



# THE ANCHOR

The monthly newsletter of the Houston Maritime Museum

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Hours of Operation: Tuesday - Saturday, 9am - 5pm

Holiday Closures: December 24 and 25 | January 1

### Give the Gift of HMM

This holiday season give the gift of membership to the Houston Maritime Museum, and help keep Houston's maritime history alive! Memberships can be purchased [online](#), in person, or over the phone.

### Visit HMM's Museum Store

Stop by our Museum Store for all your gift needs! Here you can find branded HMM gifts, nautical knick-knacks, model ship kits, pirate toys, books for all ages, and more. We carry an exclusive collection of half hull models that can be customized to your desires, or visit our Ship Gallery to view our models for sale!



### Model of the Month

## U.S. Navy Teaching Models Imperial Japanese Navy

By: Kristin Jøsvoll, Collections Manager



During WWII, seamen and aviators needed to be able to recognize and distinguish enemy from allied vessels, in order to determine threats and prevent friendly fire. The US Navy commissioned Comet Metal Products Co., Inc. to fabricate sets of spotter models that could be used to teach pilots and sailors. These sets included fleets of the British Royal Navy, Imperial Japanese Navy, French Navy, Navy of the Italian Republic, and the US Navy.

Of these sets, the Houston Maritime Museum exhibits

## Research Library and Ships Plans

Along with the models and artifacts on display, the Museum also has a Research Library. This valuable resource contains a collection of maritime books, ships plans, and periodicals. We have over one thousand volumes cataloged by author, title, and subject matter covering a wide range of topics including naval, ship building, maritime history and modeling. The plans in the collection, also cataloged for easy searching, are detailed making them useful to ship modelers. The plans include both sail and engine-powered vessels. The Research Library normally does not loan material, but for those interested in knowing more about maritime history, the Museum provides public access to our non-circulating Research Library and ships plans.

a collection of the Imperial Japanese Navy teacher models, which includes classes of heavy cruisers, light cruisers, battleships, destroyers, and aircraft carriers. These miniature authentic-cast ships were crafted with amazing detail depicting scaled gun turrets, anti-aircraft guns, torpedo tubes, bridge control towers, range finders, catapults, life-boats, cranes, searchlights, anchors, etc. - all cast in metal and hand assembled. One identifying marker of spotter models is that they are all waterline miniatures, which is representative of what would be in view for the aerial pilots and other vessels to spot. Sprayed in regulation battleship gray, each ship is permanently identified by its class name and individually housed within the case. This piece is a beneficial addition to HMM's World War II Collection, as it enhances the story of the required training the sailors and pilots underwent.



## Holidays on the High Seas

By: Erica Peaslee, Archivist

Every December, families gather around Christmas trees and Hanukkah candles to celebrate the holiday season. At sea, sailors celebrate the holidays in their own fashion, and have been known to bring the holidays to those on land. Today, interpretations of these traditions are still found onboard ships, where mariners and land-dwellers come together to spread the holiday spirit.

In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, two brothers, August and Herman Schuenemann, brought Christmas to many Chicago families. For almost thirty years, crowds gathered at the docks to await the arrival of the Schuenemann brothers on their Christmas tree-laden ships. The most famous ship was the Rouse Simmons, who signaled their arrival by hoisting one of their wares atop the main mast for all to see. Today, the US Coast Guard Cutter (USCGC) Mackinaw carries on the Schuenemann tradition, which tragically ended after the Rouse Simmons went down in Lake Michigan in 1912, by bringing trees to the needy families of

Chicago.

For the mariners at sea, Christmas Day has been known to be a day with more festive fare in the galley and festive decorations and packages from those on land. Non-profit organizations like the Seamen's Church Institute provide mariners at ports around the world with packages of knitted goods and sundries that would be difficult to acquire at sea. During the holidays, mariners spread holiday cheer by exchanging Christmas trees with other vessels. Sailors decorate their own personal vessels, and historic ships like the Elissa and Cutty Sark hoist trees atop a mast. While the holidays are usually reserved for rest, reflection, and festivities, Robert Louis Stevenson reminds us that mariners of the past, and presumably today, still have to work to provide ensure their cargos arrive at their destination on time; and navies and coast guards ensure waters and lands are protected.

The sheets were frozen hard, and they cut the naked hand;  
The decks were like a slide, where a seamen scarce could stand;  
The wind was a nor'wester, blowing squally off the sea;  
And cliffs and spouting breakers were the only things a-lee. (1-4)

All day we tacked and tacked between the South Head and the North;  
All day we hauled the frozen sheets, and got no further forth;  
All day as cold as charity, in bitter pain and dread,  
For very life and nature we tacked from head to head. (9-12).

The bells upon the church were rung with a mighty jovial cheer;  
For it's just that I should tell you how (of all days in the year)  
This day of our adversity was blessed Christmas morn,  
And the house above the coastguard's was the house where I was born. (21-24)

-From "Christmas at Sea" by Robert Louis Stevenson

---

## Houston History Launch Party at HMM

Houston History, a publication of the University of Houston, Center for Public History, launched its Fall 2014 issue at the Houston Maritime Museum on November 12, 2014. Guests and staff of both Houston History and HMM joined to celebrate the issue dedicated to the Houston Ship Channel's centennial. Attendees had the opportunity to explore the museum and meet the authors and photographers included in the issue.

