

SKEEETER NEWS

A newsletter from The Steamer VIRGINIA V Foundation



SPRING 2020 * VOL. 98, NO. 1



From left to right: A group gathers for a Chantey Sing led by the Whateverly Brothers; Beth Whitney, folk-rock singer/songwriter, performs at a DRYFT Dockside Concert in 2019, photo by Tony Hammons; and Devin Sinha with Yun-En Liu on violin at a DRYFT Dockside Concert in 2020.

All Together Now: Live Music on the VIRGINIA V

By Caitlin Spence, Communications and Membership Manager

The VIRGINIA V may not be the first venue that comes to mind when you think about live music in Seattle. Yet, three Fridays a month, she is the host of lively sea chanteys and intimate acoustic concerts dockside at her homeport in Lake Union Park. These events bring new and familiar faces on board and add vibrancy to the community.

The history of sea chanteys predates the VIRGINIA V by at least a century. Sea chantey tradition grew from work songs used to coordinate tasks on board that required a united effort. The simple call and response format makes chanteys easy to pick up, remember, and pass along. We've found that this historic ship and traditional chantey singing make a perfect pair.

The VIRGINIA V is home to monthly Chantey Sings hosted by Wayne Palsson of Northwest Seaport. Wayne writes, "The salon of the VIRGINIA V has great acoustics and, when it's filled with 70 people, we really make the rafters, well beams, and frames ring," says Palsson. "This ship is the real deal—an operating steamship that made history on Puget Sound—it makes the experience all the more authentic." On the second Friday of the month, Wayne brings a local musician on board to lead a group in maritime song. Attendees aren't required to sing along,

but you may find it impossible to resist. Admission is free, and all ages and voices are welcome.

In 2018, the Virginia V Foundation partnered with Darren Guyaz, musician and founder of DRYFT Music, to launch the DRYFT Dockside Concert series via Airbnb Experiences. Darren recognized the need for more intimate, listening-room style concerts and the magic of hosting these shows aboard a historic steamship. Guyaz explains, "There is literally NOTHING that compares to stepping onto a 1922 operational steamship, exploring the ship before the show with a glass of wine, and then watching two musical acts perform an arms-length away."

Today, the VIRGINIA V is home to DRYFT Dockside Concerts every first and third Friday of the month. Travelers and music-loving locals alike come to experience some of the most talented, up-and-coming singer/songwriters in the Pacific Northwest. Guests don't know who's performing until they arrive at the door – which adds to the series' mystique – but they're guaranteed an amazing experience with well-curated musicians. With a 4.92 rating and 427 reviews to date, the DRYFT Dockside Concert series is one of the most highly rated concert experiences in the world on Airbnb.

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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From the Executive

It has been an exciting first few months as part of this very special organization. Although I came on board as the new Executive Director during the "quiet season", there's been a lot of activity!

Only a few months into the year and we had already conducted our annual engine maintenance, began installing upgrades to our heating system, and developed plans and funds to address other maintenance and safety issues. A huge Bravo Zulu to Director of Engineering, Joe Schmitt, and volunteers, particularly Mairi Dulaney and Alan Graves for their work on the engine and heating system projects, and Dan Ayers and his woodworking team for their help building a new cabinet. Mark Miller and Tracy Meyer, former Interim Co-Directors, have been working with me on finance and fundraising projects and general onboarding. Thanks to all of them and all of you who have reached out to make me feel very welcome.

We were thrilled to have been notified about three separate grant funding organizations approving our applications recently. The Murdock Charitable Trust has agreed to provide \$150,000 toward our fungus abatement and haul out in early 2021 assuming we can raise the remainder of the funds needed from other sources. 4Culture has already stepped up with a \$20,000 grant and we are seeking additional funding to bridge the gap. So far, a number of Board Members and generous donors have made pledges towards this project and more are needed.

In addition, 4Culture granted the Foundation \$6,238 to pay for our isolation transformer project to correct a stray current issue, and the Seattle Yacht Club Foundation notified us that they'll be granting \$1,340 towards our summer internship program. Huge thanks to Tracy Meyer, Mark Miller, Joe Schmitt, and Nina Marie Altman for their work on these grant applications.

One more exciting piece of news to share: we are now able to take donations of vehicles! If you have a vehicle that you're ready to part with – running or not – please check out how easy it is to donate it to the Virginia V Foundation by visiting the donations page of our website.

Our COI inspection and cruise with the Coast Guard is scheduled for April 14th. After that we'll be ready for our underway season which will be a fun one. Details of cruises are coming together and we're posting more events all the time. Check out page 4 of this issue for upcoming events.

I look forward to meeting many of you on board in the coming months.

Debra E. Alderman

Debra Alderman
Executive Director of The Steamer Virginia V Foundation

We Are Going Tankless

By Joe Schmitt, Director of Engineering



From left to right: the old Way-Wolff Ship Heater; No. 6 AWG 4 conductor cable; and the Hubbell MTX Tankless Water Heaters.

