

# HAMPTON ROADS SHIP MODEL SOCIETY

No. 93

NEWSLETTER

March 1994

Nineteen members and five guests gathered for dinner at the Admiral Lord Nelson Pub in Hampton at 0730 on February 18. An excellent dinner, consisting of shepherd's pie, carrots, red cabbage, and peach & blackberry crumble was provided by the pub, compliments of gracious host and great waiter David Tagg.

The formal meeting commenced at 2040. Guests were Tom Saunders (1st time), Ulrich Guenther (2nd time), Mike Moritz, Sheila Harrelson and Gary Ferguson. There was no purser's report, but the skipper reminded all that dues are due as of March 1. Len Wine took minutes.

## Old Business

1. With only one nominee for each elective office, the skipper directed the first mate, in the absence of the purser, to cast one vote electing these new officers: Skipper, Jack Bobbitt; Mate, Len Wine; Purser, Bill Clarke; Clerk, John Cheevers. Skipper-elect Bobbitt then announced that the appointed officers would be: Historian, Bill Fox; Editor, Len Wine.
2. Skipper Altice reported that the Washington Society had selected May 14-15 for the joint meeting. There was some question whether speakers would have sufficient time to prepare, and also concern about availability of meeting space and guest rooms, as well as seasonal rate changes at Solomons in May. Consensus is to try for a late-October or early-November weekend. Skipper will check at Solomons before proposing a new date.
3. There was discussion of the annual banquet. With many questions open, the skipper asked the members to let the officers complete the arrangements. Subsequent decision is that the event will take place at James River Country Club on Saturday, March 26. Jack Bobbitt has asked Bob Sumrall to speak on dockyard models, instead of speakers previously suggested. See separate announcement in this issue for details and registration.
4. Gene Berger reported that the Life Saving Museum had asked for members to put on a program the next day (February 19!). Responding to Gene's impassioned plea, Len Wine and Harvey Williams showed up, along with Gene. They spoke with about 50 people.
5. Bill Clarke reported on plans for 1995 NRG Conference. Plans appear pretty much as in 1991, with a possible stop at Nauticus added to the boat tour. Proposed speakers are Bob Sumrall, Joe McCleary, Jack Bobbitt, Roger Cole. Vendors available all three days.

