



SCUTTLEBUTT

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Executive Director's Report

Joe Youcha

We're certainly living in interesting times. Part of my job is planning for the future, and certain "options" are quickly turning into necessities. One of our funders said that we all need to expand our capability to deal with ambiguity. And there certainly is a lot that is unknown. Among the things I do know is that hard times hit the folks on the edge the hardest. I know that the type of young people we work with, mostly drop outs, court involved and refugees, will be hard hit. I know we do a good job working with these young people and helping most of them get on track with their lives. I also know that with the hard times, their numbers will grow.

One option I'd been considering is starting a consulting program. Now, we're doing it. There have always been more kids in need than we can serve. Now, there will be even more. We're always being asked, "How do I do what you're doing in my town?" Now, we'll have an effective answer. More than that, because we teach using the building process, we're stewards of a critical resource. As a country, I think the "financial crisis" forces us to look in the mirror. I think we have to see that a "service" economy based on credit will not maintain our standard of living. If we're going to get out of this hole, we're going to do it through designing and building things. I don't care if it's creating a "green economy" or rebuilding our roads bridges and infrastructure, or high tech manufacturing: it's going to mean designing and building. That means everyday workers need to know math. We know how to teach math in the context of a job. And, sadly for our country, that seems to be a rare skill.

If you're reading this newsletter, it means we haven't been able to do our work without you. That's only going to be truer in the future. These are tough times. We may have to do some of our work differently but we're not looking to go anywhere. Our services are needed, and we intend to deliver.

Built Upon a Dream

It's humbling to build a new shop during economic tough times. Not because people can't help out to get the work done, but because of the exact opposite. New friends and old friends are stepping in and "making it happen." Naming everyone who has helped out is going to wait until the end of the project. Otherwise, I'd miss someone. But just a couple of examples... For old friends, it's hard to find someone who's known our programs longer than Fred Sachs, former owner of Smoots Lumber. (Our first shop was in the former Smoots on Royal, owned by Bob Craddock) Fred has made sure that Precision Door can supply all our doors and hardware. Folks who hire our graduates such as the United Brotherhood of Carpenters, Clark Construction and Foley Mechanical are all doing more than we could ask. And, the project wouldn't be happening without new friends such as Jeff Kirkland at Kirkland Construction and Linda Rabbitt at Rand Construction. They're providing the project management and general contracting and bringing in their friends to help out. None of this happens without WJLA putting the project together, and Robinson Terminal being tremendous friends and unbelievably understanding landlords.

Without jinxing anything, the project is scheduled to finish before Christmas. When it's done, we'll have a modern training center able to accommodate the growing needs of our community.



Built Upon a Dream—new office, new classroom, new bathroom!

Don't Hesitate, Designate: United Way #8101, CFC #61282

Donations and Support

Kathy Seifert, Director of Development

Annual Membership Drive

Remember, we have moved to an annual membership cycle so that **all memberships will expire on December 31**. We will be hosting our **Fall Phonathon** on November 10 and 11 this year and look forward to talking to all of our members and Friends. Mark your calendar! We realize that these are difficult economic times and wish to thank you for your continued support and dedication to the Alexandria Seaport Foundation. Don't forget to designate ASF in the United Way (#8101) and Combined Federal Campaigns (CFC # 61282).

Team Boat Building and Seaport Day

The 2008 Team Boat Building Challenge, held on Friday, September 26, was a smashing success, despite occasional fits of rain. Seven teams spent the day under the big top, each team learning to work together on what for most was a strange and mystifying task: building a wooden row boat in a day. Clark Construction fielded five teams: two from legal, two from risk management, and one from Clark Concrete. Teams from Next Steps Research and the ASF Development Committee rounded out the event. Clark Concrete (*pictured below*) really carried the day, garnering prizes for best craftsmanship as well as winning the exciting race held on the Potomac River as the freshly-built boats' seaworthiness was put to the test. One crew astonished the crowd by completing the first leg of the race stern first! One of Clark's risk management groups won the coveted best-teamwork award. This challenge, now an annual favorite, will be repeated this spring, so give us a call if your company or someone you know might be interested in participating.



ASF apprentice Ramone helped Clark Concrete to victory!

Community Boat Building

Seaport Day was held at Robinson Terminal this year and featured tours of our current work space as well as our new shop build-out. The mayor, Bill Euille, and many others stopped by for our traditional boat show and the apprentice-led tours. We're re-imagining Seaport Day for next year, so please feel free to share your ideas and inspirations. For more pictures, see <http://www.flickr.com/photos/asfgallery>.

