

The September 11th General Meeting Program Presents:

Sailing Lessons, The Old Fashion Way

PO Paul Grunder, USS Constitution

By “Sully” Sullivan, Pegasus
Program Chair

You say you are a sailor. Do you know your taffrail from your martingale guy? The topic for our September meeting will be the USS Constitution.

With her keel laid in 1794 and launched in 1797, the USS Constitution is the oldest commissioned ship in the world that is still afloat. The three masted frigate has an overall length of 204 feet and a daunting 42,710 square feet of sail. To protect her hull from barnacles and growth, she was sheathed with copper plates forged by Paul Revere.

It was during the War of 1812 that the Constitution got her nickname “Old Ironsides” when cannon balls bounced off her 21-inch thick live oak hull.

Her modern day captain, Commander William A. Bullard, has graciously agreed to let Petty Officer Paul Grunder, the gentleman he uses to train all his crew in the art of frigate sailing, to be our guest speaker.

Commander Bullard has assured me that there is not a better man qualified to teach us the ropes of this iconic ship.

PO Grunder will talk about how to sail the USS Constitution, life aboard it during the War of 1812, and the logistics of sailing in days of yore.

You worried about stowing enough food and water aboard for a couple of weeks in the Bahamas. He will tell us what was needed when the USS Constitution took its marines to the shores of Tripoli.

