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New national sanctuary to safeguard remains of 'Ghost Fleet'

More than 100 abandoned steamships and vessels built as part of America's engagement in World War I will be protected for years to come thanks to the designation of a new national marine sanctuary in Maryland. Malloys Bay-Potomac River National Marine Sanctuary, about 40 miles south of Washington, D.C., is the first national marine sanctuary designated since 2000.

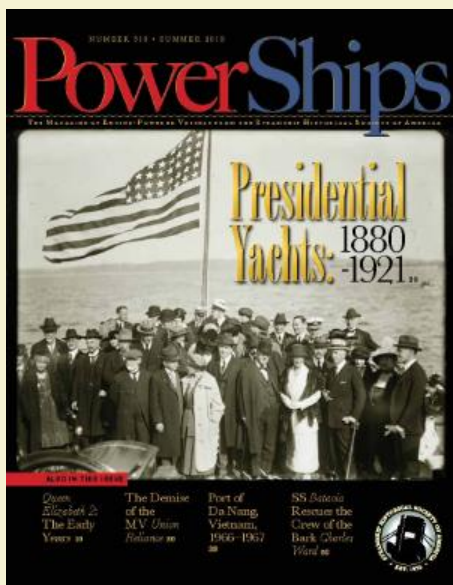


The state of Maryland nominated the area for sanctuary designation in 2014 to protect and conserve the shipwrecks and cultural heritage resources, to foster education and research partnerships, and to increase opportunities for public access, tourism and economic development. The nomination enjoyed broad community support and strong support from the Maryland congressional delegation.

Malloys Bay is most renowned for its "Ghost Fleet," the partially submerged remains of more than 100 wooden steamships that were built in response to threats from World War I-era German U-boats that were sinking ships in the Atlantic. Although the ships never saw action during the war, their construction at more than 40 shipyards in 17 states reflected the massive national wartime effort that drove the expansion and economic development of communities and related maritime service industries. The fleet was brought to the Potomac River to be salvaged for scrap metal by a company in Alexandria, Virginia, not far from the sanctuary site.

In addition to the "Ghost Fleet," the 18 square mile sanctuary is home to Maryland Indian Tribes heritage sites, remains of historical fisheries operations, and Revolutionary and Civil War battlescapes.

NOAA, the state of Maryland, and Charles County will manage the national marine sanctuary jointly. The sanctuary designation will be



The Summer issue of *PowerShips* has landed

Issue #310 of *PowerShips* features articles about presidential yachts from 1880-1921, the *Queen Elizabeth 2*, the *Union Reliance*, the port of Da Nang in Vietnam, and a painting of the *SS Batavia* rescuing the crew of the bark *Charles Ward*. 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](#),

in effect following 45 days of Congressional session that take place after the action is published in the Federal Register.

The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries serves as the trustee for a network of underwater parks encompassing more than 600,000 square miles of marine and Great Lakes waters from Washington state to the Florida Keys, and from Lake Huron to American Samoa. The network includes a system of 13 national marine sanctuaries and Papahānaumokuākea and Rose Atoll marine national monuments.

Photo: The historic shipwrecks of Mallows Bay-Potomac River National Marine Sanctuary are also a habitat for birds and other wildlife (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration/Matt McIntosh).

Next year's Ocean Liner Gala will be a 'United' affair

After paying tribute to some of the great British, French and Italian ships over the course of the first four Ocean Liner Dinners, it's about time we turn the spotlight on the home team. That's right – we're going red, white and blue next year with a tribute to the United States Lines!

The newly minted Ocean Liner Gala will take place **May 2, 2020**, here in Rhode Island with a celebration of some of the biggest names in transatlantic travel: the *America*, the *Leviathan*, and “Big U” herself, the *SS United States*.

The company started with just three ships purchased from the failed United States Mail Steamship Company and rose to prominence in the 1920s. Its early days involved such captains of industry as J.P. Morgan and Kermit Roosevelt. The line gained public attention from the skillful seamanship of Capt. George Fried who oversaw two daring rescue operations as Captain of the *SS President Roosevelt* and then the *SS America*. The 1930s and 1940s saw the line operate such icon Transatlantic liners as the *SS Manhattan*, *Washington* and *America*.

The line went on to become one of the largest U.S.-flagged freight and passenger lines. But it is the *SS United States* that the company is perhaps best known for. Built under a government subsidy, she launched in 1952 as the fastest ocean liner and the largest built in the United States – two records that stand to this day.



and [Tumblr](#) to stay up to date on all things #shiphistory.



Documentary sheds new light on *Eastland* disaster

This year marked the 104th anniversary of the capsizing of the passenger steamer *Eastland*, a disaster that claimed the lives of 844 people. It ranks as one of the greatest losses of life in the United States, outranked only by the fires onboard the *Sultana* in 1865 and the *General Slocum* in 1904. Yet the disaster remains one that many people have not heard of until this day – something that two filmmakers in Chicago are trying to change.