Upcoming Workshops: *Preserving a Boat*

Taking Off Lines (Feb or Mar 09)

Over the course of a weekend, we'll preserve the design of the 1898 Whitehall rowboat by taking her lines, documenting her shape and how she is made. The original was built for robber baron Jay Gould's son.

Lofting ((Feb or Mar 09)

On a following weekend, we'll take all our data, and draw the boat full size. Then we, or anybody else, can build a true replica of this lovely design.



Clark Legal with ASF apprentice Steve, putting on oarlocks.



And they're off!

Open Shop Tuesdays, 7-9 pm: All Welcome!
We're building "Our Cruiser," a 14 ft. canoe. We started planking and we have the backbone made.

Tiger continues..

We've steamed the coaming and we're halfway through decking it. (The coaming and decking are made of white oak.)



ASF apprentice Nicole and volunteers Jay and John on Tiger.

Graduation!

Our most recent **graduation** on Wednesday, October 8, at the Seaport Center was the most attended graduation ever, with over 70 guests present. The mayor spoke briefly, wishing the graduates well as they headed out to careers in heating and air-conditioning, electrical, and other building trades. **Edgar Arrington, Andrew Price, Ramone Walters, and Robert Medrano (Lead Apprentice)** received their certificates and tool kits. Congratulations to all!

Our next **graduation** will be held on Thursday, December 4. We welcome all of you! Please let us know if you plan to attend—plenty of food and drinks for all! Call the office at 703-549-7078.



Robert, Edgar, Andrew, and Ramone at Graduation.

Apprentice Program



The **Paul Weeks II Apprentice of the Year** is selected each fall, and this year **René Alvarenga** was the unanimous staff selection. They felt that of this year's graduates, René best represented the qualities that made

Paul such a good man – honesty, integrity and love of education. Before becoming an ASF apprentice, René was an active gang member in Alexandria who had served time. Anthony McAllister, the parole officer who recommended ASF for René, described him as one of the "roughest stones" he'd had in some time.

Our impression of René was that he was somebody who wanted to change his life: he had worked on his GED while in detention. His work here at ASF was exemplary, and he graduated as "lead apprentice" despite being the youngest in his group. Because of René's youth, we were concerned that he could fall back into his existing circle of "friends" after graduation, so we placed him with Professional Electric. "Prolec" is a small, local company owned by Dave Redmond that functions as an extended family. We were confident that René would be well supported at Prolec because another graduate, **Julio Somoza**, had been very successful there. (Julio is now a licensed electrician, married with two children).

Dave and Julio are very happy with René, who has begun the Virginia Electrical Apprenticeship Program. Soon, René will get his driver's license and we'll help him get his car. At 18, he's really getting it together.

Our first Paul Weeks II Apprentice, **Mohammed Yousif**, is doing well, working as a carpenter for Clark Concrete. Paul would have liked these two young men; his goal for our program was to facilitate exactly this type of personal transformation.

Cars Needed!

We help apprentices make the final step to self-sufficiency by working with them to get a reliable, used car so they can get to jobs. If you have such a car or know of one, please send them our way. Because we use the cars as part of our program, donors receive the full blue book value as a tax deduction

Calendar

November 10 & 11: Phonathon

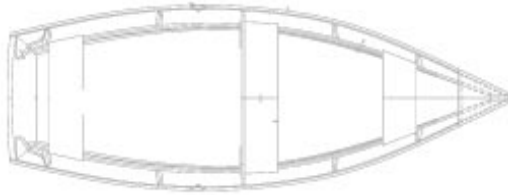
December 4: Graduation--7 p.m., Seaport Center

December 14: Holiday Party at Joe and Jessica's house, 2641 N. Richmond St, Arlington, VA 22207, from 2:00-5:00 p.m.. Names A through L, please bring hors d'oeuvres. Names M through Z, please bring a dessert. **We look forward to seeing everyone!**

Don't Hesitate- Designate!

Combined Federal Campaign (CFC): **61282**

United Way: **8101**



Alternative Gifts!

Back by popular demand, Alexandria Seaport Foundation alternative gifts!

We will send a gift card to your loved one letting them know of the purchase you have made in their honor. The card will describe your purchase and our work at the Alexandria Seaport Foundation with at-risk youth.

HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS

\$250— Complete Tool Box for a Graduate/
A Week of Training

\$100— Apprentice Uniform and Work Boots

\$50— Text Book

\$25— Leather Tool Belt

\$20— Measuring Tape

\$15— Hammer

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