



Maine's First Ship Newsletter

SPECIAL
EDITION
DECEMBER 2012

Recovering, Rebuilding, Rejuvenating, Reconstructing Virginia
– Thank You For Your Generous Support!



*Hi ho, hi
ho, it's off
to work we
go (with a
roll of
boatshed
covering)...*

“We’ll do it in the snow if we have to!” (Jeremy Blaiklock as quoted in the Coastal Journal) became a bit prophetic after all, despite November’s relatively balmy temperatures. The warmer side of fall clearly at an end, December 3, 2012 flurried in on fine, dry snow that only a 25 degree day can provide. With weeks of demolition and rebuilding accomplished, the day to “raise the roof” had arrived with calm winds, bitter cold and warmly dressed volunteers. When it was just halfway over the top, the plastic cover fabric snagged briefly on the ridgepole, but the breeze freshened and freed the snag for the final quick tug into place. Volunteers lined each side of the shed, securing the new roof quickly in the rising winds. For details on the cover story and more, read on... [Demolition day- Rebuilding the Boatshed -October Open House-- Holiday Traditions and Recipes-- Virginia's Fo'c'sle – WOOD -President's remarks](#)

**DEMOLITION -
Finishing what
Sandy started**

During tropical storm Sandy, the boatshed containing Maine's First Ship's reconstruction of Virginia collapsed under 75 mph gusts. This damage was sustained during the night of October 29, 2012 when no volunteers were present and despite the loss of the boatshed Virginia's structure was undamaged. Dozens of volunteers, many volunteering for the first time, arrived at the Bath Freight Shed with tools and determination to rebuild. Within a day, the inside of the crippled shed was cleared and (with much enthusiasm) pulled down. Little damage to the knee walls and rigid end walls allowed both these structures to be recycled. The entire "frame" of bow structures and plastic covering were not salvageable.



Rebuilding the boatshed: Building new frames: Two of the old boatshed half-frames



were salvaged, repaired and stabilized into a vertical jig. Twenty one boatshed frames (consisting of 42 halves) were fabricated. New frames were built on top and parallel to the old using West Systems epoxy and screws. This jig design was a great improvement over the horizontal jig, allowing many volunteers to work together on each frame, bending, clamping, applying epoxy and screws. The crew became so proficient over time they were able to turn out a new frame in 30

minutes, this compared to one frame a day using the horizontal jig. Each frame has 30% more structure in the bows and the new shed also has more diagonal and lateral stiffeners.



Gussets were used to join the two halves and each frame was raised and attached to the knee wall.



As each frame was raised it was attached to the ridgepole and horizontal stiffeners were added and then diagonals to create a structure strong enough to last

for the next four years (or more)!





Rebuilding the boatshed: Raising frames:
Working through the day, frame by frame, both the boatshed and the volunteer techniques developed.



After laying waste to a fabulously delicious noonday feast generously provided by



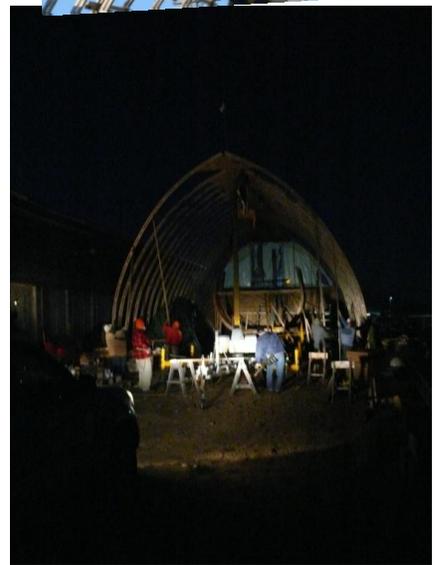
Henry and Marty Restaurant & Catering, the frame raising continued into the afternoon.

As the daylight dwindles and temperatures drop, the solar advantages of working the “cherry picker” bucket are



decidedly greater than just super cell phone reception.

Like Spiderman silhouetted in the sunset, a volunteer installs the horizontal stiffeners. As dusk descends, another Maine tradition saves the day and the last two frames go up by the light of the silvery Toyota pickup highbeams. 15



of the 22 frames were raised. And the exhausted shipwrights rejoiced!



Rebuilding the boatshed: Raising the last 6 frames. Although the original damage evaluations indicated the last 6 boatshed frames could be salvaged, they looked “so bad” in comparison to the new frames, volunteers demanded they also be replaced. The last 6 frames were raised over the partial north rear wall of the boatshed.



After standing up each frame, carry poles and guide ropes were used to “walk” each end of the frame across the gravel lot and around each side of the boatshed.

Sometimes resembling a three ring circus, including the kings of the world on *Virginia’s* stem, a good time was had by all!



