

REEDVILLE FISHERMEN'S MUSEUM

STARRY BANNER

www.rfmuseum.org



Thank you!!

Diane Reynolds McGuire



Diane,

Your unwavering commitment and leadership had a profound impact from the beginning of the Festival Halle renovation project to the joy of reopening the doors!

Your compassion and leadership of the dedicated volunteers helped a vision come true.

You are one of the most amazing volunteers on the GRA/RFM team. Thank you for working with us tirelessly throughout the renovation project and many other events.

The walls (and floors) of Festival Halle have been hugged with your kindness.



**GRA Board, Festival Halle Committee
and Staff**



Tour a Menhaden Vessel



Featuring F/V Rappahannock

May 16, 2026 11am - 3pm

The Smith Building at the Morris-Fisher Stack
610 Menhaden Road Fleeton, VA

**Open to
the Public**

**Questions?
Call: 804-453-6529
Email:
Office@rfmuseum.org**

\$10 per person
Proceeds go to
Reedville Fishermen's
Museum

Please wear appropriate shoes

Flat, Close toe, no open back are preferred
Flip Flops, Slides and Heels are not recommended

Reedville Fishermen's Museum Thanks and Appreciates
Ocean Harvesters/Omega Protein for their Support!

Cocktails at Festival Halle



Cocktails on the Creek is down the road!- Member Preview of renovations

May 15th
5pm - 7:30pm



BYOB and a
Dish to share!

Behind every great museum are even greater volunteers, whose passion brings history and art to life. To all the GRA/RFM volunteers~ thank you for your generosity, energy, and dedication. We could not do this without you. Your willingness to volunteer makes an unforgettable difference to our team.

Members, please sign your guests in and please remember to label all bottles and coolers.

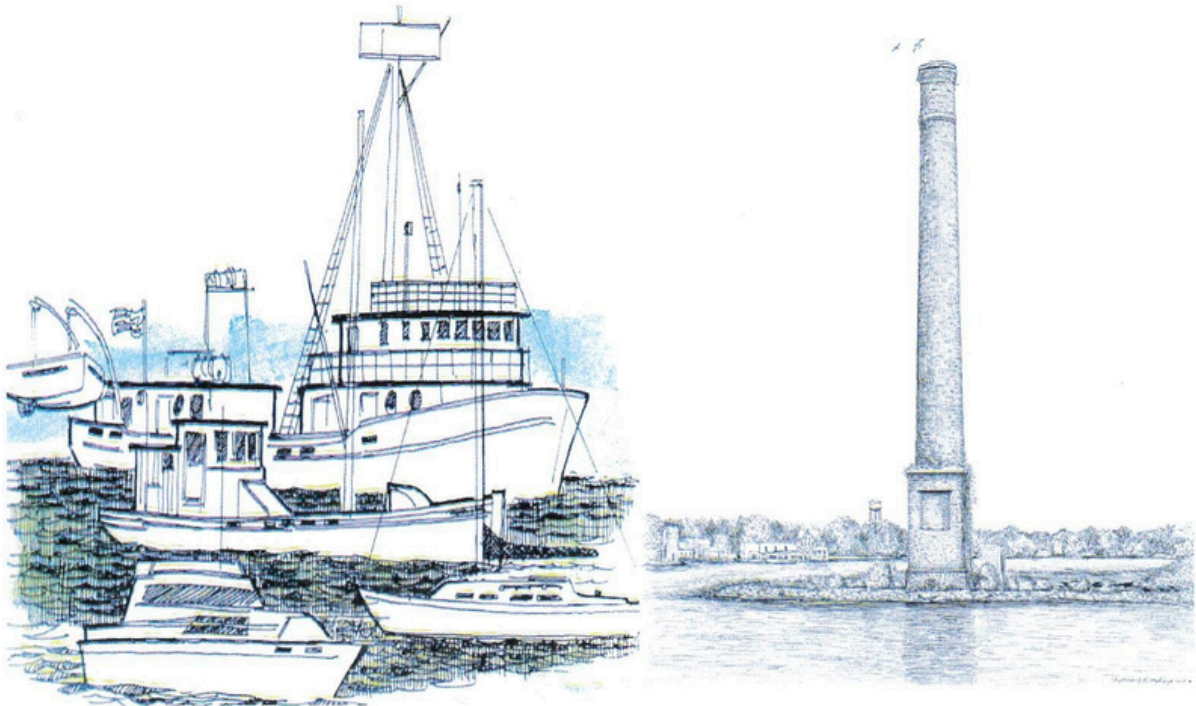
BOOK FESTIVAL HALLE FOR YOUR NEXT EVENT!

