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ISN'T THAT...

# Pocket Goddess

Yes, Virginia,  
she's from Maine!

BY ZOE COLTON



**Y**ou don't have to be Pocahontas to fall in love with the *Godspeed*. Built in 2006 by Rockport Marine for \$2M, she's the darling of OpSail 2012, darting among the taller tall ships. But few Mainers realize this celebrated replica of Capt. John Smith's 1606 brigantine (known for her voyage to the New World for the Virginia Company of London, resulting in the founding of Jamestown) is *one of ours*.

Surely, Maine has bragging rights related to Capt. Smith. Skirting our coast on his way south, he coined the term Calendar Islands while sailing through Casco Bay and, traveling through Kennebunkport, gave Cape Porpoise its name.

Eric Speth, *Godspeed's* captain, says, "We are all very proud of the exceptional Maine craftsmanship built into *Godspeed* and how well she fulfills her mission. The pride of every craftsman involved was evident to me from the time the keel was laid through her sea trials 16 months later in Penobscot Bay."

Sadly, since leaving Rockport, this



showgirl hasn't been home for a visit—nor are there plans for one.

## BABY, COME BACK

"Of course, we'd love for her to return for a visit," Rockport Marine's project manager John England says.

With the odometer clocking in at 8,000 miles in her six short years, you'd think she could afford to make the trip. "In those days, ships were built to make money, just like today," England says. With admission fees up to \$15 and 415,000 visitors in 2011, she's

needed as a star attraction at the Jamestown Settlement Museum with little time for visits beyond traveling up Chesapeake Bay for a tour in Lancaster County and an appearance at the Urbanna Oyster Festival.

"*Godspeed* would be most welcome to participate in any of our windjammer events," Maine Windjammer Association's Meg Maiden says.

Better still: During the OpSail 2012 Fleet Chefs Challenge in Norfolk, Virginia, this summer, *Godspeed* placed second (behind the Ecuadorian ship *Guayas*, four times her size) among 18 vessels for Chef Chris Long's pan-seared Sea Bass with tapenade, grilled asparagus, cherry beurre blanc sauce, and grilled oysters with leeks, roasted corn, and ham [Long doubles as star chef of Second Street Bistro in Williamsburg, Virginia]. Imagine her here for Harvest on the Harbor. ■

For more, visit [portlandmonthly.com/portmag/2012/07/godspeed-extras](http://portlandmonthly.com/portmag/2012/07/godspeed-extras).

