

HAMPTON ROADS SHIP MODEL SOCIETY

No. 87

NEWSLETTER

September 1993

Twelve members and four guests gathered on August 13 at Graham and Moira Horne's charming home in the far suburbs of Richmond, where Skipper Bill Altice called the crew to order at 2013. Karl Harrelson made his third guest appearance, while Chuck Reynolds and Robert Dillingham made their first, all the way from Chesapeake. Our fourth guest was a long-time member Kent Wade, who could not resist a meeting in the Richmond area.

Old Business

1. Bill Fox had been working on open house at the Watermen's Museum this weekend (August 14-15), and members were invited to attend and help to show the HRSMS flag (or banner).
2. A "bi-society" meeting with the Washington club is tentatively scheduled for the first weekend in November at Solomon's Island. Bill Altice and Len Wine will work with Calvert Marine Museum and look into lodging. Presenters are needed from both clubs.
3. Bill Clarke showed photographs from Festival in the Park at Mariners' Museum in June.

New Business

1. Karl Harrelson, on his third visit, was proposed and elected to membership. Welcome!
2. Bill Clarke had a call from Bob Moritz, who wants to rejoin but has an eye problem and can't drive at night. Bill Altice or someone from Richmond will arrange to pick him up for meetings on lower Peninsula.
3. Purser announced that a new roster has been made up and copies would be distributed at the end of the meeting (but later found he had not brought them! Sorry.)
4. Bill Clarke reported progress on NRG Conference '95. Asked us to think about (a) repeat of same boat cruise, or a variation (Nauticus as possible destination?) on Friday, and (b) buffet vs. sit-down dinner Saturday night.

Sharing

1. Tom Hesse distributed copies of Blue Ridge Tool catalog and Dave Merriman's June talk.
2. Alan Frazer reported on new President and CEO, John Hightower, at Mariners' Museum; (b) Bill Wiseman's Arab dhow model, newly installed, (c) a newly donated builder's model of British 3-island cargo steamer of 1913.
3. Bill Altice reported on (a) Accu-Flex paint for airbrushing, (b) Broadaxe from North Jersey club, (c) Washington Ship Model Society (Alan Ryall now president; Joel Labow, mate; Charles Heidler, purser; Dick Strange, clerk).
4. Guest Chuck Reynolds is interested in a fiberglass tug project.
5. Guest Bob Dillingham has built WILLIE L. BENNETT and AMERICA (1851).
6. Karl Harrelson wants info on Bermuda sloops.

TECH TALK

Host Graham Horne showed his new (and second) model of a Whitehall boat, this one a smaller model of an 1879 "Bailey Whitehall" in the Mystic Seaport collection. He started with an explanation and some philosophy on why he is interested in small, clinker-built wooden boats; followed with some history of the Whitehall type and its many uses; then details of construction, starting with an apt bit of doggerel for small-craft builders: "The truth lies in the strakes/ the whole strakes/ and nothing but the strakes/ so help me plod." (Speaking as one who has been there several times, the purser can confirm that planking and fastening a small-craft model can indeed seem "plodding," but the beauty of a successful job, such as Graham has achieved, is worth every moment of it.)

As part of his presentation, Graham showed some special tools that were themselves works of art in their use of finished hardwoods and polished metal: a jig to support the molds; a special miter box; and an oar-bending jig for the "spoon" curve in the oar blades.

A most interesting talk, and copies of Graham's notes are appended to the official minutes.

At 2140, we adjourned to Graham and Moira's beautiful and delicious late supper. Thanks for the hospitality.

NEXT MEETING: *Saturday*, September 11, our annual cruise aboard Paul Brindza's boat. Please call 898-3734 (Paul) or 865-7300 (Purser) by Thursday night so we know know you are coming. Paul has moved CRYSTEL closer to Gloucester Point, just for our convenience(!). Cross the Coleman Bridge to 1st light on Route 17 in Gloucester County. Turn right, one block, and then left, one more block, to fork. Take right fork, go about one mile and turn right on Route 1210 to end at York River Yacht Haven. Look for Paul and CRYSTEL at first pier. Arrive at 0930 for 1000 departure. "Bring cameras and pray for good weather," says Paul. But, just in case, rain date is Sunday, September 12. Paul will try not to have "heavy condensation in the bilge" this year.

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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c/o Alan D. Frazer
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NEXT MEETING:
SEPTEMBER 11 (CRUISE!)

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

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