The wait is over!-Festival Halle is officially available to book for private events. We're so excited to open these doors to the community for celebrations, gatherings and everything in between.

Reach out to em@rfmuseum.org to reserve your date and start planning!

54th Annual Blessing of the Fleet

Honoring the past, Building the future



SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2026
Omega Protein, Inc., Reedville

Rain or Shine

PARADE OF BOATS 3:30 PM
BLESSING SERVICE 4:00 PM


*Come by boat and join the parade from Fleeton Point or bring a lawn chair!
We encourage all boaters to decorate their boats in celebration of the event*

2026 Speaker: Taylor Deihl
Chair of Virginia Marine Products Board

Directions: From Burgess, at the intersection of Routes 200 and 360, take Rte. 360 toward Reedville for 5.2 miles. Take a left onto Fleeton Rd., go 1.5 miles and take a right onto Route 659 (Menhaden Rd.). Go ½ mile, take a right onto Morris-Fisher Stack Lane. Dock is at end of lane.

NNK Master Gardeners
Presentation of
**THE LIVING
& SHORELINE**

May 22 at 2:00pm in the Watermen's Gallery



Followed by a tour of
The Living Shoreline
and an Afternoon Tea
with light refreshments

Presentation is free and open to the public

Museum Ships on Air

June 6th 8am-5pm

June 7th 11am-4pm



Every June, the Rappahannock Amateur Radio Association sets up a HAM radio station under the pavillion at RFM to participate in the Museum Ships on Air event, representing our skipjack *Claud W Somers*. Last year alone they made over 320 contacts with stations as far away as England and the Azores! Stop by and watch the magic happen—it's a weekend you won't want to miss!

FREE SIGSBEE TOURS AT CRAZY CRAB DOCK!

Open to the public

Wednesday June 17th:
Deck tours/open house
from 10-4pm

Thursday, June 18th:
Deck tours from 10-2

SIGSBEE is a Chesapeake Bay skipjack, used to dredge oysters and haul cargo on the Bay. She was built in 1901 and dredged commercially until 1993. In 1994, she was completely rebuilt and certified to carry passengers. Today, SIGSBEE sails the Chesapeake and Delaware Bays, teaching students about the ecology, history, and economic importance of her local waters. She still dredges and trawls for fish daily, but only for educational purposes. She sails between march and November and offers programs from 1 day to 10 days in length.

Sigsbee is LOA 75 feet but only 49 feet on deck, beam 16 feet, and draft 4 feet
rig height is 72 feet

Freeboard at the gate is 3 feet

Capacities (max) for vessel:
Sigsbee: 32 passengers plus our 4
professional crew

**Museum will
also be open
extra day that
week-
Wednesday
6/17 11-4:00.**

**Information about America
250 programming centered on
the War of 1812 and
Chesapeake Bay maritime
history**

The Reedville Fishermen's Museum is happy to welcome visitors in 2026.

In order to do this, we need a few more crew members for Docent Duty.

The Docent Crew supports the mission of the Museum and allows GRA/RFM to receive grants for Museum operations and activities. At this time, the Museum is open the minimum number of hours necessary to qualify for grants of this type.

If you enjoy meeting people, hearing stories, sharing stories and learning something new, then this volunteer opportunity is for you. Docents get a first look at the exhibits, learn the stories and historic lore of Reedville and the lower Northern Neck, and help maintain a sense of community.

The Museum is open Thursdays through Saturdays from 11am to 4 pm. Starting Memorial Day weekend, we will be open on Sundays from 1pm until 4pm, through Labor Day weekend.

If you want to learn more about what it means to be a docent, please contact the Office.
Office@rfmuseum.org 804-453-6529



Registration opens 4/1/26.

