



A National Historic Landmark

Cabin Notes

Friends of the Governor Stone, Inc.

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www.GovernorStone.org

May 2013

Meet the 2013 Board

President

Harry Dennard

Woodmen of the World

Vice President

Ray Mansfield

Pilot/Flight Instructor

Secretary/Treasurer

Carol Visalpatara

Retired

Captain Bill Hamilton

Retired IBMer

Master Captain

Kristin Anderson

Artist, Silversmith

Kristinworks

John Darrah

Developer

Businessman

Cal Allen

City Commissioner

City of Carrabelle

Captain Gibby Conrad

Educator/Ecologist

Master Captain

Kay Cherry

Semi-retired

Administrator

Restoration in Store

Preservation of the 1877 National Historic Landmark Vessel, the Governor Stone presents unique challenges, as she is a working, sailing on the water historical artifact. The continuous exposure to the elements, wind, sun, rain and corrosive salt water require continuous maintenance to preserve the condition of the vessel.

In spite of the best efforts of volunteer members of the Friends of the Governor Stone some aspects of the vessel have deteriorated to the point requiring removal from the water where significant repairs can be made.

In 2012 the Florida Division of Historical Resources selected the Governor Stone to receive a 2014 Viva Florida 500 Small Matching Historical Preservation Grant. Funds are expected to be awarded in July of 2013 and will be matched by donations and in kind

services from supporters including Bay County Boat Yard, Eastern Shipbuilding, Kurt Voss of Historic Ships and Boats and numerous volunteers.

The single biggest task of the restoration will be repairs to the original keel of the vessel to address damage from ship worms in the interior of the centerboard slot, leaks at the centerboard and garboard joints and at rudderpost and driveshaft fittings. While the boat is out of the water skilled craftsmen will replace damaged planks below the waterline and under the rub rails.

Needed repairs to deteriorating deck structures present the opportunity to replace the hatch covers, cabin and steering gear box with structures that are historically accurate and are built with traditional methods using like-kind materials.

Planned funds are additionally available to replace the sails, sail covers and running rigging with modern maintainable materials that more closely resemble the appearance of original lines, sails and blocks.

Get Involved

Further improvements of the vessel are dependent on the volunteer commitment and the funds raised prior to the commencement of the restoration.

Member volunteers are needed to help organize, plan and implement the restoration; to assist with historic research, locate materials, identify craft resources, provide logistics, participate in additional fundraising, document and promote the restoration activity, provide hands on assistance including skilled and apprentice woodworking, sanding, refinishing and caulking. Learn more and volunteer by contacting Captain Bill 678-478-0611 , Bill.Hamilton@GovernorStone.org or any officer or board member.

Donations are needed, delivered to any board member, donated on line via www.Facebook.com/GovernorStone or mailed to P.O. Box 4716, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549. **They are tax deductible and an investment in the future of the Governor Stone.**

Volunteer Opportunities Remain Endless

Get involved and join a committee!

Membership, Ray Mansfield chair

Operations/Scheduling, Capt. Bill Hamilton chair

Education/Culture/History, Gibby Conrad chair

Public Relations, Kristin Anderson chair

Fundraising, chairmanship open

Finance and Budget, Carol Visalpatara chair

Nominating, Kristin Anderson chair

Or become a part of the restoration.

Email info@GovernorStone.org or call 850-621-0011 to sign on.

Free Raffles to Sail



Members held free raffles at the Winter Guest Fest in Fort Walton Beach and at Juana's Pagodas in Navarre, FL. While the wind blew away any hope of sailing in Navarre, Guest Fest raffle winners enjoyed

a pleasant February sail from the Crab Shack, FWB.

Blessing of the Fleet

The Governor led the parade of vessels for the Blessing of the Fleet that opens the season in Panama City each year. She also sailed from the St. Andrews Farmers' Market this spring, inviting Market visitors to join our members on board.

Conserving our Waterways

We were pleased to have Captain Dan Tonsmiere and the Apalachicola Riverkeepers on board this April. A salute to them for their dedication to conserving and restoring the beautiful Apalachicola river system and Bay. For fabulous photos of the area or to get involved go to Apalachicola Riverkeeper on Facebook.

Memorial

The *Governor Stone* was proud to host a casting of flowers into Apalachicola Bay in memory of all who have been lost at sea including Captain Robin Walbridge, who once captained the *Governor Stone*.

Pirate Crew

Pirates and cannon fire marked the Carrabelle Riverfront Festival April 26th. The Carrabelleans are great hosts and love to sail. Plan to attend the Festival next year.



Like Us on Facebook, Too



The Governor's Facebook page topped 196 likes in April. Liking us is the best way to keep up with the Governor's activities and sharing our posts and photos spreads her name far and wide. [Facebook.com/GovernorStone](https://www.facebook.com/GovernorStone)

Bosun's Chair

Thanks to Kurt for donating that bosun's chair we so sought for so long.

Anyone have a new diesel engine they aren't using any more and would like to donate?

Maybe not, but donations of tools and supplies make our hard earned dollars go farther and are appreciated.

Illustrious Past – An Apology of Sorts

This from the licensing and Coast Guard records of the *Governor Stone*:

Thomas Burns received the boat from his father in 1922 and owned her until 1940. At some point after her last license in 1929 she sank. Thomas sold the sunken vessel to Isaac Rhea. Mr. Rhea had her raised, rebuilt and put to use as a daysailer. When he applied to have her registered there was some confusion, and some difficulty finding Mr. Burns. The assistant collector of District 19, Office of the Collector found it necessary



to write the following to the director of the Bureau of Marine Inspection and Navigation in Washington D.C.

"This office acknowledges Bureau letter of the 8th instant, relative to the ownership of the gasoline screw GOVERNOR STONE (85508). If this office advised the Bureau that Mr. Burns was dead, it has done him a great injustice, for he is very much alive. On February 19, 1940, he sold the vessel to I. T. Rhea, at this port, account property and trade changed. Being under 16 gross tons and used exclusively for pleasure, it was awarded 19 E 434 on February 27, 1940. The surrender license was forwarded the Bureau on day surrendered."

This still leaves a mystery as to when she sank. Was it 1929, as she was not licensed after that, though her license was not surrendered until 1940? Was she under water for 10 years before she was salvaged? No major storms hit the area in those years, though 1932 and 39 had some damage from storms. We continue to seek the rest of the story.

Dues Schedule

Encourage your friends to join in the fun and to support the Gov

- _____ \$10 ~ Friend (supporter)
- _____ \$25 ~ Steward Member (individual)
- _____ \$50 ~ Cabinmate Members (family)
- _____ \$250 ~ Seaman Donor
- _____ \$500 ~ Staysail Donor
- _____ \$1,000 ~ Foresail Donor
- _____ \$5,000 ~ Mainsail Donor
- _____ \$10,000 ~ Commodore Donor

The amounts are minimums per category

All levels receive email newsletters. Memberships are tax deductible per federal tax laws. New members at each level receive a keepsake of the Governor Stone. Some premiums are awarded at the Annual Meeting.