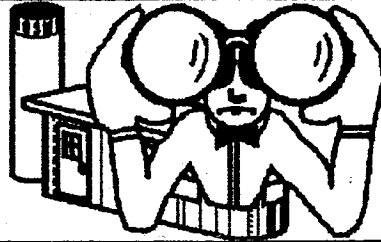


# Newsletter!

No. 95

May 1994

From the  
Pilothouse



I left private practice and moved to Newport News in 1981 so I could devote more time to the important things in life. Such as ship modeling. I did a lot of the interior finishing on our house, then returned to the schooner model that I had started in 1958. Entering that model in the 1985 Mariners Museum competition was a good experience. I learned what the judging experts looked for and was able to appreciate what then constituted good, no, state of the art ship modeling. The Mariners Museum has officially announced the 1995 competition. I urge all of you to enter. But you need to discard your procrastinations and get started now. A year goes by quickly.

Jack

preparing a new menu and Bill will get a look at it soon. Also Nauticus opens soon (see Upcoming Events) and Bill and Jack will try to get some pictures to take to this years conference. The two burning questions that the members need to think about are: 1) A sit down meal or a buffet for the banquet. 2) Five or six presenters. The editor suspects that we will be forming an NRG committee in the near future. All you volunteers be ready.

**Bi-society Meeting-** The latest issue of the Washington Ship Model Society tossed the ball back in our court to decide a date for the joint working weekend. Bill Clarke wanted the first weekend in November. The idea carried and Jack will contact the WSMS with our suggested date. By the way, it appears that this will be a tri-society meeting. The group forming in Annapolis would like to participate.

## New Business

**Mid-Atlantic Maritime Festival-** Graham Horne announced that he had received a flyer for the Mid-Atlantic Maritime Festival scheduled to take place in Easton, MD, 22-24 April. The schedule calls for a very diversified program of presentations and the Washington Ship Model Society will be displaying a lot of models. The guys that went last year had a good time.

**Mariners Museum Park Day-** The

## Minutes



HRSMS Minutes, 8 April 1994

The meeting was called to order at 2007.

Attendance: 1) 15 Members.

## Old Business

**NRG Conference-** Bill Clarke reported a few developments concerning next years conference. The Holiday Inn is

***Beam-** One of a number of thick strong timbers stretching across the ship from side to side, supporting deck and sides and firmly connected to the frames by strong knees.*

## Minutes Cont.-

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Mariners Museum Park Day is scheduled for 24 April from noon to 4 PM. We will be running R/C models along with the guys from the southside. The museum will be running a launch to the pier periodically so the models will have to operate around their schedule. The club will also put up a static display using our canopy and tables. (Ed.- Sorry the newsletter did not make it out before these two events.)

Charleston Maritime Festival- Bill Clarke announced that Charleston, SC will have a Maritime Festival this fall, date undetermined. The festival is to be in conjunction with the start of a round the world single-handed sailing race. More details as they become available.

Casting- An informal round table discussion of casting techniques got started. The basic consensus was that we would all like to be able to approach the quality of casting work that Bob Sumrall is producing. Several ideas were discussed but Chuck Reynolds has a possible source for casting techniques and he will investigate that further.

1995 Mariners Museum Model Competition- The club has received its copy of the entry form for the 1995 Mariners Museum Model contest. Anyone interested in entering can get a copy from the museum.

Meeting Programs- Jack would like to formalize the presentations at the meetings and not depend upon the host to also provide a topic. This means that we will probably be looking to designate speakers or else have strictly show and tell meetings. Graham Horne pointed out that the newsletter is one way to ask questions. (Ed.- I will be glad to publish any questions that come my way.) After several minutes of general discussion the basic consensus was to get the members to propose topics and future subjects and to try to get presenters to cover these

topics at the meetings.

## Announcements

Constitution- Norvin Alcorn is going to bring his model of the Constitution to Bill Hinrich's house in July for a little constructive criticism from the members. It might be a good time for a few people to display models in progress. (Harvey?)

Table Saw- Chuck Reynolds and Robert Dillingham are proceeding on their little table saw and the craftsmanship is excellent. It'll be fun to watch this project progress.

Sheer and Camber carving- John Cheevers demonstrated his jig for using a router to carve in the sheer and camber in a deck. Almost exactly a year ago, Bill Altice showed us his sanding device that does the same job. Two different approaches to the same problem. John has produced very good results on his tug hull with the router jig.

Hull carving tip- Bill Altice has a tip for hull carvers. Implant two nuts inside the hull with access from the bottom and the top. This allows working on the hull either upside down or right side up and you don't take the chance of stripping out threads in the wood every time you move it.

Robert E. Lee- Bob Moritz showed a kit of the paddle wheel steamer Robert E. Lee he is working on. Bob mentioned that as a plastic modeler he is having a very hard time with wood and he would like to see some future presentations on basic woodworking. (Ed.- How about it some of you expert woodworkers?)

