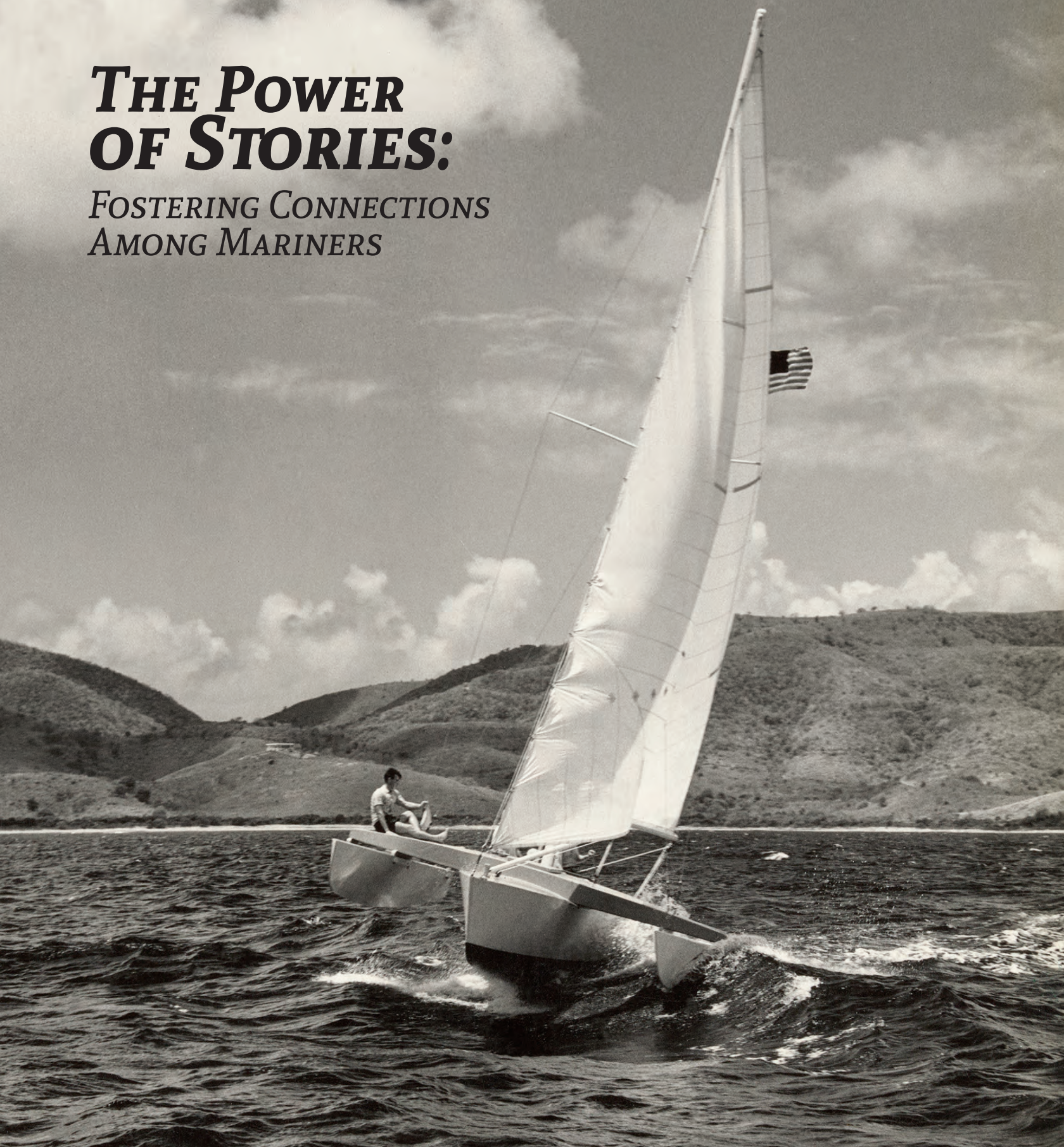


Ahoy!

The Mariners' Museum and Park
SPRING/SUMMER 2025

THE POWER OF STORIES:

FOSTERING CONNECTIONS
AMONG MARINERS



Message from the President

To our World of Champions,

I could not be more proud and humbled, all at once, reading through our team's articles for this issue of *Ahoy!* Over the past decade, we have committed ourselves (imperfectly, at times) to servant leadership principles, meaning that:

- we constantly remind ourselves that we are in service of something bigger than ourselves - namely, the strength of our local, national, and global communities, and
- we focus our efforts on empowering and developing others.

I am truly moved by how our team members, throughout their articles, name the people they are serving - and that those members of our community *really* are right here, locally, or located across the country and throughout the world. In these stories, you will see members of our team drawing an ever-so-slight distinction between "storytelling" as entertainment, and "storytelling" as the means to several important ends:

- connecting people with one another throughout the community and through time,
- reinforcing that shared connection, and
- empowering and developing the members of our community.

When we think about ourselves as merely an attraction, we run the risk of valuing only the entertainment element in our storytelling. As an attraction, we look at attendance, the amount of money we make from our exhibits or programs, the number of "likes" on our social media posts, and a host of other "vanity" metrics as validation of the job that we are doing. We run the risk of viewing ourselves as "the show," and the members of our community as simply the passive "audience" to our performance.

