

# CLAUD W. SOMERS

*From Captain Gerhard Straub*

Last season was a rough one for *Claud W. Somers* with bad weather and engine problems keeping us at the dock a lot more than we wanted. We ended the season with what was supposed to be our biannual Coast Guard dry dock inspection and our annual inspection. Things were going really, really, well until the CG inspectors found some rot in three bottom planks. Since we would be unable to get all the repairs done and meet our required deadlines, we opted to put the vessel in an “out of service” status until the spring. This doesn’t really affect us too much, as our public sailing season does not begin until June 1. However, this is going to make for a busy spring!

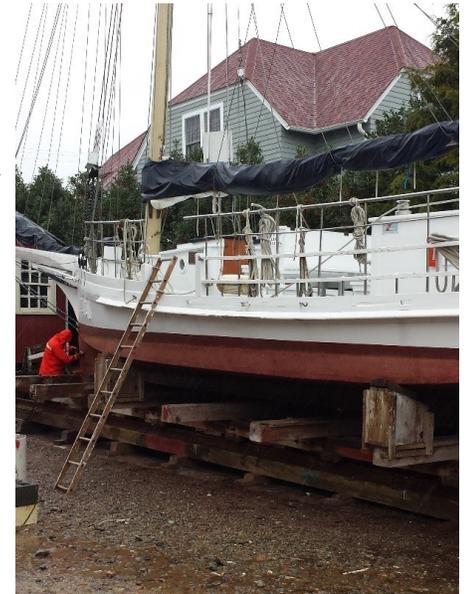
As soon as the weather warms up, we will haul the vessel out for maintenance. The Boat Shop has offered to take the lead on the replacement of the bottom planks while the crew assists as necessary and works on other maintenance and repair items, such as our bilge pump piping, some minor rot in the rudder, and general painting and preparation. The Coast Guard will inspect the repairs, and once satisfied, we’ll go through our annual inspection and return the *Somers* to operation. We are also planning to replace the main halyard block with the assistance of Omega Protein and their crane once we are back in the water.

Oh, but we’re not even close to the end of the list of things to do! The Boat Shop has also been hard at work on building a replacement for our push boat, *Spat*. It is looking great! There is a minor issue of what to do about a new engine, but we are working together with the Board to put a new engine in the new push boat. This will greatly improve the reliability of our operation. Of course, it all has to get finished and tested, and that is no small feat. Many, many thanks to the Boat Shop for bringing its expertise to bear on these projects.

In between all of this, we’ll be doing some crew training as well. If you think this all sounds like fun, how about joining the crew? What we can do with the vessel is really only limited by the number of crew we have available (and some pesky government regulations). You do not need experience as we’ll teach you what you need to know. If you have experience sailing, even better. Like to work on an engine or mechanical systems? We need help there too. Give me a call at 301-643-7316 or email me at [gstraub@alum.mit.edu](mailto:gstraub@alum.mit.edu) or talk to any of the other crew members, if you are interested in joining the crew or if you would like more information.

See you on the water!

P.S. If you haven’t done so yet, be sure to pick up some of the fantastic *Claud W. Somers* hot sauce that is available in the museum Gift Shop. It will surely keep you warm on these cold winter days!



**U.S. Coast Guard Inspection  
of the *Claud W. Somers***



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