\$35 early bird (4/1 - 5/22/26)

\$40 (5/23 - 7/4/26)

Register by 6/15 to guarantee T-shirt

runsignup.com/Race/VA/Reedville/ReedvilleFirecracker5KRunWalk

CELEBRATE NORTHERN NECK HIDDEN
HISTORY TRAIL'S 3RD ANNUAL

JUNE TEENTH

OPEN TO
THE
PUBLIC

FREE
EVENT

FAMILY

FOLKTALES

LEGENDS

Celebrated Guests:

Dr. Bessida Cauthorne White - Virginia genealogist

Dr. Wanda Tucker - Historian and Jamestown 1619 Descendant

Roberta Lea - Award Winning country singer and songwriter

Saturday, June 20, 2026
12-6PM

Ma Margaret's House B&B
249 Greenfield Rd,
Reedville VA

ALL ARE WELCOME!
Donations accepted!

MORE INFORMATION >>



NORTHERN NECK
HIDDEN HISTORY TRAIL



nnkhiddenhistorytrail.org



There When Needed

By Tina McCloud

Everything in Smith Point Sea Rescue's 2026 exhibit in the Reedville Fishermen's Museum is designed to educate the public about their free, all-volunteer service to boaters and the community. The signal flags hanging above their exhibit spell out their motto letter by letter: "There When Needed". Sea Rescue has been saving lives and boats for more than 50 years. As from the beginning, they are all volunteers (no paid staff) and are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. As a non-profit, they still operate primarily on donations from the community, a few grants and their annual oyster roast. It costs up to \$800-\$900 on average every time they respond, but boaters who call for assistance are never charged, said Don Stone, Sea Rescue president and a captain. With almost everyone having a cell phone, most calls for help go to 911 and are dispatched by the Northumberland County Sheriff's Office. Their service area is from Coles Point across and down the Potomac River, spanning across the Chesapeake Bay to Smith and Tangier islands, and extending south to Windmill Point. Stone said they average 50-60 calls a year, from engine failures and groundings to sinking boats where lives are at risk. One such recent event was the rescue of eight people after their boat sank in cold water. After pulling them into the rescue boat, Pete Ortiz, one of the crew that day, huddled next to a man suffering from hypothermia to help warm him. Ortiz, a retired Marine, joined Sea Rescue in 2019 and serves as treasurer. The squad members all serve as crew and/or captains on a rotating basis: one captain and two crew members for one week (Monday-Sunday) every four weeks.

During their duty time, they stay within 20 minutes of Reedville or Lottsburg, where the three fully-equipped rescue boats are docked. The schedule sounds daunting to prospective volunteers, said Bill Turville, board member and a captain. "It's a commitment, but it's a commitment that can be worked with", said Turville, a retired Navy captain who joined Sea Rescue after retiring here 13 years ago. The schedule can make it difficult for working people to volunteer, so members often reach out to "new retirees" who have the time and interest to help. That was the case for Stone, who joined after retiring about 10 years ago and knowing about the squad from a neighbor volunteer. There are about 40 volunteers, including eight captains. Kendra Simpson is the senior captain. Everyone knows where the captains are at all times, said Turville.

Mark Meservey, secretary, joined in 2024. He is a retired Coast Guard captain with extensive experience in search and rescue, so Sea Rescue was a fitting extension of his service. "I view it as a commitment to the community", he said. "The captains are very detailed and thoughtful about when to launch" said Meservey. Training is continuous. In the rare week where there is no call for help, the duty captain and crew are out on the water at least once for training. Several members recently participated in a week-long search and rescue forum with about 160 other first responders and 35 rescue and response vessels. After each response they review what they did and what they might have done differently or better. They take periodic refresher training in CPR and

first aid and carry an AED on each boat. If they know there is a medical emergency on the call, they don't leave the dock without a county EMT on board.. As well as emergency response, Sea Rescue members in their yellow shirts are often found out in the community. For instance, they go to farmers markets, assist in river and roadside cleanups, and are on the water for events such as the cardboard boat regatta. Their exhibit at the museum, put together in large part by Simpson and Turville, features memorabilia, awards and photos from their rescues and community service.



