



THE ANCHOR

The monthly newsletter of the Houston Maritime Museum

DROP ANCHOR WITH US IN 2014

Celebrate National Maritime Day with us! FREE admission to all on Thursday, May 22nd.

Hours of operation: Tuesday - Saturday, 9am - 5pm.

HMM Welcomes New Education Program Chair

We are very excited to announce our new Education Program Chair, Maria Burns. She parlays over 20 years in the Maritime industry, as a Senior Trainer, Auditor and Academic, recently appointed as the new Director at the Center for Logistics and Transportation Policy at the College of Technology, University of Houston. Professor Burns is an Honorary member of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and the author of the books "Port Management and Operations" and "Logistics and Transportation Security". She serves as Chair of the Supply Chain Security Subcommittee (Transportation Research Board of National Academies, Washington DC); and Editor of the Journal of Transportation Security (Springer).

Model of the Month

The Higgins Boat
LCVP - Landing Craft, Vehicle, Personnel

By: Laurence Shallenberger, Docent & Trustee



The LCVP is the World War II landing craft conceived by a Louisiana lumberman, Andrew Higgins. The boat was used extensively by all the Allies, but primarily by the U.S. Forces to quickly put infantry on an enemy shore.



HMM Membership

Help keep Houston's maritime heritage alive by joining the Houston Maritime Museum! Members have the opportunity for great benefits including free admission on every ticket year-round, discount on our events, and a 10% discount on purchases in the HMM shop. Get advanced notice of exciting upcoming events, such as our Lecture Series, along with special invitations to Member-Only previews and events. The packages range from individual and family to corporate level memberships. Your generous support helps the Museum present and maintain riveting exhibitions, sustain education and community outreach programs, build the collections, and enhance the maritime experience for all visitors.

Ready to join? [Join online](#), or call us at 713-666-1910 and a representative will be happy to assist you.

In just over twenty years, between 1918 and 1939, the character of war changed completely from permanent, deep, muddy, rat infested trenches of two armies facing each other across 200 yards of "No-Man's-Land" for months and years at a time to a fast moving "hit, run, out-flank, hit again" strategy where putting an entire army on a shore in back of or to one side of an enemy within a few hours was a vital capability.

The LCVP was the answer to this requirement. In the 1930's, Andrew Higgins built a boat-works, and sold shallow-draft, ply-wood boats to commercial swamp fishermen and oil exploration crews. The U.S. Navy became interested, as they anticipated the need for landing craft even before WWII started. The Navy and Marine Corps needed a boat that could hold a fully armed platoon of infantry, run it up on a beach, drop the bow ramp, and allow the men to charge ashore four and five abreast. They tested Higgins' boats, made some design changes, and the LCVP was born.

The LCVP was 36 ft. long, 11 ft. wide, drew 3 ft. of water loaded, it could make 12 knots powered by a 225 HP marine diesel engine. She was run by a Navy crew of four and was armed with two .30 cal. machine guns.

More than 20,000 Higgins Boats were made by a number of builders during the war. LCVP's were essential in the Army and Marine Corp's drive across the Pacific Ocean, dislodging the Japanese from their string of occupied islands. Typically, a naval task force would stand off a Japanese-held island, bombard the enemy emplacements with big naval guns, while infantry would load into Higgins Boats by descending cargo nets hung over the sides of troop transport ships, and then start off for beach by the score.

Higgins Boats made names like Guadacanal, Tarawa, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa common house-holds words in America and across the world. They made the African campaign (Operation Torch), the invasions of Sicily and Italy, and the Normandy landing (Operation Overlord) possible.

General Dwight Eisenhower declared, "Andrew Higgins is the man who won the war for us. If Higgins had not designed and built the LCGP, we never could have landed over an open beach. The whole strategy of the war would have been different."

HISTORY LECTURE

Preservation Project: USS Westfield
with Justin Parkoff and Jessica Stika

Tuesday May 13, 2014
7:00pm - 8:00pm

In case you missed the riveting lecture about the USS Westfield preservation project, you can watch it [here](#). The USS Westfield wreckage lay in the murky waters of the Texas City ship channel until 2009, when the disarticulated artifact debris field was recovered in Texas' largest marine archaeology rescue project to date. Although the hull itself was not preserved, learn how the experts at Texas A & M University's Conservation Research Laboratory have used modern technology to glean clues from this scant archaeological evidence.

More information can be found at [Houston Maritime Museum Lecture Series](#)

Special Thanks to our Generous Lecture Sponsors



Council of American Maritime Museums Annual Meeting

Our very own Director of Operations, Kristin Josvoll, attended CAMM's Annual Meeting last month at the National Museum of the Great Lakes in Toledo, OH. While there, she met and spoke with other maritime museum professionals from all over the country. Through the lectures and discussion panels, Kristin was able to obtain valuable information that will be implemented in the current and new Museum. As this was the first time HMM was represented, she broadened their awareness of the Museum, and made connections with other maritime museum professionals.



CAMM attendees in front of the National Museum of the Great Lakes.

Interested in ship modeling? Join the Gulf Coast Ship Modelers Society on the second of Saturday every odd-numbered month from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Houston Maritime Museum.

Click [GCSMS at HMM](#) for more info!

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The Houston Maritime Museum | 2204 Dorrington | Houston | TX | 77030