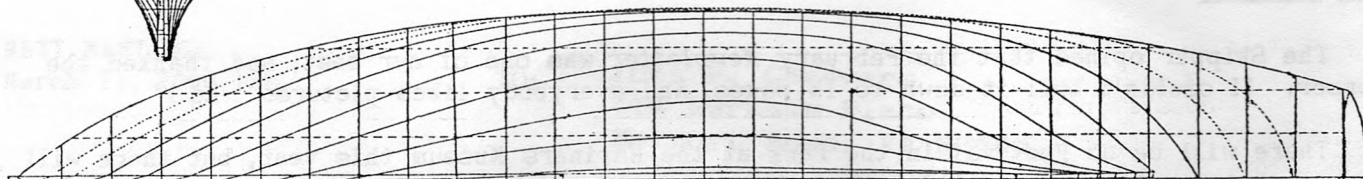
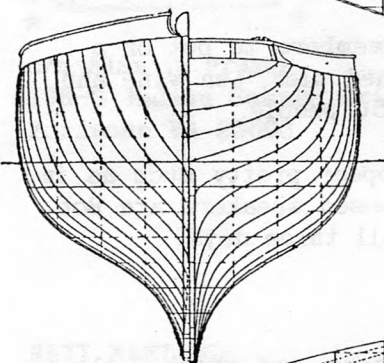
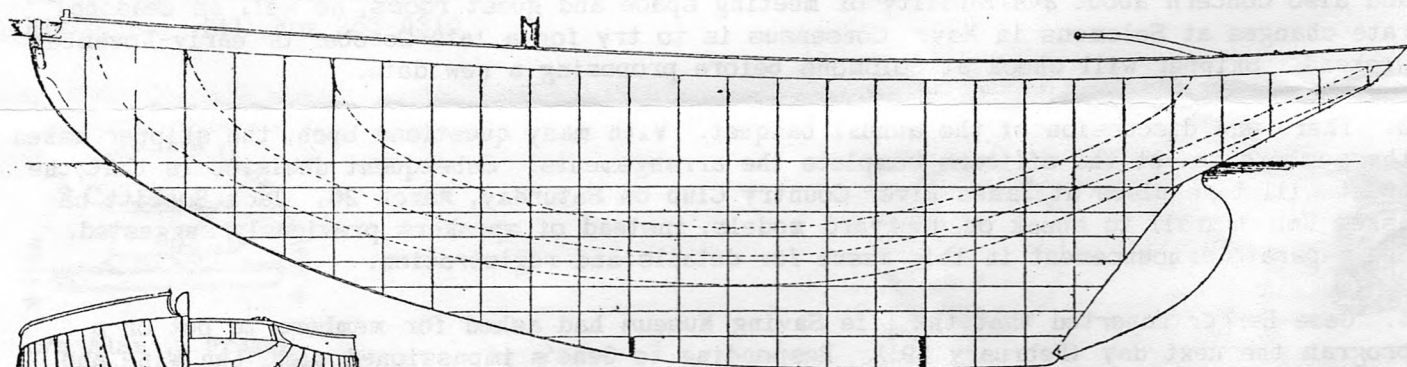
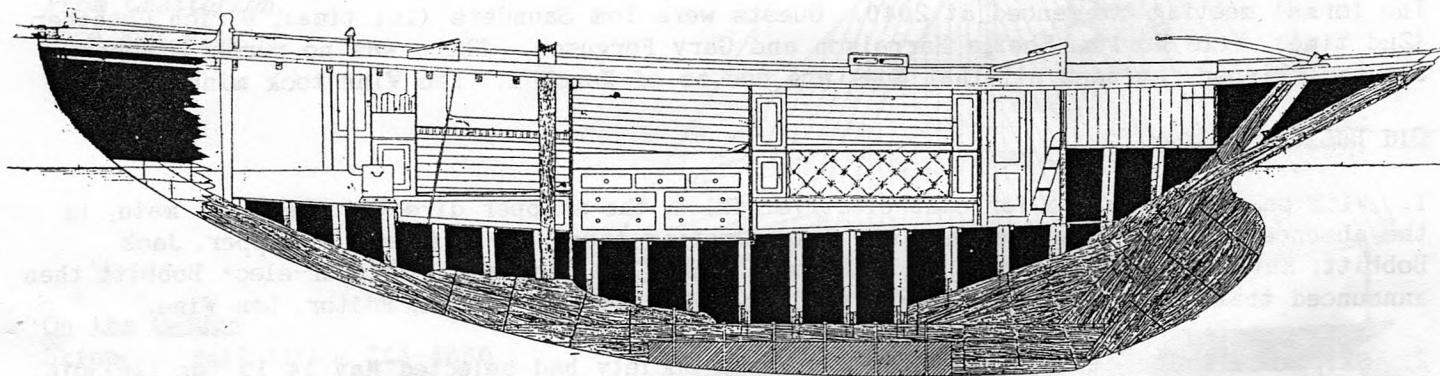
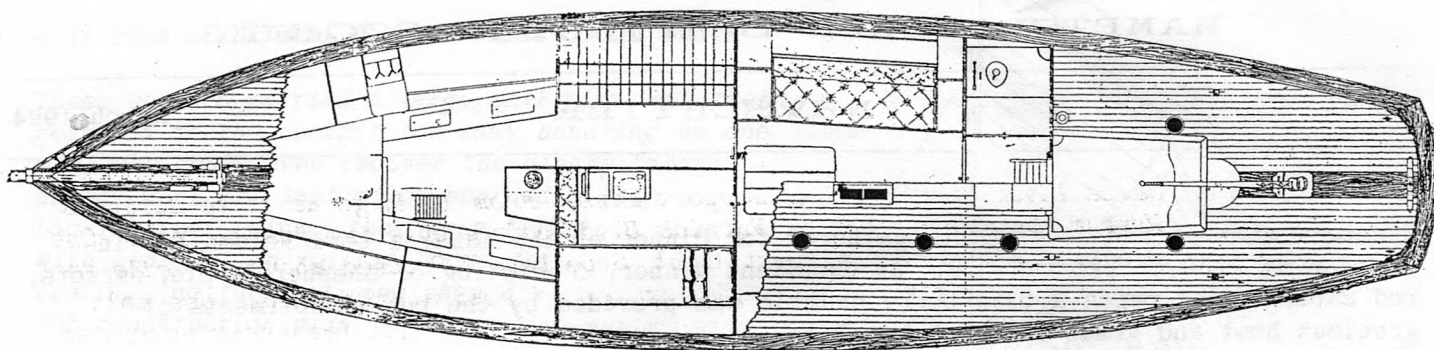
## New Business

