS: \$20/general, \$15/member, & FREE/12 and under.

All Hands on Deck for 2019 Youth Programs

By Margaret Saunders, Programs Manager



From left to right: Engineer Nina Altman teaching a Drama on Deck camper how to oil the steam engine, Seafaring Adventure campers running along the dock, and volunteer Mike Rian demonstrating a knot for Port of Seattle interns.

Hello to all Foundation members, both old and new! I'm Margaret Saunders, and I'm thrilled to join the crew of the VIRGINIA V as your new Programs Manager.

Museum education has been my lifelong passion. Hailing from Pittsburgh, PA, I came to Seattle in 2016 to earn my master's degree in Museology at the University of Washington. I've had the privilege of working at several of Seattle's incredible museums, including the Burke Museum as a youth educator and program developer, and the Henry Art Gallery as a collections assistant and preservation photographer.

Working for the VIRGINIA V combines everything I love about being a museum educator: exploring a unique artifact to create hands-on, immersive experiences that capture the hearts and imaginations of visitors of all ages. I look forward to meeting everyone who has helped preserve and continue the legacy of the VIRGINIA V, and to opening our ship to more audiences in 2019!

If you have any questions about upcoming programs or would just like to say hello, feel free to contact me at margaret@virginiav.org.

This summer, we will be reprising these exciting youth programs:

Seafaring Adventure Camp

An action-packed week at Lake Union Park partnering with MOHAI, the Center for Wooden Boats, and Northwest Seaport. Campers explore life on board a ship and plunge into the science of steam-powered engines, navigation, and model sailboat building.

Drama on Deck Camp

Partnering with the Seattle Children's Theatre, campers delve into what it was like to survive and rebuild in Seattle after the Storm of 1934. Inspired by the vibrant history of the VIRGINIA V, we turn the ship into a stage and create a performance on the Main Deck. On the last day of camp, campers will perform their show for friends and family.

For dates and more information on summer camps, please visit www.virginiav.org/camps-and-classes.

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.



2018 Volunteer of the Year: Mark Miller

by Heron Scott, Executive Director



From left to right: Mark teaching fire extinguisher procedures to the Seattle Goodwill Maritime Training cohort, Mark on the engine deck teaching line handling to Seattle Maritime Academy students, and Mark teaching compass operation on the foredeck.

We are pleased to announce our 2018 Dan Ayers Volunteer of the Year, Mark Miller. Over the years Mark has served as board treasurer, bookkeeper, docent, deckhand, and more. His leadership has helped us develop the Ballard Maritime Academy field trip, our summer youth internships, and our new programs with Seattle Goodwill. We thank him for his service and dedication to the preservation and operation of the SS VIRGINIA V!

Why do you volunteer for the Virginia V Foundation?

Because my dear wife, Debbie, lets me! Really, there's no single reason. I started to facilitate volunteering by our son, Nathan, who was only 15 at the time, but already bitten by the steam-machinery bug, which is a genetic trait. With that impetus in the past, I'm here because I love being part of a ship and crew, getting underway, and sharing all the greetings, laughs, and experiences that go with that. Ships have intrigued me since I was a toddler, and I remember longingly regarding the Old Bay Line steamers in Baltimore in the early 60s, wanting to see their engine rooms. Don't ask how that thought occurred to a five-year old. What we do is fulfilling, even over episodes of difficulty, and we're always learning something. It's just cool!

What was a memorable experience you've had onboard the VIRGINIA V?

There are many. Every time with students is particularly rewarding. Almost every encounter with Dan Ayers stands out ("Would you like some Marine Corps coffee?"). Taking dockside visitors around the ship, who are out for a walk while here for cancer treatment, either their own or for a family member.

