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MAINE'S FIRST SHIP NEWSLETTER

Reconstructing Virginia
Thank You For Your Generous Support!
mfship.org

SUMMER EDUCATION
PROGRAMS
AND EVENTS
JUNE 2014

VIRGINIA'S TRANSOM - VIEW FROM STEM KNEE LOOKING AFT



RAISING THE TRANSOM

At the left, the black lower end of *Virginia's* false stern post can just be seen at the top of frame. With the transom staged at the foot of the stern, volunteers work to rig and raise the transom into position. On the platform, Paul Cunningham sets the rig with help from Peter Watson and Chuck Jouver below.



Burt Elliot leads the transom raising team and sets the lower rig with help from RB Omo, below right, Chuck and Jay Coffey balance the transom on the keel mid lift.



At left the transom almost in place. At right and framed in center Paul surveys the final fit.



PLANKING UPDATE



Jeremy Blaiklock works his Bobcat like a pro, restacking and pinning the planking with guidance from Orman Hines, RB Omo, Paul Cunningham and Tim Teague.



Re-purposing a vintage event booth into a drying shelter for the planking provides an economical space for climate controlled seasoning for about a third of *Virginia's* planking.



REPLACING FUTTOCKS - Virginia's frames have been seasoning in place since they were raised and a few of the futtocks have developed flaws and required replacing. Using a thin Japanese saw, the trunnels are cut and the defective futtock is removed. Using the old for a pattern, a new futtock is laid out by Orman Hines and Roger Rand. Roger uses the hand crank to adjust the angle of the tilting arborshipsaw to match each change in the degree of bevel called out as the stock is moved through the saw by Fred Gosbee and Roger Barry. Roger Rand fits the new futtock into place and Paul Cunningham drills for new trunnels.



JANE STEVENS MAINTENANCE

Jane Stevens is receiving an overhaul that includes stripping her down to the planking, installing backer boards for the seams, new caulking and a fresh coat of raw linseed oil. Volunteers Gil Ross and Peter Watson look for leverage against reluctant fasteners with a few creative contortions.



When the hardware is removed, Paul Shardlow and Gus Manomaitis (lost in the spray) give Jane a thorough power wash.



Gil, Tim Teague and Roger Rand start work on cutting all the backer boards and fitting them to each seam.



INSTALLING THE SEAM BACKER BOARDS - Jeremy Blaiklock pre-drills each fitted board for the copper nails and burrs. Peter Watson prepares to back the copper nail from outside the hull to allow it to be peened over the burr to create the rivet. Each board receives four to six rivets depending on size.



The rivet is peened by a ball peen hammer or as Chuck Jouver prefers, a rivet tool carved from rebar.



DONATED WHITE OAK FOR HAWSE TIMBERS DELIVERED

DELIVERY – Long time supporter Stephen Dewick recently donated some white oak which he had removed from his property in **Woowich** and had hauled to our long time supporting sawyer Alan Higgins. After (donated) milling at Higmo's these timbers arrived just about the time we ran out of black locust stock for the hawse timbers. – THANK YOU ALL!!



RABBETS

Working forward and aft, on the last of the rabbets, Tim Teague left is chiseling the transition from the keel (in blue) to the stem (grey) and Jeremy Blaiklock right cuts the rabbet for the last two aft frames.



FAIRING STARBOARD AND LARBOARD AND HAWSE TIMBERS



A bit of a competition has developed between the larboard (Burt Elliot and Arthur Robinson,) and starboard (Orman Hines, Gus Manomaitis, Peter Watson and Larry O'toole) fairing teams. Not to be left out of the trash talk, the hawse timber team is pushing for finishing both the inside and outside of the starboard timbers. Any wonder larboard got changed to port? David White work on the inside hawse timbers high on the stem . Gus planes, Dick Forrest and Jay Coffey shim the cant frames.



BATTENS



Checking the fair with battens, many battens.





ANNUAL SILENT AUCTION AND GALA DINNER

Delicious food and a fascinating after dinner speech by Captain Anderson Chase, MMA, "Sailing the Arctic on the Bowdoin". Admiral MacMillan's Legacy: Sail Training on the schooner Bowdoin at Maine Maritime Academy. "Sail Training is still relevant in the 21st century. At Maine Maritime, students learn the fundamentals of seamanship the same way they did when Donald MacMillan ran the schooner in the '20's, '30's, '40's and 50's."



Captain Andy Chase is a Professor of Marine Transportation at Maine Maritime Academy, in

Castine, Maine where he teaches Navigation, Meteorology, Bridge Resource Management, and Professional Sailing. Funds raised by the Auction totaled \$3,105 this year.



RECORDING OUR VOLUNTEERS - Although the average volunteer is subjected to daily photographs and videos by press and public with cameras, notepads and smart phones, this is the first sketch pad caricature I've seen. Professional artist Paul Shardlow captures Paul Cunningham at the shipsaw cutting futtocks.



Field Trip to visit the Nina and the Pinta

Led by the bos'n, the crewe embarked on a Saturday shore leave to visit these pine tar black beauties.

On a sky and sea day we set off with a certain destination but vague directions in a stately caravan which soon became a Boston cabbie mad dash. Curiously, the car callously abandoned at a red light by their shipmates arrived first and in handy time to hoot and jeer at their mates who, without a woman in the car, refused to ask for directions until they got to all the way to the end of the wrong road.



