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MAINE'S FIRST SHIP NEWSLETTER

Reconstructing Virginia
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VIRGINIA'S CONSTRUCTION
PROGRESS

FALL AND WINTER EVENTS

OCTOBER 2013



The season is changing at Maine's First Ship. Preparing for the Farmer's Market opening day on Saturday, November 2, 2013, volunteers haul *Virginia's* transom out of the Freight Shed for storage until it's time to raise it to her stern. Work on *Virginia* continues, forward and aft, installing and tuning divided frames, building harpins and creating patterns for the forward cant frames. Much of the work done during the last two months has involved more hand than power tools. Drilling and bolting the keelson being the exception. In contrast to our busy spring and summer, with shipsaw and chainsaw whining through the frame stock, the sound of hand tools has prevailed. Handmade wooden mallets driving chisels through white oak, carving mortise and scarf, the fine rasp of a hand plane, it's times like these that it's easy to feel our colonial connection.





Volunteers from back left: RB Omo, Gil Ross, Gus Manomaitis, David Fay, Dick Forrest, and David White. From front left: Joe Hepp, Roger Barry and Rob Stevens.

Moving out!

With a new floor, lights donated by Eric and Christy Varney, and the Maine's First Ship Visitor Center overhaul led by Roxane Althouse during the summer, the Freight Shed has never looked better. With three new vendors this year, the Farmer's Market will be bursting with earth friendly local food and products, music and (most importantly) enthusiastic supporters from far and wide. Open every Saturday until the end of April from 9 to noon, this weekly event brings the community together to celebrate and promote our local farmers, bakers, crafters,

musicians and economy. We'll move back into the Freight Shed in May, getting ready for Mayfair, summer education programs and other community events, while work on *Virginia* continues year round, Saturdays and Wednesdays 9 AM to 3PM.

Mortises and scarfs



After making depth cuts separated by the width of the chisel or less, Master Shipwright Rob Stevens works with a round mallet to carve the mortise for aft station #14 portside. Working on the opposite side of the keel, professional photographer Paul Cunningham applies a square mallet.



After the frames are raised both the mortise and tenon are refined to fit. Working around the braced frame, Gus Manomaitis uses a square mallet and chisel on the tenon.



Preparing for the forward keelson, Paul Shardlow works with a square mallet and chisel to refine the receiving scarf on the aft section.





“Tuning” the forward divided frames

Suspended by chainfall and propped on the stem, the port half of #12 forward is prepped for tuning. Much like raising these frames, tuning techniques use chainfall and come along, ribbands and rope lashing, lots of wood clamps and sturdy bracing.

David Fay works to rig the port section with Dick Forrest guiding the frame from below. Behind the frame Paul Cunningham adds the control to swing the frame into the vertical position to start tuning the height, centering and spacing for the frame.

With all the forward frames aligned and braced for planking, harpins for waterlines spaced at intervals along the stem can be installed. With these waterline cross sections in place, the shape of the cant frames can be determined. Double sawn futtock patterns, or molds will be drafted for each cant frame. At left, David Fay consults with Rob Stevens while he checks on the position of the harpins with help from above (?). Please see related Harpins and Cant Frame Patterns item with more details later in this edition.



The Sweet Spot Shot of the month

Everyone seems to find their own spot on *Virginia's* seductive curves. Pausing during the prep for forward frame tuning, Darrel Lewis takes minor exception to being caught in the act. Seasoned “sweet spotters” Mark Aukeman and Tim Teague laugh it off – “what me worry? It’s not like your gonna dock my pay or anything- right?”



Harpins and Cant Frame Patterns

Working on the lofting floor prepared with *Virginia's* waterlines, David White (foreground), checks the harpin section against the design. David Fay kneels next to the far end of the batten and RB Omo takes the centerpoint. Using these long flexible battens along the lofted waterlines makes pattern making and checking easier. The luan harpin patterns will be reinforced before being installed. The harpin below is coded for the forward frame #12 at waterline 2 (2 feet).



Working "high and low", David and RB measure and record the distance from the stem to the outside edge of each harpin to determine the outside edge of the cant frame. This type of measurement is called an offset.

On the right (starboard) forward, the first cant frame pattern is in place. Mirrored on the port side, there are a



total of three divided cant frames. There are three more "divided frames" forward which are the hawse timbers.



Hyde School Visit

Volunteers Jay Coffey and Tim Teague hosted a September series of group tours from the prestigious Hyde School. Representing an international cross section typical of Hyde School, these students came from China, Canada and across the US. Their interest in *Virginia* and the Popham Colony kept them fascinated for over an hour.

Raising the Aft Divided Frames



Working in close quarters between ship and staging, volunteers maneuver the starboard half of #12 aft into position parallel to the keel. The frame is also

turned to perpendicular by Tim Teague, Paul Cunningham and Gus Manomaitis while being hoisted hand to hand to Roger Barry on the staging.



With pure people power the frame is raised until the horn rests against the ribband and the tenon end is manhandled into the mortise.



Blocked and braced at the deadwood, the frame is also braced mid bend and clamped to the ribband.



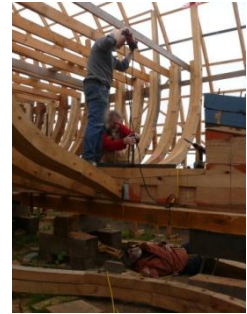
Aft frames #12, 13 and 14, arrayed in pairs, seem to share their graceful curves with the swept back wings of a diving raptor

Boring and Bolting the Keelson



Bolting each frame keelson through keel involves several steps which start with volunteer Larry O'Toole using the circle saw bit to predrill the keelson on alternating sides of the centerline to countersink the silbronze nuts and washers.

