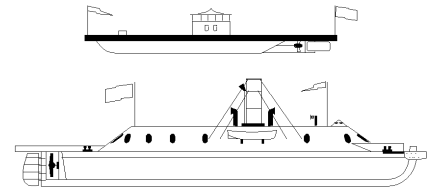


# Hampton Roads Ship Model Society

# Logbook



No. 316

WWW.HRSMS.ORG

October, 2012

## From The Bridge



I was saddened to hear of the passing of Harold Hahn on September 18<sup>th</sup> at the age of 92. In reading on the internet the many comments on his passing, I have learned a lot on how his life has impacted other ship model enthusiasts around the world.

We all know that Mr. Hahn was a gifted and highly skilled ship modeler, but many of us do not know that he almost gave up ship modeling early in his life. Taken directly from his Memoirs and in his own words “The Boston Museum of fine arts really hit me hard. I found ship models in cases located in the halls of the museum. The thing that bowled me over, and forced me to reassess my intent in ship modeling was a gallery devoted to a collection of British Admiralty models. I had been patting myself on the back for being quite a fine model builder after the few opportunities I had had to see other noted people’s work. Suddenly it was revealed to me that I hadn’t even reached first base. The exquisite workmanship and detailing that I saw in the complicated Admiralty models had me eating humble pie. I shelved any thought of continuing model building at that time. It decided me to really apply myself to the courses that I anticipated taking at art school in order to develop my potential for work in the field of fine art.” It was not until the 1960’s that Mr. Hahn would start building ship models again. In 1967, he entered his model of the Niagara in a ship model contest and won first place. Shortly thereafter, he joined the Nautical Research Guild and became a regular contributor to the NRG Journal.

Mr. Hahn’s ship modeling led him to the Mariners’ Museum. In 1968, he started building a diorama of a colonial shipyard of around 1760 and completed it four years later. He had purchased a book on the August Crabtree collection of ship models and began corresponding with Mr. Crabtree. In 1971, Mr. Hahn made the trip to Newport News and Mr. Crabtree introduced him to the Museum officers and curators. Shortly thereafter, the diorama was sold to the Museum. In 1974, the NRG Conference was held at the Mariners’ Museum and Mr. Hahn was a guest speaker.

The Mariners’ Museum announced they would hold

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## Mystery Photo



Mystery Photo #315: If you had the opportunity to read the headline story in the Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup> Daily Press, you would have been treated to a dark story detailing clogs in the heads of the Navy’s newest Aircraft Carrier USS George Bush CVN 77. This carrier is equipped with a vacuum assist toilet system—the kind rumored to affix certain ladies to the commode using suction power on modern cruise ships—and it’s very easy to loose a cleaning rag, cell phone, or toiletry if you’re not careful when you hit the flush button. Now, contrast the mental image you have of an ultra modern ship’s head with the feature starring you in the face from this month’s Mystery Photo and you can see how ship’s plumbing has changed in the last century. Our mystery vessel offers a look at the state-of-the-art bathroom facility available in the late 1800’s—namely, one canvas covered seat of ease that drops its product directly into the water you occupy or, on occasion, streaking the side of the hull. Talk about your Occupy movement....

If that introduction doesn’t properly set the stage for examining this mystery Photo, nothing will. The photograph is of poor quality, slightly faded, and a bit out of focus, but it shows a US Navy monitor type vessel idling in some protected waters. One of her ship’s boats is in the water occupied at least once. Flags fly from both the ensign and jack staffs. The slightest wisp of smoke is coming from her tall, fat stack. 2 light machine guns rest in the tub atop her military mast. Many sailors are visible over the length of her man deck, seemingly occupied in their daily duties. One, who seems to be bent over next to the main armament turret, turns out to not be a sailor at all, but the ship’s mascot...or dinner—I’m not sure which? A closer look reveals the creature to be an animal, possibly a goat.

