



The Pound 'n Pint

December 2025

Newsletter of the Colonial Navy of Massachusetts



Commodore's Log

A Word from the Commodore.

With the end of 2025 comes anticipation of what 2026 will bring, as the country joins the broad celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Our history has shown us that the men and women who began the fight for this freedom demonstrated extraordinary bravery and endured the hardship and struggle necessary to forge a new nation. We are all fortunate to be the descendants of those patriots. We know that along with the establishment of the new government, there were many issues that still remained problematic, and some have been acknowledged and addressed over the years, and certainly some are still lingering and yet to be resolved. As reenactors, I think we try our best to represent that time in positive way, bringing with us the enthusiasm that we share and hope to impart to our audiences.

I look forward to sharing this next historic year with the dedicated, talented, and knowledgeable group of people that make up the Colonial Navy of Massachusetts. When I joined the group in 2014, I never imagined the path that would unfold for me or the world of historic events, music, and some challenges that I would encounter along the way. The amazing things we have done, the awesome places we have been, the fun that we have had, the challenges we have faced together: all of these things have brought a wonderful new dimension to my life experience. I thank you all for being part of that journey.

Okay, it was more than “a word”...

Pam Burlingame
Commodore

CNM Represented at CT Day at the Big E

For several years, the Company of Fifers & Drummers has been performing at Connecticut Day at the Big E in West Springfield, Massachusetts. For those unfamiliar with the fair, The Big E is the Eastern States Exposition, a 17-day annual fair in West Springfield, Massachusetts, that celebrates the six New England states—Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont. For those wondering why there is a fife & drum performance on Connecticut Day and not Massachusetts Day, it is because the Company of Fifers & Drummers is located in Connecticut. As to why CNM should be represented, the Colonial Navy of Massachusetts is one of the members of the Company of Fifers and Drummers.

The Company of Fifers and Drummers did two performances this year. The first was in the morning at the New England Center (commonly referred to as “The Cream Puff Building” because that is where they sell cream puffs). A second performance in the afternoon was held on the Storowtown Green.

Ron and Sue Glidden represented the Colonial Navy of Massachusetts. Vice Commodore Bob Miorelli was also present but disguised (as much as Bob can be disguised) in a different uniform. Bob’s wife, Vicki, representing the Sailing Masters, was one of the drum majors leading the contingent for the Company of Fifers and Drummers. Everyone participating had a fun time, and other CNM individuals should consider attending in 2026.



Ron and Sue Glidden at the Big E Cream Puff Building.



Many of the member corps of the Company of Fifers and Drummers were represented at CT Day at the Big E.

Ron and Sue thought it was interesting that their CNM shirts matched the giant candy cane at the Storowtown Green.

Only later did they realize they were photo-bombed by a creepy nutcracker guy.

You never know what you will see at the Big E!



The Sudbury Colonial Faire and Muster

On September 27, 2026, the Colonial Navy of Massachusetts participated in the Sudbury Colonial Faire and Muster. The weather was perfect, and CNM looked sharp on the “parade” to the muster field. Prior to CNMs turn on stand, Sudbury Fife & Drum invited alumni members to join them for one of their standpieces. CNM members and Sudbury alumni Ron and Sue Glidden, and Carmin Calabrese joined them for the performance (in CNM uniform). Speaking of Carmin, it was great having him back in the ranks and playing with us.

We also had a new addition to the Fleet. Anne Gavin, who marched with us in the Color Guard for the first time. We were also thrilled to see Captain Tim Larkin join us at the front of the parade.

When it came time to perform, we played *Salute to the Commodore*. The fleet looked and sounded great, with some nice harmonies clearly heard above the solid fife and drum music.

After the performance, many in the Fleet retired to the edge of the camping area to the shade of a dining fly, the company of good friends, and of course—grog.



CNM Captains Dave Kiley and Tim Larkin, followed by color guard members Anne Gavin and PJ Pietraszek, lead the Fleet marching past the Wayside Inn to the Sudbury muster field.



Pam-Sue-Lee-Carmin may not have the same Chinese-take-out-menu humorous ring to it as Pam-Sue-Lee, but we were definitely happy to have Camin back in the ranks with us at Sudbury and glad we were able to snag him for this photo opportunity.



South Kingstown Fireman's Parade

On September 28, 2026, the Colonial Navy of Massachusetts participated in the South Kingstown Firearm's parade. Thanks to the hardy Fleet members who did this parade the day after the Sudbury muster.



A small but dedicated group lines up at the start of the Firearms parade – hoping the firetrucks across the street will not be following too close and blowing their sirens while we march.