On June 2, The Mariners' Museum and Park will turn 95 years old. Our original 1930 Charter tells us that we are not merely an attraction, but that we exist "to promote the public welfare." When we think about ourselves as a community resource (as our 1930 Charter expects us to do), we must think about our storytelling as driving positive impact for those we serve. When you read about our stewardship and engagement activities in the pages that follow, what springs to your mind? Merely an attraction, or a valued and trusted community resource?

Thank you, as always, for remaining engaged with our Mariners' Team and Mission, and for viewing us as the vehicle through which you can drive some of the positive impact *you* hope to see in our local, national, and global communities.



Howard H. Hoege III
President and CEO



The Mariners' Museum and Park

Howard H. Hoege III
President and CEO

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Trine, a 32-foot trimaran designed by
Dick Newick sailing off Buck's Island,
St. Croix, around 1961.
PHOTO: FRITZ HENLE

Craig Peterson

Meet a Mariner



"This area is so rich with history," says Mariners' docent Craig Peterson. "There's always an opportunity to learn something new."

Craig's desire to chase knowledge is what ultimately led him to become a docent at The Mariners' Museum and Park. A couple of years ago, Craig was attending a lifelong learning class at the University of William and Mary, studying American Civil War history. The class was taught by Mike Collier, a Mariners' Museum docent since 2019. During the course's second week, Mike gave a personalized tour of the Museum. It was this visit that sparked Craig's interest in volunteering at the Museum.

Craig admitted that his interest in volunteering developed from a need to fill his time. Craig and his wife were in the process of moving to the Hampton Roads area around two years ago, looking forward to retirement. "This is going to get personal," he started. "My wife passed away right at retirement time." Despite this tragedy, Craig wanted to keep socially active. He looked into volunteering at other museums and even spent some time volunteering at a local hospital, but Craig still had not found the "right fit." After Mike's tour, Craig knew he had found it.

Craig interacts with many groups of people while volunteering, which he loves doing. "Personal interaction, meeting people, talking with them" are the things that keep Craig coming back to the Museum each day. While he greatly enjoys working as a greeter, he also finds joy when volunteering with school groups. Craig says that interacting with children from third grade all the way to high school is a "new experience for him," because his career (which required a lot of national and international travel) kept him from interacting with his children in their early years as much as he would have liked.



Top: Craig stands in front of the Cape Charles Fresnel Lighthouse Lens in the Mariners' Museum lobby.

Bottom: Craig observes USS Monitor's turret during a tour of its drained tank.

When asked if he has had any memorable moments at the Museum, Craig responded that his interactions with The Mariners' Team stick out the most. He notes that the staff are all "obviously dedicated to their work" and are willing to share their stories and information about galleries or objects with him. The team's inquisitive, friendly, and open demeanor has made Craig's time here memorable.

When he's not serving at The Mariners', Craig can be found working with his hands. Some of his current hobbies include rock carving, pyrography, and woodturning. He has also recently taken up glass blowing, an activity he took part in with his granddaughter.

Sarah Sumulong Jones

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GLOBAL REACH

Engaging Through Exploration

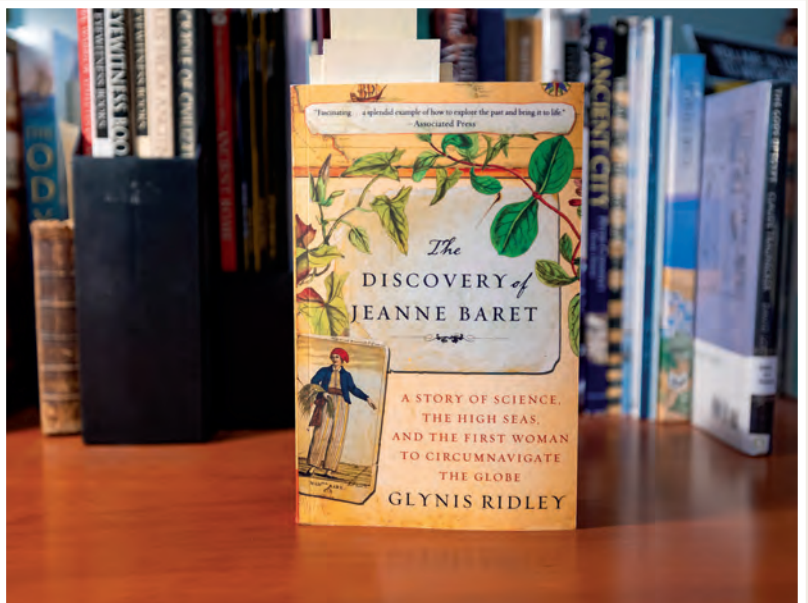
The Ages of Exploration website is one of the Museum's primary outreach resources. The website covers diverse explorers who braved the world's oceans, like Jeanne Baret — French botanist and the first woman to circumnavigate the globe. Baret, dressed as a man, traveled on an 18th-century global voyage. Along the way, she made contributions to the scientific study of flora and fauna around the world. Baret's story is one that offers insight for K-12 students to understand the challenges and experiences of an 18th-century woman. And we are seeing the website's impact on how we are serving students on not just a local or national scale, but internationally as well!

Meet 15-year-old Dymph, from the small Caribbean island of Curaçao. Dymph contacted the Museum after finding Jeanne Baret's story on our website. For her final exam, she focused on how Baret's journey "highlights issues of gender inequality, class barriers, and the challenges women faced in 18th-century male-dominated fields." I was more than happy to help! Using the Collection, especially journals from the Library, I was able to send materials to aid Dymph's research.