“Eastland: Chicago’s Deadliest Day,” produced and written by Harvey Moshman and Chuck Coppola, is an

This is definitely one dinner that you do not want to miss. We’re finalizing plans for the venue now, so keep an eye out for details in the near future.

Photo: U.S. Lines brochure (SSHSA Archives).

Cruise startup invites passengers to make the sea their home

Do you dream of a luxury life at sea? Well the folks at Blue World Voyages have a deal for you.

The startup cruise company is offering residences for sale on a converted liner that will allow you to see the world from the comfort of your own private suite. The catch? Only 40 will be available starting at a cool \$2.35 million.

Registration is open now for 850- and 1,200-square-foot spaces that come with exclusive use of owners club facilities on the two upper decks; an owners-only lounge, bar and outside terrace; and concierge and butler service. The apartment is available at any time to owners and can be lent to family, friends and business associates provided that there is no charge.



The company says that it is evaluating a vessel that is currently in operation as a cruise ship. Different inspections are now underway, with the official selection expected to be announced later this summer. The ship will be completely refurbished and redesigned for a maximum of 525 passengers and plans to set sail in early 2021.

Blue World Voyages, which touts itself as the world's first cruise line dedicated to sports and wellness, is expected to begin operations with its first ship in 2020. Sample itineraries include ports in France, Spain, Italy, Greece, Croatia, Turkey, Montenegro and South America. The company says the destinations are driven by shoreside activities related to physical activities, discovery, cultural offerings and culinary experiences.

For more information on available cruises or residences, visit www.blueworldvoyages.com.

Photo: A rendering of one of the proposed luxury suites (Blue World Voyages).

83-minute documentary that features rare, previously censored newsreel footage from the scene; state-of-the-art computer graphics demonstrating how the ship rolled over; and interviews with more than 30 subjects, including three authors of books on the disaster. The film premiered July 25 on Window to the World Communications (WTTW) in Chicago and will be distributed to PBS stations nationwide in early 2020.

This is the second *Eastland* documentary Coppola and Moshman have created. The first, in 2001, was put together in three months. This time, they spent three years on the project, which was funded by the Chicago Marine Heritage Society.

The time and the money enabled them to produce a dramatic re-enactment of the disaster, filmed aboard the SS *Keewatin*, an early 20th-century steamship of the same design as the *Eastland*, now moored as a museum in Port McNicoll, Ontario. Using CGI technology, the producers superimposed an image of the *Keewatin* onto the Chicago River, replacing its name with the *Eastland*'s.

The new documentary also includes newsreel footage discovered in 2015 of rescuers righting the ship and pulling bodies out of the water.

Shockingly, no one was held accountable for the tragedy even though it is generally agreed that the vessel's initial construction and subsequent modifications were made without regard for stability or safety. However, many regulations were put into place following the disaster that reduced passenger capacities and created a board of naval architects to approve vessel hull and machinery construction for ships going forward.

Eight Bells: Charles Dana Gibson

We are sad to report that Charles Dana Gibson, a well-known author and SSHSA member for more than 40 years, died earlier this summer.

Born in 1928, Mr. Gibson enrolled as an ordinary seaman with the U.S. Army Transportation Corps when he was just 16 years old, rising to the rank of 1st Lieutenant, Infantry, before he was honorably discharged in 1962. After a time operating a livestock farm (during which he was appointed by Governor Nelson Rockefeller to the New York State Commission for the Preservation of Agricultural Lands), he became actively engaged in the commercial swordfish industry, working out of New Bedford, Massachusetts.



Mr. Gibson and his wife, Kay, also operated Jekyll Towing & Marine Services, an ocean tug enterprise based in Brunswick, Georgia, and later St. Petersburg, Florida. In 1985, the Gibsons sold their tug *Jekyll Isle* (now *Pentagoet*) to Maine Maritime Academy and relocated to Camden, Maine, where they resided and worked together as maritime historians for 30 years.

In 1988, Mr. Gibson's pro bono consulting work resulted in Armed Forces veterans' status and benefits being awarded by the Department of Defense to over 84,000 civilian seamen who served in the WWII Oceangoing Merchant Marine from December 7, 1941 to August 15, 1945. In addition, he helped secure veterans status for the civilian seamen of the Army Transportation Corps who served during WWII. His work in this area earned him the Captain K. C. Torrens Award from the Council of American Master Mariners; the Distinguished Service Award from the U. S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point; and the Marconi Memorial Gold Medal of Achievement from the Veteran Wireless Operators Association.

Mr. Gibson also authored four books and co-authored four others with his wife. All of their writings deal with aspects of maritime history. Their two volumes covering the Civil War period received the 1996 John Lyman Award for Naval History. Their last book, "Over Seas," was selected by the American Library Association as an Outstanding Academic Title. The Gibsons received the K. Jack Bauer Award for contributions made to maritime history, the only husband and wife team to be so honored.

