

# Stone Harbor Museum News

## Fall 2016 Newsletter

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### Sandy Meadowcroft Honored at Docent Party

A highlight of our Annual Docent "Thank you" Party on Wednesday, September 7th, was the presentation of a plaque to Sandy Meadowcroft in recognition of ten years of service as a docent. For some of these years, Sandy's late husband Al joined her in welcoming our visitors. The presentation was made by Lou Schweickhardt, Docent Coordinator.

In addition to Sandy, 24 volunteers served as docents. Among them were five new volunteers: Tiffany Hale, Karen Gusmer, Virginia Lane, Sue Walton and Diane Young. Museum tote bags were presented to these new personnel for their help in carrying out the mission of the museum.



Terrie Cwik, Bruce Tell, Sandy Meadowcroft, and Lou Schweickhardt

### Summer Presentations

The evening programs held at the American Legion Post this summer were entertaining and educational. The five week series, scheduled during July and August, averaged about 30 guests per lecture.

Notable among the presentations were County Clerk Rita Fulginiti and Laurie Boyd-Thomas' stories of "Murder, Mayhem and Mystery."

Donna Van Horn and Karen Jennings published their second book titled "Stone Harbor Revisited" earlier this year. They came to sign the book as well as comment on several additional never-before published photos which were not included in the book.

Linda Barth recounted stories from her book "Invented in New Jersey" and Kate Butler presented "A History of Swimwear Fashion and Seaside Memorabilia."

Trustees Rand Bauer and Jim Talone represented the Stone Harbor Museum in the Avalon History Center's series "On the Way to Cape May" as presenters of an illustrated history of the formation of the barrier islands.

### Mayor and Council Attend Museum Reception

For the second time since the opening of the museum in 2000, members of Borough Council and Mayor Suzanne Walters were invited to a reception on Tuesday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, and given guided tours of the building. Jim Gallagher and Doug Dunhour also attended with their councilwomen spouses.

Guests enjoyed the event and the delicious food provided by the catering service of the Stone Harbor Bar & Grill.

Along with Miranda Duca, Borough Recreation Director, other honored guests included Clint Bunting and Brett DeNafo, owners of the new Harbor Square Theatre.

Mr. Bunting and Mr. DeNafo were presented certificates of life membership in the museum for their generosity in providing display space for the museum in the theater. Mr. Bunting was also given a "Basket of Gratitude" containing items from the Gift Shop for him and his family.

Ms. Duca has been especially kind to the museum by providing a sheltered table at the Water Works Plaza concerts this past summer where successful Philly Pretzel sales were held and numerous inquiries about the museum were answered.

A reception for the members of the Stone Harbor Elementary School Board of Education is planned for the near future.



Brett DeNafo, Terrie Cwik, Bruce Tell, and Clint Bunting

### Springer Family Bible Donated to Museum

Donna Van Horn and Karen Jennings made a surprise donation of the family bible of the Springer family. Sisters, Van Horn and Jennings are descendants of the Springer's.

The bible, which includes names and birthdates of several early families, is a prized addition to the museum and a reference treasure.

Donna Van Horn, Terrie Cwik, and Karen Jennings



## Our Sailing History

Sailing and sailboats have been part of the yacht club since its inception.

When the club was reorganized in 1929, sailing and racing started immediately. Because of the various types and sizes of member's boats it was a difficult task to classify them and assign handicaps. In 1933, a committee was formed to find a good one-design class boat for the club to use for their racing program. After studying various types and qualifications, the committee chose the "Comet" as the official club boat. By 1934, the fleet had grown to 14 boats. When the National Comet Association was formed, it awarded Charter #1 to the Yacht Club of Stone Harbor.

The Comet class has dwindled in past years and today there are only a few still sailing. The class has a long, colorful and successful history at the club. As an interesting note, the "Comet" is on the Borough of Stone Harbor's logo.

The Comet was the start of many one design boats that graced our local waters. Some have made more of an impact than others.