Dymph, being an excellent researcher, asked to meet virtually for a more in-depth conversation on Baret's legacy. She asked insightful questions that reinforced the importance of including stories like Jeanne Baret's on our website. Our shared maritime heritage is diverse, filled with men, women, and people of all races and cultures who ventured across the world's waters. These stories become important, helping students see themselves as part of the maritime community. Jeanne Baret offers a great example of women's enduring impact on science-based fields. Her story also demonstrates various barriers women have faced, yet overcome.

Top: Erika and Dymph discuss Jeanne Baret during a virtual meeting.

*Bottom: Erika consulted various sources, including the book *The Discovery of Jeanne Baret*, to support her research of the historical figure.*





Trinitaria flowers from the island of Curaçao, also known as *bougainvillea*. PHOTO COURTESY OF DYMPH.

One of the most unique things that stood out to Dymph was Baret's contribution in identifying a plant species, called *bougainvillea*. This tropical vine plant was first documented by Baret and her partner, Philibert Commerson, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil around 1768. The cool part — *bougainvillea* grows right in Dymph's backyard! She explained that it is called "Trinitaria" on Curaçao, and was kind enough to share photos of it growing there. What a wonderful connection!

Dymph and I communicated regularly over the next several weeks, further discussing Jeanne Baret and sharing resources. Dymph is a great reminder that students are connecting to The Mariners' mission, and our Collection and stories are reaching further than we imagined.

To learn more about Jeanne Baret and explorers like her, visit exploration.MarinersMuseum.org.

Erika Ellis

Assistant Curator for Community Engagement
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I'm so grateful for The Mariners' Museum and Park for helping me along the way. Without their support, my project wouldn't have been the same. They provided me with valuable insights and resources that made my research much more meaningful. This experience has deepened my appreciation for maritime history and [helped with] my final history exam. I want to especially thank Erika and of course the Museum for their help — I couldn't have done it without them!

- Dymph

Student from Curaçao



This illustration offers one of the few indications we have about Jeanne Baret's appearance. Public Domain.

A full-page background image showing a diver in a blue underwater environment, illuminated by a bright light, examining a large, rusted metal structure, which is the wreck of the USS Monitor. Bubbles are visible rising from the diver.

50 Years of Preserving MONITOR'S STORIES

The Monitor National Marine Sanctuary rests 16 miles off the coast of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, safeguarding the wreck of USS *Monitor*. When the US Navy gave up *Monitor's* title in the 1950s, it was no longer a navy vessel, leaving the shipwreck without a US government owner and susceptible to damage and looting. The National Marine Sanctuaries Act, enacted in 1972, was created to protect special areas of the marine environment that possess unique ecological, historical, cultural, and archaeological qualities with national and sometimes international significance. Through this act, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) was able to begin protecting *Monitor*.

Designated in 1975, the Monitor National Marine Sanctuary ensures that *Monitor's* stories do not vanish into the recesses of time but are honored through research, conservation, and public education.

Monitor's stories reverberate through history because of those who have devoted themselves to its recovery, conservation, and preservation efforts. We spoke to Tāne Rēnata Casserley and Will Hoffman about their experiences being a part of *Monitor's* story.

Ashley Lambert

Marketing and Communications Specialist
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A diver examines
USS *Monitor's* wreck site.
PHOTO COURTESY OF
NOAA *MONITOR* COLLECTION.

THROUGH THEIR EYES:

Reflections from *Monitor's* Storytellers



Tāne Rēnata Casserley

Research, Resource Protection,
and Permit Coordinator
NOAA's Monitor National Marine Sanctuary

What was your most memorable *Monitor* dive?

During my very first dive of *Monitor*, the currents were strong. As we descended down a line, the visibility got worse, and I watched the four divers underneath me disappear into a black layer. Then it went completely black, and we were nowhere near the shipwreck. The other divers started climbing over me because they'd given up, and I reluctantly followed. We went back the next day, and it was a completely different experience. The seas had calmed down, the water was blue, and I could clearly see the shipwreck underneath me. There were fish everywhere — it was just a fantastic, beautiful, crystal-clear dive.

How is NOAA working to preserve *Monitor's* stories?

We're always honoring our heritage, but we want *Monitor* to be just as relevant today and tomorrow as it was in 1862. We use new technologies like a 360 video experience that allows you to virtually swim around the wreck. Through 3D scanning and printing, we can put an exact replica of an artifact into a kid's hands and make objects more accessible for the blind and visually impaired. Using *Monitor's* original plans, along with new discoveries and insights through the conservation process, we created what we think is the most accurate as-built model of *Monitor* to date that people can explore virtually to make history come alive.



Will Hoffman

The Mariners' Director
of Conservation and Chief Conservator

What is the greatest reward and the greatest challenge in conserving *Monitor*?

One of the greatest rewards is that we're better suited today to consider future display possibilities than we were five to ten years ago. With the finishing of the skag beam, the potential to flip the turret, the guns being basically finished — we can think about what the interpretation is going to be based on the knowledge that we have.

Almost everything we do is on the cusp of something new because of the project's scale, so one struggle is having the patience and tenacity to stick with it. And because we rely on partners, we're trying to advance the ball as quickly as we can while sharing the successes along the way.

How does *Monitor's* turret help tell the ship's story?

