



Cabin Notes

www.GovStone.com
Friends of the Governor Stone, Inc.
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Welcome Aboard!

Glad to have you aboard for this inaugural newsletter of the Friends of the Governor Stone, Inc.! We hope you will find your membership meaningful, whatever the extent of your involvement. This wonderful historic schooner is in need of a variety of levels of interest in time, talent, and financial aspects. A National Landmark like this one takes support in order to be sustained through the years for the enjoyment of generations to come. Hopefully you will spend some time becoming familiar with the vessel, its history, and the groups and individuals that are working today to see that people all along the Gulf Coast have a chance to experience a 132 year old wooden schooner! Watch for opportunities to help out on a committee or specific project or task. Maybe you want to develop a Port Crew in your area and have your organization join as a Shipmate. Whatever your level of interest, you are welcome. Our web site is full of information about the history of the vessel, membership, committees, and more. Please do not hesitate to contact us. If you know of someone who may be interested in this project, we would be happy to send them some information if you will forward a mailing address or email address. Many hands on the deck make the work light for all!

Volunteer working on rigging on the Governor Stone



From the Captain...

Ahoy Mates,

It has been two years since the Governor Stone was towed to Fort Walton Beach for a major restoration. With a grant from the Florida Department of State Bureau of Historic Preservation and matching effort, funds and expertise from committed volunteers, the GS has reached the end of the restoration project. The Friends of the Governor Stone Board will be asked at the next board meeting to terminate the ad-hoc Restoration Committee and turn the vessel over to the Operation Committee for the continued maintenance and repair required by a wooden vessel.

The GS Board envisions a program that shares the GS with Gulf Coast ports from Pensacola to Apalachicola. The Board invites communities to sign on as Shipmates, high level members of the Friends association who contract to host the vessel. A host agreement would be good for one year with renewal privileges and allow the Shipmate to use ongoing programs. So far, Shipmate status has been obtained by St. Andrews, and is being pursued in Fort Walton Beach and Freeport. There are clearly limited openings for this program. While Shipmates would have first choice, the vessel would be available to attend short-term events at other locations as well.

The Education and Program Committee have been hard at work doing research on the past of GS. This has taken the group in a many interesting directions. From what I have already heard I can't wait to see what the committee will present.

The highlight of the summer was the Governor Stone's first sea trial on June 7th. It was great to leave the dock behind, to feel the motion of the vessel through the water and hear the creak of hull and slap of sail.

Continued...

From the Captain...continued...

The future of this beautiful, noble vessel is at hand.

I thank you for your interest in the Governor Stone and urge you to be part of the history and to share the joy of preserving GS for future generations.

Captain Dick Gercak
Captain of Register
Historic Schooner Governor Stone

The Friends of the Governor Stone Board of Directors is grateful to these contributors to the 2007-09 restoration of the schooner Governor Stone

Grant:

Florida Dept of State, Bureau of Historic Preservation, Division of Historical Resources

Research and Conservation:

University of West Florida, History and Archaeology Departments

Corporate Donors:

The Boat Marina and Boatyard
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George Brenner
Brian Kellerberger
Bob Farmer
Jeannine Mitchell
Lesley Hanley

Purchase Governor Stone t-shirts and notecards at the Panama City Publishing Co. Museum & Visitor Center in Panama City at 1134 Beck Avenue.

The notecards are pen/ink drawings by Panama City artist Bobby Forrest.

Florida Humanities Council Grant Awarded for Governor Stone

The Florida Humanities Council has awarded a grant to the Friends of the Governor Stone for design and manufacturing of a four-panel interpretive display reflecting this type vessel, and its role in the social, cultural, and economic fabric of the towns along the northern Gulf coast during the life of the vessel. So much waterfront history has been lost and we want people today and in the future to understand the role of vessels like the *Governor Stone* during its use and how that contributed to the waterfronts as we know them today. The exhibit may travel with the actual vessel to various ports along the Northern Gulf Coast, or may be used independently around the state indefinitely. Scholars and students from the University of West Florida and from the Florida Public Archaeology Network will be working on the project that should be completed by summer of 2010.



Cargo hold restored

**Ship schedule:
St. Andrews Marina
December – February, 2010**

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www.govstone.com

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