

The History (and Future) of the Norseman



After our first ship, the *Ravnen*, had to be retired, our organization found the Applecraft Ltd. company in the Isle of Man, UK, that built a 100% fiberglass boat fashioned after the Gokstad ship. We looked into both the company and their product more closely, and found that this design was the most practical for our needs, and reasonably priced. After raising funds, we placed our order in 1991.

The hull was delivered in March of 1992 to the Kalmar Nyckel Shipyard in Wilmington, DE, and after our volunteers spent many hours outfitting the hull, it was ready in time for her maiden voyage in New York City's Opsail '92 celebration on July 4th! We were the lead boat in the "History of Sail" parade. The *Norseman*, as she had been named, looked fantastic even though she was dwarfed by the huge Tall Ships from all over the world. With her figurehead of a serpent built by Marty, her curlicue tail built by Dave Segermark (reminiscent of the Oseberg ship), rowing stations built by everyone on the crew and oars from the *Ravnen*, she was a sight that New Yorkers couldn't get enough of. We sold

our entire stock of "Leif Landed First" t-shirts in the three days we were in New York.

A few years later we were able to build better oars with the help from the Independence Seaport Museum's "Workshop on the water". We continually strive to keep the *Norseman* in good repair and in 1999 Volvo Penta donated a 19 h.p. diesel saildrive engine to replace our two-cycle outboard motor.

The *Norseman* is showing some wear, but has outlasted the *Ravnen* by quite a few years! Our crew continuously works on keeping the ship in good condition. The tail has been replaced by a stem post, and the crew has plans to create a removable tail that can be detached during our many long-distance travels. In the near future we will be working on creating new crew boxes as well as making some minor repairs on the ship.

We hope to be able to keep the *Norseman* ship-shape for many years to come!



Ship Details

- **Designed and Built by:** Applecraft, Ltd. on the Isle of Man, UK
- **Year of Construction:** 1992
- **Length Overall:** 40' (12.19m)
- **Length at the Waterline:** 26' (7.92m)
- **Beam:** 9' (2.74m)
- **Draft:** 20" (0.27m)
- **Mast Height:** 24'6" (7.47m) above the waterline
- **Hull Construction:** Fiberglass lay up simulating wood lapstrake
- **Hull Color:** Black exterior, buff interior
- **Norseman Weight:** 5860 lbs. (2187.19kg, Including 500 lbs. (226.8kg) encapsulated steel ballast
- **Power:** 19 h.p. Diesel saildrive engine (Thanks to Volvo-Penta of the Americas, Inc. for their donation)
- **Alternate Power:** 10 Oarsmen
- **Oars:** The ash wood oars were handcrafted by the crewmembers and were patterned after those found with the Gokstad Viking ship find in Oslo
- **Sail Area:** 17' w x 17'6" h; 297 sq. ft. (5.18m x 5.33m; 27.59 sq. m.)
- **Sail Description:** Square rigged, red & white vertically striped sail with a stylized raven painted on the sail by crewmember Steven Clarke. Donated by the late Bill Nyborg in memory of his wife Ruth M. Nyborg.