This Week on the Sloop

The sloop crew and shipwrights continue to remove parts of the boat. This week we took out more futtocks (sections of frames), both port bedlogs, a section of the keelson, the starboard bedlog, and fasteners for the keel shoe.

We’ve also been readying the new parts to go in. The piece of lumber for the port lower bedlog now sits on the barge, many of the new futtocks are cut to size, and the keelson section and remaining bedlogs are being milled.

We’ve been extremely lucky with the mild weather so far this November and December. It’s much easier to work when you’re not freezing!
In this photo, the mallet is sitting on top of the forward keelson scarf (a sloped joint used to make up long timbers from shorter sections), while crew continue removing the starboard bedlog. The port bedlogs are suspended by a chain fall, ready to be lowered to the deck of the barge.

Bodhi and Lydia are sitting where the port bedlogs used to be. They’re working on removing the last of the starboard bedlog, which is located beneath the keelson.
Thin strips of wood called battens are used to make sure the patterns for the new frames are all "fair," meaning that the planks will have a smooth surface to sit against, without recesses and protrusions. The burlap shown in the photo covers the planks replaced in the bow in 2010 and in the stern in 2013. We will wet the burlap with salt water once a week, to keep the planks moist, so they don't shrink too much.

After the patterns are all faired, we lay them out on slabs of lumber, and cut them out on the ship saw.
These frames were cut using the shipsaw and we applied borate to protect the frames against insect intruders.

This week we also located all of the fasteners that attach the keel shoe (a five inch thick layer of steel) to the bottom of the keel. We'll remove that shoe in order to access the fasteners that will connect the keelson and starboard bedlog to the keel.
Follow the restoration live on Instagram!

What's Next?

In the upcoming weeks, we will cut scarfs into the replacement section of keelson, and remove the steel keel shoe, in order to remove all of the bolts that connect the centerboard trunk, keelson, starboard bedlog, and keel together.

Visiting the Sloop

Volunteer Maintenance Day, December 19th:
Another thank you goes to all of those who signed up to volunteer at our maintenance day on January 19th. We have reached our capacity for volunteers, but if you've registered and can't make it please contact volcoord@clearwater.org to allow another volunteer to take your place.

January Open Boat, January 16th:
Thank you to all who visited the sloop and saw the restoration work at the December Potluck and open Boat. If you missed the last one you will have another opportunity to see the sloop under construction on January 16th. Join Clearwater for a potluck, music, dancing and tours of the restoration work at the barn in Kingston.

Thank You!
Thank you to our generous donors and volunteers who have helped keep the sloop afloat! With your contributions we have reached $74,000 toward our restoration fund. We still need to raise another $176,000 to reach our goal and ensure that the Clearwater is back on the River in 2016.

Contribute to Clearwater’s restoration by becoming a member, volunteering, or helping us fund the project!