Dave Bake replied first and identifies “This month's mystery ship [as] the U.S. Navy AMPHITRITE-class monitor MIANOTONOMO (BM 5), easily distinguished from her

*(Continued on page 2)*

## MEETING NOTICE

**Date:** Saturday October 13, 2012

**Place:** Mariners’ Museum

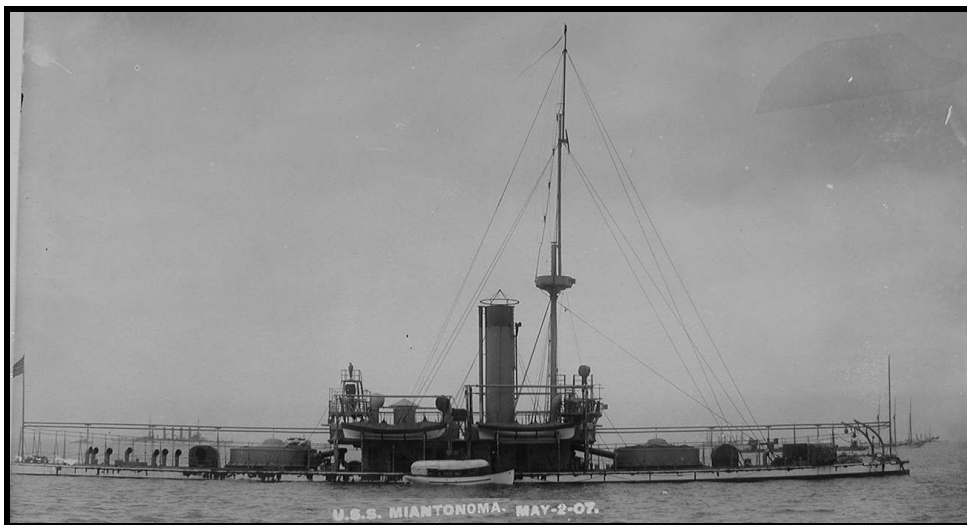
**Time:** 1100 Hours

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sisters AMPHITRITE, MONADNOCK, and TERROR by her diminutive main deck superstructure.” To which he adds and describes some of her more notable features, “...crews' heads over hanging the sides forward, tall stack, foremast with high-mounted "fighting top," clutter of boats and curved skids, and low-mounted pilothouse with searchlight platform mounted atop it on spindly supports.”

Tim Wood also replied with, “Something said Spanish American War era, that's where I started digging! This month's photo is of the *USS Miantonomoh* (BM-5).” And he goes on to tell us that the vessel is “named after a leader of the Narragansett Indians.”

If it wasn't for her great draft you'd agree that the vessel was not very large. With a length of about 263 feet and a width of 55 feet and some change her dimensions are indeed small. But when you notice her draft of almost 15 feet you can see why she has a displacement nearing 4000 tons—3995 to be exact and all but the top two or three feet of hull underwater. Her great size was necessary to support twin turrets carrying two 10-inch guns each. She also sported various smaller caliber rifles some of which are visible in the photograph. Along with this armament you can see lots of period fixtures and equipment that was standard fare for US Navy vessel in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.



Tim offers some data relative to her origin. “*USS Miantonomoh* (BM-5)...was laid down by John Roach & Sons at Chester, Pennsylvania, in 1874. The ship was launched on 5 December 1876 and was commissioned in an uncompleted condition on 6 October 1882. *Miantonomoh* then steamed from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to New York City and was decommissioned on 13 March 1883. Funding for monitors in the post-Civil War era was painfully slow and the ship remained under construction from 1883 to 1891. *Miantonomoh* was finally completed by the New York Navy Yard and was fully commissioned on 27 October 1891.”

Aside from very brief stints in service, mostly involving patrols along the East Coast and blockade duty off of Cuba during our war with Spain *Miantonomoh* was out of commission at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She did have one brief period where she “was loaned to the Maryland Naval Militia as a training ship. The ship languished at Philadelphia until 17 December 1915, when *USS Miantonomoh* was designated a target ship. She was struck from the Navy list on 31 December 1915 and what was left of the hulk was sold for scrapping on 26 January 1922.”

