

My Schooner is just that – a Schooner



For over 35 years I had wanted a wooden gaff rigged schooner. The time was never right and there were always other priorities of the family.

One night my daughter Katy called me into the television room explaining that my favorite movie was on. It was *Message in a Bottle* and it was a love story about a man who had a schooner. I had already watched the movie several times to see the schooner I so enjoyed.

As I watched the movie I knew I need a schooner and it was time. I started to surf the internet and found a reference to a schooner, the Golden Goose, in Lyme Connecticut that I remembered seeing advertised in *Soundings* several months earlier. I remember that I felt she was a great looking boat. Then and there I decided if she was still for sale and was in good condition she'd be mine.

Two days later I was in Lyme, Connecticut looking at her. She was perfect. The next day my wife Cathy, Katy, and her husband John came with me to look at her. Everyone like her.

The problem was that she was wood and a lot of work. I had decided not to buy another wooden boat due to the amount of

work. That said, a wooden boat just feels right to me. I feel at home and comfortable with the wood. Logic says get fiberglass and my gut and emotions told me I needed the wooden boat.

It took months to negotiate the price. I was in no rush as it was fall. I was not going to use the boat until the following spring, and I knew she was ours.

Yes, there was a lot of work as she had not been painted in the two years since her owner, her only owner in her 30 years, had passed away. It was backbreaking, tiring, and challenging. It was also rewarding and gratifying to see her beauty shine yet again.

What is your schooner? What is it that you want or want to do and have been waiting for your whole life? What is it that you are not doing that is a secret desire? Why haven't you done it? Money? Time? Fear? Not being good enough? Not knowing enough?

Well, do it. Start now. If you truly want it, you can find a way. You may have to change other habits, spending and otherwise, to do it. You may have to give up free time or take some courses to learn more. You may have to practice and you may have to research. These are parts of the joy of doing it.

Do not die with your music still left inside you. Do not die wishing you had lived your life differently. Do not wait any longer than necessary. Today is the day to start the plan to get your schooner. Today is the day to live the life you desire.

There are no mistakes in life. All that does or does not happen to you is on purpose and you, consciously or unconsciously, created it. Does it seem like luck that my daughter called me in to see the movie, that I started to search for a boat, and found one I had seen that I thought was great looking? Did the boat not sell waiting for me to buy her?

Life is about choices. Choose what has the greatest value for you. Whatever your schooner is, start going after it today. Choose to

live the life you desire, Choose it while you can still do it and enjoy it. NOW is all that you have. The future never comes. Do it NOW.