VA 250

at VIRGINIA STATE PARKS

WESTMORELAND STATE PARK TURNS 90!!

Foundation CELEBRATION!

JUNE 27, 2026

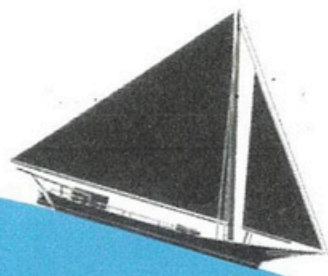
11AM - 5 PM

145 CLIFF RD,
MONTROSS, VA 22520



This year marks an important milestone of America's 250th, Department of Conservation and Recreation's 100th, and Westmoreland State Park's 90th anniversary! We invite YOU to join us in celebrating this event. There will be food and drink vendors, along with many activities and games provided by Westmoreland State Park and other local organizations!

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT: westmoreland@dcr.virginia.gov | 804-493-8821



CREW WANTED

The historic skipjack *Claud W. Somers* is sailed and maintained entirely by volunteers. If you have an interest in sailing, there is a place for you on the crew. No experience is required, we will train you!

During the summer and early fall, the crew sails the vessel on weekends for afternoon cruises and charters. The off-season is spent maintaining the vessel and training the crew.



Reedville Fishermen's Museum

504 Main Street

Reedville, VA 22539

(804) 453-6529

office@rfmuseum.org



Claud W. Somers Refit

By Tina McCloud
RFM public relations volunteer



Steve Heare works on one of the Somers' bilge pumps.
Photo by Dana Briggs



Wylia Holbrooks sands the push-boat Spat II in preparation for painting.
Photo by Tina McCloud



Volunteers including, from left, Dave Croy, Dana Briggs and Steve Heare, stabilize the 250-pound rudder as it is suspended for applying epoxy.
Photo by Tina McCloud

After months of work in all kinds of weather, the end is in sight for the refit of the historic skipjack Claud W. Somers and the start of cruising season. The former oyster boat, built in 1911, is owned by the Reedville Fishermen's Museum and is maintained and sailed by volunteers. It has been on the hard at Jennings Boatyard in Fairport since early December undergoing extensive work, thanks to two grants totaling \$100,000.

On April 18 the volunteer crew and captains scraped and painted the bottom of the Somers and epoxied the new rudder in preparation for painting. Spat II, the small push-boat used to maneuver the skipjack when it is not under sail, also got a glow-up. New metal brackets, called gudgeons, that hold the rudder to the Somers stern are not yet finished. As soon as they are attached to the stern, the new rudder will be fitted on and painted.

The new sails are not finished either, but the old sails can be used in the interim. Captains Steve Heare and Tom Briggs plan to have the Somers back to its home dock at the museum between May 1 and May 15.

The crew plans to take the skipjack to the Blessing of the Fleet, near the Morris-Fisher Stack on Cockrell Creek, on May 17. Crew orientation and training cruises will follow into June.

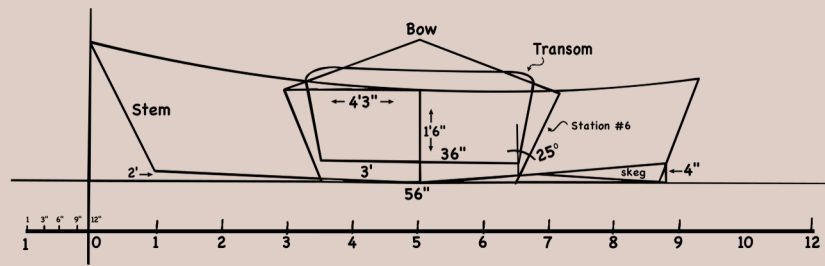
Then there will be a Coast Guard recertification inspection, required to carry passengers.

All this will culminate with sailing cruises available to the public starting in July. Cruises are tentatively scheduled for 10 a.m.-noon two Saturday mornings each month: July 11 and 25; Aug. 8 and 22; Sept. 12 and 26; and Oct. 10 and 24. The Somers also will be available for private charters, depending on crew availability, July-October.

