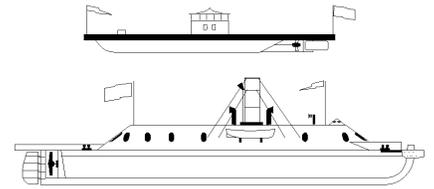


# Hampton Roads Ship Model Society

# Logbook



No. 291

WWW.HRSMS.ORG

September, 2010

## From The Bridge



As I watched the fireworks at the annual Labor Day party held in our development, I thought of how fast the summer months flew by. This particular night was cool, but we probably went through one of the hottest summers on record. The highlight of my summer was attending the NRG Conference in Annapolis several weeks ago. We were fortunate that the weather was ideal for all of the outdoor activities that we attended. The Conference was well planned, with tours to many of the local nautical museums and the speakers gave presentations on a wide variety of topics. Annapolis was such a nice place to host the Conference and the many HRSMS members that attended found some excellent restaurants to enjoy the seafood dinners that the area is known for.

I enjoyed the Conference as I met many of the ship modelers and vendors that I have been communicating with thru the mail or the internet. We spent many hours discussing our current modeling projects, our Clubs, tools and new products and the ship modeling hobby in general. It was a nice gathering of people who share the same interests, mainly ship modeling. If you have an opportunity to go to one of the conferences, do not pass it up.

I am looking forward to our September meeting as it will be our annual picnic held at the Newport News City Park. This is always a fun event as Bill Dangler will fire up the charcoal and we will cook plenty of hamburgers and hotdogs for our members and their families. We will also have many side dishes brought by our members. I hope we have a large turnout as this is one meeting you do not want to miss. The picnic will start around 11:30 and we should eat around 12:30.

I want to thank Bob Comet for his presentation at the last meeting on the Herreshoff brothers who built a series of America's Cup race winning yachts. Their designs of racing yachts revolutionized yacht racing.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the picnic this Saturday. Be sure to come with a large appetite.

Ryland

## MEETING NOTICE

**Date:** Saturday September 11, 2010

**Place:** Newport News Park

**Time:** 1130 Hours

## Mystery Photo



Mystery Photo #290: I'm truly disappointed. The ugliest of Betty's graces the Mystery Photo and our maven of dark satire does not respond. John Wyld where are you? Come to think of it, where is everyone else? That's right; the latest image was so tough that nobody and I mean nobody played. Oh wait, someone did play. We received one response and it came from the Poquoson zoomie, Ken McFetridge, and he got it right.

Where do you find an ugly Betty? I know of a certain bakery in the outer banks where you can get a really good apple ugly, but to find an ugly Betty you go to a web site called Uglyships.com or some such thing; there you can actually search for the butt ugly floaters. However, I didn't find our latest offering there and neither did Ken. Ken found it on line by using a creative search and I found it in an old-fashioned thing called a book. (Incidentally, uglyship.com, or whatever, is where I found a bunch of data on MP #251 the Wodjik class minesweeper that was transformed into the Beluga whale. Problem was I found it about a year after we ran that MP.) Ken made a Google search under the heading "semi-submerged boat" and found the identity to our Mystery to be "VS-5, an experimental prototype of a mostly-submerged vessel." Imagine that!

The site, [strangevehicles.greyfalcon.us](http://strangevehicles.greyfalcon.us), is devoted to strange vehicles of pre-war Germany & the Third Reich and will provide you with three views of this strange boat and a wonderful plan. There is not much history on the vessel past the few sentences somewhat paraphrased here: "...completed in 1941...it could not dive, but was to test an experimental hydrodynamic hull shape. Possible applications would have been as a motor torpedo boat, but the German navy wasn't even interested in the prototype. The intended armament included two 21in torpedo tubes and two 2cm cannon. Its fate after 1941 is unknown."

