

A.J. Meerwald, 1928

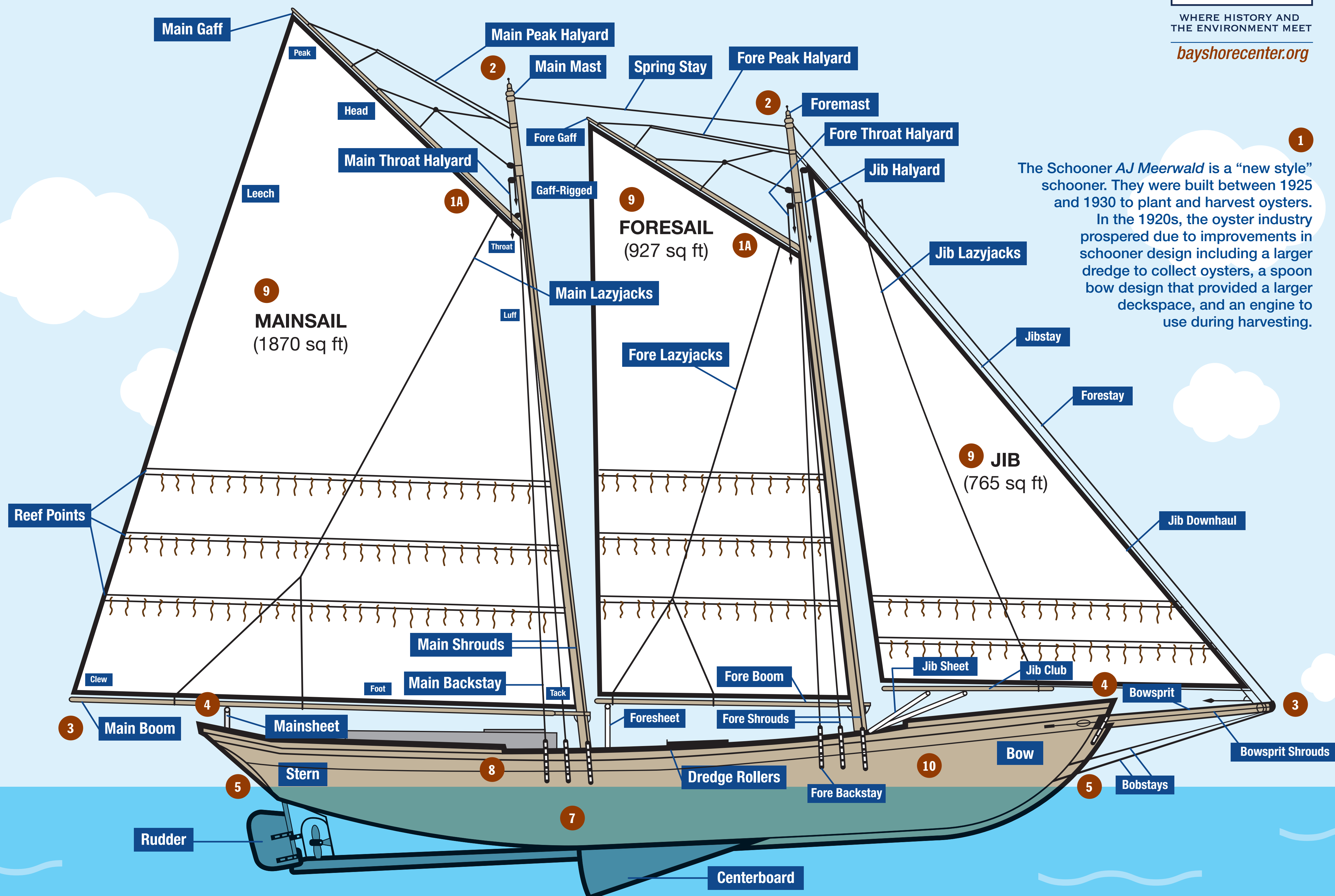
New Jersey's Official Tall Ship

Authentically Restored Delaware Bay Schooner



WHERE HISTORY AND THE ENVIRONMENT MEET

bayshorecenter.org



The Schooner *AJ Meerwald* is a “new style” schooner. They were built between 1925 and 1930 to plant and harvest oysters. In the 1920s, the oyster industry prospered due to improvements in schooner design including a larger dredge to collect oysters, a spoon bow design that provided a larger deckspace, and an engine to use during harvesting.

