

Hampton Roads Ship Model Society

Logbook!

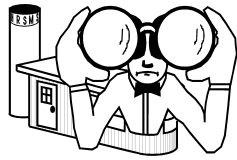


No. 380

WWW.HRSMS.ORG

February, 2018

From The Bridge



Mystery Photo



Captain's Log 2.10.18

Today marks the beginning of my second term as Skipper. I appreciate the trust shown in me and look forward to the coming year. Hopefully, the positions of Clerk, Purser, Historian and Editor will remain the same, and they choose to continue.

This year, we will ballots for the position "Mate." John Cheevers and Greg Harrington are both vying for the position. I look forward to working with either candidate. Ballots will be cast at this meeting on Saturday.

With the closing of the HRSMS exhibit on February 11th, it's time to consider where to show your work next. *How Ya Gonna Keep 'em Models Down on the Shelf (After They've Seen "Paree"?)* I suggest you bring your models to the IPMS, Old Dominion Open in just a couple of weeks. It's an event flush with hundreds of fine models of all genres.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to show what you got to an audience of enthusiastic modelers from a wide area.

SD

Mystery Photo #379: When it's your time to go, you expect to go with some modicum of dignity. You expect it, but it's not a given. And if you've reached a place where your "permanent record" could be considered impressive, you expect to go with a little extra panache. This month's Mystery Photo had what could be considered a long and distinguished service life, yet her final ignominy was ending up on the rocks. Let's see if we can find out why.

The new printer at work gave me a copy of the Mystery Photo that could best be described as over contrasted—I lost a bit of detail in the shadows. Perhaps that is an omen of things to come. I can see that the image frames a large ship sitting unevenly in the water along a coast with a rocky shoreline. I can see that the vessel is displaying a little more at the hemline than we're used to—that is, if you don't count last month's MP. And I can see that the vessel is fairly large, the superstructure alone is about six or seven decks high. There is a long forecastle deck that breaks about two thirds along her length. Four rifle-less turrets are carried, two forward and two aft—they are spun haphazardly. On main deck just below the bridge structure you can see the remains of some old casemate rifle positions. There is a single, fat stack, a heavy foremast and

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MEETING NOTICE

Date: Saturday February 10, 2018

Place: Mariners' Museum

Time: 1000 Hours

Founders' Award

This years nominees are:

Gene Berger

John Cork

Charles Landrum

A ballot will be sent before the meeting on Saturday.

Hampton Roads Ship Model Society Banquet

Saturday March 17, 2018

Warwick Yacht and Country Club, 400 Maxwell Lane, Newport News, Virginia

Reservations are due by March 12, 2018.

See the banquet menu and reservation form.

What's Happening at the Museum

February 2018. Have you made the mind-set change or are you still writing 2017 on your checks? Well, the good news for February is we're that much closer to spring and some well-deserved (after a REALLY COLD start to the year) mild weather! It's fortunate that our avocation does not, as a rule, require us to work outside! The Museum is ready for the onslaught, hopefully, of visitors who are tired of winter. Six new galleries were opened last year, a record number of gallery resets. The most obvious, of course, being the America's Cup Gallery in the erstwhile home (for over 80 years!) of The Great Hall of Steam. The most important to us, though, the 50th Anniversary Gallery of the Art of the Shipmodeler, HRSMS Style. Congratulations to all who participated. Those of us in the Model Shop directed many interested visitors to the gallery and answered numerous questions about the ships and the artists. It was a very popular gallery! Now, the first new gallery of 2018 is open. It's titled "Sailor Made" (Get it? Tailor Made, Sailor Made?) and it features devices, tools, artworks etc. made by sailors from the mid-eighteenth century to the mid-20th century. I won't give anything away, you should stop in to see it. Just turn left when you enter through the Biz entrance (toward "Defending..") and you'll walk right into it. (Two hints..ship-in-a-bottle, scrimshaw). I commented earlier on the Library Project. It's moving along on schedule and will be available through Staff about mid-June. Right now, however, the Digital Doors are open to the NOAA Monitor catalog and for the first time that exhaustive pool of history and info is electronically accessible! The catalog is indexed by Google, making it available to anyone in the world through the world's most popular search engine. Visit the whole TMM catalog at catalogs.marinersmuseum.org. Next up big event, the Battle of Hampton Roads weekend! Food, family fun, reenactors! That's March 10th and 11th. And don't forget our annual auction at Norge Hall on the 10th (thanks, Tony)!