Most of the personal items were found in the turret. Ultimately we're telling the story of the people who built, crewed, found, and recovered the ship, and the people conserving it today. We can picture the sailors and engineers crammed into the turret — approximately 20 feet in diameter — during battle; the turret being the only way out during the sinking; archaeologists working in those tight quarters to excavate and recover the artifacts — our goal is to conserve and preserve those materials so we can provide that direct connection to our shared maritime heritage.

Byte-Sized History:

The Untold Stories in Our Born-Digital Collections

Consider, for a moment, a letter written on paper and a text file on a CD placed inside a safe:

Which document would be easier to read in 100 years?

The swift emergence and subsequent replacement of new formats severely limit the lifespan of content stored on outdated media. Because of this, our digital records are the most vulnerable assets in our entire Collection. To effectively process, preserve, and provide access to these records and their hidden stories, we must have the expertise, software, and equipment necessary for a digital records workstation to bring these stories to light.

This presents a significant challenge in ensuring the proper stewardship of historical records due to the specialized software and hardware required for reading and safeguarding digital files.

What we do know about a great deal of our digital media is that they contain a plethora of data related to *Monitor's* recovery and conservation. Much of the archaeological history exists in text, video, and image files saved on floppy disks, CDs, DVDs, flash drives, and hard drives. These formats are particularly vulnerable to obsolescence. How much of *Monitor's* history remains unknown within these files? Documentation may exist that details much of the work and the lives of the archaeological team responsible for discovering *Monitor* over two decades ago. Without the ability to read and preserve these files, historians, conservators, and other researchers may never be able to fill in these knowledge gaps. Newport News Shipbuilding, our rich photography collections, and the institutional records of past exhibits, events, and the story of the Museum's evolution are among the collections that contain digital media at risk of being lost.



Leland sits behind a desk filled with CDs, floppy disks, and other objects from the Museum's collection in a variety of formats.

So, what is our approach to stewardship of this born-digital Collection? Before making it accessible to the broader community, the Museum needed the expertise, resources, and equipment to undertake this specialized work. When joining the team, I brought extensive experience and certification as a Digital Archives Specialist. Over the last few years, I acquired certifications in digital preservation and metadata management to inform work on this project. More recently, my time has been spent establishing the infrastructure for processing and preserving our digital records as an institution and evaluating systems that are suitable for our needs. These systems, ultimately, will help identify file types and render diverse file formats, thereby facilitating the discovery and utilization of these resources.

As work continues, we have already made progress through the acquisition of hardware essential for a digital workstation, while understanding that additional resources will be needed to make these digital collections readily available to you.

Leland Riddlesperger, MSLS

Archivist

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Be your own "Digital Archivist" at home!

Use these tips for good habits to keep personal digital files safe and accessible over time.

BE CONSISTENT



Follow the same structure for naming all your digital files. Consider organizing files in folders by date or topic, for example. Keep names short and relevant.

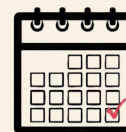
MULTIPLE BACK UPS



Keep your files backed up in at least 3 locations:

- your computer
- external drive
- cloud storage service (like Microsoft OneDrive or Google Drive)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



Set a reminder to update software on your computer and make sure files are still accessible at least every year.

►► Have questions?

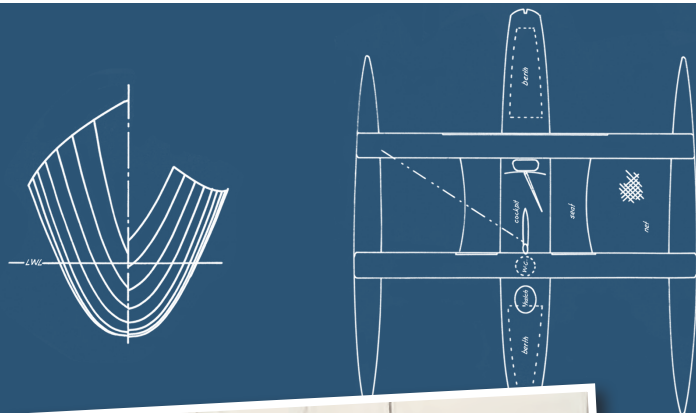
Ask your friendly neighborhood archivist! Leland is on call at the Museum for your digital preservation questions. If you want to know the best way to save and arrange your personal digital files, or if you're interested in the work we do to preserve our community's digital history, reach out any time!

BEYOND MAINSTREAM

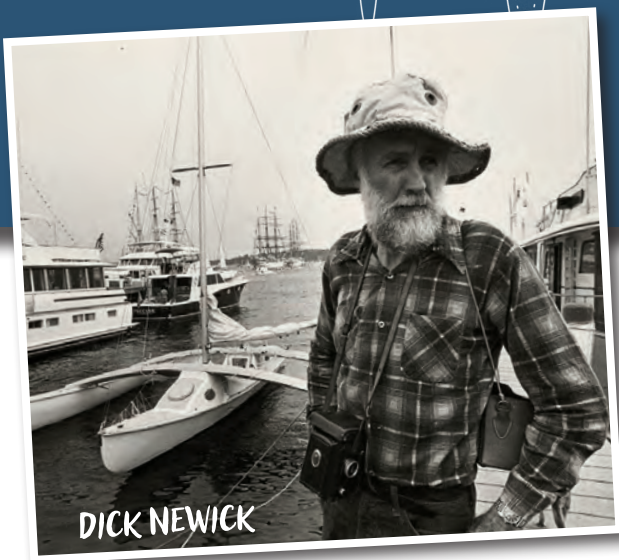
THE MODERN MULTIHULL PROJECT

WRITTEN BY: LYLES FORBES

SCALE: 3/8" = 1'-0"



VAL NEWICK • 32 1/76



Every object and image in our Collection has stories contained in its fabric as well as connections with people and places in the past.

