

Upcoming Senior Center Events

Ice Cream Social on Monday, August 27th at 1:00 p.m. Enjoy an ice cream treat and special entertainment with Sgt. Daniel M. Clark, known as "The Singing Trooper" at the Sr. Center. Call 508-540-0196 to reserve your seat. Pre-payment of \$5 is required.

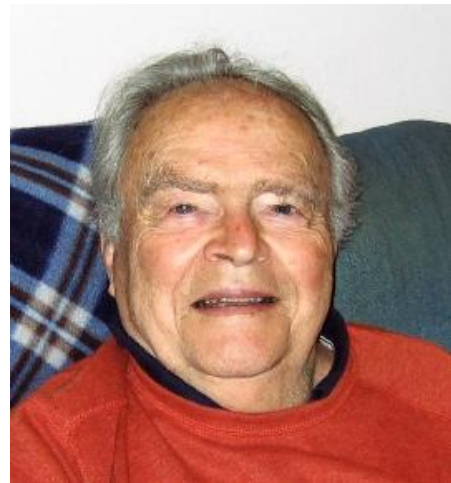
"How to Remember Not to Forget". This program will be Monday, Sept. 10th at 1:30 p.m. Learn tips to help everyone get better at remembering what you don't want to forget. To register, call the Sr. Center, 508-540-0196.

AARP Driver Safety Refresher Course, Monday, Sept. 17th from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Cost is \$12 for AARP members and \$14 for non-members. Call the Sr. Center 508-540-0196 to reserve a space or for more information. Please bring your own snack or lunch. The classes will be held at Gus Cauty Recreation Building.

Exercise Classes: Several NF members are already taking advantage of exercise classes offered at the Sr. Center every week on Mondays and Wednesdays at 9:00; Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11:00 a.m. This is a great way to do something healthy for you and to have a good time doing it.

Can You Help?

One of our members is still in need of a small cart or wagon that she can use to take her trash bags to the curb once a week. If you have one you're willing to donate, please call the office, 508-564-7543. Thanks!



Art Voorhis, Member
by Pamela Nelson

"Science is like a mystery or a detective story. There's something fascinating about it... there really is." (*Art Voorhis, 2004. Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution oral history project interview.*)

Neighborhood Falmouth member Art Voorhis could be the inspiration for a modern adventure story for kids, his life a series of unexpected episodes—with ocean voyages and travel abroad—after a quiet beginning in Leonia, NJ, in 1925. Leonia of the 1930's had a decent public school system and a "reddish stone library" where Art spent happy hours reading. His father, a hosiery salesman, commuted daily to work in Manhattan, and his mother gave up teaching to marry and raise her two sons, later becoming a dedicated artist.

Art recalls an early adventure, in which, as a Boy Scout, he spent two weeks at the 1939 New York World's Fair. For a time he even camped there in a teepee, as part of an exhibit. What he remembers

most vividly, however, are the international exhibits, the Russian, British, and Japanese buildings where the artifacts and demonstrations of diverse cultures captured his imagination.

In high school, Art became interested in math and physics. Deferred from the draft, in 1942 he enrolled at Cornell, where he studied mechanical engineering for two years. He then took a leave of absence to enlist first in the Army and subsequently in the Navy, but both rejected him because of his poor eyesight. He was accepted, however, by the U.S. Maritime Service, which was training men for the Merchant Marine. Shortly after he became proficient as a radio operator, the war came to an end, leaving an oversupply of radio operators. Undeterred, Art got a purser's license, and shipped out, bound for Marseille. The Merchant Marine was active in supplying food to Europe after WWII, an early component of the Marshall Plan. It was on these voyages that he received his real "introduction to the ocean, the sea. I loved the sea."

After two years he returned to Cornell, switching from engineering to math and physics, and then he went on to Yale, where he earned his Ph.D. in physics. Attending an American Physical Society meeting in New York during his Ph.D. studies, he was offered a summer job at a little place called WHOI, working under Brackett Hersey. Eventually, he and his new wife, Joanne, moved to Woods Hole, where Art joined Hersey's project doing Navy-supported Cold War experiments in underwater acoustics, aimed at submarine detection. "I got involved with the transmission properties of sound, the theoretical problem of the way sound is curved by temperature gradients in the ocean. Sound velocity through water depends on the temperature, which changes with depth." Submarines were able to use the properties of sound loss near the surface, in the upper 100-200 meters, to hide and escape detection.

