



Executive Director, Tim Rizzuto brings to the SLATER thirty years experience in historic ship restoration, having previously supervised the restoration of USS KIDD DD661 in Baton Rouge and USS JOSEPH P KENNEDY, JR DD850 in Fall River. A firm believer that "Another layer of bureaucracy never solved anything," Tim is committed to two goals, making the SLATER the best and most authenti-

cally restored ship in the country, and staying true to the "Can do" spirit of the men and women who built and sailed these ships. That translates to maintaining a shipboard atmosphere for visitors and volunteers that is safe, productive and fun, where everyone who wants to be involved can make a contribution and have a good time doing it.



Erik Collin is the Restoration Coordinator and is involved in just about every aspect of maintaining and restoring the ship. With a background in Environmental Biology he is the ships environmental conscience. He plays a large role in maintaining and firing a number of the ships' guns and "K" gun depth charge launchers. Often overheard

yelling, "Don't scratch the paint!", he is the head painter. When not involved in actual restoration he can be found trying to keep the ship neat and clean, and, as the official ships computer geek, he keeps the computer network running. He is also often found in the code room tending to our membership and donation database.



Linda Wruck is the SLATER's Education Coordinator. She is a native of Chicago, lately the Education Officer for the Montana Historical Society, in Helena, Montana. Through her training and experience as a middle and high school teacher and museum educator, Ms. Wruck combines formal and informal

education to create place-based learning for the traditional and non-traditional classroom settings. In addition to training and supervising college interns and tour guides, Wruck manages the overnight program, and develops and oversees the outreach and special programs.

SLATER VOLUNTEERS



**Long Hours
Hard Work**

No Pay

**But
We Guarantee
You Will
Enjoy It**



**The Best
Damn Ship
In The
Historic
Fleet!**

Who we are

During World War II 563 Destroyer Escorts protected Atlantic convoys and defended naval task forces in the Pacific. Today, only the USS SLATER remains afloat in the United States. The ship has undergone an extensive fifteen year restoration returning her to her former glory, serving as a

memorial to the men who served on them. The Destroyer Escort Historical Museum owns and maintains the SLATER and the educational and visitors programs. The DEHM is chartered by the New York State Education Department as a designated educational institution.

Why we need you

The USS SLATER's success has been due to the voluntary efforts of former DE crewmembers, community leaders, local business men and women, and a dedicated group of volunteers and donors. There is no big politician behind her success. No big grant or endowment. No large corporation has adopted her. The SLATER's success is due to the support of the men who sailed destroyer escorts and the large and extremely dedicated group of volunteers and donors, both military and non-military.

sailors have given us will remain ours as far into the future as we can see.

We are open seven days a week to volunteer workers of all types. Electricians, mechanics, welders, painters, plumbers, machinists, historians, instructors, teachers, clerks and anyone, including Navy Reservists willing to spend some time on the ship. Prior maritime and military service are valued, but not a required. In fact, many of our volunteers have no military experience. Whether it's just a few hours on a weekend or five days a week we would be happy to have you lend a hand in preserving the ship. Hard work and no pay, but the satisfaction of knowing that you are saving a unique American treasure. You are also encouraged to bring a friend along to join us.

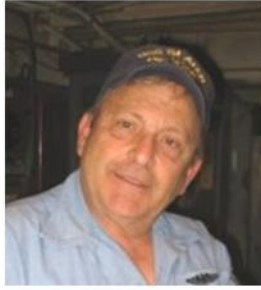
The rate at which we are losing our volunteers is accelerating and we are hard pressed to find replacements. Until now the volunteers have eagerly taken on caring for the SLATER, but with their aging and thinning numbers these responsibilities will soon overwhelm them. The key to our continued success will be recruiting a new generation of volunteers.

Also, all those who believe that preserving this ship is a worthwhile endeavor are encouraged to follow the example that our supporters have set by joining the Destroyer Escort Historical Museum as members.

We ask your support in preserving this fine memorial so that the gift that the destroyer escort

Don't Give Up The Ship

WHY WE VOLUNTEER



My involvement as a SLATER volunteer can simply be expressed by three words: History, Heritage and Opportunity. History- I find being a SLATER volunteer has provided me a chance to help preserve an important piece of American WWII history that will never be duplicated. I believe that the educational value of the ship's conservation alone is a worthwhile endeavor.

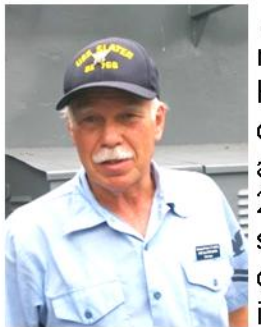
Heritage – As a U.S. Navy veteran, my SLATER experience has enabled me to work once again with ships propulsion equipment that I am familiar with from years ago. It has also afforded me the chance to “turn back the clock”, so to speak, and to re-visit some of the good memories of my Navy days. **Opportunity** – Being a SLATER volunteer has provided me the exposure to meet many new friends who share the opportunity to help save this amazing artifact for future generations.