Captain Bill offers some last-minute words of wisdom to Laura and Chuck before the parade begins.



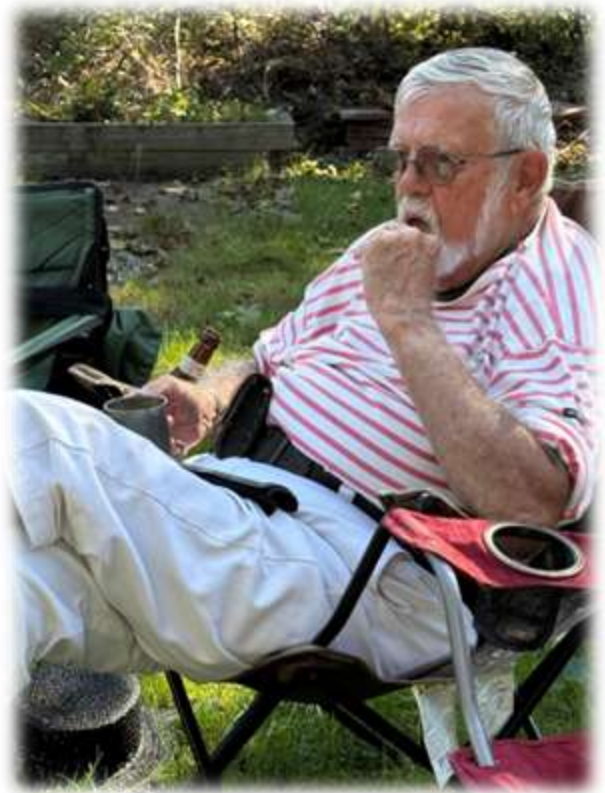
The Murray brothers are ready for the parade to start.



Ann and Holly in the chase car (or should I say the rescue wagon) are ready for the parade to begin.



The best part of the South Kingstown Firearms parade—meeting at Lee's house for food and grog when it was over.



Captain Bill wondering if someone will bring him another beer or if he will have to get out of that comfortable chair and get one himself.

Providence Columbus Day Parade

The Providence Columbus Day parade on October 12, 2026, was cold, wet, and very windy. In other words, normal. Our position in this parade was near the bitter end. Fortunately, when no one was paying attention, the Commodore snuck us into an open slot, bypassing several other groups who weren't paying attention.

There were fewer vendors and spectators than usual, but CNM looked sharp and sounded great. It was great having Carmin join us for this parade. And of course, the best part of the parade was the food and grog, and camaraderie the Fleet enjoyed at Angelo's Restaurant at the end of the parade route.



An employee asked Bob and Chuck if they wanted to come inside to warm up. They said, "No, that wouldn't look right. We'll wait here where no one will notice us."



Bob and the rest of us are wondering when the heck this parade will be over, but Tom is smiling because he knows we are nearing the end and will be heading inside Angelo's Restaurant for food and grog (and warmth).



Capt. Bill and his wife Ann, along with a happy crew, are in their element at Angelo's Restaurant.



Commodore Pam toasts the completion of another successful (cold and rainy) parade.



Sarah Bradlee Fulton Day in Medford, Massachusetts

October 18, 2025, was Sarah Bradlee Fulton Day in Medford, MA. CNM was invited to participate in a historical vignette (a mini play focusing on Sarah Bradlee Fulton's role in the American Revolution). Who is Sarah Bradlee Fulton? Many of us who participated wondered about the same thing. She was one of the first female spies for General Washington during the Revolution. She contributed to the colonists in many different ways and is considered the "Mother of the Boston Tea Party." In addition, Sarah volunteered for and led the first-aid division of the colonial army during both the Battle of Bunker Hill and the Battle of Lexington and Concord. Sarah ran many messages from Medford, MA, to Boston Harbor that were important for the Navy to receive. As the British were looking for male spies, Sarah was able to go undetected as a message deliverer.

Our fife and drum music added a nice touch to the historical significance of what the actors were trying to portray.



A small but dedicated crew led by Capt. Bill Hart, Commodore Pam Burlingame, and Vice Commodore Bob Miorelli.



Conor, Tom, and Bob pause for a picture after the (many) speakers are finished.

Conor and Sue (the Drum Line) trying to stay away from the horse.



"A horse is a horse, of course, of course / And no one can talk to a horse, of course."

OK, we know that horse is not Mr. Ed. But it does look like he wants to say something to the person at the podium.

