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## Search for World War II planes leads to discovery of lost Great Lakes ship

Two men looking for the wrecks of World War II planes may have found the remains of a steamship lost more than 120 years ago on Lake Michigan.

Taras Lyssenko and Allan Olson of Chicago-based A and T Recovery believe they have stumbled onto the remains of the SS *Chicora*. The ship was bound for Milwaukee on Jan. 21, 1895, when she went down with 23 people on board. Reports say that the ship left just 10 minutes before a messenger tried to deliver a telegram saying the ship should stay in port because the barometer was falling fast.

But although the vessel that A and T Recovery found is about the same length, same width, and features a single smokestack - just like the *Chicora* - this is not the first time this missing ship has supposedly been spotted. Valerie van Heest, director of Michigan Shipwreck Research Association, told the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* that other shipwreck hunters have reportedly found the ship, only to find out it was another vessel. In fact, a 2001 search by the association instead led to the discovery of the *H.C. Akeley*, a similarly sized steamship.

To try and confirm the find, the company is trying to assemble a team of historians and experts from Wisconsin, Michigan and Illinois to videotape the wreck and possibly establish a satellite link so students can watch live when a remote-controlled robot is sent to take a closer look.

## The summer issue of *PowerShips* has landed

Issue #306 of *PowerShips* features articles on Italian motor ships *Saturnia* & *Vulcania*, the SS *Avalon*, Night of the Subic Bay Pirates, and more. Whether you're new to SSHSA or your membership has lapsed, it's not too late to come on board! Sign up or renew today by [clicking here](#) or calling our headquarters at (401) 463-3570. Don't miss out!

## What you're missing on social media

If you don't follow us on social media, you may be missing out on a lot of exciting things going on at SSHSA. Click the icons and links below to check us out on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [Tumblr](#) to stay up to date on all things #shiphistory.

The team would include researchers studying the effects of quagga mussels on the bottom of Lake Michigan, one of the main reasons that A and T Recovery found the vessel in the first place. It has recovered about 40 Navy planes that crashed into Lake Michigan during World War II by pilots practicing carrier takeoffs and landings, and is seeking to map and videotape the 60 to 70 planes believed to still be on the bottom before the quagga and zebra mussels erode them away.

(Photo: [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org))

## Eight Bells: Bert Rogers and H.F. 'Gerry' Lenfest

Recently, the maritime heritage world has been rocked by the deaths of two men who made lasting contributions to preserve nautical history for the next generation: Tall Ships America Executive Director Bert Rogers and noted philanthropist H.F. 'Gerry' Lenfest, who helped give the SS *United States* a new life.

Captain Bert Roger's seafaring career began in 1978 when he joined the brigantine *Romance* and sailed for almost three years and circumnavigated the globe. He would go on to serve as bos'n, rigger, mate, and captain aboard many future sailing school vessels including *Regina Maris*, *Sea Cloud*, *Elizabeth II*, *Mayflower II*, *Lindo/Alexandria* and the *Spirit of Massachusetts*.

In October of 2017, he received the National Maritime Historical Society's Distinguished Service Award. [Click here for a tribute from our friends at the National Maritime Historical Society, as well as a video he narrated that touches on his career and his vision for the tall ships community.](#)

H.F. "Gerry" Lenfest, a businessman and philanthropist who received SSHSA's 2016 Samuel Ward Stanton Award for Lifetime Achievement, also died this month at 88 years old. He parlayed the sale of a cable television company to become one of the greatest philanthropists in the country, giving away more than \$1.3 billion to 1,100 organizations. Grants ranged from providing scholarships to high school students in rural Pennsylvania, supporting career assistance for youth,

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## USA Today features SSHSA award winner's pictures

USA Today recently highlighted SSHSA member Peter Knego's photographs as part of an ongoing online series called Cruise Ship Tour. The gallery contained 77 pictures of cruise giant Carnival's first three vessels – *Mardi Gras*, *Carnivale* and *Festivale*.

Originally built in Britain as ocean liners and converted by Carnival into floating fun zones, the now-legendary ships helped revolutionize the cruise industry in the 1970s and put Carnival on a path to global dominance. All three ships were scrapped in recent years. [Click here to see the gallery online.](#)

A veteran cruise writer and ship photographer, Knego was SSHSA's

underwriting new buildings at Columbia University and Abington Hospital-Jefferson Health and giving free billboard and TV advertising to arts groups to helping to save the Temple University rowing program.

