

# DAILY HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE

## ACORN TO ARABELLA Two friends and the journey of a wooden boat



STAFF PHOTO/KEVIN GUTTING

Alix Kreder, right, videotapes Steve Denette, in boat at right, and volunteer Wes Craft of Tennessee, just behind him, as they persuade a momentarily pliable steam-bent frame into place on the hull of the Arabella.

If you build it, they will come. That's what happened when college buddies-turned-housemates Alix Kreder and Steve Denette embarked on an ambitious project: building, from scratch, "Arabella," a 35-foot, 25,000-pound-displacement wooden boat based on a 1934 design. Thanks to their online videos chronicling the project, the two friends have attracted followers and supporters from around the country, and beyond. Kevin Gutting photographed and interviewed Kreder and Denette, whose motto is, "Build, Sail, Live. Two Guys. One Crazy Dream." Read all about it on C1.

## LIVING

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Steve Denette, left, and a crew of volunteers work inside the boat hull in mid-September trimming planks of rough-milled white oak for the all-wood Arabella.

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Story and photos by Kevin Gutting



Bryan Mead of Colorado monitors the steam box during a day of steaming and bending frames for the Arabella. It was his second time helping out with the project.

According to Alix Kreder, his college buddy Steve Denette had been working on a certain project for years — but only in his head. "I think he built in the kitchen of his Glenshire home and taking it on an adventure — probably across the world — his hope being one of those last wishes of his of my brain," he said. "It's like, 'That's too good to do, someone should do this with me.'"



SEE ACORN TO ARABELLA C2

## of a wooden boat



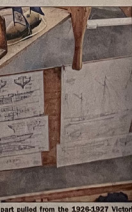
In the frames' workshop in September



Steve Denette, left, and his crew take a break for lunch during a day of steaming, bending and installing frames for the Arabella, taking shape in the boatworks at right.



Alix Kreder with one of the videos he posts every other Friday for the Acorn to Arabella project he and Steve Denette are undertaking in Glenshire.



Plans for the Arabella are posted just below a part pulled from the 1926-1927 Victoria hull which Denette and Kreder purchased "for a song." Its bronze components will see a second life when installed on the Arabella.



Volunteers Bob Pappas, left, of Florida, Bryan Mead of Colorado and Ross Cooper of Washington D.C., stack planks of rough-milled white oak after running it through a thickness planer.



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