The "Moth" fleet was the next boat sanctioned by the Club and enjoyed a long association with YCSH. The fleet started in 1948 and lasted well into the 70's. It was added to the roster of club boats to appeal to the younger sailors who wanted to get into racing. The downfall of the class was, in part, by the many design changes made through the years which allowed each new design to outrace the former ones. Edme Deschamps built at least 10 "Deschamps Connecticut Moths" that were sailed in competition.

The late 50's and early 60's saw the addition of the Penguin, Sailfish and the GP-14 class of boats. As the 60's rolled on, the Sunfish class emerged which, similar to the Sailfish, but had a cockpit which helped keep the sailor "on board." One of the downfalls of the sailfish was that often the skipper would just slide off if a sudden gust of wind appeared.

Perhaps the most unique class of boat ever to race at the club is the Cheetah Cat. Built by Edme Deschamps in the 60's, they are of the multi hulled catamaran design. He built 21 of them and they were only sailed at YCSH. Their singular claim to fame is that they are the only fleet in the world! They never have been sailed in competition anywhere other than our home waters. They have some special rules: no protests and the winner buys drinks at the bar after the race. They always are first in and last out in the bar....Bloody Mary's being their drink of choice.

Lasers came on the racing scene in the late 70's. They still are sailed in MAYRA regattas and at our club.

The 90's saw 420's and Optimist, aka "Opti." The 420 put our young sailors on the road up and down the coast and bringing home the "silver." The Opti is the perfect boat for our younger sailors to venture into the channel. They fill many of the racks in the boat yard.

After many meetings, discussion, and research, the club in 2006 adopted the Flying Scot as the newest fleet. Many Cheetah Cat skippers and crews have made the jump to that craft.

Sailing and Racing.....no matter the boat or skipper will always be a major part of the Yacht Club of Stone Harbor. Along with the Flying Scot, it will be interesting to see what the 21st century has in store for sailing at our club.

~ Ellen McNeill



420

Sailfish

Comet

Moth

2744

10180

3541

2210X

2744

10180

3541

## Our Maritime Annex

The Maritime Annex of the Stone Harbor Museum is located behind the museum. Inside you will find a wonderful collection of the pictorial history of sailing and racing in the waters by Stone Harbor. The Maritime Annex houses memorabilia of sailing in Stone Harbor. Since racing was hosted by the Stone Harbor Yacht Club and the Yacht Club of Stone Harbor (yes there were 2 names), there are pictures and names of sailors of the past.



Outside there are examples of some of the sailboats that used to race here in Stone Harbor. There are 2 Comets that were designed to sail in Stone Harbor's back bays. The Cheetah Cat collection include the first and the last ones built by Edme Deschamps, here in Stone Harbor.



The last Cheetah Cat that was built by Edme Deschamps



Damage to GP-14 from water and sun.

The Annex is dedicated to Edme and Irene Deschamps, owners of the Deschamps Boat Yard that used to be on 82<sup>nd</sup> Street in Stone Harbor. Also on display are a Moth, Gp-14, and a Flying Scot. Comet #7 is owned by the Yacht Club of Stone Harbor and was built in Stone Harbor.

The Maritime Annex is attempting to restore the collection and needs your help. Restorations include new decks for the Cheetah Cats, restoration of the back of the deck on the GP-14, painting the Moth, restoring the trim and canvas painted deck of Comet #7. Most of these restorations require experts in wood working or fiber-



The deck needs to be replaced on the first Cheetah Cat.

glass work. None of the wooden boats are being made today and all of the repairs are of special design. In addition where the collection is stored and displayed is only a temporary tent-like structure and a more substantial building is needed to protect it.

The latest acquisition is a Flying Scot built in 1962. This is the fleet that is raced today at the Yacht Club. The hope is to repair it and have it race under the Stone Harbor Museum name.



The inside deck and centerboard trunk needs fiberglass work.

The Maritime Annex is the history of the Yacht Club of Stone Harbor's sailing and racing. This Newsletter and The Blinker are being mailed together to both the Museum and the Yacht Club members in hope that both organizations will help with the continued maintenance of the sailing history of Stone Harbor.

Contributions to the Stone Harbor Museum **Boat Restoration Fund** are essential to restore the collection and preserve our history. We have included a donation slip and return envelope in this mailing in hopes that you can help out. Also please take some time to visit the museum and learn of our Club's sailing history.

