

# Takilma's Jim Rich learns the ropes aboard 'Lady Washington'

By SHANE WELSH  
Staff Writer

Her cannons still ring true in harbors across the globe, as the "Lady Washington" sets sail from port to port, educating children and people of all ages.

The historic replica was launched in 1989 for the state of Washington's 100th birthday, and was recently featured in Disney's "Pirates of the Caribbean" movie.

Jim Rich, owner of Takilma Forge blacksmith shop and former head of the music department at Rogue Community College, volunteers several months each year aboard the vessel.

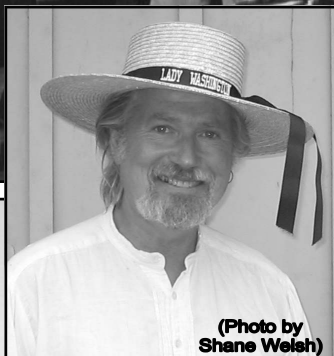
His duties include tasks such as guiding tours, shooting cannons, or rigging one of 168 different lines aboard the ship.

"As a crew member," explained Rich, "you help maintain the ship, including tarring the rigging, caulking the seams, and line work."

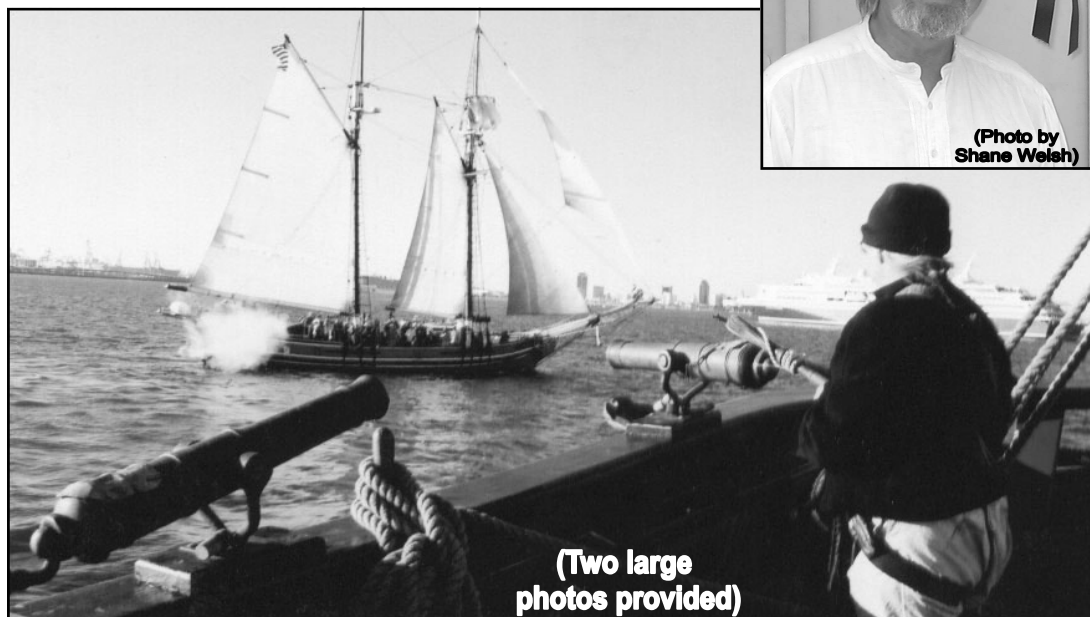
"There are 6 miles of rigging (ropes) to learn. Two miles of standing rigging (the ropes which support the masts), and 4 miles of running rigging (the lines that actually operate the sails)," he said.

The ship has a total of 11 sails connected to an intricate web of ropes and pulleys; five square sails and six fore and aft sails. Although the original ship was wind-powered, the replica has a diesel engine to assist when wind dies.

The vessel was designed after the original 1812 "Lady Washington," which was brought from England by a Capt. Grey. It was the first U.S. vessel to sail around Cape Horn



(Photo by Shane Welsh)



(Two large photos provided)

Illinois Valley resident Jim Rich (center) serves as a crewman aboard a sailing ship and helps pull line (end of rope, top). The ship includes cannons (bottom).

into the Pacific Ocean, and the first to visit the Pacific Northwest, Hawaii and Japan.

Steering is a little different than what was shown in the Disney movie. For the movie, a "steering" wheel was added to appease "landlubbers." Turning the ship is normally accomplished by swinging a long wooden beam back and forth opposite the direction the captain wishes to travel

(similar to steering on smaller sailing vessels).

The bar moves large gears attached to the rudder which sways the ship into position.

"The ship has quite a few modern things," said Rich. "Under the hull is a diesel engine, radar and sonar. We have a nice galley with a diesel stove so we eat very well; nobody gets scurvy," he joked.

Every day, each surface of the ship gets washed down, from aft to stern, to prevent seawater damage and rot.

