Our Floating Classroom: The “Spirit” of Our Program

Our flagship program, Marine Science Afloat™, has completed the 2016 season with its new charter partner, The Spirit of 76. This 70-foot vessel is licensed to carry up to 150 passengers and has classroom space to accommodate 75 students. The upper deck has two outside areas for sampling activities and a covered area inside, while the lower deck has three heated classrooms.

The Spirit of 76 is owned and operated by Josh Larsen and Captain Alan Cox of Champagne Cruises. With 26 years of maritime experience and a dad of three children, Larsen has a keen understanding of the needs of the program. Many enhancements have been made to the boat to improve the student’s audio and visual experience in both warm and cold weather during the 2017 season. When the ship is not piloted by its owners, she is in the capable hands of Captain Ralph Hammersborg, an experienced captain as well as a retired science and marine biology school teacher. The Spirit of 76 is available for weddings, parties and events when it is not in service for the Marine Science Afloat™ program.

Pacific Marine Research would like to extend its appreciation to our former charter company, Argosy Cruises, for 30 years of partnership with our Marine Science Afloat™ program.

Our New Floating Classroom Comes at a Price

For 30 years Argosy Cruises helped support PMR’s mission by chartering the Goodtime II to PMR at a special rate. Because of other commercial commitments they no longer have a vessel available for us to charter. Champagne Cruises has agreed to help us continue our mission by allowing us to charter The Spirit of 76 at a special rate.

Even with the generous charter rate Champagne Cruises provides, PMR has an ongoing significant increase in operating expenses. The Spirit of 76 home port is on Lake Union. Costs for deadheading to saltwater, marina fees, and other inflation increases in operating costs means that our revenue from trips no longer covers our operating expenses.

Pacific Marine Research (PMR) is a Seattle-based, charitable, 501(c)(3), non-profit educational organization. PMR needs continuing donations in order to bring Marine Science Afloat™ to the students of the Puget Sound Watershed. Donations and scholarships are encouraged, and are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

Would you consider a donation of $50, $100 or whatever you can afford to help us expand our program to all students?

Visit www.marinescienceafloat.org now to donate or use the form below. Make your donation go further! Do you work for an employer who will match your donation? Check with your employer, many companies including Microsoft, Boeing, Home Depot, Starbucks & Alaska Airline, to name a few, have matching donation programs.