

Riverboat

Roar

Monthly Newsletter
May 2025 Edition

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Welcome to our May edition of the Riverboat Roar Newsletter featuring information about the Valley Gem and the Major/Riviera Riverboats. Each month, we will spotlight upcoming events, staff, actors, menus, etc. Our Newsletter will be available to view on our website, on our Facebook Page, or by free email subscription. We hope you enjoy our publication and to see you on the river soon!

Captain's Column

In past years, this would be what we would call the season kick off. However, after having a successful first Winter season run, it feels like we kicked off our year a long time ago.

When the Valley Gem was first put into the water in 1973, that was always Captain Jim's goal: to run the boat year round. Now, that's easy to say but harder to accomplish. No matter how much you care for boats, and we do, every machine at some point or another needs maintenance and every boat at some point or another needs paint. It felt impossible for us to have the time for maintenance and keep it running year round.

In 2024, our lives changed. In May of 2024, we put the Major Riviera into service. By adding a second vessel to our fleet, we now have the ability to run year round. We can pick and choose what maintenance or painting needs done while the other boat is running a full schedule.

Because of this development, we kicked off our season on January 17 and boy did we have some fun. If you missed out, don't worry, because this is our future and 2026 will kick off in January as well.

However, it's May and the sun is shining and the temperature is rising and if you haven't looked at our schedule, you really should. There are a TON of different events happening throughout the year. You will find dinner cruises, dinner theatre, music cruises, sightseeing, murder mysteries and so, so much more!

Check it all out and we can't wait to see you on the river soon!



New This Season

Wine and Dine is a new three part Dinner Cruise series. You can pick your favorite or better yet, come to them all. We are choosing a region of the world that is famous for delicious food and delicious wine and we are showcasing them together. We



are working with an expert sommelier to bring you the best pairings with Chef Casandra's wonderful menus.

Our first Wine and Dine Dinner Cruise event will be on May 24th from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. Because this is also the weekend that we are celebrating Lafayette's visit to the city of Marietta, we are featuring food and wine from the French Riviera. We will follow with the next Wine and Dine on August 29th highlighting Tuscany and finish out the series on November 1st with the West Coast.

Each event will feature a three course meal with each course paired to a specific wine. While, this is the focus of the event, you don't have to drink the wine to participate. We also have coffee, tea, water, soda and a full bar that you are welcome to enjoy as well.

Because the drinks will be served at the table, we are requiring all guests to be at least 21 years of age. Reservations are required. We hope you will join us for this new and fun event.



Chef's Highlight



Congratulations to our fabulous Executive Chef, Casandra Clark for winning third place in the National BBQ Comps Best Rub Contest. Chef Casandra won for her Chicken BBQ Rub. This is just one of the many reasons to come

and enjoy her delicious creations on the Valley Gem and Major Riviera. Check out Blues, Brews and BBQ along with many others. Reserve your seat today, they are selling fast!



Now Accepting Applications

We have had a successful first Winter Season here at the Valley Gem and are incredibly proud of our crew that stayed on and worked with us. But now Summer is coming and bringing with it a busy season. While our current crew is great, we are going to need more of them. We are currently accepting applications for Deckhand/Banquet Servers, Kitchen Help and a Dishwasher. Applications can be found on our website at www.valleygemsternwheeler.com. Please make a note that all Deckhands will be required to pass a drug test and be part of a random drug testing pool. We have positions available to start immediately and are hiring full and part time.



Crew Spotlight: Jessica Watson

Name: Jessica Watson

Position: Kitchen and Event Staff

How long have you worked on the boat? A year and a half

Favorite food item you've eaten on the boat? I love any of the biscoff desserts.

Favorite thing about working on the boat? I really enjoy being able to learn so many things from cooking to bartending and much more.

Favorite trip you've worked or attended? The taste of the wild or the murder mystery themed cruises we have. One day you could be trying new meats and the next you're solving a murder.

What are you most looking forward to in the 2025 season? I'm looking forward to meeting new people this year and learning new things to work with in the kitchen.

Regency Ball

We're bringing back a crowd favorite from last season. It's the Regency Ball! Sail back in time to the era of Bridgerton, Jane Austen, balls, and courting galas. This event will feature our resident performers in traditional regency attire, teaching themed games and dances based on the era's unique style. There will be a themed drink menu and meal to create the most authentically immersive experience for our distinguished guests. It is rumored that the Queen shall select a diamond of our season! One of our guests just might be the notorious secret author, Lady Whisperwell. Passengers will have the opportunity to guess the true identity of who they believe the author to be! Don't miss this unique event celebrating the past aboard the Major/Riviera on Friday, May 30th. *We encourage our guests for this event to dress in their regency best, but it is not required in order to join us for this regal affair.*



Actor Spotlight: Paul Oliverio

Paula Oliverio is a theatrical veteran and world traveler. Paula is a former high school drama director, and has worked on productions with the Actors Guild of Parkersburg. She recently had the opportunity to participate in a film with JC Productions. Paula is currently an educator with Pleasants County Schools and the Artsbridge Arts Education Coordinator. Paula recently filled her lifelong dream of visiting all 7 continents when she and husband Joe traveled to Antarctica. Paula and therapy dog, Arlo, volunteer as a team for the Alliance of Therapy Dogs with local hospitals, schools, libraries, and The Red Cross and HOPE Animal Assisted Crisis Response Team. Paula is thrilled to continue performing with “The Company” for its fourth season. Paula states “sharing the stage with such talented and supportive friends is a wonderful experience.” Paula and husband Joe have one daughter, Alyssa, and they live with fur babies Arlo and Lexie.