Newsletter- The editor received

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*Counter- Arched section curving  
upwards and aft from the wing  
transom and buttock to the bottom  
of the stern above.*

## Minutes Cont.-

some great stuff from Graham Horne, John Cheevers and Bill Clarke for this issue. (See Notice to Mariners.) Please keep those contributions coming, to include line drawings, how to tips, upcoming events, etc. Any and all contributions will be welcome.

The meeting adjourned at approx. 2130 to refreshments provided by the Cheevers. We also got a chance to see John's workshop and some of the excellent work he is doing on his latest project. His tug model progressing very nicely. The deck planking is particularly well done.

## HRSMS Annual Banquet



The Hampton Roads Ship Model Society Annual Banquet took place on 26 March at the James River Country Club, hosted by Jeanne and Jack Bobbitt. The meal and service provided by the country club were excellent.

The highlight of the evening was the induction of Bob Sumrall, curator of models at the US Naval Academy museum, into the club as an honorary member. This is Bob's second membership in the club. He was a member back in the late 1960's. Bob followed up with a short speech about the academy's dockyard models. Bob promised a follow-up visit to include slides.

The evening was capped off by a changing of the afterguard (Ed.- a term picked up during the America's Cup). Jack Bobbitt relieved Bill Altice as skipper. Bill thanked his officers for the help they gave him during his two years as skipper, including a special thanks to the other outgoing officer, Alan Frazer. Jack then presented Bill with a handsome engraved plaque as a memento from the club.

The banquet is really a way for the members to say thanks to our spouses for putting up with our whims. Thanks again to them for supporting us.

## Upcoming Events

May						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

6 May- USS Long Beach (CGN-9) arrives in Norfolk for deactivation. (Bill Clarke intends to get aerial photos, weather permitting.)

13 May- Monthly Meeting (HRSMS Strawberry Festival)

1 June- Nauticus Opens

10 June- Monthly Meeting

12 June- Mariners Museum Day in the Park, Part 2

5-6 November- Bisociety meeting at Solomon's Island.

October 1995- NRG Conference

## Notice to Mariners



The following ideas came from Graham Horne:

**Steel Rod-** If a project requires the use of steel rod consider the use of bicycle wheel spokes. They are available in a variety of plain or double butted gauges and lengths. The fact that some spokes are cadmium plated and others are stainless steel might prove attractive to modelers working with RC or to some people working on modern small craft.

*Buttock- the convex part of a ship under the stern.*

# NOTAM Cont.-

Additionally, spokes are threaded at one end and flared on the other. Someone might even find a use for the threaded brass nipples that secure the spokes to a wheel rim.

**Toenail Clippers-** Whoever thought of adapting this tool to modelmaking deserves our lasting appreciation. We all use them to good effect, yet occasionally I have found the jaws a little wide when working in a confined space. The solution, of course, is quite simple. Reduce their width. Before I attempted this I had visions of grinding down super hardened steel, this did not prove to be the case. A very fine coping saw blade cut off the excess quite easily.

Prepare for sawing by removing the lever and pin and then place a wedge between the jaws of the clipper before clamping in a vise. When the sawing operation is done finish the edges off with a file.

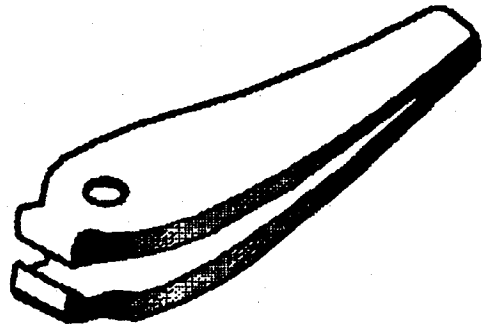


Fig. 1

An added advantage to this modified tool is the applied power confined to smaller cutting jaws equates to extra power along the cutting edges. (See Fig.1)

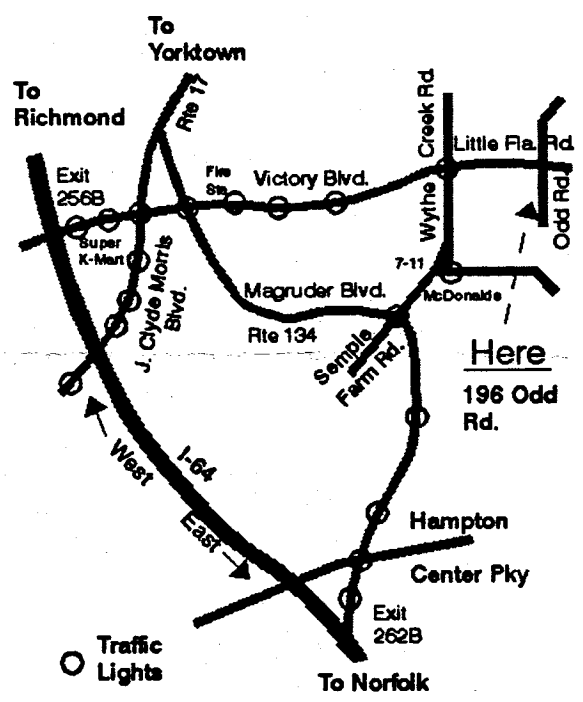
**USS Heron (MHC-52)-** Alan Frazer has received a letter from LCDR Daniel Gallagher, prospective commanding officer of the Heron. He is looking for someone to build a half model (half hull?) to be attached to a plaque on which the names of the commissioning crew will also be attached. The plaque is to be presented to the crew by the ship's sponsor and it must be completed by early August. The ship is second in a new class of coastal