Join us for a sail.

Public, Educational, or Private Charter

The **A.J. Meerwald** sets sail from many ports throughout New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania and Maryland, but her home port is at the **Bayshore Center** located in historic Bivalve, New Jersey, the “*Oyster Capital of the World*”! When visiting the Bayshore Center be sure to explore the **Delaware Bay Museum** in the **1904 Oyster Shipping Sheds** and a grab a delicious bite to eat at the **Oyster Cracker Cafe**. Open seasonally.

Cool facts!

Detail of Rig and Sail Plan Above

- 1 **Rig: Schooner** - a type of sailing vessel with two or more masts with sails that are fore-and-aft (in line). **Mainmast** is taller than the **Foremast**.
- 1A **Gaff-rigged**: Sails framed by wood on three sides.
- 2 **Masts**: 68' Mainmast and 65' Foremast.
- 3 **Sparred Length**: 115' from bowsprit to end of main boom.
- 4 **Length Overall**: 85' length on deck.
- 5 **Load Waterline Length**: 78'3".
- 6 **Beam**: 22'5" wide.
- 7 **Draft**: 6' of the hull is under water, 12' if the centerboard is down.
- 8 **Freeboard**: 3'6" distance from the waterline to the deck level.
- 9 **Sail Area**: 3,562 square feet.
- 10 **Construction (Wooden)**:
Hull - White oak, *Deck* - Cedar,
Spars - Douglass fir (masts, booms, bowsprit).
- ✓ **Engine**: John Deer 6068AFM 85, 230 HP.
- ✓ **Weight**: 57 tons gross registered tonnage or 114,000 pounds. That's the equivalent of 28 cars!



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Historic Timeline

August 31, 1928

The *AJ Meerwald* is launched.



Gus

Bill

1928

Brothers Augustus C. "Gus" (1897-1956) and William "Bill" (1900-1963) Meerwald contract with Charles H. Stowman & Sons Shipyard in Dorchester, NJ for \$18,000. The boat is named after their father, Augustus Joseph (AJ) Meerwald (1863-1940), who was a successful oysterman, and a prominent member of the NJ Board of Shellfisheries.



1928-1931

The boat is used 4 1/2 months per year and sells to shucking houses across the river from Bivalve in Maurice River, NJ. The boat spends the off-season (summer) in Dennis Creek, Dennisville, NJ.

1936-1942

The *AJ Meerwald* is inactive and tied up in Dennis Creek. Hard times fall upon the Meerwald family. They declare bankruptcy.



June 1, 1942

The *AJ Meerwald* is commandeered by the Maritime Commission of the War Shipping Administration, turned over to the US Coast Guard, and renamed 86001-F. She was outfitted as a fireboat to support ships loading and unloading munitions at the Philadelphia and Camden Ports.

January 1947

The *AJ Meerwald* is returned to the Meerwald family.

