

Schooner *Bowdoin* Facts
Maine Maritime Academy
Castine, Maine 04420

Maine Maritime Academy's schooner, *Bowdoin*, a national historic landmark and the official vessel of the State of Maine, is the flagship of the college's undergraduate small vessel operations program. Each year *Bowdoin* provides a hands-on training platform for students interested in traditional sail training. The *Bowdoin* travels widely as part of its sail training cruises and participates in a number of public events, offering outreach on traditional sail training techniques, the seafaring heritage of Maine, and the value of experiential learning.

The *Bowdoin* enjoys a long history of seafaring education and Arctic exploration, as well as notoriety in the history of the development of remote communications. Built in 1921 at the Hodgdon Brothers Shipyard in East Boothbay, Maine, the schooner sailed on 25 scientific expeditions to the Arctic Circle under the command of Adm. Donald MacMillan. *Bowdoin* sent the first shortwave communications from the region in 1923 while wintering in Refuge Harbor, Greenland.

Following withdrawal from Arctic service in the 1950s, the *Bowdoin* supported the educational initiatives of Mystic Seaport in Connecticut and the Outward Bound School in Maine. The schooner was later acquired by the Schooner *Bowdoin* Association. Maine Maritime Academy leased the vessel in 1988 and bought her outright a year later.

When not underway, the *Bowdoin* is usually docked in the college's boat slip area on its waterfront campus in Castine, Maine. Learn more about Maine Maritime Academy and the college's traditional sail training programs at www.mainemaritime.edu

Specifications and Facts:

Length Overall: 88 feet

Sparred Length: 100 feet

Length on Deck: 83 feet

Beam: 21 feet

Rig Height: 67 feet

Displacement: 66 tons

Draft: 10 feet

Hull: White oak

Deck: White pine

Power: Gaff rigged sails on two masts. . . auxiliary diesel engine, 190 Hp. Cummins

Masts: Douglass fir

Sails: Oceanus

Sail Area: 3,000 square feet

Rigging: Gaff rigged schooner, bald headed, knockabout

Anchors: two 500 lb. fisherman, 3/4" stud link chain

Navigation Equipment: radar, GPS, INMARSAT-C, VHF & SSB radio, A.I.S.

Speed: under sail - 10 knots, maximum

auxiliary - 7 knots, maximum

Crew: 16

Day Sail Capacity: 49

Completely rebuilt in 1980-84 at Percy & Small Shipyard, Maine Maritime Museum, Bath ,
Maine.

Launched: 1921, Hodgdon Brothers Shipyard, East Boothbay, Maine

Cost when built: \$35,000.00

Special Features: Ice barrel at top of foremast, reinforced and designed for ice work and Arctic exploration.

Voyages North: 28 north of the Arctic Circle, four times wintered over, frozen in ice; sailed from Wiscasset and Boothbay, Maine (two such voyages since owned by Maine Maritime Academy).

Length of North Voyages: one year to two months.

Safety Features: Fully USCG certified as a sailing school vessel and passenger vessel.

Current Owner: Maine Maritime Academy, Castine, Maine.

Homeport: Castine, Maine.

Prior Owner: Schooner Bowdoin Association.

Schooner Bowdoin Website: <http://bowdoin.mma.edu/>

Distance Sailed in 2006 Season: 4,000+ nautical miles

Distance to be Sailed in 2007 Season: 5,000+ nautical miles

Historical Highlights:

- Designed by William Hand, built by Hodgdon Brothers Shipyard, East Boothbay, Maine, 1921.
- Made 26 voyages to the Arctic between 1921 and 1954.
- Served on U.S. Navy Greenland patrol during World War II.
- Adm. Donald MacMillan, her skipper, became internationally know for his explorations in the Far North. . .received Hubbard Gold Medal of the National Geographic Society, 1953.
- Designated Maine's official state vessel by the Governor and Legislature, August 4, 1988.
- Flew National Geographic Society's flag in Op Sail, 1986
- Purchased by Maine Maritime Academy from the Schooner Bowdoin Association, 1988.
- Designated a National Historic Landmark, 1989.
- Sailed to Nain, Labrador, in 1990 . . . first voyage to the North since the 1950s.
- Sailed to Disko Island, Greenland, in 1991, 150 miles north of the Arctic Circle.
- 1992 cruise: New England and the Canadian Maritimes.

- 1993 cruise: Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, St. Pierre, Miquelon.
- 1994 cruise : Umanaq, Greenland, 250 miles north of the Arctic Circle.
- 1999 cruise: Newfoundland and Labrador.

Today's Mission:

- To provide sail training for Maine Maritime Academy students and the public;
- To serve as the flagship of and primary training platform for the college's small vessel operations programs;
- To aid in recruiting and community relations.

For Additional Information about Maine Maritime Academy, contact:

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Further Reading:

For more information about the schooner *Bowdoin*, please refer to your library for books and articles including:

Books:

- Horr, Alfred Reuel. The Log of the Schooner Bowdoin, Cleveland: World Publishing Co. 1947.
- MacMillan, D. B. Arctic Odyssey, New York: Dodd, Mead, and Co. 1962.
- MacMillan, Donald Baxter. Etah and Beyond: Or, Life Within Twelve Degrees of the Pole, Boston, New York: Houghton Mifflin Co. 1927.
- MacMillan, Miriam (Look). Green Seas and White Ice, New York: Dodd, Mead, and Co. 1948.
- Thorndike, Virginia. The Arctic Schooner Bowdoin, A Biography, Unity, Maine: North Country Press. 1995.

Periodicals:

- Brown, James P. "North to Labrador: A Maine Sailing Adventure," *DownEast Magazine*, Vol. 38, No. 1, August, 1991. p. 32-37.
- Kirschenbaum, Jerry. "William Hand: The Evolution of an Architect," *WoodenBoat Magazine*, No. 28, May/June, 1979. p. 58-67.
- Malcolm, John. "Donald MacMillan's 'Bowdoin' Sails Again," *DownEast Magazine*, April, 1977. p. 46-51, 72.
- Pierson, Elizabeth Cary. "Reviving Maine's Arctic Connection," *DownEast Magazine*, March, 1985. p. 20-25.
- Rappaport, Elliot. "North - Maine Maritime Academy in the Arctic," *WoodenBoat Magazine*, No. 129, March/April, 1996. p. 58-67.

Rappaport, Stephen "Northern Light: Bowdoin's Arctic Summer," *Maine Boats and Harbors*, August/September, 1995. p. 54-61.

Spectre, Peter H. "The Bowdoin Project," *WoodenBoat Magazine*, No. 47, July/August, 1982. p. 30-37.

Video:

Greenman, John and Nelson, Noreen. Two Lives of the Schooner Bowdoin. Orono, Maine: Maine Public Broadcasting Network. 1991.

Several amateur video footage cassettes on file in Nutting Memorial Library, Maine Maritime Academy, Castine, Maine, 04420. Searchable in the college's online library catalog at: <http://bell.mma.edu/~knicker/library2.html>

Fiction:

Cowan, Mary Morton. Ice Country: One Boy's Adventure in the Arctic with Commander Donald MacMillan, Camden, Maine: Cricketfield Press. 1995.

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