But the donation that he will be remembered for most in the maritime community is his \$5.8 million donation to save the SS *United States* in 2010. The funds were used to buy the ship from Norwegian Cruise Line and maintain it in Philadelphia while supporters worked to find suitable redevelopment and refurbishment plans. He said he believed that his father once worked on the ship and called it "an icon of American pride."

Although the ship has yet to find a permanent home, Lenfest's contribution has helped keep her afloat for the last eight years as the SS United States Conservancy works to save the historic vessel for future generations.

His presence was felt far and wide and was willing to give whatever support he could – be it money or influence – to a cause he believed in. The important thing in life "is not how much money you've made, how many cars you have, how many yachts you have, but how you feel about yourself. And I feel pretty good," Lenfest said in a video produced for the Museum of the American Revolution.

**(Photos: Top, Captain Bert Rogers. Bottom, SSHSA Executive Director Matthew Schulte presents the Samuel Ward Stanton Award for Lifetime Achievement to H.F. 'Gerry' Lenfest and his wife, Marguerite, during a ceremony at the Ship History Center in 2016.)**

## Dispute arises over ship discovery, rumored gold in South Korea

A company in South Korea is claiming it is the sole entity to have discovered a long-lost Russian steamer rumored to have \$130 billion in gold. However, it may have to get in line behind its own government - which claims to have found the ship 15 years earlier - and Russian entities that believe they should be involved with any recovery efforts.

The Shinil Group recently released underwater images reported to be the Russian battleship *Dmitri Donskoi* which sank in 1905 off Ulleung Island, South Korea, while battling Japanese warships. Company spokesman Park Sung-jin told reporters that they had

2015 honoree for the Samuel Ward Stanton Award for Lifetime Achievement. He has added considerably to the available historical knowledge of the ocean liner by focusing attention on interior decorations of the passenger ship. Through still and video photography, Peter has catalogued the shipboard works of artisans, including sculptures, painters, furniture makers, artists and interior designers. Peter has personally recovered and documented hundreds of artifacts in his visits to Turkey, India, and other sites of ship breaking.

(Photo: *Festivale*, [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org))

## Maine port seeks limits on big ships

While many ports are doing what they can to accommodate larger ships as cruise lines build bigger and bigger vessels, one Maine city is saying enough is enough.

The Rockland City Council voted this month to limit the number of large cruise ships, defined as having 500 or more passengers, that can sail into the harbor. Ships exceeding that number will only be allowed in September and October, with a cap of six large ships per year. The council also limited the daily passenger maximum in September and October to 3,000, with no more than 9,000 each month.

Concerns about the larger vessels ranged from the effects on local air and water quality to the economic contributions of cruise passengers versus other tourists to the area.

Cruise ships that already have reservations to dock in Rockland this year are exempt from the new limits, including the *Crystal*

evidence that proved there were gold boxes tightly lashed together within the wreckage and, if allowed to claim the treasure, the company says it would donate 10 percent of it to South Korean job creation efforts and inter-Korean development projects with North Korea.

But they may not be the first to lay claim to the ship after all. The announcement was disputed by the government-run Korea Institute of Ocean Science and Technology (KIOST), which told the South Korean media that it discovered the wreck in 2003. Images on its website dated 2007 reportedly show the ship and maps of its general location. Furthermore, a South Korean construction company says it discovered the site prior to both Shinil Group and KIOST.

Ownership of the vessel may be moot, as many experts believe that tales of the gold are just rumors. Even if true, international law seems to side with Russian ownership because the ship was a war vessel steaming under the Russian flag.

“A war vessel is the territory of the state whose flag it bears regardless of the waters it is in,” Yevgeny Zhuravlev, head of Vladivostok’s military history museum on the Pacific Fleet, told *Reuters*. “This status does not change even after it sinks. Any works on board the newly discovered *Dmitri Donskoi* should be agreed with the Russian side.”

(Photo: *Dmitri Donskoi*, [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org))

## Scarlet Lady to kick off Virgin Voyages brand

Already comfortable in the sky – and even space – the Virgin Group is taking to the seas.