In time, as WHOI enlarged and was being organized into departments rather than projects, Art joined Fritz Fuglister's department of physical oceanography, whose mission was to define the structure of the ocean. Art took part in Fuglister's mapping studies, which traced the Gulf Stream, showing it to be analogous to a 1,000-mile-long river that followed a snakelike path. Art's interest in

theoretical oceanography led to developing equations to describe what he observed on research cruises. His important work on thermal fronts was based on analysis of the huge amounts of data gathered during numerous voyages. He found that the temperature changes in the ocean are not continuous, but that there are occasional sudden changes, which define thermal fronts.

Art served as chief scientist on some research voyages, at a time when financial support for science was becoming harder to obtain and the cost of scientific expeditions was rising exponentially. By then, oceanographic data collection was being performed cooperatively in large projects by as many as 20 research vessels, working internationally. Art was involved in the design, construction, and deployment of neutrally buoyant floats that defined motion in deep water, which was previously thought to be relatively motionless. These studies subsequently showed that even the deepest ocean waters move in enormous eddies over vast areas, requiring long periods of time to measure. MODE (Mid-Ocean Dynamics Experiment) showed the great complexity of the oceans and made it clear that future studies should be organized as cooperative endeavors among institutions and countries in order to be affordable and achievable.

Art's descriptions of early research voyages are vivid. The *Bear*, known as the "Plywood Palace," lurched and rolled, leaving many other crew members seasick although Art says he himself did not get seasick. Even the original *Atlantis*, a sailing ketch, heeled so much that it was physically taxing to deploy equipment safely. While the early voyages were relatively brief, lasting only one to two weeks, they were exhausting by virtue of the constant necessity to brace oneself. Over his career, Art has enjoyed joining research vessels from other countries—Germany, Russia, France, China—as much for the varied cultural experiences as for the opportunity to pursue the scientific studies.

Art and Joanne raised three children in Woods Hole. He was treasurer of the Woods Hole Public Library in the late 1970s and a Town Meeting member at one point as well. Retired from WHOI in 1988, he continued to join ships doing physical oceanography off the West Coast for one year,

and worked for Fisheries as a night watchman for a time after that.

In recent years, he has enjoyed literature courses offered by the Falmouth Public Library. He likes cooking soups. And Art derives great pleasure from reading mysteries with an international flavor, those that give a sense of the culture and people of a country. Friendly, funny, and completely unpretentious, Art Voorhis sums up his years of adventure and science: "It's been a great life is all I can say, looking back on it. I talk to people, my kids... and I think I'm just lucky... I've been fortunate."

HOW I'VE USED NF SERVICES

A note to express my appreciation for the services the Neighborhood Falmouth provides. Transportation is truly difficult in Falmouth and having friendly people escort me to appointments is a pleasure. The group luncheons are enjoyable and access to local events and places to visit is helpful. Thank you!

Elin Sorlie, Member

DATES TO REMEMBER

NF Book Club: August 23rd

The next meeting of the book club will be on Thursday, August 23rd, at 2:30 p.m. We'll be discussing *River of Smoke* by Amitav Ghosh. Please call the office for location.

Meet for Breakfast/Coffee: September 10th Meet for Lunch: September 19th

These gatherings are taking a summer break. Please join us in September when we begin to meet again each month.

NF Board Meeting: September 20th

The July Board Meeting will be held at 2:00 p.m., Thursday, September 20th, at Highfield.

We gratefully acknowledge support from the following merchants who responded to our recent business appeal letter:

Four Guys in Tuxes
Dr. Edward H. Fitch, Optometrist
Hamilton Tree & Landscape
Falmouth Elks Club
Stone L'Oven Pizza Co.
Chapman, Cole and Gleason
Lawrence & Lynch
Uncle Bill's Country Store Florist
Paint's On Us – David Ward