KODIAK MARITIME MUSEUM

# Waterlines

Winter 2009

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## 2009 Events

**January 12**
Annual Meeting
5:30 p.m., Fishermen's Hall

**March 14**
Kodiak Out Loud!

**March 20-29**
Exxon Valdez Exhibit

**April 23-26**
Exxon Valdez Exhibit
at Comfish

**May 9**
Taste & Tales of the Sea VII

**May 21-25**
Exxon Valdez Exhibit
at Kodiak Crab Festival

# Images of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill on Kodiak

To commemorate the 1989 Exxon Valdez Oil Spill, KMM will sponsor an exhibit of images of the spill on Kodiak Island. The exhibit will run from March to June of 2009 in several locations.

To stage the exhibit, KMM is collecting images from fishermen, residents and others who lived through the spill around Kodiak Island. The images will be digitized, archived, and mounted for display. The originals will be returned to their owners. Funding for the exhibit comes from the Alaska Humanities Forum.

A unique Kodiak College Library collection of seventy oil spill video tapes will also be digitized as part of the project. The tapes document the daily briefings at Kodiak High School in the spring and summer of 1989.

More than 11 million gallons of oil spilled on March 24, 1989 when the *Exxon Valdez* grounded on Bligh Reef. Oil eventually coated beaches as far away as Kodiak and the Alaska Peninsula.

*Protesters call for a cleanup of the spill on Kodiak Island, May 1989. Photo courtesy of Aleda Yourdon*

KMM asks people with oil spill pictures or video who wish to include them in the exhibit to contact the museum.

*Ken Woods on the Gladys R, 1975. Photo Toby Sullivan*

## "When Crab Was King: The Kodiak King Crab Fishery."

In May, KMM began producing and broadcasting "When Crab Was King: An Oral History of the Kodiak King Crab Fishery." The three minute programs broadcast several times a week on KMXT and KVOK. They are also available as podcasts on KMM's website. The broadcasts will air until May, 2009.

Funding from the Alaska Humanities Forum and National Endowment for the Arts has allowed KMM to hire local radio wizard Maggie Wall to produce the shows. Since May, Maggie has interviewed a number of fishermen, processors and others who lived in Kodiak or fished here during the King Crab boom years, from the late 1950s to the early 1980s.

The shows have covered everything from king crab biology to the evolution of fishing gear, sinkings, and the shortage of housing in Kodiak in those years.

The fishery created hundreds of fishing and processing jobs and transformed Kodiak into a world class fishing port known as the "King Crab Capital of the World."

For reasons which are still debated by biologists and fishermen, the population of crab exploded after World War II and then diminished steadily after the mid-1960s. The last commercial king crab season in Kodiak was in in 1982.

KMM encourages people who lived through the Kodiak king crab years to contact the museum to tell their stories.

# From the wheelhouse —

As the year winds to a close, it seems a good time to assess where Kodiak Maritime Museum is, and where we are headed.

When I came onboard as director in January the museum had recently taken possession of a Feasibility Study conducted by the McDowell Group. This study describes the path forward to fund, design, and construct a bricks and mortar repository and exhibit space for Alaskan maritime artifacts. While our ongoing interpretive and educational projects, several of which are described in this newsletter, continue to support the museum's mission to "*preserve and present Alaska's maritime heritage,*" a building of our own remains the guiding star of the organization. To my mind, everything we do as an organization in the next few years should be calculated to move us further down this road. Getting there will require good planning, hard work, and perseverance. It will also require money, both to fund construction and to maintain the building into the future through an endowment fund.

With that in mind, those members who are seeing checks from the Exxon punitive damages settlement should consider donating to the museum over and above their usual membership levels. Mention should be made here too that our website is now doing secure credit card processing of memberships and merchandise. Our webmistress at Yellow Interactive worked very hard to make this happen and the results look and work great.

And finally, it has been a pleasure and a privilege to work with the museum board of directors this past year. Without their depth of knowledge about the museum and maritime history, and their incredible volunteer work ethic, my job would not be possible.

Happy Holidays

Toby Sullivan

Executive Director

*The Phyllis S. undergoing maintenance at Spruce Island, 1930's.*

## Maritime lecture results in vessel photo

In May , KMM sponsored a talk by Anchorage maritime historian Mike Burwell on the sinkings of the Kodiak mailboat *Phyllis S.* in 1942 and the steamer *Princess May* in southeast Alaska in 1910.

Fifteen people were aboard the *Phyllis S.* vessel when it was cut in two by the U.S. Navy destroyer *Hulbert* December 17, 1942 near Port Bailey in Kupreanof Strait. Two people died in the mishap- Mary Paakhanen and granddaughter Helen Agik.

A Navy Court of Inquiry found *Hulbert* skipper Lt. Robert Crowell had failed to give way to the *Phyllis S.*

At the lecture, Mike mentioned that he hadn't been able to find a photograph of the *Phyllis S.* This prompted Kodiak resident Anita Scholl to run home and bring back a picture of the vessel from her late husband Louie's collection.