Ron

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a light main mast. Near the aft end of the forecastle deck there is a break in the superstructure and the visible boom of a crane. Way aft we can see a stern gallery—is that an anachronism? For her livery, it looks like the gray scales will yield shades of gray in the uppers with a strong hint of camouflage, a black boot-topping, and I guess red underwear. All in all the vessel carries herself as a battleship that's seen better days.



So you either recognize the vessel, or you don't. Or, you either know her story, or you don't. The first response I received this month arrived via the telephone, he knew the vessel and the story. Now I'm starting to show some age so I practice fuzzy math, fuzzy logic, and fuzzy memory. If you call me, especially early in the MP cycle, you might get a strong dose of fuzzy memory if I try and quote you. Clarke called early this month and, as usual, I forgot most of what he had to say about this Mystery. But I do remember that he got the identification right! Everything else will probably be fuzzy.

Also we received written responses from Tim Wood

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Modeler of the Month, February, 2018



BRUCE BROWN

I came to the Watermen's Museum in 2012 after a career as Music Professor at Houghton College in western New York. I had just finished a Clipper ship, the *Flying Fish*, which I began 30 years earlier. There I found a number of models in need of care and restoration. So, that began my new career as a volunteer ship model builder. I continued to build about thirty model ships and models of the Moore House, Fire Fighting Equipment, a Sopwith Camel and a stage coach. Most recently, I constructed a diorama for the Mariners' Museum of the embarkation point for horses sent to Europe during WWI.

2018 Dues

Membership dues for 2018 are due and payable by the March meeting. The annual dues for Regular members are \$24.00 and Associate members are \$18.00.

I will be collecting dues at Saturday's meeting or you can mail a check payable to "HRSMS" to:

HRSMS
c/o Ryland Craze
5708 Oak Knoll Lane
Midlothian, VA 23112-2405

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and Dave Baker. They, too, got it right, but they will not be subjected to my fuzzy memory—I'm not too sure about theirs. Tim says that "At first glance, this month's mystery photo appears to be a poor attempt by the British of reenacting the United States Navy's Honda Point disaster. Sadly, this is a sorry end to the once proud "Grand Old Lady",

HMS *Warspite*" Dave adds that she was "a QUEEN ELIZABETH-class battleship that participated in both WW I and WW II. The photo was taken at Prussia Cove on the south coast of Cornwall. The battleship ran aground there on 23 April 1947 after breaking her tow in heavy weather while being towed from Portsmouth to Faslane, in Scotland, for scrapping. After being salvaged from the rocks, she was sold for scrap and broken up



HMS Warspite in the Puget Sound Shipyard, 1941

between 1947 and 1956 at Mounts Bay. Neat photo. Looked as though she'd been thoroughly cannibalized before being towed away 'to the knackers.'"

Knackers. Excellent turn of phrase...I will have to get out the dictionary. According to Wikipedia, knacker, as a noun, refers to "a person whose business is the disposal of dead or unwanted animals, especially those whose flesh is not fit for human consumption." As a verb, it means "very tired or exhausted." Its use in discourse as we would understand it would be something like this: "The ship, because of being beyond all usefulness, was ready for the knacker's yard." Dave's clever use of the term certainly fits the theme of this Mystery Photo and exposes us to a bit of British slang, if not humor.

As Dave mentions, *Warspite* was one 5 ships in the Queen Elizabeth class of battleships. These ships as inventory in the British Navy were superior to anything in the dreadnought category as they finally combined speed, protection, and fire-power into one platform. "As such, the *Queen Elizabeth*'s are generally considered the first fast battleships in their day." *Warspite* was commissioned on 8 March 1915, just in time to see action in the Great War, but her service there was unremarkable. In the interwar years, *Warspite* received regular upgrades beginning in 1924: That year she "underwent a partial modernisation that altered her superstructure by trunking her two funnels into one, enhanced her armour protection with torpedo bulges, swapped the high-angle 3-inch guns with new 4-inch anti-aircraft guns, and removed half her torpedo tubes." Another

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AMERICAN NAVAL HISTORY

1810

February: The ketch *Vesuvius*, Lt. Reed, and a boat party under Midshipman F.H. Gregory capture the ships *Duke of Montebello*, *Diomede* and *Alexandria* off the mouth of the Mississippi.

May 1: Macon's Bill Number 2. After the expiration of the Non-intercourse Act, Congress authorizes trade with both Great Britain and France to resume.

1811

January 9: The schooner *Revenge*, Lt. Oliver Hazard Perry, grounds and is lost off Newport, Rhode Island. No loss of life.

