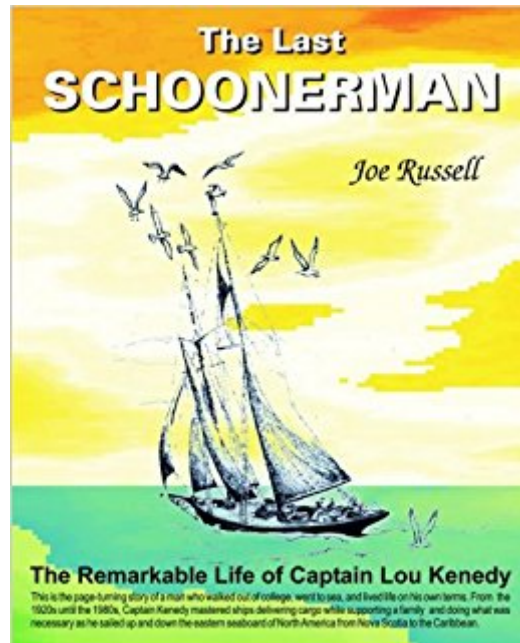




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The Last Schoonerman



Synopsis

This is the page-turning story of a man who walked out of college, went to sea, and lived life on his own terms. From the 1920s until the 1980s, Captain Kenedy mastered ships delivering cargo while supporting a family and doing what was necessary as he sailed up and down the eastern seaboard of North America from Nova Scotia to the Caribbean. The incredible life of Captain Lou Kenedy was framed by the 10 vessels he owned and skippered. Preferring sail to engine power, even after the middle of the twentieth century, he made a profit hauling cargo between the Caribbean, Canada, and the northeastern United States. He lost vessels in raging hurricanes and once at the hands of a German U-boat captain during World War II. He was there during the Cuban Camarioca Boat Lift, and also chartered vessels for use in motion pictures. Through it all, Lou Kenedy's character was shaped by the hard necessities of the way of life he'd chosen, but tempered by great humor and an unsinkable zest for life. While this can certainly be termed a "nautical book," the casual observer may make the mistake of identifying *The Last Schoonerman* as a book only for those interested in boating and the sea. And while it is true that ships and the sea are the backdrop upon which this story is painted, the book is actually the account of the life and times of an incredibly interesting and multi-dimensional man. It doesn't take long for the reader to realize that Captain Kenedy was a unique and masterful problem solver. This characteristic, combined with his intriguing personality and the independent lifestyle he chose, created the opportunity for a talented writer to put it all together in a compelling narrative that merits the reading time of people of all stripes. This combination is what keeps the reader engaged page after page, asking "What will happen next? And what will Lou Kenedy do about it?" *The Last Schoonerman* is a book worth reading and a book both landlubbers and sailors will certainly find interesting, educational, and above all, enjoyable.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Amazing story of a true working sailboat captain.

The Last Schoonerman is a wonderful real life story of man who was borne 100 years too late . It is a great read for anyone who is interested in the sea.

I for a fact know this is a great book, and all of the of the stories are true. A great Captain and a great friend..A must read for sure, the only thing wrong with this book, it is too short.

Very Interesting Book

i meet Lou and Pat in the twilight of there life,i meet them in Delta ville Va.i was amazed by Lou's character ,Pat so welcoming,even Lou's old dog like me, The cats where another story, toke them a few days!i spent time with Lou on sea fox, sailed to the Connecticut river , it was my first time on a boat period, Lou spent lots of time teaching me about charts, plotting trip etc,we spent night in the cockpit talking ,we really hit it together, I think the breaking point was at sea when a head hose broken,Patsy came on deck telling Lou about the new problem, i told Lou i would go and fix it, it was not a pretty site, yet i fixed and cleaned the matter,Lou was so impress i could tell a special friendship had just started, i was accepted ! Patsy could cook a different meal every day with left over ,an amazing women,when Lou retired ,i pick him up in Dela ville, he give me 3 little wall framing that came from one of his schooner,i drove him to North Carolina after he was retire so he could jump on a boat bound for Florida, on the way he made me stop at many location on the ICW, where he new peoples ,he had to said his last goodbye ,a few years later i drove to Nova Scotia ,brought my father with me, it was a pleasant adventure, Lou toke us to a floating schooner that used to be his,picture of him as a young men all over working the deck, to this day my father ,now dying ,still talk about Lou! when i read the book i laugh ,i cry , i had such of good memory,because of Lou ,i now own a 54 hunter,i race a lots here on the Potomac , Lou and his adventure have open a way of life had no idea existed , the book is so well presented, i fell while reading it that i was seating with Lou in the cockpit listening to his story ! a must read book!Pierre

This book is extremely engaging. Sailors will adore it, and those who don't know port from starboard, a mizzen from a spanker, will STILL find it compelling reading. Lou Kennedy and his family carved their own distinctive lives out of an all-too-usual world, the family often sucked along in the slipstream of Cap't Kennedy's forceful personality. The scene, from Canada to the Bahamas, will be familiar to anyone who was in either of those places during the time covered, as the mis-en-scene is clear and evocative. Truly a compelling picture from one of life's other sides -- we are very lucky to have this book to preserve it. Buy it, read it, give it to anyone who might have wished to take the family for a sail-away; for anyone interested in the Rugged Individual; for anyone interested in adventuring around the world. Armchair dreamers or real-life adventurers will enjoy this one. It's fascinating.

Author Joe Russell spent over two years working with and gathering stories from Captain Lou Kennedy's family prior to penning *The Last Schoonerman: The Remarkable Life of Captain Lou Kennedy*, a biography that reads like an exciting nautical adventure. The ten vessels that Kennedy owned and skippered highlighted his remarkable life; chapters tell how Kennedy dared to leave college in 1918 to live on his own terms, used sail-only "tern" schooners to deliver freight up and down the eastern seaboard from the Nova Scotia to the Caribbean until nearly the 1950s, and continued to pursue his passion for sailing schooners until his passing in 1991. An enthralling story about a schoonerman who spurned excessive changes in modern boats and defiantly remained passionate about the type of vessel he loved, until he was almost literally the last of his breed. An enjoyable read for armchair travelers and nautical enthusiasts alike.

The Last Schoonerman is the best saltiest nonfiction I've read in too many years ! Captain Lou was a remarkable individualist; a memorable character through which the sea and the seasons of life flowed vibrantly, and momentarily with toughness, ingenuity, sensitivity, good humour and fun. So glad he (and wife Pat, and his children) were a part of Capt. Art's and my lives. Alas, nowadays cannot recreate his kind. But we can enjoy excerpts of his life, thanks to author Joe Russell's taking up the challenge to compile the vast research which was given him. History needed this recorded. Splendid ! --- Peggy Crimmins

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