There is an interesting story related to how the *Amphitrite*-class monitors came to be. I suggest you Google “*Amphitrite* -class monitors” and read the version presented by Wikipedia. I believe the story was told in a prior MP when we featured *Miantonomoh*'s sister *Monadnock*. I'll leave that for you to review at your leisure—perhaps the next time you find yourself in that canvas covered convenience.

This one is occupied.

John Cheevers



## THE ANSWER

Mystery Photo 315  
USS Miantonomoh  
Photographic History of the Spanish-American War, p. 319.

## Nautical Term

Abaft Aft of. This term comes from Anglo-Saxon *beaften*, behind.

Submitted by, Tim Wood

## **Mystery Photo**

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



## NOTABLE EVENTS

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### OCTOBER

- 13 **HRSMS** Monthly Meeting: Mariners' Museum  
Presentation: Vasa , Heinz Schiller  
13 **NRG** Symposium, New York City

### NOVEMBER

- 10 **HRSMS** Monthly Meeting: Mariners' Museum

### DECEMBER

- 8 **HRSMS** Monthly Meeting: Mariners' Museum

### JANUARY

- 12 **HRSMS** Monthly Meeting: Mariners' Museum  
Nomination of officers,

### FEBRUARY

- 9 **HRSMS** Monthly Meeting: Mariners' Museum  
Election of officers

### MARCH

- 9 **HRSMS** Monthly Meeting:

### APRIL

- 12-14 Cabin Fever Expo York, Pa.

- 13 **HRSMS** Monthly Meeting: Mariners' Museum

### MAY

- 11 **HRSMS** Monthly Meeting: Mariners' Museum

### JUNE

- 8 **HRSMS** Monthly Meeting: Mariners' Museum

### JULY

- 13 **HRSMS** Monthly Meeting: Mariners' Museum

### AUGUST

- 10 **HRSMS** Monthly Meeting: Mariners' Museum

### SEPTEMBER

- 14 **HRSMS** Monthly Meeting

- 19 Talk Like a Pirate Day

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**WATCH, QUARTER  
AND  
STATION BILL**



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Chaplain: Alan Frazer (757) 867-7666

## MINUTES



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Hampton Roads Ship Model Society  
Monthly Meeting  
Newport News Park  
September 8, 2012

The Skipper opened a brief meeting before the picnic. No business was conducted and the meeting was adjourned.

Note: Any corrections to the minutes can be made at the October meeting.

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a ship modeling contest every five years starting in 1980. Mr. Hahn, being very competitive, built a model of the Hancock and entered it in the contest. The model won first place and someone asked if he was willing to sell the model. He said yes and received \$ 25,000.00 for it.

In addition to ship modeling, Mr. Hahn produced many ship model plans, two books, etchings and was very superb in figure carving. He always liked to add scale figures to his ship models as it helped the viewer visualize the size and proportions of the ship model.

Mr. Hahn's legacy of books, drawings, ship model plans and ship models will continue to inspire future generations of ship modelers. We have all benefited by the works of Mr. Hahn. For more information on Mr. Hahn, please check out [www.dlumberyard.com](http://www.dlumberyard.com) and click on the Articles tab.

The annual picnic last month was a huge success. Bill Dangler had the site prepared for us and the weather was perfect. A special thank you goes out to the members and their spouses who prepared their special dishes. It was an enjoyable day and we all got our fill of picnic food and desserts.

I will not be at this month's meeting as I will be attending the fall NRG Seminar in New York City. I hope to learn a lot from the seminar that I can pass on to the members. I look forward to seeing everyone next month.

Ryland

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If you are a friend of the captain, you can wipe your hands on the sail.

Arabian Proverb

Smooth seas do not make skilful sailors.

African Proverb