May 1: HMS *Guerriere* stops the American ship *Spitfire* and impresses several seamen off Sandy Hook, New Jersey.

May 6: The US frigate *President* is sent to patrol off Sandy Hook.

May 16:

Around 12:30pm, the US frigate *President* encounters the British Sloop-of-war *Little Belt*, about 45 miles northeast of Cape Henry, Virginia. The US frigate *President* is unable to identify the other vessel as anything but a man-of-war. The *President* overtakes the *Little Belt* around 8:30pm and firing begins. Later, both sides accuse the other of firing the first shot. Commodore Rodgers of the *President* sends a boat to the *Little Belt* to express his regrets and offers help for her repairs. Rodgers is commended by President Madison and Secretary Hamilton.

August 7: The Gunboat No. 162, attacks and cripples the pirate schooner *La Franchise* off Pensacola, Florida.

August 10: Off Mobile, Alabama, the Gunboat No. 162 captures the pirate schooner *Santa Maria*.

September 11: Between Brassia and Baratavia, Louisiana, Gunboat No. 162 captures the pirate ship *La Divina Pastora*, the schooners *La Sophie* and *Le Vengeance*.

1811 Ends with no further actions.

Bob Moritz

Election of Officers

There will be an election for the office of mate. The nominees are John Cheevers and Greg Harrington. The Skipper will have ballots at the February meeting.

Nautical Term

Samson Post

(1) A single heavy bitt. (2) A mast to support cargo or boat cranes. The origin of the term is uncertain; it could be a nickname after the strongman of biblical fame.

Tim Wood

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upgrade lasting from 1934 to 1937 “gave the Admiralty a virtually new warship, replacing internal machinery and significantly changing the battleship’s appearance and capabilities.” One of the features was the cut down area I mentioned which provided space for a catapult and an airplane hangar. This upgrade is virtually what we see in the

Mystery Photo.



HMS Warspite aground off Prussia Cove

Her service in the Second World War took her to places in the Mediterranean and Scandinavian waters. It was in the Med during the Battle of Crete that *Warspite* received serious damage at the hands of the Luftwaffe. Damage so serious that her repairs were not carried out in theatre or even regionally. *Warspite* steamed all the way to the Bremerton Naval Shipyard (the online site term, we know it as Puget Sound Navy Yard in Bremerton) on the west coast of the United States. This was in the summer of 1941—hum? She re-entered the war in December of that year with service in the Indian Ocean and in and around the Mediterranean. There, in 1943, she suffered additional damage at the hands of the Luftwaffe. On “6 June 1944 *Warspite* was the first ship to open fire, bombarding the German battery at Villerville, France from a position 26,000 yards offshore, to support land-

ings by the British 3rd Division on Sword Beach.” She fired her guns for the last time when she “bombarded targets on Walcheren Island on 1 November 1944.”