1. The Skipper opined that the February *Newsletter* was one of our best, and thanked the purser. [I couldn't boil it down to 1½ pages, and everybody likes pictures. -Ed.]
2. There will be no Festival in the Park at the Mariners Museum this year, but there will be alternate events, date and details unclear, at which R/C models will be welcome.

## Sharing

1. Bill Altice highly recommends *Tin Can Man*, a book by Emory Jernigan, a destroyer sailor during WWII. Mr. Jernigan is from Chester, Virginia.

(Minutes continued on page 3)



**The Bristol Channel Pilot Cutter Faith**

One of "the finest fore-and-afters in the world," according to E. Keble Chatterton, was the Bristol Channel pilot cutter from the West of England. He called them unrivalled for their combined attributes of speed, seaworthiness and handling, in any kind of weather. While no scale is given for Faith, her lines plan very likely has one-foot waterlines and two-foot station spacing; she appears to be about 56 feet overall. *From Fore and Aft, 1912.*

(Minutes continued from page 1)

2. Bill also had a request, through the purser, for someone to repair a *Flying Cloud* model. Contact Bill or Alan if you are interested in this work.
3. Gene Berger showed his whole 9'9"-model of WWII fleet sub USS *Balao*, 90 to 95 per cent complete after two years. Operating features include both screws, bow and stern planes, stabilizer, ballast, secondary ballast and trim tanks, pneumatic torpedo tubes, radar and periscopes. Beautifully engineered and detailed, including realistic weathering and marine growth (check out the starfish). Despite rumors heard by the purser after the meeting, Gene says its launch is still in the future. It *has* been in the test tank.
4. Jack Bobbitt again brought his pungy schooner, completely painted with hand-brushed oils, and in process of being weathered. Windlass and wheel have been fitted.
5. Bob Sanderson brought his *Santa Maria*, started in 1992 from a Billings kit. Bob was disappointed with the engineering of the kit but has put it together nicely, with particularly nice planking.
6. John Cheevers again brought his tug *Huntington*, now with deckhouse and margin pieces around the deck fittings; other fittings await installation. John had good tips on how to get camber and sheer in the deckhouse roof.
7. Tom Hesse showed pictures of the 1910 *Hudson Flyer* airplane model he made for the Hampton Roads Naval Museum's new Eugene Ely exhibit at Nauticus. All cherry and brass, and beautiful.
8. Tom Abbott brought his 1:96 scale *Virginia*, ex-*Merrimack*. Plans are single sheet from Mariners Museum. Ten months construction, including bottom coppered with adhesive strips; looks great.
9. Chuck Reynolds is building a small table saw. Aluminum table has been made, with milled blade slot and T-slot. We look forward to progress reports.
10. Karl Harrelson's parents cut down a big holly tree; contact Karl if you want holly.

**Adjournment** 2216 hours, with thanks to our hosts.

[The above is based largely on Len Wine's excellent, detailed minutes. -Ed.]

**From the Purser** All but two members' mailing labels now have a "D," meaning Dues are Due. Those with the "D," please pay the Purser in March, so I can turn over a clean set of books.