Rebuilding the boatshed: Raising the roof! The new



roof material was laid out and attached to stabilizing strapping. Ropes were tossed over the boatshed frames at intervals and on the signal volunteers hauled away! A brief snag cleared with a gust of chill breeze and the new roof was quickly in position and being secured by strapping and screws, on both sides of the



boatshed simultaneously. With the new roof cover in place, work proceeded over the next several days to rebuild the end walls and reinstall the doors.



HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS!! With the boatshed rebuild completed we are back in business. Work begins again on *Virginia's* elevated lofting platform. Straddling the keel, the white platform measures 16 feet square, accommodating the full



layout of each of *Virginia's* frames for assembly and drilling /inserting trunnels.



Virginia's forward frames are being built between now and May 2013 and consist of progressively beveled futtocks which are cut using the articulating ship's saw. As each futtock is milled, volunteers adjust the saw blade angle to engineered bevels as the cuts are made. Winter hours are Saturdays and Wednesdays from 9AM to 3PM. Visitors always welcome!

Autumnfest 2012 – Community Involvement Day



Meggan Henerlau arranges our welcome area for the October 6 2012 Community involvement days. Volunteers Gil Ross and Brigit Healy discuss the lofting floor and technique.



Dozens of visitors stopped by the Freight Shed for shipwright demonstrations, music and light refreshments in the form of cider and homemade snacks. Virginia's oars get the father/daughter treatment while the scouts snack.



Over 40 charities took part in this volunteer drive held by the City of Bath in the waterfront park and other areas of downtown Bath. We signed up 5 new volunteers, two new members and raised \$300!



Editorial - Holiday Traditions and Recipe

Celebrating the season of the lights has always begun with the lighting of the tree on Christmas eve in our family. Whether your traditions involve the light of the sacred star, the lights burning in the temple, the solstice bonfire at sunset or any of the many manifestations of both spiritual and physical light, this season holds something special for us all.

Many choose this season to make extraordinary efforts to volunteer and serve as lights in their community – but some make these extraordinary efforts virtually every day.

People like MFS past president and volunteer Merry Chapin who also volunteers as the Morse High School Career Center's Mother Theresa, finding jobs, grants, scholarships, tutors, coaches, other volunteers and whatever else is needed to give our local students a better future.

Long term Virginia volunteer Jay Coffey is also a long time volunteer at the Bath Soup Kitchen. Program directors rely on his experience to train new volunteers and his natural knack with people makes him a favorite with volunteers and clients alike. Jay is often the first to greet new clients and he always seems to know what will make them feel welcome. Homeless clients often need the gentle smile and soft conversation Jay offers to feel safe. Jay also volunteers for many other community organizations including the Bath Freight Shed Alliance.

These are just two of our many community lights, celebrate their stories with me. Then go out and write your own story, light your own community, become a volunteer.

Mama's 3,3,3 Brown Sugar Walnut Pudding

My mother claimed this recipe came from her English ancestors and she made it every Thanksgiving and Christmas. It's a tricky recipe, with very little thickening agent, too much heat can leave you with syrup. The rich tasty pudding was always served in very small portions with a dollop of whipped cream.

3 cups water, 3 cups dark brown sugar firmly packed, 3 tablespoons of cornstarch-

Blend these 3 ingredients in a heavy bottomed saucepan until lumps are gone, then bring to a soft simmer over medium heat. Simmer gently for 3 minutes or until pudding thickens.

Toss in a handful of broken English walnuts and 3 teaspoons of butter and stir until butter is completely blended into the pudding. Makes 6 to 10 servings. Chill and serve with whipped cream.

From our home to yours, may the many lights of the season shine for you and all people of peace.

Gayla and Tim Teague



The use of the Maine's First Ship logo and the sketch of Virginia c. 1607 which appears on our brochures are generously donated by Bev Bevilacqua, copyright. Thank You Bev!

Extra special thanks goes out to Wiebke Theodore, president of the Bath Freight Shed Alliance for exhibiting extraordinary cooperation and flexibility with the numerous and changing needs for storage and work space inside the freight shed during our winter relocation to the boat shed, then it's recent loss and recovery. Our unique non-profit partnership to preserve and promote the freight shed as a community center flourishes because of her capability and dedication.

Virginia's Fo'c'sle December 2012

Due to the photo intense nature of this edition, photo sizes have made identifying volunteers impossible. That's why captions have been omitted in most cases. Somehow though these dedicated Virginia Volunteers must be named, and where better than in crew's quarters. In no particular order, gratitude being of equal measure for their work in cold and wind and rain and snow and light and dark and even on Sunday – profoundest thanks for so many a job well and truly done.

