Thelma C. Rebuild Nearly Complete

With funding from a 2011 Alaska Legislative Grant in place, reconstruction of the legacy fishing vessel Thelma C began in mid-January in a work shed at Kodiak College and continued at full speed until the last week of May. Several volunteers will continue work over the summer and plans call for the boat to be restored to its original 1965 configuration by early fall.

The reconstruction effort is part of a larger plan to restore and exhibit the boat as an interpretive display near Kodiak’s small boat harbor. Once sited on the harbor spit near the boat launching ramp, a protective roof and pedestrian access decking will be constructed over and around the vessel. Interpretive panels and a cell phone tour will tell the story of the Kodiak salmon industry and give visitors an appreciation for life aboard a commercial salmon boat.

Shipwrights Brain Johnson and restoration woodworker Don Corwin led the rebuilding effort. A team of about 20 volunteers also worked on the project while learning wooden boat repair skills from Mr. Johnson.

The project to convert the vessel into an interpretive display has been planned for many years, but had been delayed until major funding was obtained from the Legislature last year. (continued on pg. 2)

On the Horizon-

June 8 - August 30
KMM Exhibit: “Faces of the Kodiak King Crab Fishery”, Dorothy Page Museum, Wasilla, AK

Mid September
KMM Museum Site Selection Forum #2 Location and date to be announced

October 1
Thelma C Moves to Harbor Site

Nov. 1 - Dec. 31
KMM Exhibit: “Faces of the Kodiak King Crab Fishery”, Cordova City Museum

Join Our Crew!

Please begin or renew my membership:

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☐ Deckhand $50.00
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Join or renew at www.kodiakmaritimemuseum.org

Kodiak Maritime Museum is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization

Volunteers Make KMM Crab Fest Booth a Success

In a new fundraising venture, KMM took over the operation of a longtime food booth at the 2012 Kodiak Crab Fest.

The booth, owned and operated by Alaskan Leader Foundation for the past ten years, features fish and chips made from codfish caught by Alaska Leader longline vessels in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska. Profits from the booth were distributed to local non-profits through an annual ALF grant program.

Earlier this year, longtime ALF Board member and booth operator Richard Thummel decided it was time to let someone else run the booth, and offered the operation and resulting profits to KMM. ALF provided supplies and Mr. Thummel provided logistical oversight.

“It was a great success,” said Aldona Kouremetis, KMM Board Member and booth organizer. “We owe it all to the volunteers.” Manned by a volunteer team, the booth sold about 1,200 meals.
Meet KMM Board President Ken Reinke

Ken Reinke was elected President of the KMM Board of Directors in January and was first elected to the Board in 2005. As Executive Director of Threshold Services he brings a cool head, a common sense attitude, and strong working knowledge of the non-profit sector to the helm of KMM.

Ken came to Alaska from Florida in 1978, driving up the Al Can with his brother in a Volkswagen Beetle. After various adventures including meeting Governor Jay Hammond in Fairbanks and working briefly at a salmon processing plant in Kenai, Ken and his brother flew to Kodiak to see what was there. They were promptly hired to work at the UgArkia Bay Cannery, then owned by New England Fish Company. Ken worked for the UgArkia Cannery in varied capacities and seasons for more than 20 years.

One summer, Harbormaster Marty Owen was visiting UgArkia and handed Ken one of KMM’s “Harbor Guides,” which complement the interpretive signs installed by KMM on Shelikof St. in Kodiak.

With the new funding, the museum plans to issue an RFP in the fall, seeking design proposals from qualified firms.

A 2006 Kodiak Maritime Museum Building Feasibility Study prepared by the Mc- Dowell Group described three building options, ranging from 4,200 to 6,000 square feet, and costing from $3.7 to $4.3 million.

KMM Board and staff have identified these annual operating costs as a critical factor facing the project.

From the Wheelhouse —

It’s been a very busy spring at KMMS, with several major projects underway, including the Thelma C Project, planning for a museum building, planning for the exhibition of the Kodiak King Crab Portraits at other museums in Alaska, and running a Kodiak Crab Festival booth as a fundraising enterprise.

