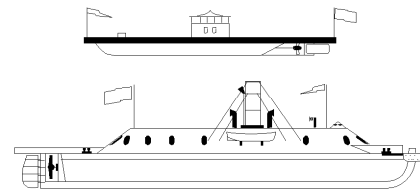


Hampton Roads Ship Model Society

Logbook

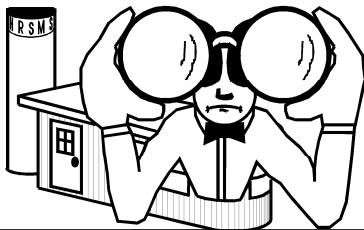


No. 225

WWW.HRSMS.ORG

MARCH, 2005

From the Pilothouse



For those of you who have not mailed--or E-mailed--your choice for the winner of the Founders' Award for this year, please get your choice to me as soon as possible. We have only a few days to go before the balloting has to close so that the engraving on the award can be accomplished in time. Mail address is: 100 Augusta, Williamsburg, VA 23188-9101.

If you are planning to attend the annual Hampton Roads Ship Model Society banquet on 19 March, please get your menu choices and checks in to Bill Clarke ASAP. His address is: 100 Odd Road, Poquoson, VA 23662. The banquet is a fine time to take your wife or best friend out for an evening as a reward for putting up with our absence at monthly HRSMS meetings or those long hours of solo ship modeling. And, besides, the Radisson really presents a great meal.

Hope to see you--and your guest(s) at the Radisson in beautiful downtown Hampton on 19 March!

Dave Baker (Skipper)

THE ANSWER

The answer to the February Mystery Photo is:
USS New Orleans, CA-32
Puget Sound Navy Yard 11 Jan. '44
Photo Number, BDG 44455

Mystery Photo



Mystery Photo #224: There is a situation comedy on prime time television that is called Two and a Half Men. It's very funny and it's all about the adventures and mis-adventures of...well...two and a half men. This month we have the equivalent of two and a half responses. I received two good replies and one verbal response that I will include. My standing rule is to not use verbal replies. I always tell an individual who approaches me with a mystery photograph guess to put it in writing and send it to me; that way I lessen the change of misquoting them. This month Dave Baker gave me a verbal response of sorts, but I feel obligated to include it due to a technicality.

The Technicality: During the refreshment portion of the last HRSMS meeting – at Dave's home – he intimated that the mystery photograph documented damage inflicted on a certain US Navy cruiser during a World War II (WWII) naval battle with the Japanese Navy. He also mentioned that he had just written about the vessel for the Naval Institute Proceedings. Ironically, that issue had safely arrived to my home and was on the "to-read" pile. Dave had, indeed, written a response and sent it to me. So you see how I feel obligated to accept and include his response; but jokingly I make the response count at 2-½.

Were these responses correct and robust enough to identify the mystery vessel? We shall see.

This image documents either a vessel that is a physical oddity, one with severe damage and fitted with a temporary bow, or some other, indescribable situation. The middle choice seems to be the most logical and believable one. And that is the sentiment contained in all three responses. Bob Comet is almost positive we are looking at a light cruiser that is missing its bow. In a three-part response

(Continued on page 2)

HRMSMS ANNUAL BANQUET

Saturday March 19, 2005
Radisson Hotel, Hampton

that falls just short of the mark, Bob thinks he is “looking at ... a picture [in Janes’ Fighting Ships] of the light cruiser *Honolulu*, a *Brooklyn* class light cruiser built in 1936, with the caption *Honolulu* with Jury Bow.”

In order to reach his conclusion, Bob reasoned that the ship was of US Navy origin based on the following observations: “There are sailors on the bow who are distinctly U.S. sailors.” And that “the tugboats are U.S. in appearance.” Bob added: “It was built before the start of WW II because it has lots of port holes, but has been upgraded to carry fire control radars on its directors.” And then this somewhat confusing bit: “The 6” turret, which was the #2 turret has had its guns removed. It is puzzling because the number 1 turret is still in place (referring to the image of *Honolulu* in Janes’.) “A possible explanation might be that the photo was taken with a field expedient bow replacement to get it to Pearl Harbor, and a more sea worthy job which included the removal of #1 turret, shown in the mystery photo was put on to get it to the west coast for permanent repair.” And followed with this: “I may be mistaken in my identity because the #3 turret isn’t visible, but that may be due to the rather extreme foreshortening in the photo caused by the low position of the cameraman.”