"We can take 700 gallons of freshwater aboard," said Rich. "We also have a desalinator if we need it (freshwater converter), but the water still tastes a little brackish," he said.

Sleeping is a little more comfortable than it was on the original ship.

"We sleep in bunks. The original way was just a blanket thrown down on a bale of furs," said Rich.

Grey's Harbor Historic Seaport Authority, a non-profit organization in Aberdeen, Wash., owns the vessel. Its purpose is to educate school groups and civilians about the history

and function of historical sailing ships.

For a fee, schools and tourists can sign up for a trip to learn about the history of exploration and trade or learn how historic sailing ships operated.

The ship travels from port to port, three to four days at a time between each, conducting mock battles for tourists with her large three-pound cannon and two smaller swivel guns.

"We conduct battles for more than 45 tourists who pay to go to sea with us," said Rich. "We make blank cartridges from black powder. In the old days, you would follow that with a ball and a piece of wadding so the ball wouldn't roll back out of the cannon," said Rich.

"Fortunately, we go

out to sea far enough so that we don't set off car alarms when we fire the cannons," he said.

The crew is comprised of mostly volunteers. Three hundred people rotate through the various positions. "There are only two people who have to have any experience or endorsement; that's the captain and the first mate," said Rich.

If you're willing to go aloft in any weather, and are healthy, you are a good candidate for a crewmember. Of course, approval must come from the captain and crew.

The "Lady Washington" sets sail throughout the year at various times and locations. For sailing times or to schedule a tour, go online to [www.ladywashington.org](http://www.ladywashington.org).

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**OTHER HOURS BY APPOINTMENT**

## Sheriff sets auction list for Saturday

The Josephine County Sheriff's Office will hold its annual auction at the Josephine County Fairgrounds Arts & Crafts Bldg. on Saturday, July 10 beginning at 9 a.m.

The auction will include forfeited, found and unclaimed property taken from lawful seizures and investigations. Items set for auction include camping gear, tools, bikes, household items, electronics, and jewelry.

A preview will be held Friday, July 9 from 1 to 7 p.m. There will be an opportunity on Friday for victims of lost or stolen property to identify their belongings.

To claim ownership, persons must show proof of ownership, or evidence of a valid police report showing the items were reported to authorities.

The dragon sits by the side of the road, watching those who pass. Beware lest he devour you. We go to the Father of Souls, but it is necessary to pass by the dragon.

- St. Cyril -

## Cave Junction ART WALK

**Friday, July 9th • 5-8 p.m.**  
Explore The Visual, Literary, Performing & Epicurean Arts Of The Illinois Valley

Visual & Performing Arts	Exhibits Showing Through July	Epicurean Arts
<b>Cone Ten Pottery</b> Studio & Gallery 25895 Redwood Hwy. • 592-4646 "2nd Friday 2nds Sale" Dinner 6 p.m. Coconut Curry Rice Curried Chicken & Veg. Stewed Black Beans & Organic Salad Carrot & Ginger Cake <b>Righteous Rags</b> 140 B Redwood Hwy. • 592-6567 Shorts Sale & Blue Tag Specials Jake Thompson Solo Guitarist, Jazz & Blues <b>Rising Suns</b> 146 S. Redwood Hwy. • 592-2430 Featured Artist Terry Martens "Art Pots" Close Kiln Raku <b>Child's Play</b> 140 S. Redwood Hwy. • 592-4983 Storytelling On the Hour	<b>Bebe's Art For Everyone</b> 148 S. Redwood Hwy. • 592-5343 Featured Artist Pearlene Gavlik Watercolors 2nd Friday String Band 6:30 p.m. <b>Video Explorer</b> 222 Lister Street • 592-6649 Featured Artist Kim Fujita "Inspiration Vacation" Kim & Steve Soulful Sounds <b>A Creative Space Art Collective</b> 119 1/2 Redwood Hwy. • 592-6484 (upstairs from Blue Moon) Singing Loom Presents Terry Lee Multi-Versatile Artist in the Community Room Stop in for a song with Libby Sponsored in part by Evergreen Federal Savings	<b>Pizza Pit</b> 316 S. Redwood Hwy. • 592-6111 IV Boys & Girls Club Watercolors <b>Taylor's Country Store</b> 202 S. Redwood Hwy. • 592-5358 Grilled Ahi or Sushi Featured Artist Roy Irving Nature Photography Route 66 Country Western <b>Blue Moon</b> 119 S. Redwood Hwy. • 592-2266 Dinner Espresso Desserts Delicious Dinner Served Featuring Local Artist Bruce Stone Digital Interactive Event B. Wishes Original Music & CD Release <b>Performing Arts</b> <b>Route 66</b> Taylor's Country Store <b>Sing with Libby</b> Creative Space <b>Jake Thompson</b> Righteous Rags <b>B. Wishes</b> Blue Moon <b>2nd Friday String Band</b> 6:30 p.m. Bebe's Art for Everyone

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