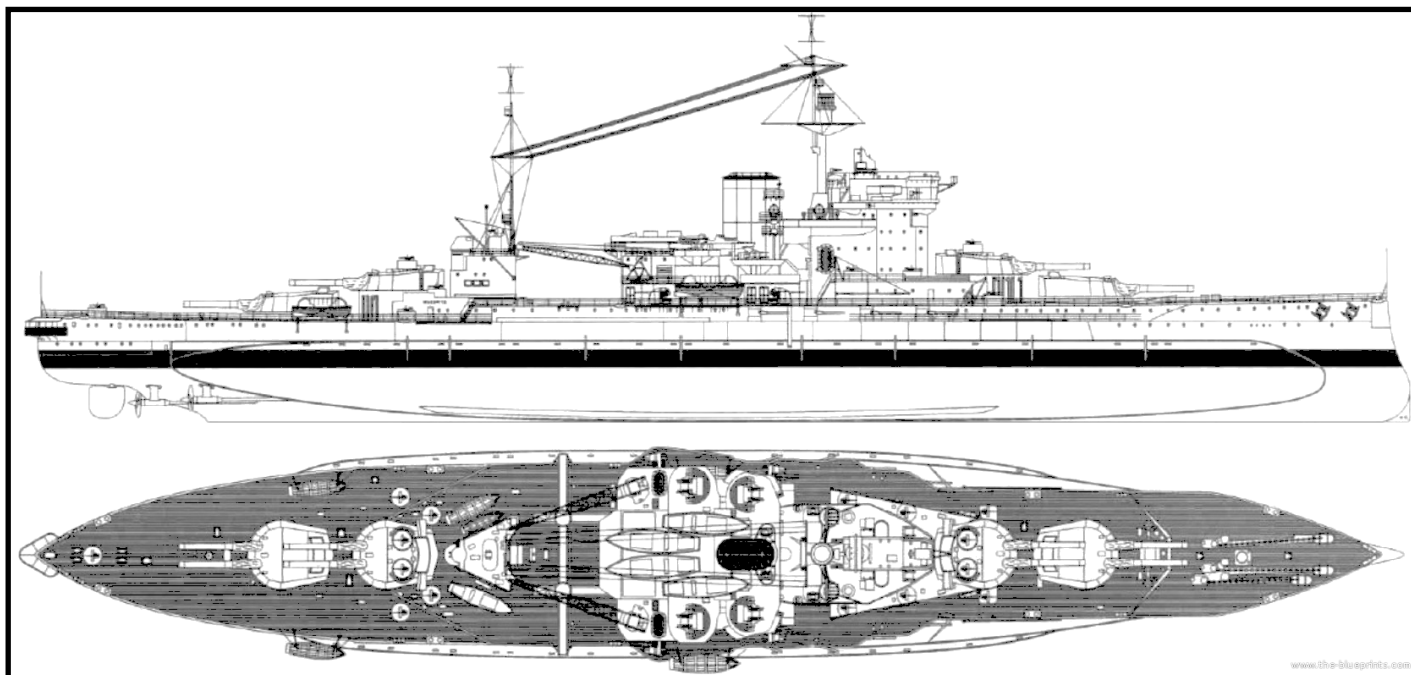
Following the war, *Warspite*—like almost all the world’s battleships—was considered redundant as technology was rapidly changing the face of naval warfare. An initiative to save her as a museum ship failed and in July of 1946 the old warhorse was consigned to the knackers. But that obviously is not the end of this story.



Dave has already told us about how the old warship parted her tow line during a storm near Lands End in Cornwall and was driven aground in Prussia Cove. What should have been an uneventful end at the knacker’s yard became a nine year odyssey with the ship breakers and salvage teams. *Warspite* remained on the shore at Prussia Cove until efforts to refloat her in 1950 were successful and she was towed and beached several miles away at St. Michaels Mount (not to be confused with a similarly named place on the other side of the channel). There she was taken apart for scrap and it’s said that “by the summer of 1955 she disappeared from view.”

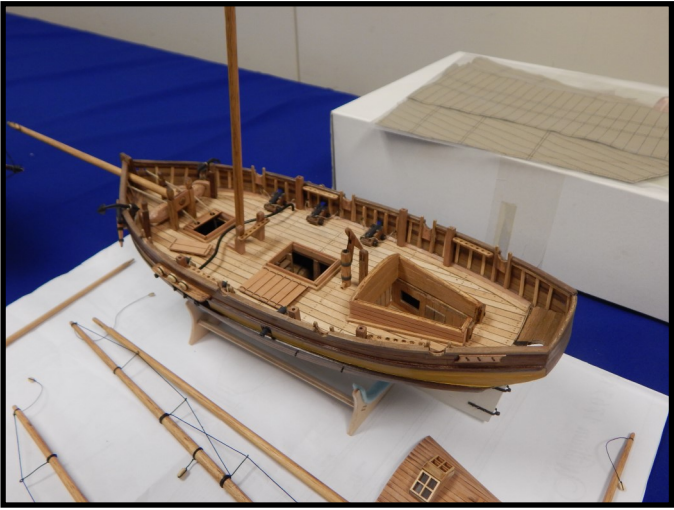
Some excellent images of *Warspite* on the rocks can be found at: <http://photographs.helstonmuseum.org.uk>