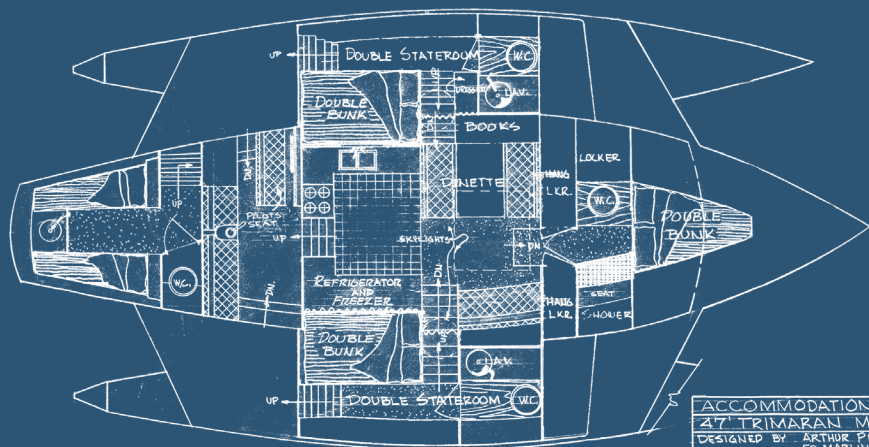
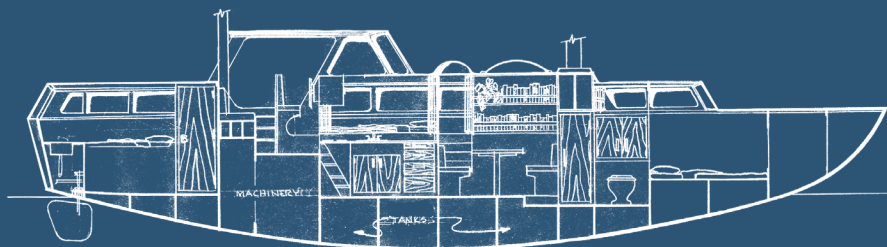
When our museum began collecting small boats from around the world, some of the earliest came from Polynesia, Southeast Asia, and Tanzania — and all were unique in that they were sailing multihulls, borne of traditions that go back thousands of years. After World War II, the influence of these canoes saw a resurgence in California and Hawai'i.

This was a time when people were venturing across the Pacific Ocean in small outrigger sailing canoes. Unlike many western ships of the 17th through the 19th century, these canoes could sail into the wind, not be pushed by it. They were small, agile, and “flew across” the top of the water. The modern double canoe *Hokule'a* has an ancestry that goes back to ancient Polynesian times.

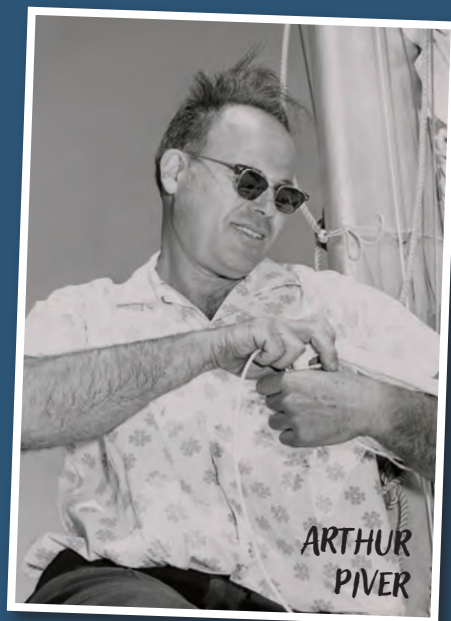
In the 1950s, two bluewater sailors in California, Arthur Piver and Jim Brown, began designing and building catamarans and trimarans. Their boats were brand new creations — using modern materials and engineering — as well as design cues from ancient Polynesian and Micronesian outriggers. At the same time in Hawai'i, Woody Brown designed the catamaran *Manu Kai* that could be sailed on and off the beach at Waikiki. These modern multihulls were stable, seaworthy, spacious, and exciting boats to sail.

In the late 1960s, the multihull movement exploded. Plans and construction manuals were being sold and mailed around the country and beyond. As their popularity grew, more designers turned their focus to creating racing and cruising trimarans. Hobie Alter not only crafted surfboards but also the world-renowned Hobie 14 and Hobie 16 one-design catamaran. Dick Newick developed some of the most elegant trimarans for ocean racing.

In 2004, Jim Brown approached the Museum to donate his collection. Afterward, he was instrumental in getting the family of Arthur Piver, Dick Newick, and other multihull designers to donate their collections as well. Now, The Mariners' Museum has the only multihull archive in the world! The collection not only contains plans and drawings but also photographs, models, and films documenting the early years of multihull design.



ACCOMMODATION PLAN		
24' TRIMARAN MEDALLION		
DESIGNED BY	ARTHUR PIVER	1971
Copyright Registered For	50 MARLIN AVE. MILL VALLEY, CALIFORNIA	ARTHUR PIVER
DRAWN BY	LAUREN WILLIAMS	OF 17 SHOTS



To find out more information about the Beyond Mainstream documentary project, visit
jimbrownbeyondmainstream.com



Jim Brown sailing a 16-foot Frolic trimaran near Sausalito, California. Arthur Piver designed the boat.

