

# Avast, ye lubbers!

Not-so-bloodthirsty buccaneers bring the mayhem to Damariscotta for the annual Pirate Rendezvous.



Photo courtesy of Greg Latimer

Members of the Pirates of the Dark Rose sail the Must Roos, a 55-foot gaff top-sail yawl, on their way to buccaneering or festivals.

By STEPHANIE BOUCHARD  
Staff Writer

On Saturday, the quiet coastal town of Damariscotta will be besieged by pirates looking for booty. They'll come by water and on foot, blasting and slashing their way into the heart of the downtown.

The ruckus is all in fun. It's the second annual Pirate Rendezvous, a family event organized by Greg Latimer and his wife, Sally Lobkowicz, members of the Pirates of the Dark Rose, a pirate re-enactment group.

The festival benefits Lincoln County Family Holiday Wishes, which provides families with food and gifts during the Christmas season.

As the marauding pirates descend on downtown Damariscotta, festival attendees will be asked to help defend the town, but in the course of the frenzy, the defenders and pirates will band together to find hidden treasure. Along the way, there will be a pirate costume contest, pirate-themed

food at local eateries, a pirate bazaar and children's games and activities. Attendees are encouraged to wear costumes.

The event will star pirate re-enactors and other historical re-enactors from Maine (including the Pirates of the Dark Rose)

and elsewhere. These trained re-enactors will be using real weapons but not real ammunition. "It's all about safety," said Latimer. "It's like the 'A-Team' (TV series) where everyone fired 500 rounds but no one got hurt. We're kind of the same way."

With all the very real pirate danger in the world news recently, Latimer says he's not worried folks will take

the Pirate Rendezvous the wrong way. "This is a fundraiser for children and their families," he pointed out.

And besides, "Almost any child can tell the difference between Capt. Hook and Mr. Smee (from 'Peter Pan') and the Somali pirates," he said. "We're the Disney pirates."

By STEPHANIE BOUCHARD  
Staff Writer

ROCKPORT — "Pirate Crew Seeking New Recruits," read the subject line of an e-mail delivered to my work.

I get a lot of junk e-mails, so I almost spiked this one without investigating, but then I saw that I knew the sender: Greg Latimer handles public relations for the annual Pirate Rendezvous in Damariscotta, which takes place on Saturday (see related story on this page).

So I took a look.

"If yer the sort that likes ta shoot a flintlock, swing a cutlass, fire a cannon or pull the yards on a fast-movin' sailin' vessel, then ye might be givin' some thought ta joinin' the Pirates of the Dark Rose," Captain Crutbeard (aka Tomm Tomlinson) was quoted in the press release.

I was hooked — not because I had any real desire to shoot or slash at anything. I was curious. Just how does one become a pirate?

I sent an e-mail query (a tech-savvy pirate — how refreshing!) to Capt. Crutbeard. (How does one address a pirate captain, exactly? "Dear Capt. Crutbeard" sounds a tad too formal.) In reply, I was invited to a pirate training session at the pirate crew's home base in Rockport.

I arrived at the session to find about a dozen folks of varying ages in casual, modern dress in front of Tomlinson's home.

Even though they were swinging real swords at each other in the rain, I thought there wasn't an intimidating one in the bunch. And even when they brought out period reproduction pistols and cannons and began firing (using black powder to give off smoke and create a lot of noise — the neighbors must love that), the crew just didn't seem menacing.

But the mood quickly changed when the group

took a break from weapons play to meet the invited guest.

They were casual enough at first — hulling me into complacency by making jokes about how they got their pirate names, sharing who really is the crew's captain (that would be Crutbeard's wife, Blood-thirsty Barbara — and with a name like that, wouldn't you think she'd be the one running the show?), providing me with a pirate primer and companionably laughing about pillaging and pirate life spans.

But when it came time for me to leave, things turned darker. The formerly casually clustered group seemed to press down on me, my eyes darting to the faces that were just a little too close to mine. Smiles were more like sneers as they asked me where I thought I was going. Certainly I didn't think I could leave now that I knew their secrets?

I laughed uneasily. They saw through my weak bravado. "My employer knows I'm here," I reminded them. Maybe so, they pointed out, but they wouldn't know where I'd gone.

Gulp. Would you believe it was the call to pirate singing practice that saved me?

## IT'S A PIRATE'S LIFE FOR ME

After avoiding who-knows-what tortures at the hands of the dread Pirates of the Dark Rose, I perused the pirate primer with which I had fled. Here are a few how-to-be-a-pirate tips from that primer (taken in part from the pirate newsletter, "No Quarter Given"):

## PICK A PIRATE PERSONA:

This involves selecting a name for yourself and developing a story to suit your pirate character. There are online resources that will help you pick a pirate name, but the Pirates of the Dark Rose suggest you select something that highlights your character.

For kicks, I asked my overly eager co-workers in the features department if they had any suggestions for me. They'd begun referring to me as "8 fluid ounces of Moxie" due to my enthusiasm for the new 8-ounce cans of Moxie now available at grocery stores. Reporter Ray Routhier came up with the win-

## Hot Ticket



Courtesy of PCA Great Performances

Pink Martini returns to Portland Monday night when the band plays Merrill Auditorium.

## Pink Martini

From staff reports

PCA Great Performances brings eclectic band Pink Martini back to Portland on Monday evening. The band is on tour this summer in support of its fourth studio album, scheduled to be released Oct. 13. Go to [www.pinkmartini.com](http://www.pinkmartini.com) to hear audio. At Pink Martini's concert, PCA Great Performances will also announce its 2009-10 season.

Call PortTix at 842-0800 or go to [www.porttix.com](http://www.porttix.com) for tickets.

## IF YOU GO

**WHEN:** 7:30 p.m. Monday  
**WHERE:** Merrill Auditorium, 20 Myrtle St., Portland  
**HOW MUCH:** \$35, \$42 and \$48

ner, "Black Moxie," saying that any respectable pirate name should have "black" in it.

**PIRATE LANGUAGE:** Learn some colorful language — and by that I don't mean traditional curse words. Examples from "The Pirate Insult Kit" of "No Quarter Given" include "reeky, bilge-watered plague rat" and "lop-sided refuse of a chamber-pot."

Learning pirate "speak" is also a state of mind that I personally could not wrap my head around (but reporter Matt Wickenheiser is a shameless master). The only phrases I can regularly remember are "arrrgg" and "aye, matey."

**PIRATE DRESS:** No self-respecting pirate will go without appropriate pirate apparel. Online, you'll find a number of pirate outfitters, but the Pirates of the Dark Rose say you can



easily pull together a pirate outfit by adapting clothing you have at home or pieces picked up at discount stores.

A T-shirt sleeve tied off on one end and rolled at the other makes an excellent pirate cap, for example. The Pirates of the Dark Rose also stressed that your pirate boots can never be too cool.

You can also find pirate costumes online for purchase or at costume rental shops.

I found myself at One Stop Party Shoppe in South Portland in search of an appropriate costume to outfit myself as a pirate for this story (see accompanying photo).

I had three to pick from: One that was not too sexy but still had an edge and was my size. One that was one-size-fits-all and was billed as a wench costume. (I thought it looked a bit dowdy for a pirate costume.) The final costume was not my size and on the revealing side.

So, feeling a bit like Goldilocks (not very pirate-ish, I know), I tried each on and ended up with the one that was my size. I bought a fun pirate hat and an ostrich plume to add some flare. To my disappointment, I didn't find any butt-kicking boots.

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Staff photo by John Patriquin

Writer Stephanie Bouchard wears it well.