Pick up your copy of the magazine at our Museum Store to view photographs taken by HMM Board member, Lou Vest, and to read an article on the history of the museum and its projected growth!



# 2015 Lecture Series

## HISTORY LECTURE

USS Tang: The Best of the Best  
with Laurence Shallenberger

Tuesday, January 20, 2015  
7:00pm - 8:00pm

USS Tang (SS-306) was a Balao Class submarine commissioned in October 1943 and served in the Pacific Theater of operations during World War II. Her gifted and aggressive skipper, commander Richard O'Kane, was a man after the heart of Britain's ghost admiral, Horatio Nelson, whose advice to any English Navy Captain during the Napoleonic War was, "To hell with manuevers! Go straight at 'em." In just five war patrols, O'Kane's tang sank 33 Japanese ships, amounting to a total of 116,454 tons, more than any other American sub in the Pacific. In one of the tragic twists of the war, the torpedoes made by the navy's torpedo station in New Port, Rhode Island, had a number of drawbacks that the top brass at NTS failed to acknowledge. They attributed any lack of performance to the poor 'shooting' of all submarine's captains. On October 24, 1944, Tang was sunk by her own torpedo and went down in 180 feet of water. Nine of her crew survived.

Laurence Shallenberger is an ExxonMobil retiree, with 55 years experience in the oil field. He joined the Houston Maritime Museum in January 2008 and has enjoyed giving tours as a docent and talks as a lecturer.

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



HOUSTON MARITIME MUSEUM

# HISTORY LECTURE

WHO: Laurence Shallenberger

WHAT: *USS Tang: The Best of the Best*

WHEN: Tuesday,  
January 20  
7:00-8:00 PM

WHERE: Houston Maritime  
Museum  
2204 Dorrington  
Houston, TX 77030

HOW: The Houston  
Maritime Museum  
offers a free history  
lecture each month

INFO: Contact Lucia  
Cerritos at  
713.666.1910  
or lcerritos@  
houstonmaritime  
museum.org

Free admission and  
refreshments

[HoustonMaritimeMuseum.org](http://HoustonMaritimeMuseum.org)

Special Thanks to Our  
Generous Sponsor



## *USS Tang: The Best of the Best*

USS *Tang* (SS-306) was a Balao Class submarine commissioned in October 1943 and served in the Pacific Theater of operations during World War II. Her gifted and aggressive skipper, commander Richard O'Kane, was a man after the heart of Britain's ghost admiral, Horatio Nelson, whose advice to any English Navy Captain during the Napoleonic War was, "To hell with maneuvers! Go straight at 'em." In just five war patrols, O'Kane's tang sank 33 Japanese ships, amounting to a total of 116,454 tons, more than any other American sub in the Pacific. In one of the tragic twists of the war, the torpedoes made by the navy's torpedo station in New Port, Rhode Island, had a number of drawbacks that the top brass at NTS failed to acknowledge. They attributed any lack of performance to the poor 'shooting' of all submarine's captains. On October 24, 1944, *Tang* was sunk by her own torpedo and went down in 180 feet of water. Nine of her crew survived.



Laurence Shallenberger is an ExxonMobil retiree, with 55 years experience in the oil field. He joined the Houston Maritime Museum in January 2008 and has enjoyed giving tours as a docent and talks as a lecturer.

Upcoming History Lectures

February 10, 2015

Civil War Blockaders with Andrew Hall

March 10, 2015

Purging the Seas: Government Reaction to Piracy, 1600 - 2015  
with Kim Todt and Elizabeth Nyman

April 14, 2015

Historic Houston's Streets and Cemeteries  
with Marks Hinton

---

Special Thanks to our Generous History Lecture Sponsors



---

Interested in ship modeling? Join the Gulf Coast Ship Modelers Society every second Saturday of an odd-numbered month from 10:00am to 1:00pm at the Houston Maritime Museum. Open to the public.

Join the Modelers' next meeting on Saturday, January 10, 2015.

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

## SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS

### ADMIRAL

Houston Pilots

### COMMODORE

Frost Bank  
Gulf Winds International, Inc.  
SEACOR Marine

### CAPTAIN

Bay-Houston Towing Co.  
Intermarine, LLC  
Rickmers-Linie, Inc.  
Suderman & Young Towing Company

### COMMANDER

Courtland Building Company  
G & H Towing Company  
Houston Mariners Club, Inc.  
Houston Mooring Co., Inc.  
Intercontinental Terminals Company  
International Longshoreman's Association  
Legge, Farrow, Kimmitt, McGrath & Brown, LLP.  
Marinus Management  
Ship Services of Texas  
West Gulf Maritime Association

Interested in becoming a Corporate Partner?  
[CLICK HERE](#) to learn more about the program's many benefits.

STAY CONNECTED

Like us on **Facebook** 

Follow us on **twitter**

[Houston Maritime Museum Website](#)

[Forward this email](#)



This email was sent to [kjosvoll@houstonmaritimemuseum.org](mailto:kjosvoll@houstonmaritimemuseum.org) by [contact@houstonmaritimemuseum.org](mailto:contact@houstonmaritimemuseum.org) | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Rapid removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).



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