Two filmmakers from the University of North Carolina Greensboro, Michael Frierson and Kevin Wells, are crafting a documentary to tell the amazing story of these maverick designers and how multihulls have become such a significant aspect of the boating industry: from small one-design sailboats to America's Cup yachts and commercial vessels. And the resources for telling these stories are here at The Mariners' Museum and Park! The collection features boat plans, photographs, motion pictures, audio, video, models, business papers, and many other items, and it's the only one of its kind in the world.

In addition to other items in the collection from Polynesia, Micronesia, Melanesia, Southeast Asia, and East Africa, the filmmakers have a rich bounty from which to tell some amazing stories of the modern era of multihull design. This includes our extraordinary small craft collection of catamarans and trimarans — including the massive AC72 that won the 2013 America's Cup!

Lyles Forbes

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Chesapeake Public Schools students learn about warships during Ironclad Marvels, and preschoolers visit Mariners' Park for Wonder Wednesdays.

Stories That Inspire

The Impact of Storytelling in The Mariners' Educational Programs



Storytelling is a key component of educational programs at The Mariners'. Two notable examples are Ironclad Marvels: The Battle of USS *Monitor* and CSS *Virginia* and Wonder Wednesdays.

Ironclad Marvels is a hands-on program designed for fourth-through sixth-grade students. During the program, students tour the *Monitor* Center and rotate through two classroom stations. The *Monitor* Center tour includes stories about the Battle of Hampton Roads and some of the people involved in the battle.

During the classroom portion, there is an interactive deep dive into some of those stories, including a ditty bag activity where students analyze primary sources from people involved with USS *Monitor* and the Civil War. These historical figures include Siah Carter, George Geer, Mary Louvestre, William Keeler, William Bradby, and John Ericsson. Siah Carter worked as a cook and sailor on USS *Monitor* after escaping slavery. Mary Louvestre was a freed Black woman living in Norfolk, Virginia, during the Civil War who risked her life as a Union spy. William Bradby served in the Union Navy and was part of the Pamunkey Tribe in Virginia.

These stories help students realize the collective power of people from different backgrounds who played a role in the Civil War. Some of these historical figures overcame adversity, and for our students, this can provide hope and encouragement during difficult times.

Along with school-age students, the Education Team provides younger children with activities and stories that connect them to the Museum and Park.

Wonder Wednesdays was established in the summer of 2024 to welcome young children into the Mariners' community. This 10-week series provides children ages two through four and their caregivers with a half-hour filled with songs, stories, and activities. Each week, families listen to a different story and then participate in a game or activity that directly relates to that story.

Using storytelling in teaching is nothing new to the Early Childhood community. Stories are a way for young children to learn about the world around them. They can be used to teach



Adults spend quality time with their little mariners during storytime at Wonder Wednesdays.

about insects in a garden, the way leaves change throughout seasons, or how a boat floats on water. By reading books on these topics, Wonder Wednesdays invites young children into the Mariners' community in a way that is impactful to them.

Our value proposition for Wonder Wednesdays is that young children will have a meaningful experience in the Museum and Park, which helps to foster curiosity and sets the stage for their educational journey. For example, after listening to a story about flowers and their colors, participants go on a color walk through our pollinator space and search for different-colored flowers. The next week, children listen to a story about water and are invited to take a nature walk to Mariners' Lake. These stories provide the foundation for a meaningful connection with The Mariners'.

This summer, Wonder Wednesdays will return for more storytelling fun. In response to community feedback, we have incorporated five days that will include stories in both English and Spanish.

Storytelling is both impactful and educational. When children visit The Mariners' for an educational program, we hope they leave with stories of their own that they can share with family and friends.

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Amanda Abrill
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Growing Stronger Through Experience

Trying a new activity, like kayaking, can be challenging. Sometimes, the worry that we won't be good at something prevents us from discovering what we are actually capable of. We preemptively give up.

Finding the courage to try, even when it feels so certain that you will fail, is a common human experience.

The Lake Team is exploring the power of storytelling to inspire participants to form a new relationship with “failure” by experimenting with how they define success and inviting them to show up for themselves when they need it most. Great accomplishments like those of mariners Matthew Henson and Marie Tharp are worthy of celebration, but we can also take inspiration from the *processes* that led to their successes.

When polar explorers Robert Peary and Matthew Henson observed the ways of the Inuit people on their 1891 trip to Greenland, Henson made an important choice. “He embraced their knowledge, and learned their language, a skill which would be handy in future Polar journeys.” Adjusting to a different way to communicate, travel, and survive in the cold led to the success of their expedition to be the first Western explorers to travel to the North Pole, but for Henson, it was

even more significant. “At one point, while crossing a lane of moving ice, Henson fell into the freezing waters. He was unable to pull himself out. Thankfully, Ootah, one of the [Inuit], grabbed Henson, and saved his life.”¹

Oceanographer Marie Tharp worked with Robert Heezen to create detailed maps of the ocean floor. At the time, women were not permitted to travel on the research vessels that collected the necessary data. Despite this, Tharp pieced together the data to create the most detailed bathymetric maps made at the time and identified what she believed to be a rift valley in the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. Heezen and others dismissed her discovery as “girl talk,” yet Tharp continued to collect data and advance her research, eventually presenting her work to the world. Marie Tharp’s accomplishments are impressive, but so is her persistence despite imposed restrictions and criticism.