John Cheevers

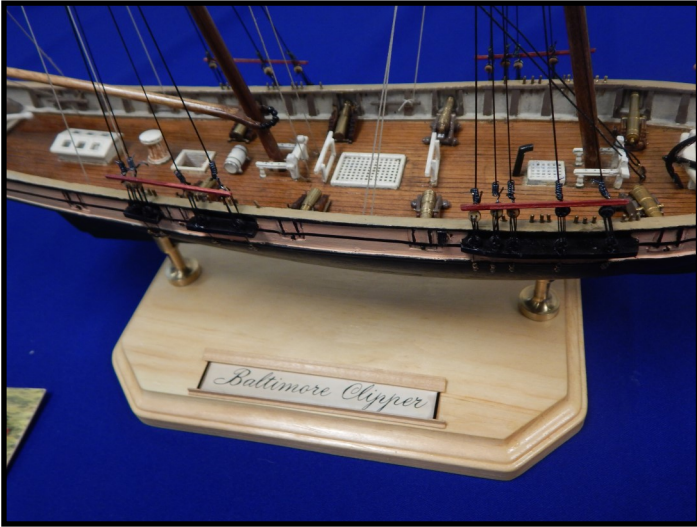




Tony Clayton's London Canal Boat



Stewart Winn's Duke William



Bruce Brown's Baltimore Clipper



Hank Ghittino's Pride of Baltimore



Bob Moritz's Alexander Hamilton



Yves Pochard's Amerigo Vespucci

IPMS Richmond Presents
Old Dominion Open
Scale Model Show and Contest
February 24, 2018

Open
Old Dominion



Richmond Raceway Complex

The Henrico Building

600 E Laburnum Richmond, VA 23222

Doors open 8:30 Registration closes 12:30

Over 70 Model Categories
Hobby Vendors
Special Awards
Huge Kit Drawings

See More about IPMS ...

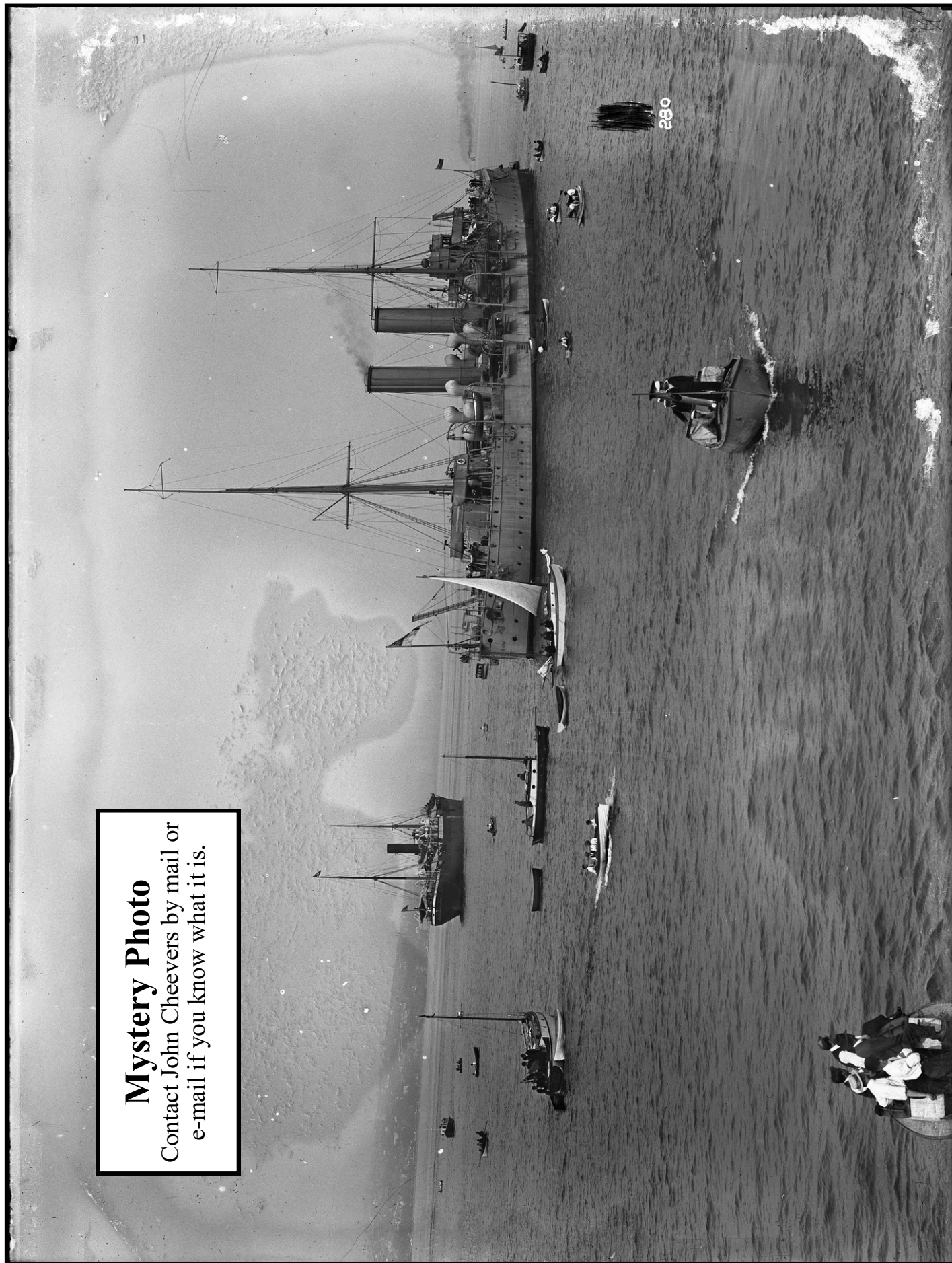
Blog: <http://ipmsrichmond.blogspot.com>

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/IPMSRichmond>



Mystery Photo

Contact John Cheevers by mail or e-mail if you know what it is.