*(Continued on page 2)*

Hampton Roads Ship Model Society Picnic  
Saturday September 11, 2010  
Newport News Park

Point of contact Bill Dangler, (757) 245-4142

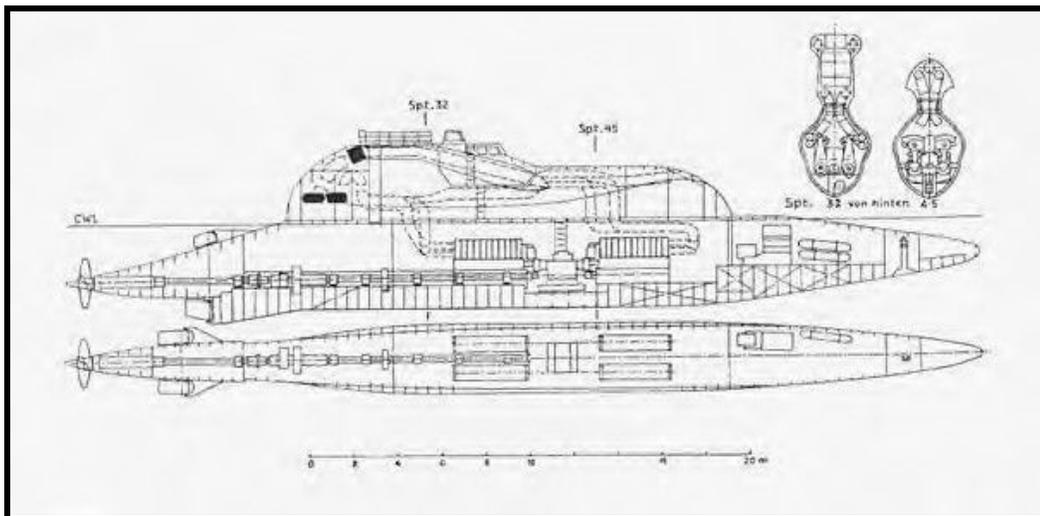
(Continued from page 1)



Mystery Photo

The other source, Fast Fighting Boats, 1870-1945 by Harald Fock, on page 242, lists the vessel as *VS 5*, one of 14 vessels receiving the “VS (experimental or Versuchs Schnellboote) classification. Its interesting that *VS 5* is semisubmersible because all other VS designs were hydrofoils. The single paragraph devoted to *VS 5* adds that “on her very first trials she proved a complete failure and can therefore be passed over.” Fock does provide some data on her characteristics: “built in 1940/41 by A. G. Weser, Bremen. Powered by four 1500/2050 ohp. Man 11- cylinder, four-stroke diesels of the L 11 Zu type driving one propeller shaft. She was designed to make 50 knots maximum speed.”

In short, she was so ugly that no one wanted to take her out.



A final thought...

With all the scientists (and mad scientists) in the world, it seems that medical doctors have been responsible for some of history’s more devastating instruments of death. After all it was Doctor Gatling who invented the machine gun and Doctor Guillotine who invented the clean, close shave. This partially submersible or “Halbuntersee Schnellboot was the product of “a 1938 patent [issued to] a Berlin dentist” a man Fock names “Engelmann.” If the design had worked, he might have become as famous or infamous as the other two.

...Of course you can always get a second opinion.

John Cheevers

### THE ANSWER

The answer to Mystery Photo 290:  
VS 5 was an experimental semi-submersible torpedo boat (Versuchs Schnellboot)

Thanks to Tim Wood for the submission.

### Books, Books, and more Books



The hills are alive with the sound of fiction... Wait a minute, we don’t have hills and we don’t have fiction. What we have are two new non-fiction works from Authors who are near and dear to this Society. I returned late last week from a wonderful day at the Annapolis-hosted Nautical Research Guild Convention to find not one but two email notices for new books. I like books about ships and the sea best, while books dealing with historical venues—especially my original and adopted hometowns—run a very close second. These offerings filled both pots of desire; the week was finishing up just fine. Now I know that if these authors plug their own books in this wonderful newsletter you might find the practice shameful. So to spare them from this shame, I will do it for them...as I have

no shame.

Book #1 is a small paperback picture book written by our member Bill Fox and titled Downtown Newport News. It is another chapter in the “Images of America” series from Arcadia Publishing. In it we find that Newport News “Settled in 1621...has the oldest English place name of any city in the New World.” Move over Hampton. And we see that the tract was largely devoted to farming and fishing until “Collis P. Huntington chose Newport News

for the eastern terminus of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway in the 1870s.” After that things got a little out of hand and “by 1900, a vital city had grown where there were previously only farms and forest.” The city of 1900 is now almost completely demolished; I think Bill said there were only three buildings left from the downtown of that era.

