

CLAUD W. SOMERS

From Captain Gerhard Straub

Claud W. Somers off to a busy start

The crew of *Claud W. Somers* always needs a break after the end of the year schedule, but we never get to rest for long! We ended up the season by participating as the spectator boat for the Turkey Shoot Regatta in the Rappahannock River. We spent the month of October at Tides Inn providing an interpretive exhibit and running a public sail. We then sailed over to Urbanna for the Urbanna Oyster Festival where we provided information on the vessel and museum to about 700 visitors to the waterfront. After that we sailed back so we could be home for our own oyster roast. It's not often you see our bowsprit go under water, but we did it multiple times on the trip down and back due to rough conditions on the Bay. Talk about an adventure, especially in a 108 year old boat!

We are now busy getting ready for the new season. Our next Coast Guard inspection is not until August, so we plan to hit the season running. The boat shop is putting the final touches on our new push boat and by the time this goes to press, the new engine should be installed. We are starting spring maintenance activities which include things like painting, repairing wooden blocks, repairing canvas, polishing rails, and a number of other things that need to get done before the season starts. We will also soon go to the yard for routine bottom and topside maintenance as well.

The first activity of the season is Blessing of the Fleet in early May and our official sailing season starts on **June 1st**. On **June 6th and 7th** we will once again join the Rappahannock Amateur Radio Association to represent *Somers* and the Museum for the "Museum Ships On the Air" event, which is sponsored by the Battleship *New Jersey* Museum and draws participants from maritime museums and vessels around the world.

Regular public sails will also begin in June—watch the website for dates. From **June 1st through October 31st**, *Claud W. Somers* conducts regular scheduled sails from the Museum dock. She is also available for charter for special occasions or educational trips. Join us for a sail down Cockrell's Creek to the Great Wicomico River and Chesapeake Bay. Observe first-hand the wildlife, watermen, and the scenic shorelines and waters while learning about local history, skipjacks, oysters, and the environment. If you are so inclined, help sail the vessel by taking the helm or tending the sails, or join us for one of our special adventure sails. *Claud W. Somers* is certified by the U.S. Coast Guard to carry up to 20 passengers



**Cruising on
the Somers**

The *Claud W. Somers* is sailed and maintained entirely by volunteers. If you would like to assist with any of the maintenance tasks to get us ready for the season, or are interested in a joining the crew, contact the office at 804 453 6529. No experience is necessary—we will teach you everything you need to know.

See you on the water!



Support the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund. Buy a Friend of the Chesapeake License Plate at www.dmv.virginia.gov. The proceeds replenish the Fund and the annual grant program, from which the Museum has benefited.