**Send donations to:**  
**The Stone Harbor Museum**  
**Attn: Boat Restoration Fund**

Written by

## President's Corner

Having this newsletter included with the current issue of the Yacht Club "Blinker" is a wonderful example of community cooperation. Such cooperation is why Stone Harbor is "The Seashore At Its Best." We are very grateful that we can reach so many more readers to tell them about the Maritime Annex and the important part that sailing played in the history of our town.

To those of you who always ask about the future of the museum and plans for a larger building, we can only say "we're working on it." We are waiting now for the next chapter in the saga of the new police building.

In the meantime, we wish all of you a beautiful holiday season that meets all your expectations, and we'll see you in the spring!

## Continued Success for the Vintage Homes Program

In just two years, the Vintage Home program has become one of the most successful efforts of the Stone Harbor Museum. To date, 138 buildings in Stone Harbor have received a plaque of recognition of the year they were built.

"We have involved 138 families," said Trustee Bob Ashman, coordinator of the program, "and renewed interest and pride in preserving 'the old Stone Harbor.'"

Vintage House Plaques have been so successful, that Avalon and Lower Township are now interested in getting their own program started!

Visitors to the Museum can get free self-guided walking tour directories of the Stone Harbor Vintage Homes. For more information, call the museum, 609-368-7500 or query: [director@stoneharbormuseum.org](mailto:director@stoneharbormuseum.org)



### Museum Staff

Director	Bruce Tell
President	Terrie Cwik
Vice President	Rand Bauer
Secretary	Kathy Schoenberger
Treasurer	Patty Stump
Borough Council Liaison	Joan Kramar
Trustees:	Bob Ashman, Paul Hughes, Bob Levins, Marty Lukacs, Margaret Leisenring, Lou Schweickhardt, Jim Talone
Committee Chairs:	
Archival-	Margaret Leisenring
Docent Coordinators-	Lou Schweickhardt
	Marilyn Timms
Facilities-	Bob Levins
Finance and Communications-	Bob Ashman
Gift Shop-	Linda Picanza
Maritime Annex Co-Chair-	Jim Wren
Membership and Maritime Annex-	Bill Stump
Newsletter Editor-	Heather Burns
Videographer-	Jim Talone

## Director Bruce Tell Writes...

Another great season has gone, and even though it began slowly, it ended in a flurry. 546 people visited the museum during the summer. Although this was down from more than 700 in the past few years, we were still happy with the numbers. Interestingly, one August day, 23 visitors came in a single two hour docent shift!

Also, even though the museum officially closed September 10<sup>th</sup>, we are still getting a steady stream of visitors. Now that the museum is staffed by a director, there is someone in the building almost every week day from 10 a.m. until 2p.m.

We had another terrific intern this summer. Rutgers University student David Donio-Enscoe earned college credits for assisting in research, organizing information, and using his computer skills. He jumped right in and no job was too complicated.

We are always looking for interesting items with historical value and interest to Stone Harbor. The artifact can be a donation or displayed on loan with recognition going to the family or individual. Check out your attic or garage please to see if there are any vintage objects or photos you could share with us.

As summer ended, a few families stopped by with photo albums to show us pictures of their house and/or an older relative. Their visits gave me the idea to start an exhibit highlighting family photo collections. The current working title for the exhibit is *All in the Family*.

Do you have a family photo album you could share with us? The farther back the better (like the teens or 20's) but even the 1980's are 30 years ago! We would choose anywhere from four to ten photos, make copies from the originals, and display them with credit to the family/ house. We would need names and an address to go along with the photos.

Please remember to visit our exhibit when stopping at the Harbor Square Theatre. In addition to the 15 poster size photos, there is an 8 foot plus aerial view map of Stone Harbor dated February 1962. This was one month before the '62 Nor'easter!!

### Congratulations Bruce!

We are proud to announce that Curator/Director Bruce Tell has been selected to represent the Southern Region of the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey as a member of its Board of Directors.

The Winter/Spring 2018 meeting of that organization will be held on Seven Mile Island sponsored by the Stone Harbor Museum.