

HAMPTON ROADS SHIP MODEL SOCIETY

NO. 77

NEWSLETTER

November 1992

Here and There in October

There was no formal meeting in October, due to the planned day sail on Paul Brindza's boat. Thus no minutes, so we'll give you something else to read.

The trip failed to materialize, for a combination of reasons not yet clear, perhaps including the fact that everything was happening on the same weekend, October 17-18. These sails have been good fun in the past for those who enjoy a day on real water in a real boat.

The Society again participated in "Celebrate the Park" on October 18 at The Mariners' Museum, with David Tagg, Gene Berger, Graham Horne and Scott Newell making arrangements, manning the booth, and providing some of the R/C action on Lake Maury along with a good turnout from the Virginia Beach group. As many as ten boats were operating at a time, from 12:30 to 5 o'clock. Scott's battleship NEW JERSEY was quite a hit, in more ways than one: we understand it took some damage when colliding with a dock. Gene's big submarine, not yet ready for the water, also got a lot of attention with its great size and beautiful machinery.

Jack Bobbitt and Alan Frazer attended the Nautical Research Guild Conference, held this year in Philadelphia, October 16-18. Friday featured a bus tour of Philadelphia Naval Shipyard, where we could look down from the bus windows at the underwater stern, rudders and shafts of the drydocked FORRESTAL. CONSTELLATION was also in for overhaul, and we walked next to CORAL SEA, under the great hammerhead crane which should be, if it is not, some sort of national engineering historical landmark. Elsewhere in the yard, a smaller drydock is occupied by one of the destroyers (ADAMS class?) that was being reconditioned for sale to Greece until somebody discovered that it had a lot more problems than expected and the Greeks could not afford it. So there is a handsome, elderly destroyer, with a lot of upgrading done and no visible future. IOWA and WISCONSIN, and cruisers SALEM and DES MOINES, still look pretty good in layup, but poor NEWPORT NEWS is a sad sight, with her guns lopped off and a sloppy coat of what looked more like dirty whitewash than paint.

Saturday's Conference speakers included George Dukes, demonstrating a very large ropewalk for making long pieces of large-sized lines which he needs for large-scale models. Ben Morse showed how he made soldered steel-plate hulls for interesting models of a deepsea tug and a Great Lakes steamer. Ralph Preston showed slides and his specialized tools for large, elaborate ships in bottles, including YOUNG AMERICA and a lovely Viking Ship, both now in The Mariners' Museum. Tom Todd discussed the interests and emotions that go into our selection of models to build, illustrating his comments with slides of some he has chosen to build, others he might like to, and many that he would not. Mike Costagliola, in his fifth NRG appearance, was as great as ever with tips, new and old, on different ways of doing things. And Maurice Smith invited us all to next year's conference in the lovely small city of Kingston, Ontario.

The Philadelphia Ship Model Society did their usual fine job on this conference. May our hosts in Kingston do as well.

Finally, Jack Bobbitt has a long article and several shop notes in the September issue of *Nautical Research Journal*. This is material from his award-winning documentation of the Continental Frigate VIRGINIA.

Next Meeting:

Friday, November 13, at the home of Heinz and Mareke Schiller, 337 Green Spring Court, Hampton. Phone 851-7387. East on Mercury Blvd. to left on Fox Hill Road (look for Shell station after King Street overpass). 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 cul de sac on left.

On the Bridge:

Skipper: Bill Altice 748-4880
Purser: Alan Frazer 865-7300

1st Mate: Leonard Wine 588-5831
Historian: Bill Fox 253-0310

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HAMPTON ROADS SHIP MODEL SOCIETY
c/o Alan D. Frazer
108-G Indian Summer Drive
Yorktown, VA 23693-1034



**NEXT MEETING:
NOVEMBER 13**

TO: John F. Cheevers
414 Burnham Place
Newport News, VA 23606

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