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MAINE'S FIRST SHIP NEWSLETTER

Reconstructing Virginia
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*SUMMER VACATION
EDUCATION PROGRAMS*

AND EVENTS

AUGUST 2014



JANE STEVENS SAILS AGAIN!

After months of restorative maintenance by volunteers and students, Vice President/ Vessel committee chair Jeremy Blaiklock (at the tiller) and volunteer crew Tim Teague and Tony Chodorowski take the shallop Jane Stevens for her first sail in the Kennebec River. Idyllic in appearance this expedition by experienced sailors was all business. Collecting first hand information for the shallop operation and safety plan included testing the rig, rudder response and dagger boards. Riding the bitter end of the incoming tide and a stiffening wind out of the south, she made a fine progress across the Long Reach and up the river. See related article!



SUMMER EDUCATION PROGRAM

14 students graduated from Maine's First Ship's 2014 summer education program. Projects included making a paddle and a half model of Jane Stevens.



Working with volunteers performing maintenance on the 18ft shallop Jane Stevens, students got a chance to train for maintaining the larger vessel Virginia. Rowan Blaiklock, summer program student and our first second generation volunteer (daughter of Jeremy & Quin), is shown below left using the caulking tool to insert oakum into the shallop's seams, a task and tool unchanged since the 17th century.

More on the 2014 Summer Program coming soon from media artist Patti Irish!



TRANSOM UPDATE



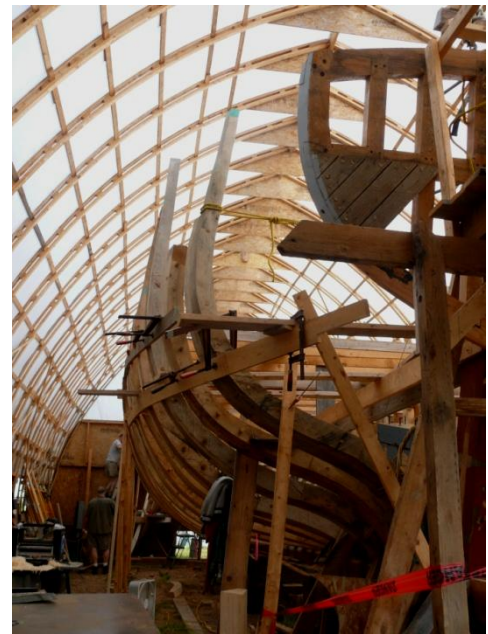
Gil Ross measures and marks the transom in preparation for drilling the through bolt holes.



Jeremy and Tim work the 3 foot drill from the work platform.

Paul Cunningham provides ground support keeping an eye on the drill angle and for the point of the drill to break through. Frequent stops to clear and cool the drill bit are needed to bore through the transom and both sternposts.

Dr Dan Wood works to connect the ribbands between the last standing frame and the transom. These ribbands will be used to help configure the lines of the last two frames.



HAWSE TIMBER UPDATE

Working with the donated Dewitt white oak, Roger Barry and Paul lay out the hawse timber. After the section is chainsawed off, the stock is guided through the shipsaw by Paul, Dick Forest and (inside) Jay Coffey. Each timber is hand fitted, drilled and drift pins are hammered home. Dick holds a hammer against the bolt head to give Roger a larger target.



JANE STEVENS MAINTENANCE



With all new backer boards for the seams and a fresh coat of linseed oil, Jane is laid “bottoms up”, the old caulking materials and seam sealants are removed by volunteers Gil Ross and RB Omo.



Jay Coffey instructed volunteers and students in the fine arts of caulking and sealing seams. After a few hours of student hands on training in preparing and applying bottom paint Jane is launched into the Kennebec River. Tight as a drum, the only bailing needed is for the rainwater! Great job all!



After a short term berth at the pier for sail outfitting Jane will go on the mooring for the rest of the season. Sailing qualified registered volunteers can arrange use (after safety and operation training), by contacting Jeremy.



JANE STEVENS OPERATION PLAN With all new crew, Jane's first sail became an expedition to further define her operation and safety plan. With sail plan in hand our brave sailors set about rigging and sailing Jane for the first time. Lashing the spar to the mast and attaching the sails, deadeyes, tiller and dagger boards the intrepid crew set sail with tide and wind at their backs.



After a good run with the wind, coming about Jane displayed a reluctance to tack into the wind. With slack tide yet to come a few more runs were made across the reach. Eventually the crew agreed they would make better time returning to port on the oars. Meanwhile, on the dock, I greeted a trio of bass fisherman who stopped by on their annual visit to Virginia. When I mentioned Jane Stevens they (hailing from Popham) said they "knew them both well".



In a trice a tow was planned and Jane came home on the grace of her namesake. In the end a lot of info was safely collected and the only one disappointed was Jeremy – he really, really wanted to just row her home on the ebbing tide...



FAIRING AND RABBETS



Above left, Orman Hines (President) shares a teaching moment with volunteers learning how to use battens for the fairing work. Chuck Jouver (standing) and Xavier Comas (seated) insert questions about the process while David White (ET) observes. Center foreground Dr Dan works to set the ribbands with RB Omo. Above left, Larry works to level the inside of the aft frames.



Raised platforms have been built along the starboard side to allow volunteers to reach the higher levels on the frames for fairing.



Below left using chisel and mallet, David Fay works on cutting the rabbet for the last two aft frames. Below center, Arthur Robinson planes a particularly challenging aft frame. Below right, RB Omo take a turn working the rabbet.





Thank you to member (and lifemate) Tim Teague for his hard work on repairing and painting the rigging model. It was so much more work than I bargained for!

Thanks also go to member Lori Benson who is weaving an authentic linen sample of what the original Virginia's sails would have been made from. What a labor of love!



Apologies to RB Omo for not being able to reproduce his hometown newsletter in a readable format for this edition. A PDF file of the great article on MFS will be posted to our website for you all to enjoy!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Castlebay Concert – Sunday matinee, September 7, 2014

We are soliciting nominations and volunteers for the board of directors, treasurer and committees. Particularly needed are docents, skills in event planning, grants, publicity 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

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\$100	Bowspritsail	Name in newsletter	2 memberships	Decal

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FOR THREE NEW “DONATION INSPIRATION” IDEAS READ ON!



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FRITZ MUELLER MEMORIAL FUND TO PURCHASE SHIP'S KNEES FOR VIRGINIA



In honor of the late Fritz Mueller, longtime supporter of Maine's First Ship, and superlative Popham Colony archaeologist. Your donation to MFS will help us make one of Fritz's goals, the sailing of "Virginia" up the James River, come true.

Thanks,

Orman Hines, President MFS

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**Jane Stevens aboard
JANE STEVENS**

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of the late Jane Stevens, a Founder of Maine's First Ship, a generous donor has made it possible for us to match pledges up to \$5,000.00

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