This Week on the Sloop

January 22-28, 2016

Work continues on the sloop, getting her ready to sail again later this year. This week, we brought the starboard bedlog up inside the hull and got it ready to install. We continued demolition of the ceiling planks (softwood planking on the inside of the frames) and bilge stringers (thicker ceiling planking where the hull begins to curve upward). We put the first four futtocks in place, as well. The futtocks immediately forward and aft of the centerboard bedlogs need to be in place before the bedlog goes in.
Right now, the starboard bedlog is hovering above where it will eventually live. It is also upside down so you're seeing what will be the bottom, which will rest on the keel and the mortises indentations will end up on the starboard side.
This is a cross section of the centerboard trunk we removed. You can see a small rectangle in the seam. That is a spline. We will cut grooves in each of the hardwood timbers that make up the centerboard trunk and tightly fit a piece of softwood. That softwood spline absorbs the water that enters the seam which causes the spline to expand. Softwood expands more than hardwood so that expansion fills any gaps in the seam creating a watertight joint.

Here you can see half of the spline already in the keel and the spline groove in what will be the top of the starboard bedlog. This lowest spline is split in two sections because the installation requires a smooth surface, but most of the other splines will be installed in the spline groove of the lower piece and the upper piece will be set on top.
This project extends aft into the main cabin and forward into the foc'sle.

Foc'sle Ceiling

Follow the restoration live on Instagram!
What's Next?

Once the starboard bedlog is installed, we'll be able to install all the lowest futtocks that have been made for the starboard side, and have been patiently waiting to be fit into place. When the starboard bedlog is fastened, we'll install the keelson on top, and proceed from there with the rest of the centerboard trunk.

Visiting the Sloop

Our next Open Boat is on Sunday, February 21st at the Kingston Home Port at the Hudson River Maritime Museum. Join the staff and crew of Clearwater for live music, dancing, potluck dinner, tours of the sloop, and more.

Please bring a potluck dish to share, and your own bowl and silverware to cut
Thank You!

Thank you to our generous donors and volunteers who have helped keep the sloop afloat!

Since we announced the cancellation of our Festival to focus on the restoration of the sloop, we have received an outpouring of support and donations. We’re now at $96,147.00! Help us make it $100,000 by next week!

We can’t thank you enough for all that you do to keep the Clearwater sailing.

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