**Next Meetings:**

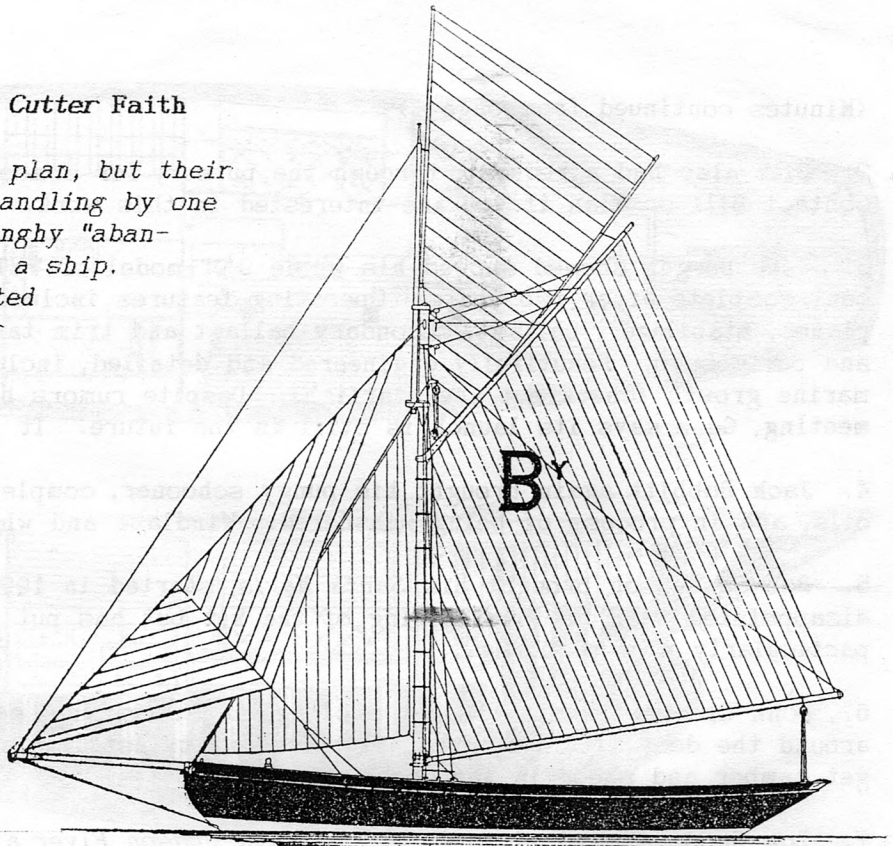
A. **Friday, March 11, 2000 hrs., at Gene Berger's**, 105 Long Bridge Road, Hampton; phone 850-4407. Mercury Blvd. East to left turn at Fox Hill Road (Shell station at next light after King Street overpass); go about 3/4 mile, passing Kinder-Care on right; turn left on Long Bridge; 105 is third house on left after stop sign.

B. **Banquet, Saturday, March 26. SEE INSERT.**

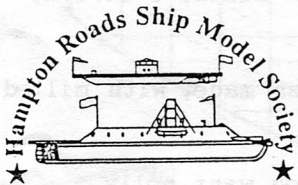
**Sail Plan of Bristol Channel Pilot Cutter Faith**

These cutters carried a large sail plan, but their gear led to the cockpit for easy handling by one man, who could even recover the dinghy "abandoned" when the last pilot boarded a ship. Lacking reef points, they were fitted with gear-driven rolling booms for reefing and furling. See page 2 for construction plan.

From Chatterton,  
Fore and Aft,  
1912.



**On the Bridge**  
Skipper: Bill Altice 748-4880  
1st Mate: Leonard Wine 588-5831  
Purser: Alan Frazer 865-7300  
Historian: Bill Fox 253-0310



c/o Alan D. Frazer  
108-G Indian Summer Drive  
Yorktown VA 23693



**NEXT MEETING:**  
March 11, 2000 hrs

**TO:**

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

**D**