New volunteer crew members are wanted, said Briggs. Anyone with an interest in sailing is invited. The newest volunteer, Caren Walker, has been sailing since childhood. She joined the crew just a week before she was put to work scraping and painting. However, no sailing experience is required; training is provided throughout the year.

For more information about the Somers, volunteering for the crew and upcoming cruises, call 804-453-6529 or e-mail office@rfmuseum.org.

Family Boat Build 2026



June 19th, 20th, 21st

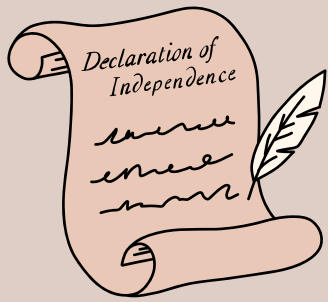


- \$250 non-refundable deposit due at time of registration
- \$1,000 total for the event
- Ages 9 and up

SPACE IS LIMITED!!



Contact the office Office@RFMuseum.org 804-453-6529



“Freedom, Equality, and the American Promise”

Celebrating America’s 250th Birthday

In honor of the USA250/VA250 celebration in July, the Reedville Fishermen’s Museum, in cooperation with Northumberland County Schools, has launched Art and Essay/Poetry competitions. Students have been asked to use their writing and artistic talents to focus on themes found in the Preamble of the Declaration of Independence. The competitions are designed to raise student awareness of civics and appreciation for America’s founding principles. The finished work is sure to enhance our Reedville celebration of America’s history of freedom, equality and American promise!

Submissions will be judged and prizes will be awarded for each grade level. Art will be displayed at Festival Halle on the weekend of Independence Day and presentation of awards will be at the Reedville Festival Chorale concert in Festival Halle on July 5 th at 3:00 pm. The *Committee continues to solicit sponsorships for this event.*

**For more information, contact Jeanne Hickey
(jeanne@smithpointmarina.com, (804) 580-1951.**

Reedville Independence Day Events & America 250 Celebrations



Friday, 7/3/2026
Golf Cart Parade and Competition 6:00pm
(registered participants line up at Festival Halle by 5:30)
Pavilion Party Following Golf Cart Parade
Reedville Museum Campus
Music and Dancing
Food and Beverages Sold (no coolers or outside food)

Saturday, 7/4/2026
5K Race- 8:00AM
Starts at Festival Halle
Kids Activities- 10:00AM
Reedville Museum Campus
Food & Beverage Sales 11:00
Main Street Parade 3:00
Fireworks 9:00



Sunday, 7/5/2026
Reedville Festival Chorale Singers
Festival Halle





Please remember!

We collect Oyster Shells
that are recycled by
Friends of the Rappahannock!

⇒ Aquapalooza ⇐

Mark your calendars! Aquapalooza
returns Sunday, Sept 6th 2:00-6:00

♪ Featuring live music by Black Cat Murphy ♪

All proceeds support Festival Halle

Birkel Bear

If you are looking for a new home for your Birkel Bear, please consider donating them back to the Greater Reedville Association/RFM



Check out our YouTube Channel

Dive into our new four part video series on practical seamanship aboard our beloved Claud W. Somers!

From her rich history to sail handling, rigging and reading the weather-there's something for every skill level.



https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=reedville+fishermen%27s+museum&sp=EgllAw%253D%253D



@rfmvideos8912

LIKE . COMMENT . SUBSCRIBE .
TO GET NOTIFICATIONS FOR NEW VIDEOS EACH MONTH

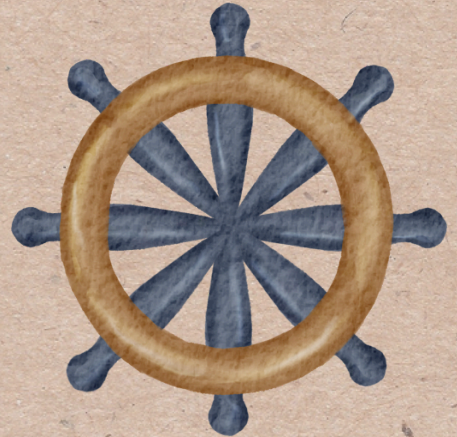
SMALLER CATCHES

SAVE THE DATES

- June 6-7 Ships on Air
- June 13 Faron Hamblin Concert
- June 17-18 Sigsbee Tour
- June 19-21 Family Boat Build
- June 26 Cocktails on the Creek

Please visit our website for All Events!