This book captures that city in vivid detail and tells its story through old images and pertinent captions. If you’re a history nut like I am, get a copy right away. If you can wait even a day or two, you can purchase copies at various book signings scattered throughout the city. I got mine last Saturday (8/28) at the Visitor’s Center in Newport News Park. To make it real convenient to get a copy, perhaps we can persuade Bill to do a signing at a future club meeting.

(Continued on page 6)

### NAUTICAL TERM

**Slumgullion** A stew for the crew's mess. The derivation is not too appetizing; slum is an old word for slime, and gullion, English slang for stomachache.

Submitted By: Tim Wood

# Hampton Roads Ship Model Society Picnic

**Saturday September 11, 2010  
Newport News Park Shelter #11  
Time: 1130 Hours**

**It's not too late to contact Bill Dangler (757) 245-4142**



Some of the HRSMS members in attendance at Thursday's seminar at the 2010 Nautical Research Guild Conference in Annapolis, Md.

# MINUTES



Hampton Roads Ship Model Society  
Monthly Meeting  
August 14, 2010  
Mariners' Museum

Guest: Stewart Winn

The meeting was called to order by the Skipper, Ryland Craze, at 1412 hours. The Skipper recognized our guest, Stewart Winn. Stewart gave some details of his modeling history and background. The Clerk, Tom Saunders, noted several minor typos in the minutes and the fact that it was Henry Schekulin and not Ulrich Guenther who showed books at the July meeting. Eric Harfst gave the Purser's report detailing financial and membership information.

**Old Business:** The Skipper contacted the vendor for the HRSMS name tags. He stated that the price is \$5.25 for tags with a pin back and \$7.25 for tags with a magnetic back. Ryland said that members that desired a tag should contact him and he would place the order. Ryland now has the artwork for the HRSMS shirts. After some discussion Ryland said that he would get the names of several shops that could provide the shirts with the logo. John Cheevers said that he found a supply of membership certificates. It was noted that they have not

been issued since the mid-nineties. Tom Saunders said he would include a note in the next Logbook for those who desire a certificate. Bill Dangler distributed a picnic signup sheet so members could indicate the number to attend and what they would bring.

**New Business:** Ron Lewis related that that the Mariners' Museum would open an exhibit "Endangered Species: Watermen of the Chesapeake" on September 18<sup>th</sup> and hold a Family Fun Day on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Bob Comet circulated a signup sheet for presentations in 2011. There was some talk about holding an auction in the future and it was noted that we need to talk to Greg Harrington to see if his workplace would be an option as a venue.

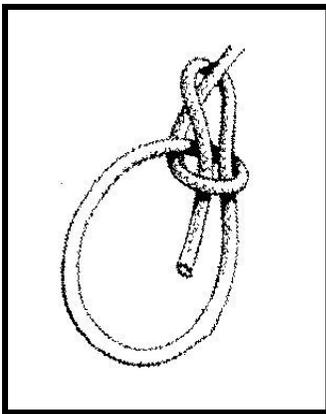
**Show & Tell:** Joe Elder owner of the "Skipjack Nautical Wares & Marine Gallery" in Portsmouth is looking for ship models to sell. John Cheevers showed several sets of plans and a *Monitor* model built from the Museum's plans. Ron Lewis showed several homemade tools. Dave Baker a book on French battleships and a book on the British, Queen Elizabeth Class Battleships. Ryland Craze said that Model Shipways has the *Willie Bennett* kit on sale for \$59.99. Ryland then showed pictures of a partially completed model of the Victory that a woman in South Carolina wants to give away.

The meeting was adjourned a presentation by Bob Comet, the documentary Of Boats and Brothers: The Yacht Building Herreshoffs.

