



February 2016

VOLUME 6, NUMBER 1

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### **See Photos, Stories, and More on Social Media**

Click on the logos below to access our social media websites. These websites are updated daily, and share history, current events, and information on what's happening in SSHSA's new headquarters.

## Crystal Cruises Eyes SS *United*

### *States* Rehab Project

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Under the agreement, the cruise line will cover all the costs associated with preserving the ship while it undertakes a technical feasibility study to determine what it will take to get the SS *United States* back out on the water. The ship will have to be extensively rebuilt to meet modern maritime regulations, however Crystal Cruises is planning to maintain several original features such as the Promenade and Navajo Lounge. New engines and sophisticated marine technology will be installed to maintain her title as the fastest cruise vessel in the world.

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(Above image: *SS United States*, Associated Press)

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Experts estimate that it will take \$15 million to \$18 million to get the boat back on the water, of which only about \$4 million has been raised. Once restored, supporters say the *Columbia* could be used as an event venue or as an educational destination for schoolchildren. It could also be restored to operate daytime cruises from New York City to sites along the Hudson River. Whatever the use, backers say it is important to preserve the vessel. The oldest remaining excursion steamship in the United States, it was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1979 and designated as an historic landmark in 1992.

[Click here for the full story from the Wall Street Journal \(subscription required\)](#), which also features an interview with Steamship Historical Society Executive Director Matthew Schulte.

(Photo: *SS Columbia*, SS Columbia Project)

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## Contact Us

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2500 Post Road  
Warwick, RI 02886  
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Royal Caribbean gave the world a sneak peak this week at what is destined to become the world's largest cruise ship, the *Harmony of the Seas*. Under construction at the STX Shipyard in St. Nazaire, France, the cruise company gave USA Today a behind-the-scenes tour on the 227,000-ton ship that will pass her record-holding sisters, the *Oasis of the Seas* and the *Allure of the Seas*, by 1,700 tons and nearly 100 passengers.

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(Photo: *Harmony of the Seas*, Royal Caribbean)

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One of the largest and most luxurious ocean liners of its time, the *Republic* sank shortly after leaving New York Harbor on January 24, 1909. Bayerle is credited with discovering the wreck off the coast of Nantucket in 1981 (not far from where the *Andrea Doria* also lies), but a recovery effort in 1987 came up empty. Armed with more research, Bayerle said he is now convinced that he knows the exact location of the treasure.

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(Photo: RMS Republic, [wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RMS_Republic))

## Join SSHSA for a Special Fundraiser

Save the date for  
SSHSA's first Ocean  
Liner Dinner  
fundraiser on  
Saturday, May 14!  
Coinciding with the  
80th anniversary of  
the *Queen Mary*, the event will feature a menu inspired by the historic ship's cuisine, special guests and a silent auction. Tickets are just \$150 each or \$250 per couple - don't miss out! Call 401-463-3570 or email [info@sshsa.org](mailto:info@sshsa.org) for more information.

All proceeds will help us as we continue to develop our new home, the Ship History Center, and work to expand our presence by offering special events for the public and members, increasing our online offerings by adding to our virtual museum, and further developing our educational programs with an eye toward engaging groups of school children around the country. For more information, visit [www.sshsa.org](http://www.sshsa.org).

## Government Agency Jumps the Gun on Historic Designation for *SS Badger*

It appears that an errant social media post lead to some premature accolades for the *SS Badger*, the largest car ferry ever to sail Lake Michigan and the only coal-fired steamship still in operation in the United States. An entry on the National Park Service's verified Facebook page announced that the *Badger* had been designated a National Historic Landmark. The problem is that officials quickly retracted the post, saying that the paperwork wasn't complete and that the *Badger's* application had not received final approval.

SSHSA's 2002 Ship of the Year, the *Badger* was built in 1952 and designed specifically to handle the rough conditions that it would likely encounter during year-round sailing on Lake Michigan. Its passenger accommodations made it one of the most popular car ferries sailing the great lakes until it was taken out of service in 1990. The vessel was later revived to carry leisure passengers and their vehicles, and steams from Manitowoc, Wisconsin, to Ludington, Michigan from May through October.

There's no word yet on a timetable on when there might be a ruling from the Department of the Interior. The same body placed the ship on another historical list, the National Register of Historic Places, in 2009.

(Photo: SS *Badger*, Lake Michigan Carferry)

## 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.*

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Open hours at SSHSA

10:00AM-1:00 PM

Saturdays (February 27, March 19, March 26, April 2)

Free for members, \$8 suggested donation for non-members

SSHSA Ship History Center

Warwick, RI

<http://www.sshsa.org>

### **February 21**

The History of the Sandy Hooks Pilots Association

3:00PM-5:00PM

Free for members, \$10 for non-members

National Lighthouse Museum

Staten Island, NY

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

### **February 27**

Charles Point Council Seminar: Einstein's Love of Sailing

Registration and Breakfast at 10:30AM, Presentation at 11:00AM

A \$5-\$10 donation is appreciated

Henrik Hudson Free Library

Montrose, NY

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

### **March 1**

Full Steam Ahead - A fundraising event for the *Sabino*

4:00 PM

The Engine Room restaurant

Mystic, CT

A portion of each meal check will benefit the steamboat's new boiler.

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

### **March 13, April 10, May 8**

Steam-Powered Donkey Engine Demonstration

11:00AM-4:00PM

Free

San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park

San Francisco, CA

[www.nps.gov/safr](http://www.nps.gov/safr)

**April 2**

Lecture: Florida's Fleet

3:00PM

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Florida Maritime Museum

Cortez, FL

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

**April 9**

"Report Me All Well:" Communications At Sea And Across The Sea

8:00AM-5:00PM

\$60 members, \$70 nonmembers, \$35 students

Maine Maritime Museum

Bath, ME

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

**April 13**

Floating Palaces of the Great Lakes: A History of Passenger Steamships on the Inland Seas

7:00PM-8:30PM

\$8 adults, \$7 senior citizens and children

National Museum of the Great Lakes

Toledo, OH

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Bryan Lucier, Editor, *Ahoy!*

Find us on:

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SSHSA, 2500 Post Road, Warwick, RI 02886

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All proceeds will help us as we continue to develop our new home, the  
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