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MAINE'S FIRST SHIP NEWSLETTER

Reconstructing *Virginia*
Thank You For Your Generous Support!
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CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 2015



FRAMING FINI!

Virginia's aft frames are up and the final fairing work is ongoing both outside and inside her hull. Vice President Jeremy Blaiklock kneels to adjust a fairing batten portside and President Orman Hines, fairing starboard and forward, recedes into the frames. Anchoring the winter crew, our stalwart shipwright officers have led us through the most brutal winter of the build. Record shattering cold and snow remind us each day, with cruel insistence, what the colonists endured. Three weeks from spring, the sun just begins to clear the south boatshed façade bringing a solar boost to the woodstove. Days our temps get above freezing the shimming needed to complete the fairing resumes in earnest.



FINISING THE FRAMES!



Jeremy stands on staging to fit the top of the final aft frame with RB Omo's help at the tenon end. Taking the pattern outside to check the fit of the finished frame for the port side, (center left to right) Aaron Park, Mark Aukeman, Dick Forrest, Roger Barry and Paul Cunningham. Below, the frame is drilled and trunneled, Roof tar is applied to preserve the tenon end of the raised frame and after final fitting, Dick Forrest drills and trunnels the frame into the sternpost with assist from Paul and Roy Jenkins.



FINISING THE FRAMES!

Final fittings...



Ready for fairing....





Morse High Student makes perfect score

Morse High School student Balt von Huene, right, with teacher Eric Varney, achieved the only perfect score in the world last spring on the Advanced Placement Environmental Science exam.

1.5 million public high school juniors and seniors took over 4 million Advanced Placement examinations last year. Although 285 scored every possible point on an exam, Balt Huene is the only student in the world to earn every possible point on the AP Environmental Science

Exam. Equivalent to an A on a corresponding college class, Balt achieved a perfect 5. “This is an absolutely extraordinary accomplishment,” Eric Varney, Morse’s AP environmental science teacher, said in the release. “As Balt’s teacher, I probably find this accomplishment less surprising than most; Balt is smart, hard-working, and intuitive. However, Balt’s attention to detail and his focus on the truth and accuracy in his work are the characteristics that make him a superior student.” Varney added that in the nine years he’s taught the course, never has one of his students earned a perfect score.

This exceptional student characterizes our own Eric Varney as “one of the best teachers in the building,” who “set our class up very well, not only with a good working knowledge of the concepts of environmental science, but also with very specific advice on how to attack each section of the AP test itself.”

Eric Varney was also the Sagadahoc County’s 2014 teacher of the year and remains a key member of the MFS Education Committee. Congratulations to both and WELL DONE!

EDUCATION PROGRAM SEEKING TOOL DONATIONS FOR 2015 SEASON

Preparing for our summer youth building program we are seeking tool donations. Basic hand tools take a beating around the boat yard and in anticipation of a full crew of students we need to update

our tool chest. Basic shop tools such as hammers, tape measures, squares, screw drivers, clamps, hand saws, and wrenches are in need. Your donations of these basic tools will allow us to direct our resources toward the specialty items on our tool list. To donate call George Sprague at 207-596-3066 or email at george_sprague@yahoo.com. You can also drop off at the boat shop behind the Bath Freight Shed Wednesdays and Saturdays. Thanks!





VOLUNTEER SHIPWRIGHT GAIL SMITH

Joining the build during our October 2014 Women's Shipbuilding day, Gail hit the deck working hard and has just kept going! Volunteering to act as firestarter, stoking the woodstove early each snowy frigid morning, she has earned the highest esteem of shipmates one and all. Gail has also been mentoring new volunteers Jim and Dana through the process of fairing for the clamp installation and displays a welcome sense of humor and downright mischief when the tools are down.

Topsham homeowner, Gail plows snow, shovels and rakes the roofs and independently handles all the other million home maintenance tasks winter, summer and fall in her "spare time". "Welcome Aboard".



THE "FAIREST" IN THE LAND

As the fairing stage of construction draws to a close, plans are being made to hand the first planks. The Steam Jenny and plank steamer box sections were hauled from Rob Steven's Hermit Island boatshed in preparation for hanging the garboard and the bilge clamp. The garboard runs along the keel and the clamp is an interior plank stabilizing the structure at the bilge, another clamp will be installed at the deck line or sheer. Rob Stevens announced at the recent Vessel Committee meeting that the honor of hanging the first plank goes to Orman fairing the most hours. Another shout out for port bilge clamp hanging honors goes to Gail Smith, Jim Parmentier and Dana Leonard. A more complete list of our fair shipwrights appears in Virginia's Fo'c'sle February 2015



FEBRUARY 2015 PRESIDENT'S INVITATION

Maine's First Ship, Building VIRGINIA:

Maine's 1607 Link to American Shipbuilding History



Dear Friends and Members of Maine's First Ship,

Our annual meeting will be held on Saturday March 28, 2015 at 1:30PM in the Bath Freight Shed at 27 Commercial Street Bath, Maine. We will have light refreshments and you will have a chance to see our progress on *Virginia*.

During our short business meeting we will (re)elect our slate of officers and welcome new board members for 2015: President: Orman Hines, Vice President: Jeremy Blaiklock, Secretary: Allison Hepler, Treasurer: Dan Burchstead. New Board Members: Rob Stevens and Lori Benson.

Sincerely yours,

Orman Hines , President MFS

Maine's First Ship. PO Box 231. Bath ME 04530 * MFSHIP.ORG * (207) 443-4242

Virginia's Fo'c'sle February 2015

Editor & Photographer Gayla & Tim Teague

Hail and Farewell:

Welcome new board member Lori Benson who will act as Director of Programs. Lori has a strong background in history and marketing and acted as a docent volunteer in our visitor center last summer. Lori's interests also include weaving historic textile. She recently wove a sample of the sailcloth used for the colonist's Virginia, just one example of her skill to combine her fascinating talents. Please help when asked as our event planning director works to bring new programs to our community.

Very special thanks are dedicated to Virginia's Fairing shipwrights:

Aaron Park, Bruce Brennen, Burt Elliot, Chuck Jouver, Dan Wood, Dana Leonard, David Fay, David White, Dick Forrest, Fred Gosbee, Gail Smith, Gil Ross, Gus Manomaitis, Jeremy Blaiklock, Jim Parmentier, Kevin Thibodeau, Larry O'Toole, Les Perry, Mark Aukeman, Orman Hines, Paul Cunningham, Paul Shardlow, Peter Watson, RB Omo, Rob Stevens, Roger Barry, Roger Rand, Roy Jenkins, Tim Teague, and Xaviar Comas.

Over the past two years, working under harsh conditions during the heat of summer and arctic winter cold, you have volunteered thousands of hours of arduous labor using great strength and agility to reach the toughest fairing jobs.

Your diligence day after grueling day is amazing!

Thank you all for being such an important part of this great adventure as we create Virginia's graceful form from green oak, black locust, hackmatack and a whole lot of shipwright sweat equity. You're the best in the volunteer business!

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SPECIAL THANKS TO LONG TIME BUSINESS MEMBER BIG BARN COFFEE!

We are soliciting nominations and volunteers for the board of directors, 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

HISTORY AND COMMUNITY - BECOME A VOLUNTEER!

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

SUMMER HOURS (4th of JULY-Labor Day) TUESDAY THROUGH SATURDAY 10AM TO 3PM SUNDAY 12PM TO 3PM

SPRING AND FALL HOURS FRIDAY 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"

“DONATION INSPIRATION”

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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