Matthew A. Henson immediately after the sledge journey to the pole and back. The Mariners' Museum and Park G670 1909. P3 H5 Rare_123.



Local students conquer their nerves while learning to kayak on Mariners' Lake.

At The Mariners', brave sixth-graders show up for their kayaking field trips unable to swim and having no experience being on a boat. When they say they're afraid, we acknowledge their feelings and empower them to choose their level of challenge. Most accept that stepping onto the dock is a foundation they can build upon and decide to take one more step and launch. They make some steering mistakes and some get stuck along the shoreline, but we encourage them to notice their progress, try something different, observe the changes' effects, and learn from the process. By the end, they're exploring, noticing wildlife, enjoying the trees' shade, laughing with their friends, and forgetting they were terrified only a few moments ago. They ask to stay longer and want to know when they can return.

The beauty of the "beginner's mind" is the expectation of mistakes and initial failure. Errors and setbacks are inevitable and can serve as valuable sources of information instead of definitive statements of our worth or value. An important pathway to growth is understanding each mistake and then adjusting toward success, like Henson. Beginners have the "excuse" of "not knowing any better" when they fail and are often given more grace. We can all learn from our mistakes and deserve the kindness of a supportive coach to promote our growth, rather than the harshness of our inner (or outer) critic.

The story of what we are capable of is important. Are we willing to fail in an attempt to learn something new? Are we comfortable with making mistakes and facing setbacks? How can we add "yet" to statements or thoughts that begin with "I can't?" When we make mistakes, do we show ourselves the kindness and care that we would show a beginner, or are we harshly critical and judgmental?

How do we tell ourselves the story of our own growth? Is our strength defined by what we accomplish or by what we put into getting there?

Kelly Garner, Ed.S
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¹ exploration.marinersmuseum.org/subject/matthew-henson/

SOURCE:
exploration.marinersmuseum.org/subject/marie-tharp/



Wishing to be a Chapter in Your Story

Our Venue Experience Team has the privilege of interacting with guests in unique ways. We are there for many significant moments in their lives, such as military retirements after years of dedicated service or weddings where couples express their love for one another, surrounded by our Collection. In many ways, these events deepen our already rich history, and in turn, we become a part of their story.

This past November, we were contacted by Wish Upon a Wedding, an organization dedicated to granting weddings to couples with life-altering health circumstances. Their goal is to provide a day of love for couples while alleviating the financial burden and time-consuming task of having a wedding. When K.S. Otter Events LLC informed us that they were leading a Wish Wedding for Rhonda and Michael and were interested in partnering with the Museum, we knew we had to be a part of it!

We felt a connection to Rhonda and Michael from the start. The couple was from the area, and Michael was a Navy veteran who served for over 20 years. The perfect day presented itself: November 10, 2024, the day before Veterans Day. With all their perseverance through navigating Rhonda's diagnosis of stage IV colon cancer, the entire team that was dedicated to this vow renewal knew we had to make it memorable!

The day brought the perfect autumnal weather every Fall bride hopes for. You could feel the love and excitement in the air from the moment the first vendor arrived. The bridal parties got ready on site, and it was magical to see their giddy energy as we got closer to the big moment! You could feel the day crescendo as the Anna Huntington Room and South Courtyard came alive with shades of mariner blue and crisp orange.

When it was time for their ceremony, they were surrounded by friends and family as they told the world that no matter what, through better or worse, sickness or health, they still do. They commit to each other every single day. Our original arches in the South Courtyard created the perfect focal point for Rhonda and Michael's love at the end of the aisle, and for a moment, you couldn't help but imagine who they were when they first married. Before their children and grandchildren, serving 20 years in the Navy, and a life-altering cancer diagnosis, could they have ever imagined who they would be today and all the love and joy they would continue to be surrounded by?

After they sealed the deal with a kiss, it was time for the reception. Inside the Huntington Room, guests dined and danced the night away alongside sculptures crafted by Anna Hyatt Huntington, one of the Museum's founders. The Mariners' Museum and Park is dedicated to helping people find their connection to the world's waters and to one another. We are honored that we now share such an important connection with Rhonda and Michael!

Riley Johnson
Special Events Coordinator
rjohnson@MarinersMuseum.org

Source: www.wishuponawedding.org/about



Rhonda and Michael say "I do" in the beautifully decorated South Courtyard, then continue the celebration amid the artful ambiance of the Huntington Room.



Relish
Say I Do!!
Officiant & Photographer



Mariners' Wedding Stats:



Though every day is a great day to tie the knot at The Mariners', Fall is the season most of our couples love! This year, **62% of couples chose to get married in September, October, or November.**



Our wedding packages offer different aspects to help make your big day unique. However, **69% of couples chose the Huntington Package** for their love story last year!



Out of all the weddings we hosted this last year, **77% of our couples were local** to the Tidewater area. The farthest out-of-town couple traveled 348 miles from New Jersey to celebrate their love with us!

Interested in having your next big event with us?

Email: VenueExperiences@MarinersMuseum.org

Website: MarinersMuseum.org/VenueExperiences

Phone: (757) 591-5124



Mariners' on the Move

The Mariners' Team has been out and about, spreading our mission around the city and beyond! Here are some of our favorite snapshots of the team partnering with other organizations and participating in events to expand our impact in the community.