Virgin Voyages unveiled the long-awaited name of its first ship today, *Scarlet Lady*, at its shipyard in Genoa, Italy. The ship, due in

*Symphony* (940 passengers) and the *Queen Mary 2* (2,450 passengers), which are both due in September. As of now, the only cruise ship scheduled for next year is the *Sapphire Princess* (3,160 passengers).

Rockland is not the only area where cruise ship protests have happened recently. [Click here for a story about a disgruntled Norwegian politician who has taken to flashing cruise passengers to express his ire.](#)

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2020, will have amenities based around a new wellbeing program called "Vitamin Sea" meant to increase the health of the passengers and the oceans.

One of the ships highest-profile initiatives is a ban of single-use plastic on board, ranging from bottled water to disposable coffee and tea cups. Virgin Voyages says this will make it one of the cleanest fleets at sea.

"We believe that in order to fulfill our purpose of creating an 'Epic Sea Change for All' we must make a commitment that is bigger than just eliminating straws," CEO Tom McAlpin said. "We must make a commitment to building ships and experiences that do everything possible to look after the well-being of our precious oceans."

Among the images released were those of nine new on-board spaces include those that will host the many group fitness classes. The Crow's Nest, for example, which offers 360 degree views around the ship and is shown strewn with exercise mats in Virgin's signature red, will host sunrise and sunset yoga. Also on board will be The Runway running track, The B Complex with rooms for spin, yoga and cardio and The Athletic Club, which includes a boxing ring and gym equipment modelled on what you'd find in 1920s New York sports clubs.

Passengers will also have ample opportunity for pampering in the ship's Spa, Redemption, and in the blow dry bar, barber shop, male pedicure spa and mani-pedi spa.

(Photo: *Scarlet Lady*, Virgin Voyages)

## What's happening in ship history?

*This is a brief listing, so make sure to check locally for what's going on in your area.*

### August 22

Steamboat Stories - Life on Winnepesaukee in a Bygone Era  
7:00 PM  
Free  
Lake Winnepesaukee Museum  
Weirs, NH  
[www.lwhs.us](http://www.lwhs.us)

### August 26

Songs of the Sea – 26th annual Sea Chantey Fest  
11:30 AM to 4:40 PM

\$18 for adults, \$13 for seniors/active military/students, \$8 for children age 3-12, and free for children age 2 and younger

Maritime Museum of San Diego

San Diego, CA

[www.sdmaritime.org](http://www.sdmaritime.org)

**September 29**

Pints on the Pier (21+ only)

5:30 PM to 8:30 PM

Members \$40, nonmembers \$50 in advance; \$55 at the door; designated driver \$20

Maine Maritime Museum

Bath, ME

[www.mainemaritimemuseum.org](http://www.mainemaritimemuseum.org)

**October 3-9**

Maryland Fleet Week and Air Show

Multiple dates and times; see website for details

Historic Ships in Baltimore

Baltimore, MD

[www.historicships.org](http://www.historicships.org)

**October 12-28**

Nautical Nightmares: Madness on the Mystic River

See website for specific dates and times

Members: \$21 for adults, \$16 for children; nonmembers: \$25 for adults, \$20 for children

Mystic Seaport Museum

Mystic, CT

[www.mysticseaport.org](http://www.mysticseaport.org)

**October 19-20**

Haunted Sub & Pub aboard the USS *Cobia*

7:00 PM to 11:00 PM

\$8 per person

Wisconsin Maritime Museum

Manitowoc, WI

[www.wisconsinmaritime.org](http://www.wisconsinmaritime.org)

**October 20 (rain date October 27)**

21st Annual Cortez Nautical Flea Market

8:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Free

Florida Maritime Museum

Cortez, FL

[www.floridamaritimemuseum.org](http://www.floridamaritimemuseum.org)

**October 31**

Sailor's Superstitions Tour aboard the *Elissa*

2:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Adults \$12, youth \$9, children age 5 and younger free

Texas Seaport Museum



Galveston, TX  
[www.galvestonhistory.org](http://www.galvestonhistory.org)

**November 3**

Wreck-A-Palooza 2018

10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Registration for a single presentation is \$12 for members, \$15 for nonmembers; half-day registration is \$22 for members, \$26 for nonmembers; and whole-day registration (includes box lunch) is \$60 for members, \$70 for nonmembers.

National Museum of the Great Lakes

Toledo, OH

[www.inlandseas.org](http://www.inlandseas.org)

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Bryan Lucier, Editor, *Ahoy!*

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