



**Maine Maritime coaches and players on the 2015 MMA Sunset Nature Cruise benefit with BHOW co.**

BAR HARBOR, Maine – Maine Maritime Academy Men's Basketball and Bar Harbor Whale Watch Company are teaming up once again to host the Third Annual Maine Maritime Academy Men's Basketball Sunset Bay Cruise on Sunday, September 11, 2016.

The trip will take place from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. and will depart from Harbor Place next to the downtown pier in Bar Harbor. The first hour of the cruise will be along the shores of Bar Harbor and Acadia National Park with hors d'oeuvres from area restaurants and a cash bar. The second hour will include music, a 50/50 raffle and a gorgeous view of the sunset.

This cruise through Frenchman Bay will give basketball fans a chance to meet and hear from Maine Maritime Academy Men's Head Coach David Muchnick and to socialize with some of the team's current players. Matt Ketchen, Captain of the Bar Harbor Whale Watch Company and former MDI and Maine Maritime Academy basketball record holder, will also be onboard.

"We are very fortunate to have the continued support of our outstanding alumni, " said Athletic Director Steve Peed, "We are so grateful to everyone involved in making this event an annual occurrence."

Tickets for the Sunday, September 11, 2016 trip cost \$25 and all of the proceeds will go to the Maine Maritime Academy Men's Basketball Program. Reservations can be made by contacting Coach David Muchnick, at (207) 326-2452 or david.muchnick@mma.edu, payments will be accepted by cash or a check on the day of the event.

"Once again, we couldn't be more excited to partner with the Bar Harbor Whale Watch Company for a third year in a row to kick off a brand new season of Mariners Basketball," said Muchnick. "With the extremely generous support from Maine Maritime Athletics Hall of Famer and MDI native Matt Ketchen '00 and lead naturalist Zack Klyver, this annual event is something our players, coaches, parents, and alumni look forward to every year."

After joining the Maine Maritime Academy staff in July 2014, Muchnick guided the Mariners to a 3-22 overall record in his first year. In 2015-16 Muchnick led the Mariners to a 5-20 record, including a 4-14 record in North Atlantic Conference play, the team's best conference record since 2010-11.

After graduating only two seniors last season, the Mariners will enter the 2016-17 season returning two top-12 scorers in the NAC and all five starters from last season. This season, the Mariners welcome a group of eight talented newcomers.

"We are really pleased to support Maine Maritime Academy Basketball and watch the men's basketball program expand every year under the expert leadership of Coach Muchnick and his staff," stated Zack Klyver, lead guide for naturalist of Bar Harbor Whale Watch. "Many of our crew and engineers are students or recent graduates of Maine Maritime Academy and we have great respect for all they do to support the Maritime Industries of Maine."