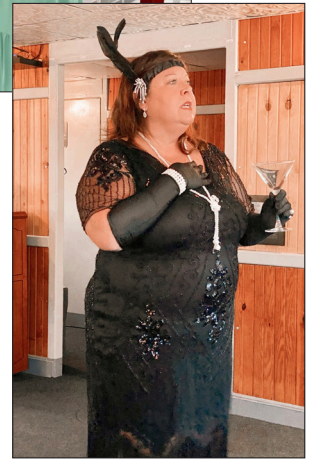
What are your favorite shows or events you've performed on the boat?

My favorite event on the boat is portraying Margaret Blennerhassett. Having the opportunity to share the history of the Blennerhassetts and their influence on the local area to so many of our patrons is a very unique experience. My favorite show is a toss up between It's A Wonderful Life and Darcy & Elizabeth. Both shows were very well received by audiences and classics.



What upcoming event would you most like to attend?

The event I would most like to attend is The Regency Ball Cruise. I am a huge Bridgerton Fan and love the Regency era. The costumes and unique spin on the history as well as following the gentry and nobility is very fascinating. What cruise are you most looking forward to in the 2025 season?



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The cruise I most look forward to in the 2025 season is The Great Gatsby.

What's your favorite food item on the boat?

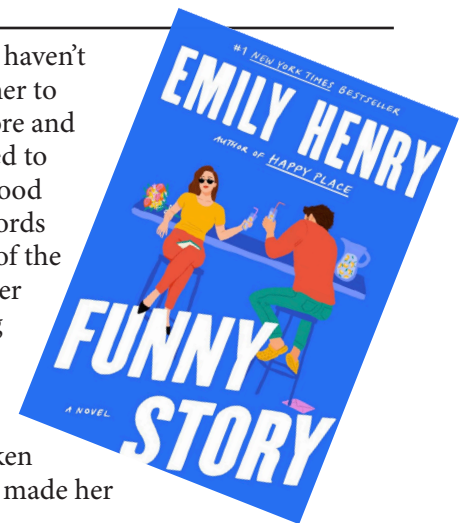
My favorite food item I've eaten on the boat is a really tough one. Chef Cassie is phenomenal and always prepares delicious food and puts forth great effort and detail to plan out the meal to historically and accurately fit the show/ theme.

What makes performing on the boat unique compared to a traditional venue?

The unique experience about performing on the boat versus a traditional performance space/venue is that we have the ability to interact closely with the audience. At times we must rely upon improvisation because we never know what may happen. For example, motion on the water, audience reactions, even reblocking on the fly due to patrons moving in our space. It is a very different experience than acting on a stationary stage with an audience at a distance.



Our Riviera Book Club is so much fun and if you haven't been, please join us. Each month, we come together to discuss a book we've chosen from the month before and enjoy a surprise dinner that is somehow connected to the book or story. That might mean that there is food directly mentioned in the book or it's a play on words or regional cuisine... we've done it all. At the end of the dinner, we vote on the next month's book. Whether the books are good or bad, we have a blast talking about them and we get a wonderful meal by our



Chef, Casandra Clark. Last month, we read “Story of My Life” by Lucy Score. As a group, we gave it 4 3/4 stars. We enjoyed an Italian feast of Caesar Salad, bread sticks, chicken spaghetti, and tiramisu. As a special treat, Chef Casandra, made her special dark chocolate sea salt fudge as an Easter treat.



This month, our selected book is “Funny Story” by Emily Henry. We will meet May 15 at 6pm and we will be cruising for the month of May now that the weather is warming up.



May UPDATES:

Murder Mystery: Overboard, A Seven Seas Mystery



ANNOUNCING: Our Summer Murder Mystery Production: *Overboard, A Seven Seas Mystery* by Zack LaChance

Our resident company of performers have already begun preparing for our third summer in a row of welcoming a crew of bumbling pirates. There is a murderer in their midst. But who's got the guts to take what's theirs? After losing half their loot in a recent raid, the drunken crew of the pirate ship Borque



has mutiny on their minds. But only one of them has committed a murder that will change the hierarchy of their ship for good. So... whodunit? And which of them will be revealed as the rightful heir to the captaincy? Solve the mystery in this rip-roaring pirate adventure! This silly, swashbuckling show will bring you aboard a murderous and mysterious adventure, all while featuring the beautiful Ohio River as our setting. Get your tickets now while they last for our summer murder mystery performances on June 21, July 12, and August 23.



Join us for our first-ever Silver Screen In Song event! This brand new music cruise will feature our resident company performers singing all the hits from blockbuster Hollywood films. Don your glamorous Hollywood attire for a fun and cinematic look back in time at the music from hit movies like James Bond, The Wizard of Oz, Titanic, & Rocky. There will be a portion of the evening where guests will be invited to guess what film each song is from to be entered to win a prize. Gather the movie lovers in your life for this new dinner cruise experience aboard the Valley Gem Sternwheeler on Friday, May 23rd from 6:00pm to 8pm.

Reservations are required for this event. You can log onto our website at www.valleygemsternwheeler.com or call 740.373.7862 to book your seat today!

Mixology



Our May mixology is on May 23rd from 6:30pm-8:30pm. Guests will learn the delicious ways to utilize spirits transformed by other

fruits, fats, and flavors. Have you ever had bacon flavored bourbon? Well, this is your chance! Seats are selling quickly for this month so don't delay.

Google Review, 5 Stars - "My husband and I had our wedding reception on the Valley Gem. More than 5 stars would be given if possible! The crew was exceptional - friendly, helpful, and made setup and cleanup easy for us! The dinner we selected was delicious, and the cash bar option was a hit with our guests! We will recommend the Valley Gem for anyone seeking a unique occasion celebration!" - Marissa