To read more about the *Eastland* sinking and the changes that resulted, see the Fall 2015 issue of *PowerShips* (#295) or the Summer 1965 issue of *Steamboat Bill* (#94).

Photo: www.chicagotribune.com



Hall of Fame band headlines Fleet Week festivities in LA

Organizers at LA Fleet Week have a 'trick' up their sleeves that will be a real treat for attendees at this year's event.

The annual celebration on the Los Angeles waterfront will kick off on Friday, August 30, with a performance by Cheap Trick in the Military Appreciation Concert on the event's main stage. Sponsored by the Annenberg Foundation, the concert is the first of three consecutive days of free live entertainment slated to rock LA Fleet Week over the Labor Day weekend.

Started in the 1970s, Cheap Trick continues to record music and sell out venues around the globe. The band was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 2016.

"As founding members of the First Airborne Rock and Roll Division, it's a privilege for Cheap Trick to be a part of LA Fleet Week in support of our

In addition to SSHSA, his professional affiliations included membership in the Council of American Master Mariners; the Marine Society of the Port of New York; the North American Society for Oceanic History; Army Historical Foundation; and the Council on America's Military Past.

Besides his wife, Mr. Gibson is survived by a daughter, Rene Gibson of Hillsdale, NY; a son, Bill Gibson of Gloucester, VA; a brother, Mark Gibson of Ivy, VA; a sister, Diana Garner of Bethesda, MD; and a sister-in-law, Sara Gibson of Richmond, VA. He was predeceased by two daughters, Marion and Abby, two brothers, Harry and Langhorne Gibson Jr., and two sisters, Parthie Shields and Renee Darrell.

Photo: Charles Dana Gibson (Thomas S. Lowther Funeral Home)

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 17

119th Iowa By The Sea Picnic aboard the Battleship *Iowa*

10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

\$29.50 for adults and youths age 13 and older; \$12 for children age 6-12; free for children age 5 and younger

Battleship *Iowa*

San Pedro, CA

www.pacificbattleship.com

August 17 and 18

Antique Marine Engine Exposition

Saturday - 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM; Sunday - 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

\$28.95 for adults; \$26.95 for senior citizens; \$24.95 for youths age 13-17; and \$18.95 for children age 3-12

Mystic Seaport Museum

Mystic, Connecticut

www.mysticseaport.org

September 12

Sunken Steamboats of Moosehead Lake

6:00 PM to 7:30 PM

\$7 for members; \$10 for nonmembers

Maine Maritime Museum

Bath, ME

www.mainemaritimemuseum.org

September 14

Summer Film Series: "A Voyage Into History"

2:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Free

Dossin Great Lakes Museum

service men and women and their families," vocalist Robin Zander said.

The Wing Tips from San Pedro will warm up Friday night's crowd with vintage hits from the 1950s and 60s hits before Cheap Trick takes that stage at 8:00 PM.

LA Fleet Week 2019 also announced Fast Times and DJ MissNinja will round out the Saturday and Sunday evening concert lineup. Performing high energy rock dance music from 1980s hits to classic rock from Bon Jovi, Fast Times will rock the stage Saturday night. Sunday's evening concert will electrify the crowd as popular Los Angeles-based DJ MissNinja, known for delivering an eclectic mix of music that gets crowds on their feet, spins everything from Top 40, hip hop and disco to classic rock.

"This concert and all of the Fleet Week events are a wonderful way to honor servicemen and women and all they do for our country," said Wallis Annenberg, Annenberg Foundation President and Fleet Week Co-Chair.

All entertainment throughout the four-day LA Fleet Week event will be free to the public. For more updates on the lineup of events, sign up for news announcements at www.LAFleetWeek.com.

Photo: Battleship Iowa Museum

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September 26 to November 2

Queen Mary's 10th Dark Harbor
Various dates and times; see website for details
Ticket packages begin at \$20
The *Queen Mary*
Long Beach, CA
www.queenmary.com

October 5

Milestones in Early Submarine Development
Lectures at 10:30 AM and 2:30 PM
Free with \$1 museum admission
The Mariners' Museum
Newport News, VA
www.marinersmuseum.org

October 19 and 20

30th Annual Georgetown Wooden Boat Show
Saturday – 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM; Sunday - 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Free
South Carolina Maritime Museum
Georgetown, SC
www.scmaritimemuseum.org

October 19 and 26

Haunted Tales: Lantern Led Tours & Ghost Stories Aboard *Star of India*
6:00 PM to 7:30 PM
\$18 for adults; \$13 for senior citizens, military members and students;
\$8 for children age 3-12
Maritime Museum of San Diego
San Diego, CA
www.sdmaritime.org

October 26

Nautical Flea Market
8:00 AM to 1:00 PM
Attendance is free; registration for vendors is \$25 before October 12
or \$35 beginning October 13
Florida Maritime Museum
Cortez, FL
www.floridamaritimemuseum.org



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