Looking into the vessel’s service record at the Naval Historical Center web site, Bob learned that “*Honolulu* was torpedoed in 1943 at the battle of Kolumbangara, and had temporary repairs made at Tulagi Harbor, Solomon Islands for her trip to Pearl Harbor for repairs.” This is where he theorizes the mystery photograph was made. And if that wasn’t enough punishment, Bob also learned that following permanent repairs at the Mare Island Navy Shipyard near San Francisco, “she was once again torpedoed at Leyte Gulf and was sent to Norfolk for repairs, where she remained until after the war. Quite a ship”, he says!

Following on Bob’s heels, Dave Baker thinks the Mystery Photograph shows *USS Minneapolis* wearing a temporary bow fitted after a disastrous night engagement against a group of Japanese destroyers on November 30, 1942. Known as the Battle of Tassafaronga, this Solomon Islands engagement was costly to the American force and in particularly the cruisers *Minneapolis* and *New Orleans*. Both

ships were severely damaged from torpedo hits near the bow.

Dave chose *Minneapolis*, I suppose, largely on the strength of his column in Naval Institute Proceedings. In that piece Dave notes how the cruiser fought gallantly, sinking one transport and helping to sink another. But, at “23:27 near Savo Island, Japanese surface combatants struck the ship with two torpedoes. One torpedo cost the ship nearly 80 feet of her bow and started fires.” Dave continues: “*Minneapolis* limped into Sasapi Harbor, Tulagi... where urgent repairs permitted her to sail in the company of other damaged warships... to Pearl Harbor” and then on to Mare Island for permanent repairs. Close, Dave. Oh, so close!

Finally, I received a short note from Bob Krumpen who nailed the mystery Photograph dead on. He begins: “Mystery Photo #224 looks like the *USS New Orleans* (CA-32), a heavy cruiser commissioned in 1934 and decommissioned in 1946. She lost her bow in the battle of Tassafaronga on Nov 30, 1942. The photo shows the temporary bow fitted to allow transit to Pearl Harbor.” He continues: “Sister ship *USS Minneapolis* (CA-36) suffered similar damage but did not lose the forward most turret.” Bob cites a source new to this column, and, apparently, one worth looking into. His reference is “Clear for Action”, Hailey and Lancelot, pg 218.

So, two and a half responses led to one correct response and a glimpse into the serious damage received by three US Navy cruisers in action against a determined enemy during WWII. I suppose the sailors posing near the temporary bow should be grateful to have survived one extreme night of horror. I leave you this month with another glimpse of *New Orleans* as she begins her odd journey east.

John Cheevers

**BRING
YOUR
MODELS
AND
CURRENT
PROJECTS
TO THE
MEETING**



MINUTES



HRSMS Monthly Meeting
2-11-05
Host Dave Baker

Guests: Don Dixon, 1st meeting
George Livingston 1st Meeting

The Clerk committed a navigational error and arrived at the meeting well past the appointed Hour. Omissions to this month's minutes will be included as a correction in next month's Logbook.

A Purser's report was given.

Greg Harrington gave a webmaster's report and said that the Society was being given a collection of nautical material. The details will be forthcoming.

Bill Clarke talked about the banquet and announced the menu. The price would be twenty-five dollars per plate. He said the Radisson would have rooms available for 85 dollars per night for those who do not want to drive home.

Dave said the Founders' Award Ballot would be mailed with the banquet registration. The Clerk said they would be received the following week. The Founders' Award ballot must be returned to Dave Baker no later than March 11. Members may vote by sending e-mail to Dave.

Dave asked if anyone would be interested in manning the model building booth at the Mariners' Museum on Tuesdays.

It was noted that the HRSMS Brochure will be

needed to be updated. Tim Wood said that he had the master for the brochure and would make changes as required.

Next on the agenda was the election of officers. After some turmoil over the parliamentary process, the Clerk was directed to cast one vote for the slate of officers nominated at the February meeting.