WWW.RFMUSEUM.ORG



NOW ACCEPTING, CAR DONATIONS!

The majority of the museum's operating budget comes from the sale of donated boats and other items. This year we have expanded our program to include cars! Our inventory is low. Please consider the museum when deciding how to dispose of a boat or vehicle that you no longer need. We can pick up the vessel or car and provide the necessary paperwork for tax purposes. Your contributions greatly help the local community and our beloved museum. Please email us at donations@rfmuseum.org for more information on how to donate or to inquire about our current inventory!

SALE



SALE



*See the website
for full inventory*

donations@rfmuseum.org

CURRENT INVENTORY
WWW.RFMUSEUM.ORG

May

2026

Yoga: Every Tuesday/Thursday (\$10)
 Museum Hours: Thurs - Saturday 11-4
 Museum Hours: Open Sundays Starting 5/24
 Cocktails on the Creek - BYOB and a dish to share

Office Hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 8-4
 Wed: By Appointment Only

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				1	2 Jett's Marine Open House 9a-1p	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 Happy Mother's Day
11	12	13	14	15 Cocktails on the Creek Member Preview of Festival Halle Cocktails will be held at Festival Halle	16 Tour a Menhaden Vessel 11a-3p at the Smith Building by the Stack	17 Blessing of the Fleet
18	19	20	21	22 Living Shoreline Presentation 2p	23	24 Museum Open on sundays starting today!
25 MEMORIAL DAY	26	27	28	29 Cocktails on the Creek	30	31

June

2026

Yoga: Every Tuesday/Thursday (\$10)
 Museum Hours: Thurs - Saturday 11-4 & Open Sundays Starting 5/24
 Cocktails on the Creek - BYOB and a dish to share

Office Hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 8-4
 Wed: By Appointment Only

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1	2	3	4	5	6 Museum Ships on Air 8a - 5p	7 Museum Ships on Air 11a - 4p
8	9	10	11	12	13 Faron Hamblin Concerts on the Creek 6-9	14
15	16	17 Sigsbee Tour 10-4 Museum Open 11-4	18 Sigsbee Tour 10-2	19 Family Boat Build	20 Family Boat Build	21 Family Boat Build
22	23	24	25	26 Cocktails on the Creek	27	28
29	30					

June Tent!

HAPPY Father's Day **hello summer**

RFM'S NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

Beth & Blaine Altaffer**
Shelly & Todd Anderson
Susan and Tab Bass
Judy & Gordon Burgess
Mary & Timothy Carolla
Ariane & Jack Carpenter
Robert Clawes
Ilse & Ray Clements
Kaye & Roscoe Connell
Greg Corsa
Teresa Coyne
Susie DePolo
Carol Dingley
Susan & John Dyson
Pat & John Eginton
Kathleen & Thom Ennen
Carville Evering
Katherine & Daniel Frasca
Frank Galloway
Zhe & Richard Gilfillan
Joanne & Garland Gills
Sue & Alan Graves
Molly Gray
Judy & Gregg Holmes

Margaret & Chip Hudnall
Benita Koman
Candace & Donald LaVoy
Elizabeth & Kevin MacNair
Jody & Stephen Mixon
Morgann & Pierre Monacelli
Sorn Nastea
Megan O'Brien
Lisa & Steve Ott
Susan & Mike Owens
Barbara & Matthew Ream
Anne Reisner
Janet & Reg Ridgley
Sandy & Trip Robins
Karen & Jeffrey Rosenfeld
Jennifer & Edward Rowan
Linda & Jim Schafer
Sean Scully
Anne Sentz
Becca & Nick Sterrett
Andrew Swartz
Ronnee & James Taylor
Susie & Glenn Warner

Thank you for your memberships!

**New Lifetime Member!

FOLLOW US!

Facebook: facebook.com/ReedvilleFishermensMuseum

instagram: [@reedvillefishermensmuseum](https://instagram.com/@reedvillefishermensmuseum)

www.rfmuseum.org