Keith Plummer	Cyndy Carney	Craig Chapin	Roy Jenkins
Jeremy Blaiklock	Dan Wood	Orman Hines	Stacey Stoicheff
Aaron Park	David Fay	Paul Shardlow	Steven Theodore
Gus Manomaitis	Tim & Gayla Teague	Dick Forrest	Caleb Burgess
Allison Hepler	Gil Ross	Robert Stevens	Margo Frost
Bruce Brennan	Jay Coffey	Roger Berry	Roger David
Bonnie Ross	Meggan Henerlau	Bridget Healy	Merry Chapin
Fred and Marty Hill	Marsha Connover	Joanne Luneau	Paul Johnson

Hail and farewell

Welcome Jeremy Blaiklock as Maine's First Ship's new Vice President. Thankfully Jeremy will also continue his indispensable accomplishments as Vessel Chair and Volunteer Coordinator..

Three of our long term Directors are retiring to the advisory board.

Thank you to Tim Clark and Joe Patterson who have helped establish our connections to the shipbuilding community, offering significant and professionally valuable contributions to both our vessel and education missions. Although their participation as advisors will ensure these connections remain strong, their personal presence at board discussions will be missed.

Thanks to Capt Ed Rice who is also shifting to an advisory role this month. Ed's participation in our spar harvesting activities last summer was the vital water link to the delivery of the donated timbers to the Freight Shed waterfront. We're grateful that as an advisor Ed's continued expertise remains only an email away.

VISION STATEMENT

Maine's First Ship will build a 51-foot reconstruction of the pinnacle *Virginia*; the first English ship built in North America to cross the Atlantic back to Europe. We will engage students of all ages in the "hands on history" reconstruction and operation of *Virginia* on the rivers and coast of Maine.

To all hands and members: Maine's First Ship is soliciting committee chairs and members for Membership, Events planning and Publicity. Unlike some of our other committees, our bylaws allow members to chair these committees. Any and all members are welcome to join one or more of our committees and get involved in our programs. Email the Fo'castle with your interest mfs1@myfairpoint.net.

HISTORY AND COMMUNITY - BECOME A VOLUNTEER

Committees:

Education Chair: Merry Chapin
Publicity Chair: Gayla Teague
Development Chair: Orman Hines

Vessel Chair: Jeremy Blaiklock
Membership Chair: Vacant
Finance Chair: Gayla Teague
Events Chair: Vacant

upcoming events:

February Silent Auction – date TBD

Winter Bath Farmers Market at the Bath Freight Shed every Saturday morning 9:00 – 12:00 through May 2013.

Newsletter Schedule - issue month - theme and due dates.

April - special edition - volunteers input due 3/15

June - traditional - advertising summer programs input due 5/15

August - special edition - education input due 7/15

October - traditional - annual meeting - "end of year" annual appeal input due 9/15

December - special edition- holidays input due 11/15 SEND US YOUR HOLIDAY STORIES

February - traditional -development (income recap for prior year) input due 1/15

LIVE SAWN 4" WHITE OAK DELIVERY:



On a foggy Sunday morning in September, a dedicated group gathered at Virginia's boat shed to unload an oak shipment from Massachusetts. These hardy souls unloaded 864 board foot of 4"X 6' oak slabs at 7AM and then staggered off to breakfast at the Southgate. This shipment will complete the forward frames of Virginia and will be cut and assembled between now and May 2013. Stop by the boatshed for a visit or to volunteer on Wednesdays or Saturdays 9AM to 3PM.



MFS President's Message December 2012

Maine's First ship has been blessed with an out pouring of support from our volunteers and community of supporters from near and far. As you can see from all of Gayla Teague's wonderful photos we have been busy rebuilding the boat shed. The shed will protect us from the cold north winds blowing down the Kennebec and with the addition of a double barrel stove, we will be quite toasty as we fashion the "Virginia".

By the time you read this, Rob Stevens our shipwright and Allison, our treasurer will be reminiscing about their latest visit to Florida to test their navigation skills in the mangroves. Rob expects the volunteers will have proved that his boatbuilding teaching skills have paid off by getting several of the frames finished before he returns; and we surely won't disappoint him as we have already put half a frame together yesterday and cut out several more futtocks (frame parts).

I marvel at what a group of diverse dedicated volunteers can accomplish when they work together. By working together let's hope and pray that we and our nation's leaders will be able to solve some of the problems facing our communities, our nation and our world.

God bless and happy holidays,

Orman Hines

FMI visit us online at www.mfship.org or Contact us at: mfs1@myfairpoint.net
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Or stop by the Bath Freight Shed Commercial Street Bath Maine "when the flag of St. George is flying"

PLEASE SUPPORT MAINE'S FIRST SHIP BUSINESS MEMBERS AND PARTNERS

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