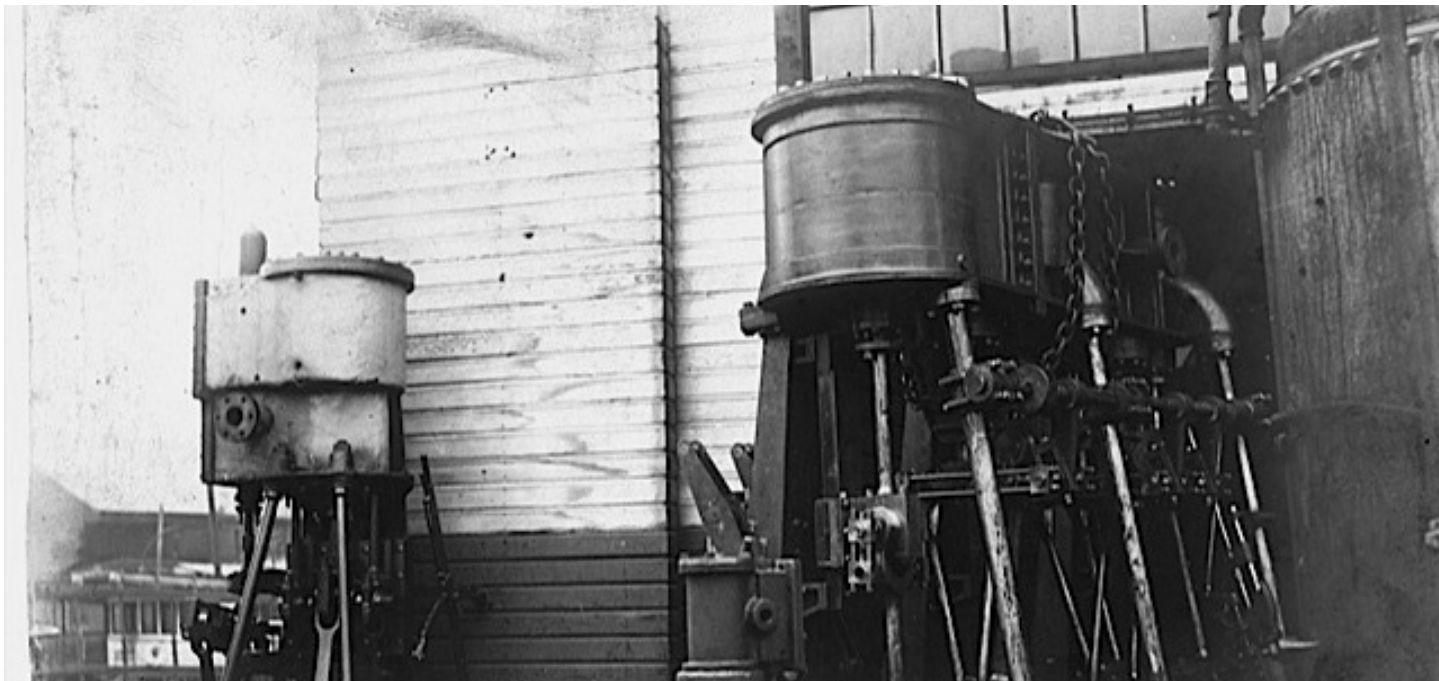
A passenger at Olympia disclosed that she was a Camp Fire Girl returning from Camp Sealth on VJ [Victory over Japan] Day, and had been traumatized by all the celebratory commotion and vessels sounding their whistles. The adults tried to console her in the Captain's cabin and explain, but none of that soothed her. Captain Dale had me bring her to the wheelhouse to sound the landing whistle to assuage those old anxieties, and graciously told her story on the ship's PA system.

What do you think the future of the VIRGINIA V looks like?