While Larry runs the drill, Tim uses two carpenter's squares to provide the reference points to keep the drill vertical. Jay Coffey lays under the keel while the drilling continues, on watch for the first sign of the drill.



Ship's Cook Aaron Park takes turn at the drill (left).

During a pause in the drilling, Jeremy Blaiklock checks the centerline and drilling continues.



Down below the keel, Larry works on cutting countersink holes for the nuts and washers.



Gil Ross has prepared the silbronze bolt which has been threaded at both ends to receive those nuts and washers with a coat of grease. Before taking a sledge hammer to the bolt, sacrificial galvanized nuts are added to cushion the threads.



Greetings members and friends! With the balmy weather well into late October it's been easy to ignore the signs of cold weather holidays seen as early as July this year. But the last few mornings brought killing frost all the way to the coast. Thankfully the 32 degree start on Wednesday morning was handily defeated by the double barrel wood stove stoking in the boatshed. As thoughts turn from goblins to gobblers here's some news that made me thankful to be a volunteer this fall.

Volunteer Recognition 2013- THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!



During the Bath Community Involvement Days celebrations on October 12, 2013, Maine's First Ship held their first annual Volunteer Recognition Event. Honoring over 30 Volunteers for their collective thousands of hours this year, certificates were awarded for merchandise from our ship's store. Representing and supporting virtually every committee, the value of our volunteers can't be overstated. Coming from all walks of life, skills, abilities and temperaments there is a common goal that binds us to Virginia and each other.

Castlebay and Tom Kastle Concert and Costume Contest

Bath City Hall Auditorium acoustics really favor the songs of the sea performed by Fred Gosbee and Julia Lane of Castlebay. Julia's harp and soaring soprano carried us all back to the days of wind and sail, hard work and adventure. The uncontested moment of the night occurred around Fred's tale of attempted blind censorship, thwarted by the symbol of international goodwill by the crafty Maine seafolk. Tom Kastle roused us into chorus response with his shanties and concertina.



During intermission prizes for costumes were awarded to: Rob Stevens, appearing as the Shipwright Digby. Jeremy Blaiklock and Margaret Webb, most authentic costumes. Best pirates to Rowan Blaiklock and Gus Manomaitis, best "commoners" Mark and Sandy Aukeman and Most inappropriate shoes (neon green sneaks) to Sebastian Blaiklock. Thanks for all your efforts and congratulations! Extra special thanks to Merry Chapin and Margaret Webb for ticket sales, and to Jeremy and my husband Tim for moving 100 chairs up and down the stairs. Thanks to Castlebay and Tom Kastle, Marie of Simply Elegance Catering (die-for cookies) we have cleared almost \$400 after expenses. Next year? Renaissance Fair?

Orman is busy preparing the annual appeal letter which will be mailing in November. Thank you for your generous response and happy holidays to you and yours-fond regards-Gayla

UPCOMING EVENTS: WINTER FARMER'S MARKET STARTS NOVEMBER 2, 2013

Contact BFSA by visiting <http://bathfreightshed.blogspot.com/>

YEAR ROUND HOURS - VIRGINIA VOLUNTEERS - SATURDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS 9AM TO 3PM

Visit us at Bath Freight Shed 27 Commercial Street Bath Maine "When the flag of St. George is flying"



MEMBERSHIP DRIVE – NEW MEMBERSHIP LEVELS AND RECOGNITION!!!- New Individual and business membership level. We’ve established some exciting new membership recognition levels for both individuals and businesses try us out!

Individual donation levels:		Name	Membership levels	Other Recognition
\$100		Frame	2 memberships	Decal – 2 event passes
\$50		Plank	2 membership	Decal
\$30		Trunnel	1 membership	Decal
Volunteer hours		Trunnel	1 membership	Decal – 1 event pass T-shirt or hat after 60 days
Free		Community Advocates	1 membership	Decal
Free with parents approval		Junior	2 memberships	Decal
Business \$ ranges	Name	Publicity in media	Membership levels	Recognition
\$1000-750	Mainsail	Logo and link on website front page	2 memberships	Decal – 10 event passes
\$500	Mizzensail	Logo and link on website back page	2 memberships	Decal – 4 event passes
\$300	Topsail	Logo In newsletter	2 memberships	Decal – 2 event passes
\$100	Bowspritsail	Name in newsletter	2 memberships	Decal

PLEASE SUPPORT MAINE’S FIRST SHIP BUSINESS MEMBERS AND PARTNERS

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Bath Savings Institution

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Rockport Marine

BFC Marine

Maine Maritime Museum

Main Street Bath

Theodore & Theodore Architects

Regional School Unit #1

Bath Farmer’s Market

Bath Iron Works Corp.

We are soliciting nominations and volunteers for the board of directors and committees. Particularly needed are docents, skills in event planning, grants and membership. Please call 443-4242 for more information.

MAINE’S FIRST SHIP FUNDRAISING GOALS FOR 2013: \$150,000

FMI visit us online at www.mfship.org

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Maine’s First Ship

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HISTORY AND COMMUNITY - BECOME A VOLUNTEER!