Back in April of 2018, during the vessel's USCG re-inspection, the attending marine inspector required the Foundation to provide a Periodic Safety Test Procedure (PSTP) for the vessel's existing Way-Wolff Ship Heater. The PSTP would identify and outline the testing and safety features of the diesel fired ship heater in accordance with 46 CFR 61.35-3. Although some safety features were part of the original OEM design, several features such as a second fuel oil solenoid shut-off valve, a low fuel pressure shut-off, a variable air inlet louver, and a failure/shut down audible alarm were not included.

Since a PSTP was not available from the manufacturer, our engineers set out to develop a procedure for submittal to the USCG's Marine Safety Center (MSC-2). This was a daunting task that took several months to complete. First, the operating manuals had to be studied for safety functionality and a comparison of what features were available, based on the regulatory requirements for the diesel fired boiler. Then the engineers had to perform all of the procedures and tests for the U.S.C.G. On two occasions, this involved the complete disassembly and re-assembly of the unit. Unfortunately, the lack of the safety features ultimately prevented the Foundation from receiving PSTP approval. During the time we attempted to certify the water heater, the unit developed a leak in its shell. The failure of the heater's shell, coupled with the lack of required safety features, dictated that we look for a replacement heating system. The diesel fired ship heater was removed from the vessel in April 2019 and the engineers began looking at alternatives: tankless heaters, mini-splits heat pumps, King electric heaters, and a replacement oil fired ship heater.

It was determined that a marine rated tankless water heater would provide the vessel with a safe and operationally reliable hydronic system over that of a diesel fired heater. However, due to the vessel's limited

power budget, properly sizing this type of heater created a challenge. On October 31, 2019, a site visit by the manufacturer's engineering manager, which included a detailed review of the vessel's requirements and limitations, was conducted. After inspection and upon performing the necessary system requirement calculations, it was determined that the best course of action is to purchase two (2) Hubbell 12kW Model MTX Tankless Hot Water Heaters (208V, 33A, 3-phase). Each unit has an output of 40,946 BTU's. The total output of the two units will not generate the amount of heat the Way-Wolff Ship Heater (140,000 BTU/hr) had provided, but it is believed that an ample amount of heat will be available to eliminate the ill effects of prolonged exposure to moist cold air without tempering or, of course, freezing.

These units will be piped in parallel so that they can be used together to supply heated water to either or both the existing upper heating circuit (Upper Deck and Bridge Deck) and the existing lower heating circuit (Lower Engine Room). This is important due to the vessel's power limitations, during underway and dockside events, when the hotel load is significantly increased by the operation of the galley equipment and entertainment system.

The engineering for the supply of power to the heaters was conducted by Bernard "Al" Bruce, a marine electrician, while the control circuits were designed by the VIRGINIA V's Chief Electrician, Mairi Dulaney. The drawings were submitted to the USCG Marine Safety Center for review and approval. The system was subsequently approved, in total, by the USCG. As of this article, the heaters, power cable, and copper tubing and fittings have been purchased and placed aboard the vessel for installation. It is anticipated that the installation will be completed and tested in April 2020.

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@virginav.org

April

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		

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

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

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

Maritime participatory 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.



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						

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

17 SUNDAY, 3:00 - 5:00 PM Members Happy Hour Cruise

Celebrating Members and Members-to-be with a cruise and happy hour drink specials. TICKETS: \$15/general, & FREE/members plus 4 guests.

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	31			

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

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

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

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

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

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

20 SATURDAY, 6:00 - 8:30 PM VIRGINIA Birthday Cruise

Our annual fundraiser to support the V5! TICKETS: \$100/person & \$550/table of 6.

21 SUNDAY, 2:00 - 4:00 PM Fathers Day Cruise

A public cruise with MOHAI featuring kids activities, ice cream, and more! TICKETS: \$30/general, \$20/member (use code V5\$10Off), and free/kids under 5.

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.

Picture Your Company Logo Here

Do you want to promote maritime heritage while raising your company's visibility? Consider sponsoring events on the SS VIRGINIA V during our 2020 season. Learn more at www.virginiav.org/sponsorship.

Wipers Needed Aboard the VIRGINIA V

By Joe Schmitt, Director of Engineering



Above: Mairi Dulaney, left, and Joe Schmitt, center and right, demonstrate some of a Wiper's' duties on the VIRGINIA V.

In an effort to follow more closely with the convention of the Engineering Department ratings of the maritime industry, the position of Wiper has been implemented onboard the S.S. VIRGINIA V. This is a new position for our modern-day operation of the vessel. Wipers will maintain the overall cleanliness of the engineering spaces while being exposed to all facets of vessel shipboard safety, engineering maintenance, and pollution prevention.

