

## *Help the R/V Hero Come Home*

The Research Vessel *Hero* was built in 1968, one of the last wooden vessels built by Harvey Gamage in his shipyard in South Bristol, Maine. For fifteen years, it did yeoman duty as a science platform for the National Science Foundation in South American waters, Tierra del Fuego, Cape Horn, Drake Passage and the Antarctic Peninsula. When it retired, it was housed on the West Coast where it deteriorated to the point that in March 2017 it sank at its dock in Bay Center Washington State. Bay Center is located on Goose Point Peninsula on the east side of Willapa Bay, Washington, off US 101 about 40 miles north of Astoria, Oregon.

The vessel is currently scheduled for scrapping and removal in July 2022 by salvagers contracted by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR). DNR has agreed to provide the Antarctic Society items from the salvage operation. AS has produced a list of items of interest which include:

- Propeller
- Switlik Life Raft and Cannister
- USARP stack Plaque
- Bridge Captain Chair: Including pedestal
- Bridge watertight door
- Foredeck Open Mooring Line Chocks and Stanchions
- Ice House Radar Antennae and aluminum mast
- Aluminum Icehouse
- Anchor
- 10' Portion of main-mast or mizzen-mast



*Antarctic Journal, May/June 1968  
Artist's concept of Hero (NSF  
Drawing). For more information  
see: HERO: A New Antarctic  
Research Ship (palmerstation.com)*



These items estimated total weight is less than 6 tons. DNR would provide the AS these items and the Antarctic Society would then be responsible for the transportation and final destination of the items.

Final Destination: The Penobscot Marine Museum in Searsport, Maine has been approached and has expressed interest in taking on *Hero* items for proper preservation and exhibit.

Transportation: RB Browns Transportation has quoted \$5000 for its cost to transport these items in one load from Bay Center, Washington to Searsport, Maine. The Antarctic Society has pledged up to \$2500 in matching funds if the other half can be raised by other donations. We are seeking donated monies to help raise this total and for other expenses involved. It is an exciting effort to preserve a piece of Antarctic history and a wonderful opportunity for you or your business to take part!

All contributions through the Antarctic Society, a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization, are tax-deductible. Please send donations to: Thomas Henderson, Antarctic Society Treasurer, at 35 Cherry Street #701, Burlington, VT 05401 ([webmaster@antarctican.org](mailto:webmaster@antarctican.org)), or online at <https://www.antarctican.org/donations-1>

***Please consider donating to this multi-state, multi-organization, multi-business, multi-individual effort to bring home remnants of an important part of Antarctic and Maine maritime history!***