The New Officers are as follows:

Skipper, Dave Baker
Mate, John Cheevers
Purser, Eric Harfst
Clerk, Tom Saunders

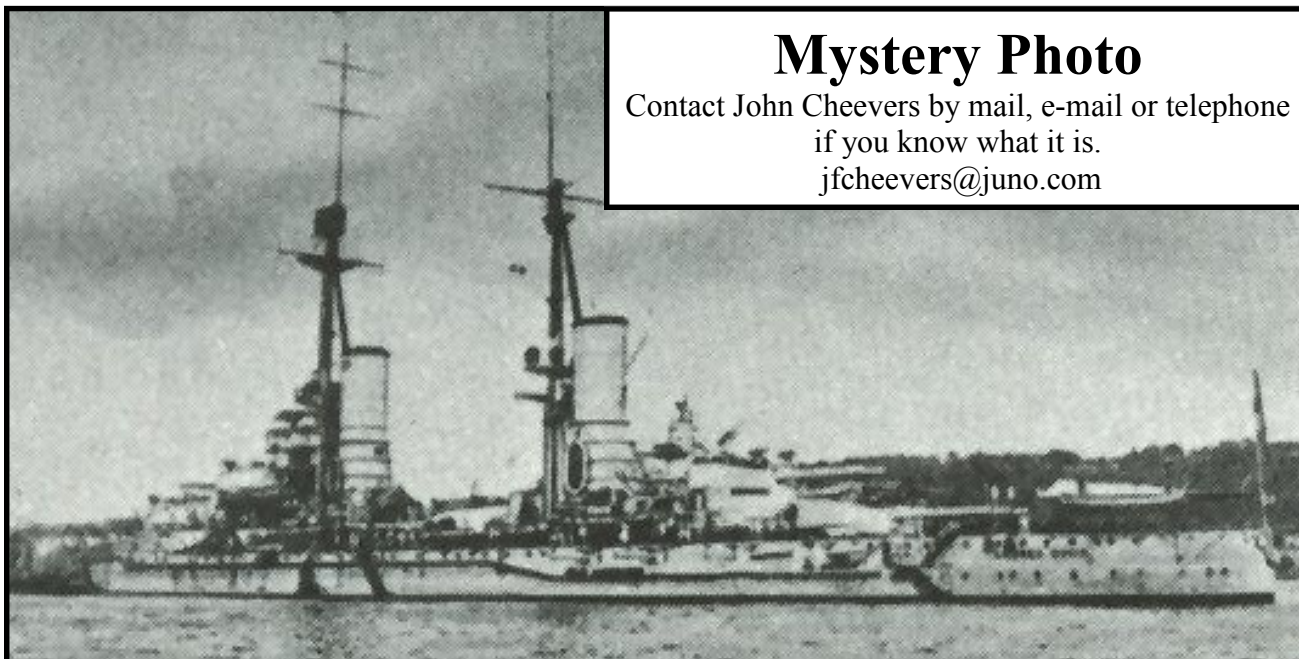
Dean Sword (the Judge) raised the question of an audit of HRSMS books. After discussion Dave appointed a committee of one, ?? to provide audit services and forward his report to Dave.

Show & Tell: Jack Bobbitt showed a digital caliper and a micro torch from Harbor Freight. Tim Wood showed a base the NRG Conference favor and said that he would be willing to cut the bases. Charles Landrum talked about the International Plastic Modeling Society Convention in Atlanta, to be held on July 20-23.

Corrections to the Minutes: The election of officers will be held at the February meeting not March as indicated in the minutes. Several gaffs and typos in the Logbook were noted and noted and noted

Dave praised John Cheevers on his investigative prowess in his finding facts in the Mystery Photo Graham Horne brought a lap-strake model.

The meeting was adjourned to a presentation "Lap Strake Models" by Jack Bobbitt.



Mystery Photo

Contact John Cheevers by mail, e-mail or telephone
if you know what it is.
jfccheevers@juno.com

NOTABLE EVENTS

MARCH

- 11 **H.R.S.M.S.** Monthly Meeting: Host, Tim Wood
"Recomended Hand Toolls for the Novice", Bob Comet
19 HRSMS Annual Banquet, Radisson Hotel, Hampton

APRIL

- 8 **H.R.S.M.S.** Monthly Meeting: Host, Bob Baycar
"How to Sharpen Tools" John Cheevers

MAY

- 13 **H.R.S.M.S.** Monthly Meeting: Host, Bill Clarke
"Types and Sources for Wood for Ship Modeling"
Jack Bobbitt
21-22 Maritime Model Expo, NASMA, CBMM

JUNE

- 10 **H.R.S.M.S.** Monthly Meeting: Host, Alan Frazer

JULY

- 8 **H.R.S.M.S.** Monthly Meeting: Host, Eric Harfst
20-23 IPMS Connvention, Atlanta Ga.

