

DEAR COLLEAGUES AND FRIENDS!

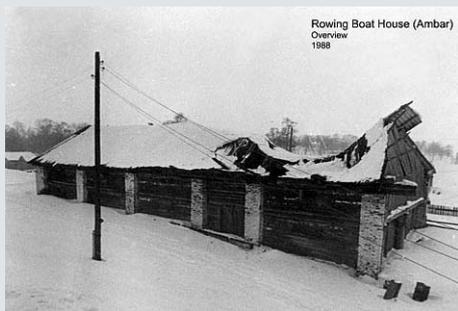
We are happy to inform you that a new museum has appeared in Russia — **Solovetsky Maritime Museum** created by the Archangelsk regional non-governmental organization the Northern Seafaring Fellowship (NSF).



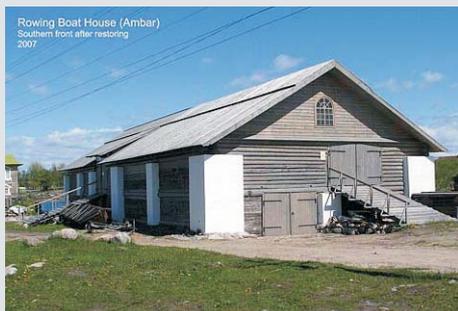
Map of Europe and Solovetsky islands



Solovetsky Monastery, Herring Point and the Ambar



The Ambar before restoring



The Ambar after restoring

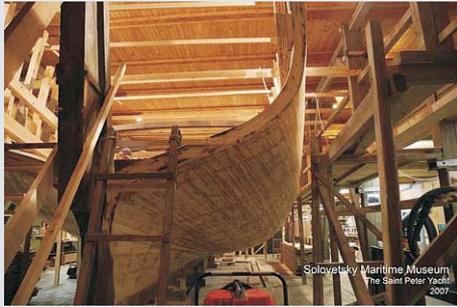
The Museum opened in July, 30, 2007 on the Bolshoi (Great) Solovetsky Island in Solovetsky village (one of the most famous World Heritage Site in Russia and the world). It is the first public maritime museum in Russia.

The museum is located in a Rowing Boat House (Ambar) on Seldyanoi (Herring) Point — a remnant of the monastery's marine economy of 1841. The Ambar had been used by the monks of Solovki to house and repair their karbas boats (typical small boat used in White Sea area), so its new use is totally in keeping with its history.

Since 2001 the NSF has been restoring the Ambar. The Boat House had been in a sadly dilapidated condition. By 2003 the central part of the building had been completed (the northern end of the building which had once been built out over the water had not survived at all). A dockyard where historic wooden sailing craft will be reconstructed and maritime museum are housed in the central part.

The dockyard of NSF is located in the first tier. The first vessel to be built in the dockyard is a slightly reduced version of the Saint Peter Yacht originally built in 1693 in Archangelsk for Tsar Peter the Great. It was on this yacht that Peter made his first journey to the White Sea and visited the Solovetsky Islands. This is why, 310 years after these events this particular vessel was chosen for the replica reconstruction project.

The dockyard is part of the artistic and semantic scope of the museum.



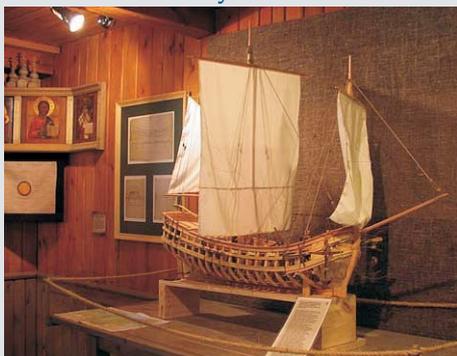
The Saint Peter Yacht at the dockyard on the first tier



The exposition on the second tier



A Pomor Shnyaka Sewn Boat



The model of monastery "ladya" (boat) "Prepodobny Zosima"

The exhibition presents the original technologies of shipbuilding and navigation of the Pomors (Russian inhabitants of the White Sea coast), which can be traced back to the ancient maritime culture of Northern Europe, and the role the Solovetsky Monastery had been playing for centuries in the evolution of seafaring, advancement to the North and missionary development of new territories. The exposition includes the following sections: Pomor vessels, traditional shipbuilding, seafaring and navigation, fishery in the Russian North, and maritime history of Solovetsky Monastery - beginning from the "carbasy" (boats) of Sts. Zosima, Savvaty and German (the 15th century founders of the community) and up to the monastery steamships of the 19th century.

The exhibition displays articles that were discovered in the course of expeditions by the White Sea Detachment of the Integrated Arctic Marine Expedition of the Russian Research Institute for Cultural and Natural heritage named after Dmitry Likhachev (Moscow) and also in the course of NSF expeditions. Some objects were specially produced for the museum, among them - an unique life-size Pomor "shnyaka" (fishing-boat), manufactured according to the traditional technology of "sewing using tree roots", a model of the monastery "ladya" (boat) "Prepodobny Zosima" built according surviving 18th century designs. Besides these, the glass-cases display details of the ancient vessels, seafaring objects, carpenter's tools that were used in ship-building, and traditional fishing equipment of the Pomor fishers (tools for fishing and sea-beast slaughter) and others.

The authorities at The Solovetsky Stavropegial Monastery of the Transfiguration have given their blessing to the NSF's project to return the Ambar to its original use. On 30th July 2005, the feast day of Saint Irinarch of Solovki, archimandrite Joseph, the acting father superior, conducted a special service of blessing of the reconstructed part of the building. On 30th July 2006 the first exhibition was opened in the new gallery, Living with the Solovetsky Sea: the Peoples of Northern Russia. On 30th July 2007 the Solovetsky Maritime Museum was opened.

THE CREATORS OF THE SOLOVETSKY MARITIME MUSEUM

The Northern Seafaring Fellowship (NSF) is a non-governmental organisation. The Fellowship brings together people from Solovki, Arkhangelsk, Onega, Moscow and St Petersburg, all with differing backgrounds, but all united by their love for and interest in the Russian North, Solovki and the sea. The Fellowship's main objective is to study the history and culture of the Russian North, a history and culture that are inextricably bound up with seafaring and its traditions, and to perceive within this the spiritual and other values that will serve as lodestars for the country's future. The Fellowship aims to raise public awareness of these values in all sectors of society.

The Fellowship works closely with the Solovki Monastery of Our Saviour and the Transfiguration, the Solovki State Museum of History, Architecture and Nature Reserve, the local Administration (local government) and with other local organisations.

The Fellowship is a non-commercial organisation in that it does not aim to make profit. The NSF programmes are financed by its publishing arm and by donations made by organisations and individuals who have sympathy with our aims and objectives. The Fellowship's activity is a living example that not everything in modern day Russia is measured in money or in terms of the bottom line, it bears witness to the fact that certain timeless, non-material spiritual values still hold sway.

The Northern Seafaring Fellowship web-site: www.solovki.info

The Solovetsky Maritime Museum web-site: www.museum.solovki.info

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**We are happy to welcome you to our Museum.
We are open for collaboration
in the field of marine heritage investigation and
conservation.**