Fall River Veteran's Day Parade

On November 11, 2025, the Veterans Day Parade was held in Fall River, MA. CNM had a large turnout despite the cold weather. There were even snow flurries before the start of the parade. Thankfully, we got to stay warm in the Clipper Restaurant for a little while before the parade started. Once we started, our hats blowing down the street were a common occurrence. There were probably more people marching in the parade than watching it, but it was a short one, and we sounded great despite the cold.



Waiting as long as possible at the Clipper Restaurant before heading out to the parade lineup.



The Commodore samples some "apple cider" while the rest of us freeze waiting for our turn.

Bicentennial Park Veteran's Ceremony

On November 11, 2025, immediately following the Veterans Day Parade in Fall River (well, not really immediately), CNM participated in a brief ceremony at Bicentennial Park. To say it was cold and windy would be an understatement. The only spectators were CNM family members, but we did our best, despite the frigid, blustery conditions, to pay tribute to our veterans.



The side of this building provided a little protection from the wind.

A happy crew despite the weather.



The Children's Holiday Parade in Fall River

On December 6, 2025, CNM marched in the annual Children's Holiday Parade. We had a great turnout for the parade. And the rain held off—right up until the start of the parade—and then stopped as soon as the parade ended. But we played Christmas music throughout the downpour along a soggy parade route. We sounded good despite the cold and rain.



Jeff, Sue, and Conor are ready. Frosty, behind them, is photobombing the drum line.

The Chief of Staff, Drum Major, and Commodore are ready for the parade to start.





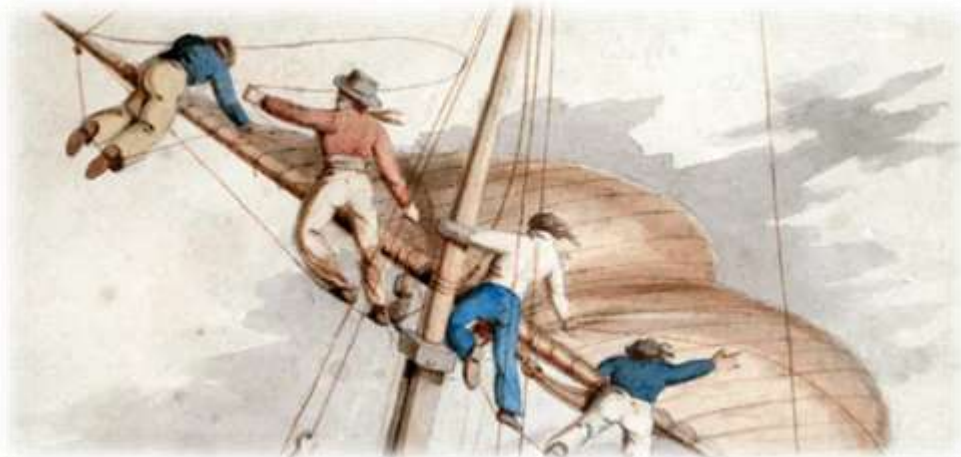
Notice how happy the crew looks. They just arrived at the start of the parade after a brief stop for grog at The Clipper Restaurant.



Notice the crew, 30 minutes later, as the rain begins, all thinking the same thing.
When the hell is this parade going to start!



The Christmas music we played in the rain sounded good, and even the muskets fired throughout the parade. But for those who have not had the experience and were wondering, knit wool hats DO NOT keep your head dry.





The appearance of the Colonial Navy of Massachusetts at the Fall River Veteran's Day Parade, at a ceremony presenting military honors at the Vietnam Memorial and other memorials at Bicentennial Park, and at the Fall River Children's Holiday Parade was funded in part through a generous grant from the Fall River Cultural Council and the Massachusetts Cultural Council.



Colonial Navy Holiday Dinner

On December 6, 2025, after drying off and warming up from the Children's Holiday Parade in Fall River, the Fleet met for an annual holiday dinner at the Crossroad Pub Restaurant in Warren, RI. Food, grog, and camaraderie were enjoyed by all hands that attended. Commodore Pam Burlingame made numerous presentations and provided gifts to recognized individuals. Stealing an expression from the modern U.S. Navy, "Bravo Zulu" (or "Well done" to you landlubbers) to Commodore Burlingame, and to Tom Murray for helping organize the dinner party. Since pictures speak louder than words, the following images show just a small sample of the fun we had at this gathering.







Massachusetts State House Recognition Ceremony

On December 8, 2025, the Colonial Navy of Massachusetts was honored today by Governor Healey and the Massachusetts Senate and House in the State House in Boston. The celebration was to recognize the Navy's 250th Anniversary. Proclamations were presented to Commodore Burlingame honoring the Colonial Navy of Massachusetts. The CNM marched into the area of the Grand Staircase playing Yankee Doodle. We performed a number of tunes while awaiting the Governor. Stalling for more time, the Fleet (or at least those who can sing) entertained the audience with a few sea shanties. After a musical interlude, the speeches, and the presentation of proclamations, CNM marched out playing "Frosty the Snowman" in honor of the season.

