



# **PASSING THE WORD**

FROM  
THE  
**QUARTERDECK**



## **DRAGON**

**OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF SEA SCOUT SHIP 584**

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<http://subvetsgroton.org/seascout/default.aspx>

Safe Voyage  
by Margaret Traina

Be your sail always full of the breath of the Lord  
To take you to places both here and abroad,  
With your hand at the helm and sea mist on your lips  
And a chorus of Angels as mates of your ship.  
When a lusty wind turns life into rough seas  
Cursing, creaks in the mast, and you drop to your knees  
With a glance to the heavens, jibe ho head low.  
Though your vessel drinks water and heels to and fro  
Bear away my friend, raise up from your kneel  
For the Lord holds on tightly while guiding your keel.

### **DECEMBER 2008**

#### Upcoming Events-

##### **December 08**

1 Ship 584 QD Meeting    7 Landship practice    8 Swimming test at SubBase Pool

12 Mystic Festival of Lights 4 - 9 pm, Mystic Aquarium    15 Bowling at SubBase

21 Landship practice    22 Ship 584 Regular Meeting

##### **January 2009**

4 Eagle Bridge of Honor    9-11 Catoctin Training Weekend    25 Quarterdeck Training



### **2008-2009 Year Planning**

#### **December 2008**

Swim tests at sub base pool, Host USPS classes, Elections, Navigation Course

Mystic Aquarium Holiday of Lights with Friends of Mystic Aquarium

#### **January 2009**

Recapture, Winter Cruise, Catoctin, Quarterdeck Training, Eagle Bridge of Honor

Inventory for Super Activity (Camp Able and Long Cruise), General Inventory

#### **February 2009**

Swimming at pool, Customs of flag class, Communications class, Navigation class

#### **March 2009**

Flag History class, Navigation class, Boat types class, Rules of the road class

Prepare boats for the season, Bridge and Ball

On behalf of the Scouting Members of Sea Scout Ship 584, I would like to wholeheartedly thank Janet and Boating on the Thames (BOT) for coming to our aid. We were in need of winter storage, and Janet and BOT really came through. Not only did they help us with storage space, they pulled our boat out of the water, washed it off and rented us stands for it.

Thank you so much for supporting our Sea Scout Ship, we look forward to a long-lasting relationship with you.

(Boating on the Thames, 7-R Bella Vista/P.O. Box 192, Quaker Hill, CT 06375,  
(860) 443-3310 Fax (860) 444-2901, [www.boatingonthethames.com](http://www.boatingonthethames.com) email: [botts@99main.com](mailto:botts@99main.com))



**Stay tuned for next summer Sea Scouts to Sail on:**



Today in fine shape and form, *Alabama* is widely regarded as the ultimate example of yankee craftsmanship and traditional wooden shipbuilding. Originally used as a moored bar pilot vessel, *Alabama* is now fast and seaworthy. Completely refitted for the passenger trade, and equipped with twin diesels, *Alabama* now schedules day and overnight cruises and also makes an ideal day-sailer as well. She is skippered by Capt. Morgan H.

Douglas, third son of Captain Robert Douglas, who also helped in the reconstruction effort. The boat carries up to 49 passengers on day sails and 27 passengers overnight in her two spacious cabins. There is a crew of 6.



**What: Mystic Festival of Lights**

**When:** Friday, Dec.12, 2008 - 4pm to 9pm

**Where:** Front Entrance of Mystic Aquarium, Mystic CT

**Why:** Every year the Sea Scouts Ship Dragon participates in this service project with the Mystic Aquarium. We set out small sand bags with candles and light them - luminaries. We also help box and load can goods that get donated. We then clean up the luminaries. Clean-up goes very fast. we encourage people to take the luminary home to use at their churches or personal homes. The rest are just put in garbage bags.

**Bring:** Propane torches - work best for lighting the luminaries. Warm clothes, jacket, stocking hat and gloves. It is usually very cold. A friend - possible someone who may want to join. What do you get? FUN Hours towards your community service project for school. Pizza and soda in Classroom B, behind the jelly fish tank anytime after 5PM. Free entrance to the Mystic Aquarium.



**Ahoy, member ships and friends of the Liberty Flotilla!**

Sea Scout Ship Rings Island is coordinating a group rate for MIDSHIPMAN TRAINEE POSITIONS aboard the S/V Mystic ([www.voyagemystic.com](http://www.voyagemystic.com)) for New England Flotilla Sea Scouts. Per ASTA ([www.sailtraining.org](http://www.sailtraining.org)) requirements, trainees must be at least 15 years of age by July 1, 2009. This event takes place during the Tall Ship Challenge 2009 organized by ASTA, July 1-20. Skipper Tim Millar, Ship 76, Harwich, MA, has signed on to crew the entire 20 days, and Skipper Alice Twombly, Ship 49, Salisbury, MA has committed to July 12-20, 2009.