Chief of Staff Luisa A. Vázquez-López (left) and Senior History Educator Brandon Adams appeared on The Hampton Roads Show to talk about the Battle of Hampton Roads Commemoration Day.



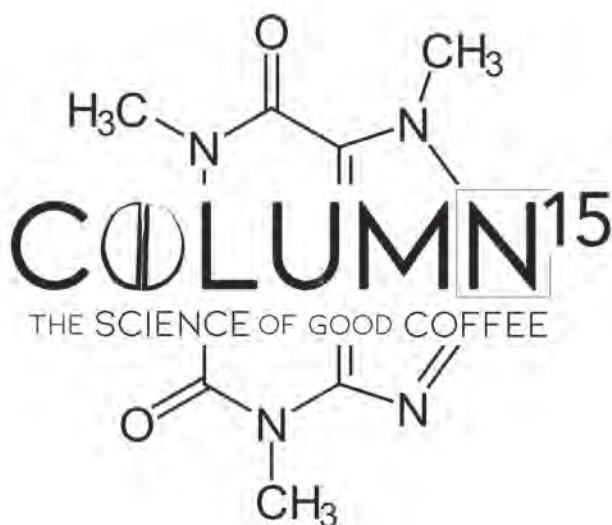
Senior Science Educator Shantelle Landry visited the Virginia Aquarium as the guest speaker for a Black History Month celebration in February.



Lead Special Events Coordinator Meg Morrill, Special Events Coordinator Riley Johnson, and Group Experiences Coordinator MaryAnn Steinmiller (front row: second, fourth, and fifth from left) represented The Mariners' at a Newport News Hospitality Networking Social in January, which included a painting session.



From left: Creative Director Kyra Duffley, Park Ranger Shauna Jackson, and Research Scientist Molly McGath volunteered with the United Way's Emerging Leaders Society to pack bags of food for Smyth Foodbank's Food for Kids program. In just 1.5 hours, the group packed 600 bags to serve students across the Hampton Roads peninsula.



Connect to the Water, Savor the Brew

Welcome to Column 15 at The Mariners', where the science of great coffee meets the art of innovation. Nestled inside The Mariners' Museum, this warm, cozy space is more than just a café — it's an experience. Whether you're exploring the Museum's galleries, traversing the Noland Trail, or simply looking for a peaceful spot with a soothing ambiance, we invite you to stay, sip, and unwind.



Scan QR code for menu!

Mark Your Calendar!

Programs are offered in a variety of formats (in person, livestreaming, virtual), and subject to change. Times listed are Eastern.

JUNE

- Jun 8 **Friendly Hours**
9 AM Quieter, less crowded Museum experience
- Jun 25 **Lil' Mariners' Wonder Wednesdays**
9:30 AM Educational storytime for ages 2-4
- Jun 27 **USS Monitor Legacy Program**
12 PM *Drewry's Bluff Aftermath: Lt. William Jeffers Report*
Presenter: John V. Quarstein
- Jun 28 **The Mariners' Sips & Trips**
6:30 PM Presented by The Bronze Door Society
Food • Wine • Unique Artifacts

JULY

- Jul 9:30 AM **Lil' Mariners' Wonder Wednesdays**
Educational storytime for ages 2-4
July 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30
- Jul 13 **Friendly Hours**
9 AM Quieter, less crowded Museum experience
- Jul 25 **USS Monitor Legacy Program**
12 PM *Rear Admiral Thomas O. Selfridge, Jr.*
Presenter: John V. Quarstein

AUGUST

- Aug 9:30 AM **Lil' Mariners' Wonder Wednesdays**
Educational storytime for ages 2-4
August 6, 13, 20, & 27
- Aug 10 **Friendly Hours**
9 AM Quieter, less crowded Museum experience
- Aug 29 **USS Monitor Legacy Program**
12 PM *Capturing and Destroying the Ironclad Eastport*
Presenter: John V. Quarstein

For additional programs & events, visit MarinersMuseum.org.

LIL' MARINERS' WONDER WEDNESDAYS

June 25 - August 27

Available in Spanish on select dates

Set sail on a magical adventure every Wednesday! Join us for a captivating story time filled with imagination, laughter, and fun. From enchanting tales to catchy songs and exciting games, there's something for every little mariner to enjoy!



MUSEUM ADMISSION IS \$1 PER PERSON.

MarinersMuseum.org

Explore new ways to engage with the Museum, in person and virtually. Learn more about the Museum's Collection and how we can help you discover your own maritime connections!

Contact us for more information:

Guest Relations
(757) 596-2222

Membership
(757) 591-7740

Advancement
(757) 591-7707

Education
(757) 591-7745

Volunteer Services
(757) 591-7712

Park
(757) 591-7741

Library
(757) 591-7782

Museum Shop
(757) 591-7792



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THE MARINERS' *Sips* & TRIPS

Presented by The Bronze Door Society

FOOD • WINE • UNIQUE ARTIFACTS

Saturday, June 28, 2025

Doors open at 6:30 PM

A Thrilling Trip Through Military History!

Celebrate the 250th anniversary of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps with a journey through time while enjoying international wines and curated food pairings. Explore rarely-seen artifacts and hear exciting stories of men and women who dedicated their lives to serving our nation. Experience a world of discovery, all within The Mariners' galleries!

To become a sponsor or purchase tickets, visit

MarinersMuseum.org/Sips

\$60 Members | \$75 General Public | \$35 Nondrinker