

HAMPTON ROADS SHIP MODEL SOCIETY

NO. 65

NEWSLETTER

November 1991

IN MEMORIAM

MARVIN L. BRYANT

October 5, 1991

Our last active founder. He will be long remembered for his fine work, his sparkling humor, and his indomitable spirit. Our sympathy to Helen and his family.

In October we mourned, we worked, and we played. What passed for a monthly meeting took place aboard Paul Brindza's boat on Saturday, October 12 (the *real* Columbus Day, plus 499). A small crew of members and guests enjoyed Paul's hospitality on the York River. No minutes would have been kept even if the Purser *had* been able to attend. Perhaps just as well.

Two weeks later, two years of planning and hard work bore fruit as we hosted the 18th annual conference of the Nautical Research Guild with a memorable weekend of events at the fine new facilities of Hampton's Holiday Inn Coliseum and The Mariners' Museum. (If we may brag, this is the fourth time HRSMS has welcomed the NRG to Hampton Roads; two groups elsewhere have each hosted two conferences. Our previous ventures were in 1974, 1980 and 1985.)

With Virginia's Fall weather at its finest, events got under way (literally!) at 1030 on Friday, October 25, as we departed Newport News for a grand harbor tour, passing SS *United States*, Newport News Shipbuilding (carriers USS *George Washington* and USS *Enterprise*), the Norfolk Naval Base, downtown Norfolk and several shipyards, and the Norfolk Naval Shipyard (which is in Portsmouth; the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard is in Kittery, Maine. Odd.) Grey ships everywhere. After a detour past the Coast Guard base, also in Portsmouth, we emerged again into Hampton Roads in time to see a large cruise ship shining through the haze. Followed her up the James River (passing *United States* again) and caught her as she slipped into her berth at Newport News Cruise Terminal; she was *Royal Viking Sun*. Returning to our own berth, after five hours, we got a good look at Waterman Lines' LASH ship *Robert E. Lee*. What more could Virginians ask?

Friday evening, 235 of us enjoyed a reception among the 200 ship models (including 53 entries in the Scale Ship Model competition) and other exhibits at The Mariners' Museum.

While nearly 40 spouses enjoyed a fine Saturday bus trip to Williamsburg, the modelers settled in for a day's business and pleasure with the vendors and speakers at the Holiday Inn. Informative, and sometimes entertaining, talks were given by John Fryant, Rob Napier, Bob Cook (a spectacular model of *Bonhomme Richard!*), Dana Wegner, our own Jack Bobbitt, and Joe McCleary (with a beautiful r/c model of a Royal Navy steam picket boat, along with a sharp saber *cum* pointer).

On Saturday evening we hosted the Awards Dinner for The Mariners's Museum, with Museum Director Bill Wilkinson presenting 56 Competition awards, including, of course, two to Jack Bobbitt. We gave out around 90 door prizes, including 50 brass yachts used as table decorations.

We tried something new on Sunday morning: a ship model flea market which appeared to be wildly successful. In the afternoon some of our members, along with invited guests, put on a good display of operating r/c models before a fascinated audience in front of The Mariners' Museum.

Bill Clarke served as general chairman of the conference, while John Cheevers handled registrations, Len Wine put everything together on his computer, Gene Berger and David Tagg organized the r/c program, and the Purser watched the flood (and then the ebb) of the bank account. Bill and John shared emcee duties. Others who helped are too numerous to thank individually, but we can't forget the speakers, or the vendors, especially those who donated door prizes.

Next Meeting

Friday, November 8, at the home of Heinz and Mareke Schiller, 337 Green Spring Court, Hampton. Phone [REDACTED] East on Mercury Blvd. to left on Fox Hill Road. At far end of Willow Oaks Mall, turn right on Bromley Drive, cross bridge and right on Elizabeth Lakes Drive to Green Spring Court, 5th little street on left.

On the Bridge:

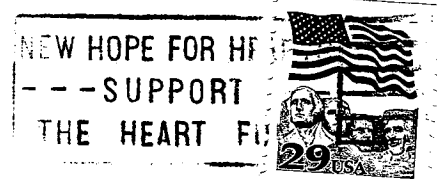
Skipper: John Cheevers 591-8955
1st Mate and Historian: Bill Fox 253-0310

Purser: Alan Frazer 865-7300

1/5

8H

HAMPTON ROADS SHIP MODEL SOCIETY
c/o Alan D. Frazer



TO: John F. Cheevers A
[REDACTED]