NOTE: This is NOT a private charter or a Sea Scout sponsored event. During this program, your scout will be under the command of the Midshipman Trainee program of the Mystic Voyager Maritime School, NOT Sea Scouts, BSA.

Hello All,

I am Alice Twombly, New England Sea Scout Flotilla Operations officer . I have been in communication with Captain Amy Blumberg to arrange a group rate for the Sea Scouts. With a group of 20 or more registering at the same time, we can obtain a discount of 35% off of the \$95 daily rate. We are just about to go online with registration at the [www.yccbsa.org](http://www.yccbsa.org) website of the Yankee Clipper council. Please let me know if you are interested in participating in registering as part of a group so we can obtain the best possible rate for our scouts. YISS

Alice Twombly, Skipper  
SSS Rings island  
Salisbury, MA

Dear Sea Scout Skippers

I would like to introduce the tall ship MYSTIC to you and your Sea Scout Ship. MYSTIC is a 170-foot, three-masted barquentine based out of Mystic, Connecticut. Designed and built for the passenger and sailing school trade and launched in 2007, she is the largest sailing ship built in the United States since World War II. We offer sail training aboard MYSTIC to people of all ages and nationalities. The focus of our sail training programs is to promote character building through development of self-confidence and teamwork, as well as to prepare those trainees who are interested for a career in the maritime sector. I have an immense amount of respect for the Sea Scouts program as my father, grandfather (which one?) and uncle all had Sea Scout Ships. I believe that MYSTIC is a very exciting and dynamic ship which will lend itself to the values and goals of your Sea Scouts program, whether you bring your ship as a group or introduce your scouts to our program individually.

Mystic Maritime School and Voyager Cruises work hand-in-hand to provide three different types of opportunities for youth to join the crew of MYSTIC:

1. Mystic Maritime School's Trainee Program:

Up to 32 Trainees are accepted onboard for one or more legs of a sail training voyage.. In 2009, our voyages begin July 1st and join the 2009 Atlantic Tall Ship Challenge for the summer. MYSTIC will cruise with other tall ships from around the globe to Plymouth MA, Boston MA, Halifax Nova Scotia, race across the Atlantic to Belfast Ireland, and then cruise to The Netherlands for DelfSail 2009. All of these destinations will hold world-class Tall Ship Events and Parades as the tall ships arrive. When the tall ship events finish, MYSTIC continues on her sail training voyages to Lisbon, Madeira, The Canary Islands, and the return trans-Atlantic voyage with the trade winds to The Virgin Islands. Please visit [www.MysticMaritimeSchool.org](http://www.MysticMaritimeSchool.org) and [www.tallshipsraces.com/atlanticchallenge/index..html](http://www.tallshipsraces.com/atlanticchallenge/index..html)

2. Voyager Cruises' Midshipman Program:

A limited number of Midshipmen will be accepted into our crew during our passenger-carrying vacation sailing season. They will work and live with our professional tall ship sailors as they learn skills and self-reliance that they can use for the rest of their lives. Opportunities are available in New England in the summer and The Bahamas in the winter. Please visit

[www.voyagemystic.com/ships\\_TSM.asp](http://www.voyagemystic.com/ships_TSM.asp) and click on "MYSTIC Midshipman Program"

3. Bring your group for a Private Charter of MYSTIC and we will design a sail training program

around your scouts' interests and needs. Please visit [www.voyagemystic.com/ships\\_TSM.asp](http://www.voyagemystic.com/ships_TSM.asp)

Here are some interesting videos on the subject produced by the International Sail Training

Association: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=82yI3iCjNRI>

and <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yeej8W7TeAs>

Sincerely,

Captain Amy Blumberg

Master, MYSTIC

## QUARTERDECK LEADERSHIP Training Course

**Saturday February , 2009**

Be prepared for each segment to be interactive, time of reflection, discussion and fun of getting to meet new friends, who are like you. This is not your ordinary classroom course. This time will be hands on learning about Leadership.

"*Camp Able*" is summer training week. You will be exposed to every requirement and have had a chance to do some hands on learning, hence the name of the camp. You will be taught all of the **nautical skills requirements** for the Sea Scout ABLE Rank.

Since SEAL is set aside for those that have completed their "*Ordinary*" requirements, the "*Camp Able*" learning program will help motivate you and give you the opportunity to learn the much more advanced "Able" nautical skills. This allows the rank of Quartermaster to be your next step.

Another beauty of "*Camp Able*" is it also provides a venue for if you are a top "*Able*" Sea Scout to get all your six "Quartermaster" teaching requirements completed. You can be one of those Camp Able youth instructors. This is where want-to-be Quartermasters can shine... in the running the camp. There is room for you to learn as you teach.

Typically to qualify for Camp Able , you must have the rank of Ordinary. However this year's camp is opened to all youth in our Ship. Ship 584 can bring no more than 15 youth and 4 adults. The adults will be safety observers.

**Cost:** \$350 youth and \$100 for adult...  
\$100 deposit by March 10 and all fees due by June 1.