After the presentation, a lunch was provided. Representatives from the Senate and the House presented a few members with special proclamations, with some presentations made during the main ceremony and others during the luncheon. After lunch, the Fleet was given a special tour of the State House.

CNM looked and sounded great as usual at this momentous occasion for the Fleet. A special thanks goes out to Commodore Pam Burlingame and Tom Murray for all the hard work they put into organizing this special event.



The CNM arrived at the State House in style. Well, at least some of you did. Some of us drove, dealt with traffic congestion, parked in the underground Boston Common garage, and walked across the frigid Common as if it were a tundra. But we were delighted that the rest of you had a comfortable, relaxing trip.



Brilliant minds gather as the Staff plans what everyone will be doing during this special event.



In the meantime, the fife line waits...and waits, enjoying the beauty of the Hall.



And as they wait for the start of the festivities, the drum line looks very excited.



The event finally begins with Commodore Burlingame giving some fitting opening remarks to the dignitaries and audience present.



The Lt. Governor and the Governor present the Commodore with a citation for CNM.

Not to be outdone by anyone, fifer Don Hemnitz receives TWO proclamations from his legislative representatives.





The Fleet performs for the audience.



The Colonial Navy of Massachusetts at the Grand Staircase of the State House, pictured with Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll, and Governor Maura Healey.



Many crew members received citations from their legislative representatives. We think Kieran got his for having the longest beard in the Fleet.

Captain Bill received a citation from his legislative representative. We're not sure what it was for, but we hope it was something like the Coast Guard's Ancient Mariner Award given to their longest-serving member, because Bill certainly deserves a special award for his many years of dedication to the CNM.





Commodore Pam takes a break from the State House tour.

The monument to Colonel Robert Gould Shaw and the Massachusetts 54th Regiment is visible in the background. Pam was a fifer (along with Lee and Ron) at the rededication of that monument several years ago.



Vice Commodore Bob found a bell on the State House tour. All is right in the world.

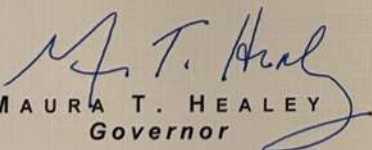
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

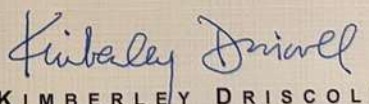


Colonial Navy of Massachusetts' Fife and Drum Corps

ON BEHALF OF THE RESIDENTS OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS,
I AM PLEASED TO CONFER UPON YOU THIS GOVERNOR'S CITATION IN RECOGNITION OF THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE FORMATION OF THE COLONIAL NAVY OF MASSACHUSETTS' FIFE AND DRUM CORPS. WE COMMEND ITS
TWO AND A HALF CENTURIES SINCE ITS ENACTMENT "IN DEFENSE OF THE SEA COAST."

THIS TWENTY-NINETH DAY OF DECEMBER IN THE YEAR 2025


MAURA T. HEALEY
Governor


KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL
Lieutenant Governor

Massachusetts Governor's Citation from Governor Maura Healey and Lt. Governor Kimberley Driscoll.



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
State Senate Citation



Citation from the U.S. House of Representatives
Congressman Jake Auchincloss

Serapis—the Flag, the Ship, and the Dutch and French Connections

By Robert delaFuente



Bonhomme Richard and Serapis on September 23, 1779

On September 23, 1779, the Battle of Flamborough Head was fought off the British coast between the ships of Captain John Paul Jones and the ships under the command of British Captain Pearson. John Paul Jones was on the USS *Bonhomme Richard* while Pearson was on the HMS *Serapis*. The *Bonhomme Richard* was a French merchant ship obtained by John Paul Jones and converted into a warship. The hours-long battle resulted in many casualties and the destruction of many ships. The *Bonhomme Richard*, before sinking, managed to come alongside the *Serapis*, and after hand-to-hand combat, the crew was able to capture Captain Pearson's ship.

John Paul Jones, with his new ship, was able to escape from the remaining British fleet by sailing into Dutch waters by Texel (Tessel), a small island off the Dutch coast. He was followed by the British, who demanded that John Paul Jones and his crew be arrested as pirates, but the Dutch officials denied the request, and eventually the *Serapis* sailed down to Amsterdam for much-needed repairs.

