

# Hybrid Ship VÆRDALEN Launched Anew!

Info. #32 Rissa, Norway, summer/fall 2015



WE DID IT! It took 36 years after first saving the lumber schooner VÆRDALEN, built in 1891, to launch her again. With few resources and an enormous amount of hard volunteer work, we succeeded! Many people have contributed. The ship is now a combination of new items and original features. The aft lounge accommodations are from 1891, likely the only such lounge from the late 1800s still preserved in Norway. Many stamps in the angle iron prove that the hull is the one the workers at Trondheim Mek. Verksted (TMV) built 124 years ago. VÆRDALEN is the only surviving hybrid (push-pull) ship, according to experts at the San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park. This rare ship design prototype, also known as a steam schooner, came to Norway from the US around 1890. Three hundred such American steam schooners made up the Scandinavian Navy. They are all gone now. VÆRDALEN was built using the same design, but of iron and steel instead of wood.

We had to use the opportunities and means available. One family, the Engvig family, has contributed the most, but many friends and supporters have helped a lot. Many thanks to all who pitched in over more than three decades!

So far, we have reached our main goal: a restored and seaworthy ship. Now society at large must step up to the plate. It is important that the Storting finances a boathouse for VÆRDALEN, a world prototype from Norway's Industrial Revolution during the latter part of the 1800s, just as their peers did for FRAM in the 1930s. Norway has public museums for trains and planes. It is about time that this nation of seafarers extends the same honor to the oldest and most original ships our forefathers built from iron.

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