Model Shipways Warships to Workboats archive  
[http://modelshipwrights.wikispaces.com/W2W\\_Archives](http://modelshipwrights.wikispaces.com/W2W_Archives)

**Photo below: a VS 5 on the shipways**

When the model is done, burn the plans.  
—Heinz Schiller—



Bowline Knot



## Mystery Photo

Contact John Cheevers by mail, e-mail or telephone if you know what it is. [jfcheevers@verizon.net](mailto:jfcheevers@verizon.net)



Photo submitted by Dave Baker

## NOTABLE EVENTS

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### SEPTEMBER

- 11 HRSMS Monthly Meeting, Picnic, NN Park
- 19 Talk Like a Pirate Day

### OCTOBER

- 9 HRSMS Monthly Meeting: Mariners' Museum Presentation, Ryland Craze
- 16-17 IPMS Region 2 Model Contest, Fredericksburg, Va.

### NOVEMBER

- 13 HRSMS Monthly Meeting: Mariners' Museum Presentation: Tony Clayton

### DECEMBER

- 11 HRSMS Monthly Meeting: Mariners' Museum Presentation: John Cheevers

### JANUARY

- 8 HRSMS Monthly Meeting: Mariners' Museum Nomination of officers Presentation: Building the Niagara Part 3, Bob Comet

### FEBRUARY

- 12 HRSMS Monthly Meeting: Mariners' Museum Election of officers

### MARCH

- 12 HRSMS Monthly Meeting: Mariners' Museum Presentation: Moving the Ticonderoga, Tony Clayton

### APRIL

- 9 HRSMS Monthly Meeting: Mariners' Museum Presentation: Santa Maria, Crabtree Version, Ron Lewis

### MAY

- 14 HRSMS Monthly Meeting: Mariners' Museum Presentation:

### JUNE

- 11 HRSMS Monthly Meeting: Mariners' Museum

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**WATCH, QUARTER  
AND  
STATION BILL**



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Skipper: Ryland Craze (804) 739-8804  
Mate: Tim Wood (757) 934-1450  
Purser: Eric Harfst (757) 221-8181  
Clerk: Tom Saunders (757) 850-0580  
Historian: Bill Dangler (757) 245-4142  
Editors: John Cheevers (757) 591-8955  
Bill Clarke (757) 868-6809  
Tom Saunders (757) 850-0580  
Webmaster: Greg Harrington (757) 930-4615  
Chaplain: Alan Frazer (757) 867-7666

## HRSMS NAME TAGS

Pin Back \$5.25  
Magnetic Back \$7.25

If you need a name tag contact Ryland Craze  
E-Mail CKart55@aol.com  
Or  
See him at a meeting

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Greatness is not where we stand, but in what direction we are moving....we must sail, sometimes with the wind, sometimes against it, but sail we must, and not drift nor lie at anchor.  
- Oliver Wendell Holmes

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*(Continued from page 2)*

Book #2 deals with the investigation and restoration of a dockyard model of HMS Princess Royal a "90-gun second-rate ship of the line launched by Britain's Royal Navy in 1773." The model is part of the Henry Huddleston Rodgers collection held by the United States Naval Academy Museum. The 200-year old model was suffering from age and was in danger of collapse when Museum officials enlisted the services of expert model builder and restorer Rob Napier to conserve it properly.



This book, [Legacy of a Ship Model, Examining HMS Princess Royal 1773](#), details Rob's 18 month effort to disassemble, correct, and rebuild the model. "The text is illustrated with about 700 photographs, endographs, X-rays, and drawings." The book includes a DVD of a film entitled "Princess Royal, A Long Project in a Short Time" that was created by Eric Smith and the author. It has been screened at the annual Newburyport Documentary Film Festival. The members from HRSMS who went to Annapolis NRG conference screened part of it during Rob's technical talk on this same subject.

"[Legacy of a Ship Model, Examining HMS Princess Royal 1773](#) will only be available at the SeaWatch Books Web site ([seawatchbooks.com](http://seawatchbooks.com)) or directly from Rob. As with other SeaWatch titles, this book will **NOT** be available through local booksellers or online outlets like Amazon." There were a few copies available at the conference, perhaps one of our members has a copy and will bring it to the next meeting.

I will bring a copy of Bill Fox's book to the picnic.

John Cheevers