



WABASH COLLEGE

Class Agents Letter

Office of Alumni Affairs

P.O. Box 352

Crawfordsville, IN 47933

Web site: www.wabash.edu

Email us: alumni@wabash.edu

Phone: (765) 361-6369

Class of 1969

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Subject: Checking Off Items on the Bucket List.

This past summer, Jack Spurway and I spent a couple of weeks on my little 27 foot sailboat, moving it from Charlevoix, MI, to Winthrop Harbor, IL (just north of Chicago). On the last day of the trip, Steve Charles, editor of Wabash Magazine, joined us. When three Wabash guys get together, especially a small group that doesn't get together often, a couple of things usually happen. The first, of course, is reminiscences of days gone by. The second is a recounting of the life of each since the last get-together, and the last, assuming the time has been well-spent, is planning, or at least discussing, a future get-together.

This trip did not differ from that formula. However, the third part of the get-together created a plan just a little more grandiose than usual. Jack and I are now retired and have a little more free time. Steve, on the other hand, still works for the college and is always looking for stories about Wabash men. We all discussed bucket list items, as people our age are want to do and we decided a sailing trip as we were experiencing should be shared with alums of the same era and cut from the same adventuresome cloth. Upon return to our individual homes, I began web-searching for a bucket list-type sailing adventure. I think I hit on it.

The 1917, 122 foot sailing tall ship, Schooner Virginia, has been a floating/sailing/working classroom for the past twenty years. It offers only 16 berths to those of good health, adventurous spirit, and a modicum of cash up front, for a week's journey with full crew--cook, captain, and some young enough to swing through the rigging to strike sails during the perfect storm. This is not a trip for those wanting to sport funny-named drinks with cute umbrellas while ogling the chicks by the pool. This is a working ship, and, if you go, you will stand your watch, help manage the sails, and haul hausers. I have chartered the vessel for the week of 9-17 SEP, 2010 (note the year), sailing from Boston, MA, to Norfolk, VA. Most of this time will be open water--out in the Atlantic. You don't need to be a sailor or gymnast, but you DO need to be expecting to participate in the trip of a lifetime.

Take a look at their website at www.schoonervirginia.org. This gives a pretty good rundown of what to expect. On the physical side, the trip requires a physician-signed physical and medical release. The paperwork is included with the application packet. On the financial side, the trip is all-inclusive, from the time lines are cast off at 1830 hours

on 9 SEP from Boston Harbor, until the ship ties up around 1030 hours, 17 SEP, in Norfolk. You are responsible to get to Boston and get back from Norfolk. The cost is \$1125.00 per person. Compare this to the same ship being used for an ElderHostel retreat for \$2399.00 per person. (Sometimes it pays to shop direct.)

This is a grumpy old men bucket list cruise. We are limiting it to guys, and doing our best to limit it to guys over the age of 55. Being a working ship, it is also a booze less cruise. I mentioned there are 16 berths for paying passengers. Nine of these are already pledged, so we're down to seven left. Of course, Jack, Steve, and I are among those nine. Steve hopes to get some photos and interviews along the way, and I'm inviting any and all to bring their acoustic musical instruments. Even accordions, bagpipes, and banjos are welcome!

We'll form a list of first come, first served, and we'll need the full amount before JAN 1, 2010. If you have any questions, please feel free to telephone me at (815) 541-6900, or email me at jcbuford@aol.com.

John Buford, Class of '69