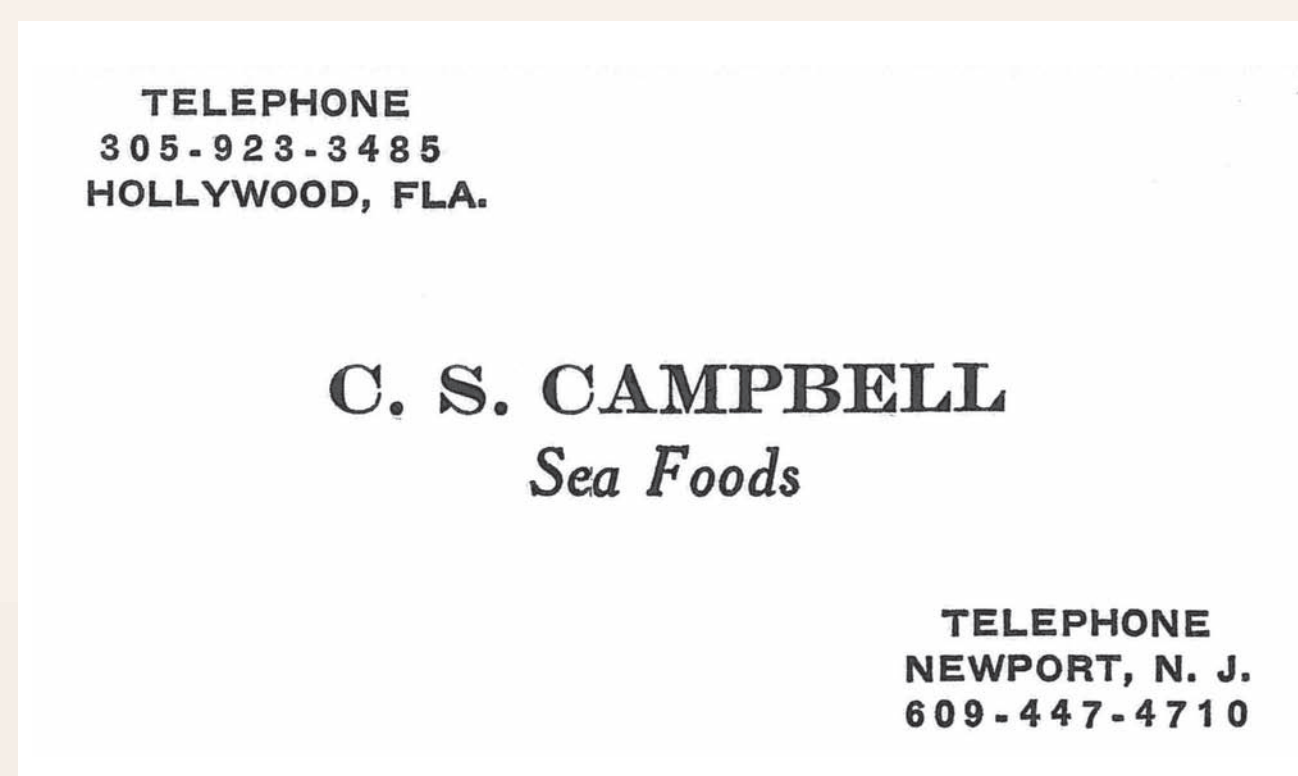


August 26, 1947

The Meerwalds sell the boat to *Clyde A. Phillips* for \$30,000. Mrs. Phillips changes the name to Clyde A. Phillips.

April 1958

The boat becomes the possession of Harry Walton Sharp.



1959

Cornelius "Nicky" Campbell and Albert F. Mollinkopf purchase the boat and convert her to dredge clams offshore. All of the equipment adds 10 tons of extra weight.

1965

East Coast Trawling & Dock Company purchases the boat.

1977

Clyde A. Phillips Incorporated (unrelated to Phillips family) purchases the vessel.

1979-1986

The *Clyde A. Phillips* is idle. During this time the boat is owned by American Original Corporation of Maryland and New Sea Rover.



November 1986

John M. Gandy finds the *Clyde A. Phillips* in Maryland and purchases her to restore her to sail. *Pictured: John Dubois, Meghan Wren, and John Gandy*



September 1988

The *Clyde A. Phillips* Foundation, later Delaware Bay Schooner Project, (now the Bayshore Center at Bivalve) is formed by 23-year old Meghan Wren, who leads the organization for 29 years. John Gandy donates the boat.

1994

Six years of fundraising efforts allow hiring of professional crew to begin restoration. Funded by the New Jersey Historic Trust, New Jersey Department of Transportation and many volunteer hours, donated services and thousands of contributions.



September 12, 1995

The *Clyde A. Phillips* is re-christened as the *AJ Meerwald*.

May 12, 1996

The *AJ Meerwald* is commissioned and begins her new life.



1998

The *AJ Meerwald* is designated New Jersey's Official Tall Ship by Governor Christie Todd Whitman due to the efforts of a letter writing campaign. *Pictured: Governor Christie Todd Whitman*