NOTABLE EVENTS

FEBRUARY

- 10 **HRSMS** Monthly Meeting: Mariners' Museum
Presentation, SS United States Construction, Gene Berger
Election of officers
24 The Old Dominion Open Scale Model Show & Contest

MARCH

- 10 **HRSMS** Monthly Meeting: Norge Hall, Auction
17 **HRSMS** Banquet, Warwick Yacht Club.

APRIL

- 14 **HRSMS** Monthly Meeting: Mariners' Museum
Presentation, Pat Roll, Celestial Navigation

MAY

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

JUNE

- 9 **HRSMS** Monthly Meeting: Mariners' Museum
Presentation, Dave Baker, TBA

JULY

- 14 **HRSMS** Monthly Meeting: Mariners' Museum
Presentation, John Cheevers, TBA

AUGUST

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

SEPTEMBER

- 8 **HRSMS** Monthly Meeting
19 Talk Like a Pirate Day

OCTOBER

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

NOVEMBER

- 10 **HRSMS** Monthly Meeting: Mariners' Museum
Presentation, Marty Gromovsky, TBA

DECEMBER

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

JANUARY

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

MINUTES



Hampton Roads Ship Model Society
Monthly Meeting
Mariners' Museum
January 13, 2018

Guest: Yves Pochard, 2nd meeting

The meeting was called to order by Skipper Gene Berger at 1010 hours. The guest, Yves Pochard, was recognized. There were no corrections to the minutes. Ryland Craze gave the Purser's report. Greg Harrington gave the web-master's report and stated he had added some photos in the model albums and also added a date joined field to each member's web profile.

Old Business: The Skipper and Ryland Craze discussed the IPMS Richmond Old Dominion Open show to be held on February 24th. Greg Harrington stated that planning was in effect for the Banquet in March and he would have details in the February Logbook.

New Business: The Skipper opened the floor for nominations of officers. The nominations were as follows: Skipper – Gene Berger, Mate – John Cheevers and Greg Harrington, Purser – Ryland Craze and Clerk – Tom Saunders. The election process will be concluded at the February meeting. The Skipper appointed Dave Baker, Ron Lewis and Greg Harrington to be members of the Founder's Award committee. Nominees will be announced at the February meeting and voted on in March. The Skipper gave the exit plan for removing models from the 50th anniversary exhibit that ends on February 10th. The models will have to be removed on February 12th to the 16th.

Show and Tell – Tony Clayton showed his first and last paper model of a London Canal Boat. Bill Altice showed his variable heat hot air gun. Ryland Craze circulated several issues of "Sea Classics" magazine and showed the progress on his 18th Century Longboat. Bruce Brown showed his progress on a started Baltimore Clipper kit he obtained. Yves Pochard showed the progress on his kit of the Amerigo Vespucci. Stewart Winn showed his progress on the Duke William that he is building for the Museum. Marty Gromovsky showed the progress of his scratch built Claire E. Randall coal schooner. Bob Moritz showed his progress on the resin kit of the Alexander Hamilton. Hank Ghittino showed his Model Shipways kit of the Pride of Baltimore.

The meeting was adjourned to a presentation by Tony Clayton on Canal Boats and London Canals.

Thanks to Ryland Craze for taking the January minutes in the Clerk's absence.

WATCH, QUARTER AND STATION BILL



Skipper: Gene Berger (757) 850-4407
Mate: Ron Lewis (757) 874-8219
Purser: Ryland Craze (804) 739-8804
Clerk: Tom Saunders (757) 850-0580
Historian: Tim Wood (757) 481-6018
Editors: John Cheevers (757) 591-8955
Bill Clarke (757) 868-6809
Tom Saunders (757) 850-0580
Webmaster: Greg Harrington (757) 930-4615
Photographer: Marty Gromovsky

THE ANSWER

The answer to mystery photo 379:
HMS Warspite, Aground at Prussia Cove, Cornwall, UK