A more formal demand from the British government for the return of the ship and the arrest of the entire crew as pirates was made, but it was again denied. The Dutch government pointed out that the ship was now flying an American flag and thus not subject to seizure, nor any of the crew subject to arrest. Not eager to have them stay too long after the repairs, John Paul Jones and his crew sailed away from Holland among a cluster of Dutch ships. It is unclear how long John Paul Jones remained with the *Serapis*. Some reports have Jones giving the ship to the French Navy as a prize ship. Other reports say that because of the damage to *Serapis*, Jones and his crew left the Dutch port about the American frigate *Alliance*.

The flag the Dutch recognized as an American flag is the Serapis. With the help of Benjamin Franklin, ambassador to France at the time, the flag with red, white, and blue stripes and multi-pointed stars was created for the occasion and became the official Navy Ensign for that ship. While the Dutch were officially a "neutral" country when it came to taking sides during the American Revolution, neither the Dutch nor the French had any great love for the British at that time. The French involvement in supporting the Revolutionaries is well documented. In addition to providing John Paul Jones and his crew safe harbor, the Dutch probably also violated their neutral status by smuggling supplies and arms via the West Indies to support the Revolution.

This new "Serapis" flag, also known as the "Franklin" flag, featured 13 alternating red and white stripes and 13 eight-pointed stars on a blue field, with a specific arrangement of blue stripes that differed from the U.S. Flag Act of 1777.

A note aside—In September, we traveled to Holland with the Connors, and we intended to visit the island of Tessel and take some pictures. Terrible weather and scheduling conflicts prevented us from seeing the island, but I thought the historical connection between the island and the flag we carry might be of interest.

Editor's Note: The *Serapis* was wrecked off Madagascar on July 31, 1781. While at anchor off Île Sainte-Marie, Madagascar, a fire started when a crew member used candles outside of fireproof lanterns while handling spirits. The flames spread to the powder magazine, causing a massive explosion that destroyed the ship's stern and sank the vessel.



Wreaths Across America

The Wreaths Across America event was held on December 13, 2025, at Slades Ferry Park in Somerset, MA. Friday the 13th was a fitting date for a cold and blustery event that saw 13 brave and hardy Fleet members participate. The Field Music marched in to Battle Hymn and off to Girl I left Behind Me. The wind knocked over the wreaths a couple of times, but the music sounded good, and the Fleet, including Color Guards and Marines, looked great.



Annual Meeting and Election of Officers

The annual meeting of the Fleet was held at the Narrows in Fall River on December 9, 2025. Reports were read and are included in the minutes of the meeting, which were distributed by email to members. The current slate of officers was nominated again and reelected and will remain in the current positions. These officers include:

Commodore: Pamela Burlingame

Vice Commodore: Bob Miorelli

Chief of Staff: Bill Cary

Prizemaster: Tom Murray

Clerk: Bob Gregory

Noodles for Pam-Sue-Lee

It has been a long-running joke among certain members that the first names of Commodore Pam Burlingame, drummer Sue Glidden, and fifer Lee Singer, when said together, sound like a Chinese restaurant specialty. It has become something of a tradition for the three to have their picture taken together at every event. In recognition of and continuation of the humor of the Pam-Sue-Lee concept, Ann Hart gave the trio a special Christmas gift, nicely wrapped and presented with style by Ann's husband, Captain Bill Hart. What could be more appropriate for the trio than three boxes of Hoo-Mee Chow Mein noodles made in Fall River? Pam-Sue-Lee wish to express their sincere thanks to Ann and Bill for their thoughtfulness.



**Season's Greetings
from the
COLONIAL NAVY OF MASSACHUSETTS**



The Pound 'n Pint Publication Dates and Article Submissions

Editor: Ron Glidden capefifer@gmail.com

The Pound 'n Pint is published quarterly, or more frequently when additional communication to the Fleet is needed or when directed by the Commodore. Anticipated publication months are December, March, June, and September. Any member who would like to submit an article may do so at any time by contacting the Editor at capefifer@gmail.com.



Elected Staff 2025-2026

Commodore: Pamela Burlingame
Vice Commodore: Bob Miorelli
Chief of Staff: Bill Cary
Prizemaster: Tom Murray
Clerk: Bob Gregory

Staff Appointments

Fife Master: Captain Bill Hart
Drum Master: Captain Bob Gregory
Marine Captain: Captain Mike Godek
Color Guard Captain: Captain Bob DelaFuente
Signal: Captain Dave Kiley
Binnacle: Commodore Pamela Burlingame
Stores: Conor Murray
Grog: Laura Hadley
Pound 'n Pint: Ron Glidden
Interim Clerk: Ron Glidden

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