

CLAUD W. SOMERS

From Captain Gerhard Straub

The Sailing season for *Claud W. Somers*, like most vessels, has sort of been shanghaied by this COVID-19 situation. So, while that did delay the start of any sailing, we have been very busy. The Boat Shop completed construction of our new push boat, *Spat II*. This is a real beauty! It is made from marine plywood and has some beautiful hinged covers. Everything is designed to keep water out to ensure the longevity of the new Beta 43 HP engine that is installed. That new engine was made possible by a grant from the River Counties Community Foundation, individual donations, some fund raising by the crew, and funding provided by the Board. *Somers* crew members put in the electrical, water, and fuel systems. On August 6 we launched it, towed it over to the museum dock, and hooked it up to *Somers*. It's such a thrill to barely get the key turned to "Start" and it is already running!



Claud W. Somers & Spat II

With the new push boat in place, we were able to begin some crew sails. Unfortunately, we had a little leak that we had to deal with, so we made an unscheduled short haul out at Reedville Marine Railway to do some caulking. We are now trying to get some sails in for practice before our annual Coast Guard inspection.

Because of COVID safety issues, we are not currently doing public sails; however, we plan to put the remainder of the season to good use. In normal times, we would have multiple out of the water inspections by the Coast Guard next year including a dry dock inspection and a fastener pull and inspection. Also, every 10 years, the Coast Guard requires us to remove the mast from the boat for inspection. Since all of this is due next year and we really do not see much opportunity for passenger sails this season, we are going to try to complete all of that this fall so that we can have an uninterrupted passenger season next year. Oh, and did I mention that we need to replace the boom too! All this in addition to the regular annual maintenance that we did not get to do in April because of the stay at home order. It is going to be a very busy fall.

So, if you like working on boats, or just like hanging out in a boat yard working on a historic vessel, come join us! If you do it quick, you'll probably be able to get some sailing in too!



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