Last November, with legislative funding in hand, the museum moved the Thelma C from storage behind the Salvation Army to a work site at Kodiak College. Two tablespoons and dozens of volunteers began shoveling snow, pulling old caulk out the hull, carrying timber into the shed, shaping, shaping and driving planks and ribs, and rebuilding the mast. Besides the shipwright’s daily work schedule, many people spent many unpaid evenings and Saturdays with tools in their hands. Brian Johnson and Don Corwin also contributed many evenings and Saturdays to the project, far beyond their contracted hours.

Without the hard work and vast knowledge of Brian and Don and without the work accomplished over many unpaid evenings and Saturdays by them and dozens of enthusiastic volunteers, the boat could not have been rebuilt in the time we had to do it. KMM owes them much for their efforts.

KMM’s museum building plans are also moving ahead. With a new $200,000 Legislative Grant, the museum will soon issue an RFP for a museum concept design. The City of Kodiak has indicated a willingness to lease a site near the harbor for a maritime museum. Public consensus has gelled on the best location. The museum is considering three sites near the harbor and continues to gather public comment. Read more on page 3 and on the KMMS website.

Another project underway began with the success of KMMS “Faces of the Kodiak King Crab Fishery” exhibit at the Baranof Museum last May. Encouraged by the enthusiastic public response to the portraits in Kodiak, the exhibit begins an off-island tour June 9 at the Dorothy Page Museum in Wasilla, with stops in Homer and Cordova next winter.

You may have noticed — and enjoyed — our latest fundraising effort: our takeover of the Alaska Leader Foundation’s fish and chip booth at the Kodiak Crab Festival.

All of these endeavors have involved the efforts of our amazing board members and many volunteers. Without them, none of these projects would have been possible. Our many donors have also contributed mightily to these successes. A big thank you to everyone who has helped KMMS in large and small ways.

KODIAK MARITIME MUSEUM

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Legislature Funds KMM Building Design

In April, the Alaska State Legislature approved a $200,000 grant to KMM to fund a maritime museum preliminary building design. The project will identify building requirements for programming, exhibit, staff, and meeting spaces for a maritime museum in downtown Kodiak, and from those requirements develop a schematic design.

The museum currently operates out of a small harbor office owned by the City of Kodiak in Dog Bay. The office lacks storage and exhibit space, which limits the museum’s ability to collect and care for donated items, especially in emergency situations.

With the new funding, the museum plans to issue an RFP in the fall, seeking design proposals from qualified firms.

A 2006 Kodiak Maritime Museum Building Feasibility Study prepared by the Mc- Dowell Group described three building options, ranging from 4,200 to 6,000 square feet, and costing from $3.7 to $4.3 million.

KMM Board and staff have identified these annual operating costs as a critical factor facing the project.

KMM Begins 2nd Harbor Tour Season

Kodiak Maritime Museum kicked off the 2012 cruise ship season on April 10 by welcoming passengers from the Crystal Serenity on a tour of St. Paul Harbor and St. Herman Harbor (Dog Bay) to visit the Bering Sea crab fleet.

Wayne Baker, owner / operator of the F/V Trailblazer, and longtime friend of KMM, welcomed California residents Rudy and Marilyn Cattoo on board and gave a hands-on tour of the engine room, living quarters, wheelhouse and deck.

The Trailblazer was featured on the Discovery Channel’s Deadliest Catch in 2008. The boat fished opilio crabs near the Pribilof Islands in February and March this year.

The Crystal Serenity was on the last leg of a round-the-Pacifc cruise which began in Los Angeles in January. The ship toured East Asia before sailing to Alaska.

Among the insights Mr. Baker imparted to the Cattos was the price of winter fishing in the Bering Sea. This year’s ice pack was exceptionally thick, and damaged the hull aft of recently reinforced bow plating.

"We beat-canned the hull pretty good, even with the reinforced bow," explained Mr. Baker. He plans to take the boat to a shipyard later this year to weld more plating to the midsection. KMM will conduct weekly St. Paul harbor tours all summer for both cruise ship and independent travelers. Check our website for scheduling and pricing details.