M. “Gus” Negus

The first time I saw the SLATER was when it first came to Albany. I went aboard the first time I had a chance. I met Tim Rizzuto, the ship's Executive Director, who introduced me to other electricians, and I joined the Electrical Gang on Saturdays. When I retired from General Electric, I started coming aboard Monday and Wednesday. I was a Navy Electrician on DE246 from 1955 to 1959, then a G.E. Electrician until I retired. I always enjoyed working on the SLATER. It makes me feel young again and I feel I'm doing something worthwhile. I have since met many new friends that I'm sure I'll have forever.



Larry Williams



As a youngster I was a boater and it seemed natural to join the US Coast guard after college. Half way through my professional career I became New York State's Boating Safety Director and again worked with the US Coast Guard. In 2002 I took a tour on the SLATER and the guide suggested I volunteer. My volunteer duties include conducting tours, ropework such as splicing line, making fenders, and rigging blocks, and maintenance assignments such as chipping

paint, cleaning equipment and areas, and acting as a fire watch during torch cutting and welding. In addition to working in an activity I've always enjoyed, the SLATER leadership and crew has become “family.” I get great satisfaction from working here and being a tour guide allows me to convey my knowledge and sense of history to the public. To have a positive effect on the community at large and see the smiles and the looks of wonderment on visitors faces is reason enough to be a part of the SLATER crew.

Nelson Potter

Serving today as a tour guide is a very satisfying job in being able to point out various sections of the ship. At the same time we are able to explain the history that was transpiring in the 40s. Many people taking tours are surprised at how easily the war could have gone against us in the beginning. As is usual in a volunteer job, you get more out of it than you give.

Maebelle “Mike” Millian



I volunteered as one of the ship's electricians. I was the first volunteer from the Albany area to join the SLATER effort, back in November 1997. Navy shipboard electrical systems are very different from commercial and residential ones. If the SLATER was to be successful as a museum, it needed a safe, reliable, and authentic electrical restoration. Having served as the Electrical Officer on an aircraft carrier, I figured I had the necessary experience to work on SLATER. The electrical restoration is the finest among

any historic ship. The best thing about volunteering on the SLATER is that I work along with many other very talented, dedicated professionals. The Albany volunteer crew has accomplished nothing short of a miracle. This ship was a wreck when it arrived in Albany ten years ago. Now it is something we all can be proud of. I am delighted to see the reaction of the true heroes who sailed on DEs, from WWII to Korea. We have created nothing less than a lasting memorial to those guys - a memorial they truly deserve.

Barry Witte

I began volunteering on the SLATER as a freshman in college. As a midshipmen in the NROTC program at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, I was looking for a place where I could practice some of the engineering techniques I had been learning in class on a real naval ship. What I found was that the SLATER offered much more than I had originally thought. During my time on board, not only have I learned about technical naval systems, most notably the electrical and firemain system, but I have also learned lessons in leadership. As a senior midshipmen I am now in charge of organizing up to 25 midshipmen per weekend onboard the ship. I have learned leadership not from a book, like some people at my unit have, but rather through my experience with the ship. Perhaps the most valuable lessons that my fellow midshipmen and I can learn on the SLATER come from the dedicated naval veterans who volunteer on the ship. Hearing their advice and their experiences from the fleet is a valuable tool that we as midshipmen can use to be more efficient leaders. When I first started I thought that I was going to give a lot to the SLATER, what I didn't count on was that the SLATER was going to give much more back to me.

John Camp



The main reason I volunteer at the USS SLATER is to indulge in my own personal interest in military history. I'm not a veteran myself and my current career path is totally unrelated, but by volunteering I get to learn more and spend more time doing things that I like. I built model ships when I was young and now I get to help restore the real thing. I also love to visit museums and other historical sites whenever I travel, and now I actually



get to be a part of something that I used to see only as a spectator. Another great draw has been the attitude of everyone else that I've met connected with the SLATER. None of the volunteers have to be here, they all want to be here. This makes the time even more enjoyable, as if actually being aboard a World War II combat ship weren't enough. Most importantly, by volunteering, I get to help preserve something of historical importance. I feel honored that I can be a part of ensuring that this ship will continue to be here both for the veterans and future generations.

Paul Guarnieri, Jr.

I really love being an intern for the USS SLATER! As a tour guide here, I get so much more respect than anywhere else I've worked, and learning the history and material involved with it has been a challenging and fun experience. I'm never bored! Everyone I work with is enthusiastic and passionate about what they do, and this enthusiasm passes to the people around them creating a really great environment. My favorite part of interning is definitely the children. There is nothing like seeing their faces brighten when they get to step inside a little piece of history! This is one of the only museums where they are allowed to look and touch the exhibits, even sleep there! I get a really great feeling every time I finish a tour and feel like I've helped contribute to their interest in history and I really hope that that positive experience will stay with them even after they leave.

-Penelope Hutton



Tour guides are needed during our visitor hours from 10:00am to 4:00pm, Wednesday through Sunday, April through November.

Restoration and maintenance of the ship continues seven days a week throughout the year, though we do take Thursdays and Sundays off during the winter.

If you are interested in volunteering please call us at 518-431-1943.

Visit our web site located at www.ussSLATER.org for additional information about the ship and our restoration efforts. Directions to the ship can be found in the “Plan A Visit” section.