

## M/V SPIRIT OF JEFFERSON



The Spirit of Jefferson was built in 1963 by Dubuque Boat & Boiler Inc. in Dubuque Iowa. It is a 300 passenger excursion boat 83.1' long by 28' wide. The Spirit of Jefferson can seat 150 passengers for lunch or dinner. There is open deck seating without cover on the third deck. Restrooms are only available on the first deck. A concession area is also available on the first deck and a bar is located on the second deck.

The Spirit of Jefferson is 53 years old and in need of a major overhaul. Both main propulsion engines and her generators need to be rebuilt. The vessels HVAC system, windows, and interior appointments are all due for replacement. Conservative estimates for this work is considered to cost between five hundred and fifty to six hundred thousand dollars in the near future.

Based on the Spirit of Jefferson's overall condition and age it makes sense to further evaluate, conduct a professional Marine Survey, and possibly purchase the Georgia Queen. A brief narrative and photographs of the Georgia Queen can be found on the following pages.

## M/V GEORGIA QUEEN



The Georgia Queen was built in 1985 by Marine Builders in Utica Indiana. It is a 565 passenger excursion boat, 90' long by 30' wide. The Georgia Queen can seat 260 passengers indoors on two decks for lunch or dinner. There is a roof over the 3<sup>rd</sup> deck and open air seating for passenger comfort. There are restrooms, bars, and concession areas on all three decks. Her configuration provides an option to have two private parties at the same time.

She has traditional riverboat styling complete with a faux paddlewheel and calliope. The vessel was originally built by its current owners as a dinner excursion boat for Kansas City, Mo. She was eventually moved to Savannah Ga. and operated in the same fashion until being replaced with a larger vessel in October of 2016.

A walkthrough, cursory inspection of the Georgia Queen was conducted in December of 2016. The vessel was found to be well maintained and one hundred percent in total compliance with inspections and requirements as set forth by the United States Coast Guard.

## INTERIOR VIEW 1<sup>st</sup> DECK



All chairs, window treatments, and tables are included with sale of vessel.  
Top photograph is looking forward and lower is looking towards the back.

**INTERIOR VIEW 2<sup>nd</sup> DECK**



Top photograph is looking forward and lower shows detail of interior appointments.

## VESSEL MECHANICALS

The Georgia Queen has two diesel engines which provide power to its propulsion system. In addition the vessel is equipped with two generators, sewage system, pumps, HVAC, and other mechanical apparatuses needed for safety and normal operation. The pilothouse's electronic and navigational systems including radar and GPS are up to date.

In order to determine the vessel's overall condition a certified professional Marine Survey will need to be conducted. In addition sea trials will also be conducted to ensure all mechanicals and handling characteristics are in good order.

## COMPARATIVE SUMMARY

<b>Spirit of Jefferson</b>		<b>Georgia Queen</b>	
Year Built	1963	Year Built	1985
Length	83.1'	Length	90'
Breadth	28'	Breadth	30'
Gross Tons	87	Gross Tons	95
Total Passengers	300	Total Passengers	565
Interior Seating	150	Interior Seating	260
Restrooms	on 1 Deck	Restrooms	on 3 Decks

The overall operational cost of both vessels is virtually the same. This is based on similarity of size and tonnage. Crewing of vessels is identical in comparison of passengers carried. It should be noted that the Georgia Queen can carry up to 265 more passengers and seat 110 more for dining than the Spirit of Jefferson, thus improving bottom line earning potential.



## Media Release

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### **Belle of Louisville to acquire 565-passenger Georgia Queen *New boat will provide new opportunities for programming, charters***



**Louisville, Kentucky** - The Belle of Louisville is launching an exciting new era that will result in expanded opportunities for visitors and residents to experience a little bit of history on the Ohio River. The Belle of Louisville operation is entering an agreement to acquire The Georgia Queen, a three-deck vessel with traditional riverboat styling. This new 565 passenger boat will replace the Spirit of Jefferson, a 260-passenger vessel that has served our community admirably but is in need of major restorative repairs that could cost substantially more than the boat's appraised value.

The Georgia boat, which was built in 1985, can host a total of 565 passengers for casual gatherings or cocktail parties, or 260 passengers for seated lunch or dinner service on the two enclosed climate-controlled decks. A third deck has a roof and open-air seating. All three decks have restrooms, bars, and concession areas. The boat was built at Marine Builders in Utica, Indiana, and operated as a dinner excursion boat in Kansas City, Missouri, before moving to a similar operation in Savannah, Georgia. Her Savannah owners acquired a larger boat for their operation in October of 2016 and put the Georgia Queen on the market at that time. The Waterfront Development Corporation and Belle of Louisville staff have been in negotiations with the Georgia owner since December.

For the last several years, WDC and Belle staff have been keeping an eye out for a larger, newer boat to replace the aging Spirit of Jefferson. The larger vessel will allow more flexibility in cruise offerings and charters, adding the ability to offer larger cruises as well as more than one charter at a time, an opportunity that has been lacking on the smaller Spirit.

The Georgia Belle has been well-maintained and is in 100 percent compliance with U.S. Coast Guard requirements. The new boat, as with all modern-era vessels, is powered by two diesel engines. In addition, the vessel is equipped with two generators, HVAC, and other mechanical apparatus needed for safety and normal operation, as well as up-to-date electronic and navigational systems, including radar and GPS. True steam-powered vessels like the Belle of Louisville are rare; at 102 years old, Louisville's Belle is a National Historic Landmark and the oldest authentic Mississippi-style steamboat in operation in the world.

The Georgia Queen will be purchased for \$750,000 using \$420,217 from capital reserves and \$329,783 in proceeds from the Belle's Centennial Celebration in 2014. The Spirit will be put up for sale after the acquisition of the new vessel is complete.

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