Mike maintains the online Alaska Shipwreck Database at: www.mms.gov/alaska/ref/ships/index.htm

**Kodiak Maritime Museum**

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## KMM board member contributes photos to March '09 Exxon exhibit

Matt Jamin talks to Uganik setnetters, June 1989. Matt was a lead lawyer in the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill lawsuit. The spill resulted in the largest class action suit in American history. Photo: Betsey Myrick

When KMM Board member Betsey Myrick heard about the upcoming EVOS images exhibit, she rummaged through her old photo albums and found the pictures she had taken in 1989.

Betsey, husband Chris, and daughters Jenny and Adelia have fished their Trap 6 setnet site in Uganik Bay since 1986. They participated in the 1989 oil spill cleanup there , which Betsey documented with photographs and a journal.

Several of her pictures from that summer, including two shown here will be included in the exhibit in spring, 2009.

## KMM Website Now Takes Credit Cards

The Kodiak Maritime Museum website is now doing secure credit card processing of memberships and merchandise. Our webmistress at Yellow Interactive , Sara Hoedel, worked very hard to make this happen and the results look and work great.

## Kodiak Out Loud Returns in 2009

"Kodiak Out Loud: Kodiak, Fishing, and the Sea," will return to the Gerald C. Wilson Auditorium March, 14, 2009.

Jon Campbell of Rhode Island at the 2008 "Kodiak Out" Loud"

Sponsored by KMM, the live performance by fisher poets, writers and musicians drew a standing ovation in March 2008. Artists from Kodiak, Cordova, Washington, Oregon, and Rhode Island told stories, recited poems, and sang songs about fishing and the sea.

Several of the 2008 artists will return in 2009, including Moe Bowstern, Joanna Reichold and Toby Sullivan.

The event is patterned after the Astoria, Oregon "Fisher Poets Gathering." Kodiak fisher poets have performed during Crab Festival since 2002.

Funding comes from the Alaska State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts, and local donors.

## Setnetters, Seattle Fish Company, Contribute

Setnetters Wallace and Beth Fields recently contributed $1,000 to KMM, as did former setnetter Mike Pagano and the Seattle based American Fisheries Company. Both the Fields and Pagano families have fished salmon on Kodiak for generations.

The American Fisheries Company through its fleet of catcher/processors, is the largest harvester in the Bering Sea.

VECO Services Helicopter sits at Trap 6, Uganik Bay, July 1989. VECO coordinate cleanup activities for Exxon. Photo: Betsey Myrick

Harold and Marcie Jones enjoying 2008 Tastes and Tales

## Tastes and Tales VII Set For May 9

The 2009 Tastes and Tales fundraising dinner and silent auction is scheduled for May 9, 2009. The venue has not yet been set

Keynote speaker Katie Ringsmuth PhD., will talk about the Kukak Bay cannery and the importance of preserving old canneries as places of historical interest. Katie is President of the Alaska Historical Society.

Her book, "Buried Dreams: The Rise and Fall of a *Clam* Cannery on the *Katmai* Coast" was published by the National Park Service Press in 2005.

Katie spent many summers in Bristol Bay, where her father was a salmon plant manager.

The 2008 Taste and Tales of the Sea fundraising dinner was held April 26 at the Golden Anchor, a new venue for us, and was a huge success, despite a fierce spring snowstorm and lack of a keynote speaker. Mike Burwell, an Alaska shipwreck expert, was unable to get in from Anchorage due to the storm. He was able to come back in May however, to speak on the *Princess May* and the *Phyllis S*. to a crowd at the High School choral pod. Despite the weather, the dinner was once again a sellout.

A fabulous menu was again produced by Chef Joel Chenet. Past President Chris Lynch presented an overview of KMM projects. Sue Jeffrey gave a tribute to Wanda Fields, a founder of the museum. Wanda passed away at the Fields family fish camp in Uyak Bay in June 2007.

The winner of the silent auction cruise for two was Stephanie Love.

## PFD: Pick, Click, Give to KMM

Starting in January, Alaskans will be able to donate to KMM by checking a box on the Permanent Fund Dividend electronic application.

Donors can give from $25 up to the entire amount of the PFD to one or more organizations. Donors can also authorize the state to send the donor's name and address to the charitable organization in the fall, when the PFD checks go out.

A grant from the Rasmuson Foundation will fund the administration costs for three years.

More information is available at pickclickgive.org.

Kodiak Maritime Museum
P.O. Box 1876
Kodiak, AK 99615

*Dedicated to the recognition and preservation of Alaska's maritime heritage*

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**KMM**
**annual meeting**
**January 12, 2009**

Kodiak Maritime Museum will hold its annual membership meeting Monday, January 12, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. at Fishermen's Hall.

Members will elect a board of directors and revise by laws relating to board member's terms of office. Food and refreshments will be served. For more information, please call the KMM office at 486-0384 or email toby@kodiakmaritimemuseum.org

## *Join Our Crew!*

*December 2008 memberships good through 2009!*

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/ State/ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

***Give a membership to a friend or family member:***

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/ State/ Zip: _____

□ Check enclosed

□ Credit Card Number:_____

Exp. Date: ____ Signature: _____

**Online membership and secure credit card payment :**
**www.kodiakmaritimemuseum.org**

***Please start or renew my membership at this level:***

| | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Greenhorn | $25.00 |
| ☐ Deckhand | $50.00 |
| ☐ Skipper | $100.00 |
| ☐ Mariner | $250.00 |
| ☐ Highliner | $500.00 |
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