Although the Wiper position may not be glamorous, it does provide an easy point of entry for volunteers without previous boating experience. Many seamen begin their careers as Wipers. On board the VIRGINIA V, Wipers can advance to the position of Designated Engineer.

To meet the maintenance needs of the vessel, all new Engineering Department volunteers and all current Engineering Department Trainees (those whom have not obtained the Designated Engineer rating), shall be reassigned as a "Wiper". Prior to consideration of being advanced to Designated Engineer Trainee, the candidate shall complete a total of five (5) cruises in the capacity of Wiper and five (5) scheduled dockside maintenance days.

The Wiper will work under the supervision of the Designated Engineer and under the direction of the Chief Engineer. The Wiper's duties are essential in maintaining overall maintenance and safety, and shall include the following:

- Attending the vessel in compliance with Engineering Department voyage call out (3-hours prior to departure).
- Consulting with Designated Engineer or Chief Engineer regarding cleaning products and materials.
- Wearing proper personal protective equipment (PPE), as required.
- Cleaning engine room spaces and equipment, as directed.
- Maintaining work areas during maintenance activities.
- Assisting other personnel on the ship with maintenance tasks as directed by the Chief Engineer.

To express interest, please complete our Volunteer Application online at <https://www.virginiav.org/volunteer/application/>. Please contact Joe Schmitt, Director of Engineering, at joe@virginiav.org with questions or comments.

Seeking Summer Interns

Know a high school student who loves life on the water? We want to welcome them aboard!

The Birkenfeld Summer Internship trains students to operate our steamship as deckhands, engineers, and maintenance crew. No prior maritime experience is required. Applications open April 1, 2020. See virginiav.org/internships for details.

2019 Volunteer of the Year: Mairi Dulaney

by Caitlin Spence, Communications and Membership Manager



From left to right: From Left to Right: Mairi receives the Volunteer of the Year award from Joe Schmitt, Director of Engineering, at the Volunteer Appreciation Potluck; Mairi lending a helping hand during Open Ship; and Mairi assisting with the annual engine maintenance this February.

We are pleased to announce the 2019 Dan Ayers Volunteer of the Year—Chief Electrician, Mairi Dulaney. Mairi received resounding support for this award due to her steadfast willingness to help and deep knowledge of the vessel's electrical systems. Mairi shows great reverence toward the VIRGINIA V and always answers the call to help – whether it's to perform engineering maintenance or assist our Senior Docent on board. She has taken on several important electrical projects that not only saved the Foundation significant resources, but, have also increased the overall safety and reliability of the vessel. In addition, Mairi recently designed the very detailed control circuitry for our new tankless hot water heaters which will be installed within the next few months upon U.S.C.G system review and approval – ultimately helping us restore heat to the ship. Please join us in thanking Mairi for her service and dedication!

Q&As with Mairi Dulaney

Why do you volunteer for the Virginia V Foundation?

I believe in preservation. We have a working, near perfect specimen of something that used to be average and common. Thousands of steamers like ours (I've seen the figure shown as high as 30,000) existed across the US, and we're one of two left in operation. It is my goal to keep the steam up for as long as possible for future generations. Besides, it is fun.

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

Being in the engine room when we set a new speed record last year was memorable. We got up to 16.2 knots going through the Narrows southbound to Olympia.

What's one thing most people get wrong/don't know about volunteering in the Engineering Department?

It's not really that bad heat wise. Typically, the engine room is in the 90s.

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

My hope is more of the same, really. Continuing to spread awareness of our vessel's existence, continue to educate folks on aspects of the everyday, ordinary lives of those that have passed across the decks. I would like to see some more folks get into engineering. We're a bit thin at times and could always use some help. Besides, you get to learn all kinds of cool, interesting things. I would like to see all volunteers receive some level of docent training. We are a museum and being able to accurately answer historical questions is vital.

If you are a volunteer who would like to learn more about the history of the VIRGINIA V, please attend our upcoming training on April 18th. RSVP at www.virginiav.org/calendar.

From the Archives

by Ed Brown, Senior Docent



Above: Regular maintenance on the Virginia V's 1904-vintage steam engine has always been a necessary task. This photograph of two engineers looking into the open Low Pressure Cylinder on the engine could almost be a photo of our engineers working today, until you notice the curved smoking pipe and the rather antique-looking electrical panel. In fact, this photo was taken some time in the late 1940's, demonstrating that engineers have been working hard on Virginia V's engine for a very long time.



Above: Just as the engine needs annual maintenance, so does the ship's deck and paintwork. Regular coats of paint and varnish are essential for protecting a wooden ship from the copious rainfall we receive in the Pacific Northwest. This photo was taken in 1978 of Captain Phil Shively repainting the Virginia V's exterior on a rather rickety looking float. The 1978 rebuild of the ship was performed just two years after the founding of the nonprofit, the Virginia V Foundation, and was very important for preserving the ship for the following decades.

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

Mark the occasion with a steamboat event!

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



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

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