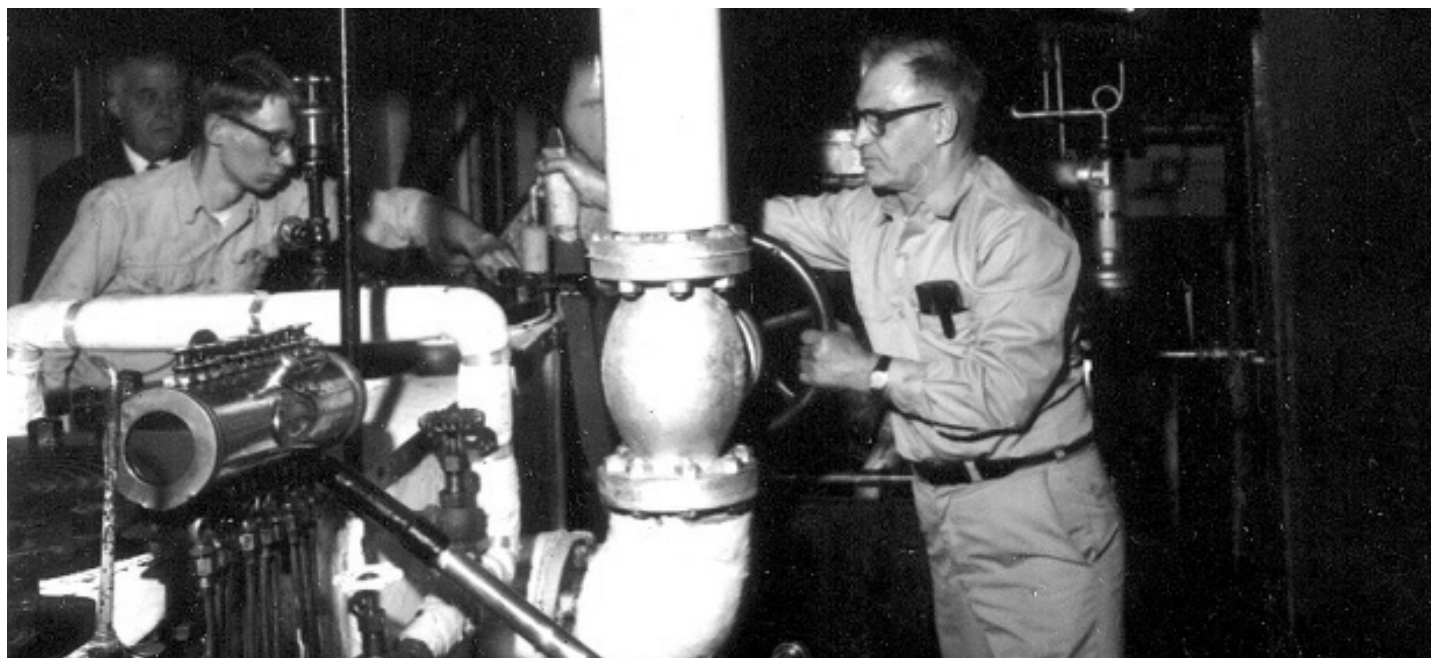
None of us can foretell the future, only set an aspiration. Mine for the ship is that she remain operational—a living ship—and be physically and financial sustainable. Keeping VIRGINIA V operational is an audacious tenet of our organization, but it's what sets her apart from most historic conveyances—aircraft, railroad equipment, vessels—that become frozen in amber. They cannot teach, tell a story, nor have the impact as VIRGINIA V routinely does.

From the Archives

by Keith Sternberg, former VIRGINIA V crew



Above: In February of 1907 the Lorenz family, hoping for more speed out of their steamer TYRUS, replaced her compound engine with a new and larger triple expansion engine from Heffernan Engine Works. The tandem compound engine was quite unusual, not only because the LP was on top but because the pistons worked in opposed motion. It was a “Wells Balance Engine.” It came to the Lorenz family with the steamer TYPHOON, built at Portland in 1889, which was sold to Mathew McDowell but the engine ran so sweetly that the Lorenz’s kept it, installing it in TYRUS in 1904. We believe it was used again in the second TYPHOON, built by the Lorenz family in 1910, and which later became the VIRGINIA III. *Photo credit Lorenz family.*



Above: Engine room view of March 12, 1969 with “Dutch” Schleitweiler at the throttle. He was a man of wide experience aboard deep sea and coastwise steamships and during the depression years was a dory fisherman in the cod schooner WAWONA. His name was Clarence but we knew him only as “Dutch”. He liked the gong and jingle signals and was not pleased when the telegraph was installed in August of 1969. The fireman on the other side of the engine is the author of this caption.

The Steamer Virginia V Foundation
PO Box 9566
Seattle, WA 98109

PSRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SEATTLE WA
PERMIT NO. 1793



The S.S. *Virginia V* is a
National Historic Landmark Vessel
Steaming in the Pacific Northwest since 1922

Make your next event a steamboat event!

Reserve the historic VIRGINIA V for a private cruise or dockside party



(206)-624-9119 or charter@virginiav.org

RENTAL AND REFERRAL DISCOUNTS ARE AVAILABLE TO ALL CURRENT MEMBERS