AUGUST

- 12 **H.R.S.M.S.** Monthly Meeting: Host, Charles Landrum

SEPTEMBER

- 9 **H.R.S.M.S.** Monthly Meeting: Host, Dean Sword

OCTOBER

- 14 **H.R.S.M.S.** Monthly Meeting:

NOVEMBER

- 4 - 6 **NRG Conference**, Hampton, Va.

- 12 **H.R.S.M.S.** Monthly Meeting: Host; Heinz Schiller

DECEMBER

- 9 **H.R.S.M.S.** Monthly Meeting: Host, Jack Bobbitt

JANUARY

- 21 **H.R.S.M.S.** Monthly Meeting: Host, Bob Comet
Nomination of Officers

FEBRUARY

- 11 **H.R.S.M.S.** Monthly Meeting:
Election of Officers,

WATCH, QUARTER AND STATION BILL
--



Skipper: Dave Baker (757) 565-7991
Mate: John Cheevers (757) 591-8955
Purser: Eric Harfst (757) 221-8181
Clerk: Tom Saunders (757) 850-0580
Historian: Vacent
Editors: John Cheevers (757) 591-8955
Bill Clarke (757) 868-6809
Tom Saunders (757) 850-0580
Webmaster: Greg Harrington (757) 930-4615

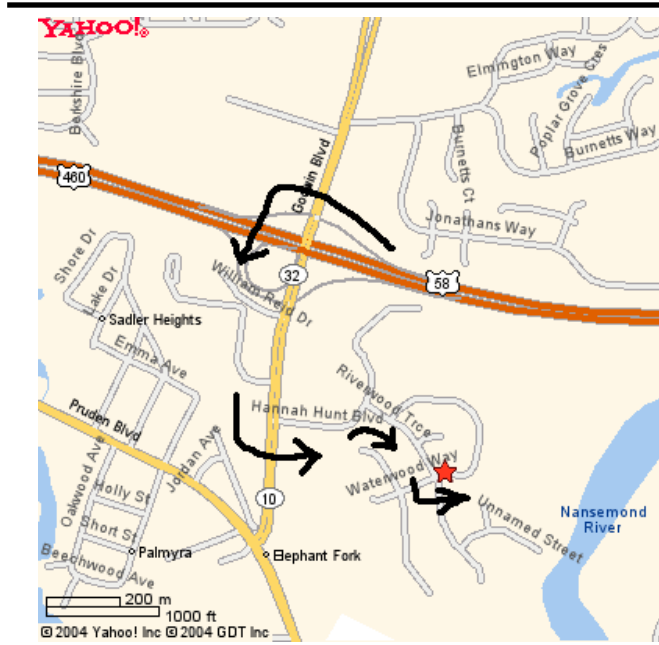
Next Meeting

Date: March 11, 2005
Place: 206 Water Pointe way, Suffolk, Va.
Time: 2000 Hours
Host: Tim Wood

From the peninsula take I-64
1: Merge onto I-664 S/HAMPTON ROADS BELT via EXIT 264 toward DOWNTOWN/NEWPORT NEWS/SUFFOLK. 18.9 miles
2: Merge onto US-460 W/US-58 W/US-13 S via EXIT 13A toward SUFFOLK. 9.9 miles
3: Take the VA-10/VA-32 ramp toward SMITHFIELD/NEWPORT NEWS/DOWNTOWN SUFFOLK. 0.2 miles
4: Turn LEFT onto VA-32 S/GODWIN BLVD/VA-10 S. 0.3 miles
5: Turn LEFT onto HANNAH HUNT BLVD. 0.1 miles
6: Turn RIGHT onto RIVERWOOD TRCE. 0.3 miles
11: Turn LEFT onto WATER POINTE WAY. <0.1 miles

From Southside take I264 west
1: Continue to follow I-264 W.
2: Merge onto I-664 N/HAMPTON ROADS BELT toward US-13/BOWERS HILL/US58/SUFFOLK/US -460/NEWPORT NEWS. 1.1 miles
3: Merge onto US-460 W/US-58 W/US-13 S via EXIT 13A toward SUFFOLK.

Proceed from step 3 above.



Thanks

The members would like to thank Dave Baker and his wife, Anne for hosting the February meeting.