Built in Valencia Brazil these 1492 caravels are privately owned by the Columbus Foundation. With a joint crew of 14, volunteer crew and owners live onboard and operate these ships 11 months a year as educational experiences for public and crew. Great morning on the water! FMI www.thenina.com



Maine's First Ship Summer Education Program 2014

Thanks to the amazing commitment of the Education Committee led by Merry Chapin, the summer program is experiencing record registration rates this season. Session I (7/7-7/24) is filled with 10 students and only 2 slots are left for Session II, (7/28-8/14). Targeting the less than 16 age group, the committee worked with volunteer facilitator Destie Sprague to create a focused recruitment campaign. With shipwright George Sprague's guidance, they built an irresistible curriculum, complete with field trips and basic projects that beginners can complete with success while building self esteem.

Adult volunteers to mentor students are still needed. Classes run Monday – Thursday, 8:00AM to 12:00 PM. If you have time to support your community, and these goals and values, please contact Merry Chapin, mchapin23@yahoo.com.

Maine's First Ship Education Program seeks to:

- Increase trade- and maritime-related skills for middle and high school students;
- Connect middle- and high-school students with maritime heritage through hands-on summer programs related to maritime history and skills; and
- Establish a positive and supportive environment for youth, while fostering community connectedness which inspires their personal growth.

Students in the 2014 summer program will:

- Develop basic woodworking skills, and be exposed to maritime and boatbuilding skills;
- Develop an understanding of the heritage and history of the Virginia, the Popham Colony region, and 17th century colonial history; and
- Experience an increase in confidence and sense of personal success while working on basic woodworking projects.

Visitor Center Opens July 1, 2014

Roxane M. L. Althouse has been hard at work with John Bradford and the docent team to continue improvements to our Visitor Center. Come see the new look!

Visitor Center hours for the 2014 season: Tuesday through Saturday 10:00AM – 3:00PM Sunday 12:00PM to 3:00PM.

Falmouth 7th and 8th graders visit Maine's First Ship

Falmouth teacher Charles Barnard approached us recently for a class visit. Students were engaged in a Maine Studies unit for the last quarter of the year and were trying to make this as experiential as possible. They included a unit on Pemaquid and Popham colonies and ship building among their several mini-units. They also visited Pemaquid on one of their field trips. For this part of the curriculum they were more interested in the history aspect of ship building and some of the technical, concentrating on the science for this particular unit. Orman Hines historical talk was recorded by many members of the group before moving on to the boatshed with Tim Teague to visit Virginia.



PRESIDENTS COMMENTS

Dear Members and Friends of Maine's First Ship,

With the Visitor Center opening on July 1 2014, the Maine's First Ship 2014 season formally begins.

A few days later, the 2014 Bath Heritage Days begin on July 3 and run through July 6. You are all invited to join us for the crowning holiday event, the Maine's First Ship's Fireworks Party at the Bath Freight Shed. Come see the reconstruction of the first English Ship built in the Americas on the Bath water front just north of the Sagadahoc Bridge. *Virginia* a 17th century vessel built originally at the Popham Colony is taking shape with her 32 frames in place on her keel she is an impressive site filling the 60 foot boat shed. Inside the Bath Freight Shed we have display panels set up to inform you about the Popham Colony and its' attempt at early colonization of the northeast coast. On Sunday, July 6, we'll have Visitor Center and *Virginia* Tours from 9:00AM to 7:30PM at no charge. Come to see *Virginia* and then stay for the Fireworks. We'll begin seating at 7:30PM for the fireworks for a 10 dollar donation. We'll have a prime view of the Fireworks @9:15 PM.

On July 7th the first Session of the Summer Education Program kicks off, a favorite event for volunteers and students each year. There is something uniquely inspiring in the presence of these children while they discover the story of *Virginia* and her builders.

With the raising of *Virginia's* transom, another major milestone has been reached. Work continues on fairing and the final frames and we expect to install the first plank as early as next month.

Best Regards,

Orman Hines

Virginia's Fo'c'sle June 2014

Editor & Photographer Gayla & Tim Teague

A really big, no huge, thank you to member Bob Gravino for hauling the 3 year legacy of office printers to the recycle mall and for taking a whole lot of trash and recycle from the freight and boat shed along too- there are just TOO FEW LIKE YOU!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Visitor Center Opens July 1 for the 2014 season:

Tuesday through Saturday 10:00AM – 3:00PM AND Sunday 12:00PM to 3:00PM

Bath Heritage Days July 3 – 6, 2014 FMI <http://bathheritagedays.com/>

Fireworks Party \$10 donation July 6, 2014

Seating 7:30 PM - Fireworks 9:15 PM

Summer Education Program: Session I (7/7-7/24) Session II, (7/28-8/14)

Jane Stevens in Phippsburg 200th Parade on July 26, 2014

Maine's First Ship fend off the Pirates of the Black Rose at Flare Night, Fort Popham August 15, 2014

Castlebay Concert – Sunday matinee, September 7, 2014

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.

FMI visit us online at www.mfship.org

Contact us at: mfs1@myfairpoint.net (207) 443-4242

Maine's First Ship

PO Box 231 Bath ME 04530

HISTORY AND COMMUNITY - BECOME A VOLUNTEER!

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

SUMMER HOURS (JULY-SEPTEMBER) TUESDAY THROUGH SATURDAY 10AM TO 3PM SUNDAY 12PM TO 3PM

Visit us at Bath Freight Shed 27 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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Maine Maritime Museum

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Regional School Unit #1

Bath Farmer's Market

Bath Iron Works Corp.

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