minesweepers and is approximately 200' long. Anyone interested in taking on this project can contact LCDR Gallagher at the following numbers: Office (912) 238-5511 ext. 417; Fax (912) 236-1969; Home (912) 233-8333. Alan also received a minimum amount of plans information and any model builder will probably need more info.

## Next Meeting



The next meeting will be on May 13 at 2000 at the home of Bill and Joe Ann Clarke. Their phone number is 868-6809. The address is 196 Odd Rd., Poquoson. See map below. Please call Bill if you need directions. Remember to skip dinner as this is the annual STRAWBERRY FEST meeting.



*Wing Transom- Major transom bolted across the inside of the sternpost, resting on the head of the inner post and forming the foundation of the counter and the stern.*

## Mariners Museum Day in the Park, Part I

April 24 dawned bright and clear and promised to be a good day for boating at the Mariners Museum lagoon. The club canopy was up and tables and chairs were in place by 1100. (Our thanks to the museum for the tables and chairs.) We started getting boats in the water by 1200. Besides the 7 HRSMS members who brought models, 5 with R/C models, we had a good showing from the southside, "The Elite Fleet." Also one budding R/C sail racer showed up. The museum launch came to the landing every hour and stayed alongside for 15 minutes. The models just gave way to the law of gross tonnage and stood clear of the pier.

It was a very active day. Several people nearly got hernias getting Gene's sub into and out of the water. Newsflash: the Balao not only submerged but it actually came back up. There was one casualty, a U-boat model failed to surface. The builder used scuba gear to try to find it but he hadn't had any luck by 1600 when this reporter left. Bill Clarke managed to dodge one of Dave Merriman's sub models but it was close. How about some rules of the road training Bill?

We had a great day and June 12 should be another fun Day in the Park. By the way, static models are very welcome. Ask Jack Bobbitt. He brought an excellent sticks and strings model so the club had both static and R/C representation.



## Lines Drawing USS Norfolk (DL-1)

Courtesy of John Cheevers and Bill Clarke

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*Forecastle- The forward part of the upper deck, extending from the beakhead to the foremast or just aft of the foremast. In merchant ships, the seamen's quarters. Pronounced 'foe'sle.'*

# Watch, Quarter and Station Bill



**Skipper:** Jack Bobbitt  
599-0557  
**1st Mate:** Len Wine  
588-5831  
**Clerk:** John Cheevers  
591-8955  
**Purser:** Bill Clarke  
868-6809  
**Historian:** Bill Fox  
253-0310  
**Editor:** Len Wine

## Editorial



I am going to use this space as an opportunity to discuss the topic of presentations at meetings. Its a subject thats been talked about for years but won't work unless we, the membership, tell the officers what we would like to see and what we would be willing to present. Several members at the last meeting mentioned that they would like to see some very basic woodworking topics covered. I, for one, would like to learn how to silver

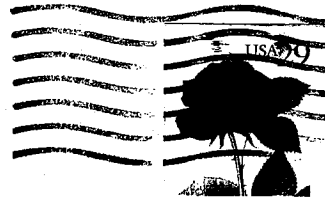
solder.

If most of you are like me then you're saying to yourself that you don't have time to come up with a well prepared lecture with slides and diagrams and handouts. You're right, you don't. But thats not what anyone wants. These topics and presentations can be as simple or as complex as you like. I would try to keep them under an hour in length and remember that you may have to be able to accomodate 20 or more people in the work area.

This whole subject really came home for me at the Mariners Museum Day in the Park. A visitor who had just recently moved here from San Diego complained that the club there spent too much time doing business and not enough doing modeling. That is a big change from 7 years ago when I was a member. We can change our club if we want to. Jack has plans to limit the business portion of the meeting. The rest of us have to come through with presentations to fill the time. Show and tell is still encouraged. If you have any requests for subjects or want to volunteer for a presentation please contact me or Jack Bobbitt.

Len

HAMPTON ROADS SHIP MODEL  
SOCIETY  
c/o Len Wine  
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John F. Cheevers AD  
414 Burnham Pl.  
Newport News, VA 23606

AA: Dues paid AD: Dues due