



GLOUCESTER SCHOONER FESTIVAL CELEBRATES 25th ANNIVERSARY

SailGloucester joins ASTA as an official TALL SHIPS CHALLENGE[®] Host Port



ASTA MEMBER VESSELS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND!



We are proud to announce that Gloucester, Massachusetts, also known as America's Oldest Seaport, is now an official TALL SHIPS CHALLENGE[®] Host Port, leading with the **highly successful SailGloucester event that took place over the 4th of July**, and looking forward to the 25th Annual **Gloucester Schooner Festival on Labor Day weekend**, September 4-7, organized by the Cape Ann Chamber of Commerce. This year, the Gloucester Schooner Festival celebrates its silver anniversary, and **ASTA Member Vessels are invited to sail to this great port to share the excitement of Gloucester's premier maritime event.**

Close to 50 vessels from ports all along the Eastern Seaboard are expected to participate in two days of racing, celebration and events. Participating ships include the schooners *Thomas E. Lannon*, *Fame*, *American Eagle*, *Pride of Baltimore II* and many more. Having taken top honors in the Mayor's Race in both 2007 and 2008, schooner *Virginia* will return to defend her title. *Bluenose II*, *Unicorn*, and the barquentine *Peacemaker* will also join in the festivities. So, come one, come all, schooners, brigs, barques, sloops and ketches alike, you will find a warm and appreciative welcome from this historic seafaring community.

The Office of the Mayor of the City of Gloucester launched SailGloucester this year as an alliance **to promote Gloucester as a world-class port for maritime commerce and tourism, and to promote local maritime education for youth.** SailGloucester is partnering with the Cape Ann Chamber of Commerce, official organizer of the Gloucester Schooner Festival, to provide public relations support, and raise funds for sail training programs for teenagers.

For a full schedule of Gloucester Schooner Festival events, go to www.capeannvacations.com/schooner

Interested ships are requested to fill out an application found at <http://www.capeannvacations.com/schooner/app/application.pdf>

For more information about this great event, please contact:

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