

***RETIRED MEN'S ASSOCIATION OF GREENWICH, Inc. (RMA)
invites you to attend its meeting, on Wednesday, Apr. 10, 2013.
First Presbyterian Church, Lafayette Pl., Greenwich.***

WES WHEELER

SEVENTY FIVE YEARS OF SHIPBUILDING TRADITION



Wes Wheeler was born into a shipbuilding family. His grandfather Howard E. Wheeler established Wheeler Yachts in Gravesend Bay Brooklyn in 1910, building sea skiffs and larger yachts. During World War One, it built sub-chasers for the Coast Guard. Success followed, including the signature 38- foot Wheeler Playmate, customized for Ernest Hemingway (the PILAR), which now sits at Finca Vigia, the former Hemingway home in Havana, Cuba.

With the approaching World War Two, Wheeler Shipyards was awarded numerous contracts from the Navy Department to build Coast Guard cutters (and the YMS, PCS, FP, FS ATR). Wheeler expanded to Whitestone, Queens, and about 6,000 workers were employed around the clock in the two yards. Following the war, pleasure yacht building continued (adding Sunlounge and Streamsheer), and the first fiberglass 25 foot picnic boat at the 1960 New York Boat Show.

Wes Wheeler is the president of Wheeler Associates located in North Stamford, specializing in ship design, new construction and conversions; marketing and profitability studies, ship condition surveys and consulting to admiralty counsel. He spent his youth in the yards listening to the tic-tic-tic of the caulking hammer in the glow of the welding rod. His apprenticeship was spent on his knees in the mold loft, knee-deep in shavings, behind an apron in the machine shop. He is a graduate of Worcester Polytechnic Institute, with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering and M.S.E. in Naval Architecture from the University of Michigan.

His experience has covered the globe (Europe and Asia), working for some of the largest marine consulting firms, as a technical director and U.S.A. agent of a steamship company, and technical director for shipyards. He is regularly called to advise upon port engineering, loading/discharging, crewing, operations, negotiations and design. He lives in Stamford with his wife, an ESL teacher; his current project is working with the oldest of his three children building a retro Wheeler Playmate based on the PILAR.

RMA members and their guests should arrive by 9:45 AM for our full meeting. The general public should plan to arrive at 10:30 AM. Meetings are held at the First Presbyterian Church, Lafayette Place, Greenwich. No Charge and No Reservations are required. Questions about any of the above, call Bernard Schneider, 203-698-2558; bgsesq@gmail.com.