



MAINE'S FIRST SHIP NEWSLETTER

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

**CONSTRUCTION
UPDATE**
UPCOMING EVENTS
APRIL 2015



Bev Bevilacqua, copyright

TEACHING MOMENT

Volunteers congregate in Virginia's future crew quarters for a learning moment with shipwright Rob Stevens. Gathering both inside and outside the hull, they listen intently while Rob describes the process of installing the bilge clamp planks.



Sketching with a sharpie (on a scrap of luan left over from the pattern molding process) Rob both enlightens and entertains while he creates images that become both tools and coveted souvenirs. This is who we are, giving and receiving. We're volunteers and shipwrights in training. We are Virginia.

Outside view: Jay Coffey, Orman Hines, RB Omo, Roy Atkins, Larry Otoole, Tim Teague, Paul Cunningham.
Inside view: RB, Roy, Larry, Roger Barry, Rob, Dana Leonard and Gail Smith.



PLANING THE PLANKS!



Firing off the 21" plane for the first time, volunteers work on adjusting the plane,



supporting rollers and their cooperative techniques. Some planks are so long they slide into the boatshed before they clear the plane, which can't be moved because it would interfere with the gate. Many hands make safe work, wielding 24' by 18" oak planks takes a big crew, and they aren't even steaming hot yet- but soon!



Volunteers: Larry O'Toole, Mike Waters, Jay Coffey, Dick Forrest, Orman Hines, Fred Gosbee, Paul Cunningham, RB Omo, Jay Coffey, Tim Teague, Les Perry, Roger Barry, Rob Stevens

FINISHING THE FAIRING!



Dr. Dan Wood, with assistance from Tim Teague, sets the fairing batten. Dana Leonard fairing high on the aft frames, with dust mask and hearing protection – safety first!

Jim Parmentier (left) checks the fair of the bilge clamp footprint with a batten. Working with shims and epoxy (center), Les Perry fairs the outside hull. Fairing often requires the removal of legacy screws before applying the plane; (left) Jim employs one of the many forms of removing screws, a large pair of vice grips and some considerable brute force. Some were placed in green wood and are nearly impossible to extract.



Fairing for the Garboard plank – the dirtiest, most tedious job in the boatshed.



Thank you!

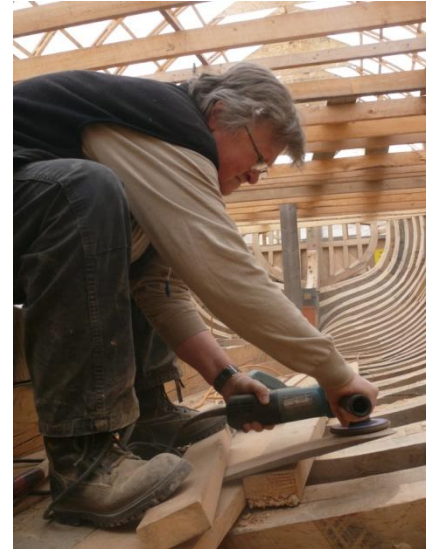
**Roger Barry,
Jeremy Blaiklock
and Dave White**



BILGE CLAMP AND WEDGE CLAMP -

Fairing finesse- Dana applies a batten to the forward portside bilge clamp footprint, while Gail Smith and Jim Parmentier stand by for the next high/low spot to work.

Gail creates a foot vice from some spare wood scraps to hold the shim while she grinds.



Left, Jim and Dana play batten bookends port and starboard.

Dana and Gail survey the newly installed wedge clamps, heavy oak blocks securely bolted to the frame that are used to wedge the clamp planks into place.



Gail is smiling because she knows where the screws are.....



THE FIRST BILGE CLAMP PLANK – TEST FIT

We cut the first bilge clamp plank this week and loaded it into (and out of) *Virginia*. Tolerances are tight for passing these planks under the high rise work platform, between the frames and into the ship without hitting the crossfalls that stabilize the frames at the deck line. Paul Cunningham (tallest among us) takes the point and “threads the needle” backed by Dick Forrest, Orman Hines, Roger Barry, (outside the boatshed) RB Omo and Mike Waters. Inside *Virginia*, Dana Leonard, Jim Parmentier and Gail Smith catch, taking the utmost care on footing that is comprised of all curves and gaps between frames. This clamp plank will be the first in the steam dragon, shifted to a more convenient location. Then it’s back to laying out the next clamp, repeat 17 times. The bilge clamp layout is three planks wide and three planks deep running the length of the ship on each side, port and starboard (18 total).





MAINE'S FIRST SHIP 2015 SUMMER PROGRAM

Join Us for a Summer of Maritime Adventure!

- Develop woodworking skills
- Maritime and boatbuilding techniques
- Local heritage and history
- Local woodworking and boat-building field trips
- Hands-on learning
- Rowing on the Kennebec

Eligibility: The program is recommended for students entering grades 7-10, but others are encouraged to apply.

Schedule: Two three-week sessions are offered. Program runs Monday through Thursday, 8 AM to 12 PM. Students may participate in one or both sessions.

Session I
July 6 - 23, 2015

Session II
July 27 - August 13, 2015

"MFS provides a connection to the Maine community and its history. In addition, the program equips you with beneficial skills and practical knowledge." —Prior Participant



Find out more! Details and application information:

www.mfship.org

Email: mfsl@myfairpoint.net

Phone: 443-4242

Meet the Swaims



Sophi Swaim is another of our Women's Shipbuilding day volunteers and she's helping out with the recently revitalize Membership and Publicity Committee. Sophi recently moved to Bath with her husband Travis and son Felix and purchased their Elm Street home.

This is a big shift for the Swaims having lived on a sailboat where Felix was born, but they love the location, close to schools and work (not to mention the Bath Police Department). Sophi has some mild concerns about the bragging rights

Felix will have over the child she expects this August. "This baby won't be born on a sailboat like Felix was and he's sure to make that point often". Anyone with a sibling knows what she is talking about! It's pretty exciting to have these young "generational" volunteers; this is a baby that is destined to have a lot of "aunties" and "uncles" from the extended MFS family.

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!

LET'S BUILD VIRGINIA INTERACTIVE EDUCATION EXHIBIT COMES HOME



A lost treasure was found recently at Maine Maritime Museum and returned just in time for our 2015 season. Made by Gil Ross and other volunteers this interactive exhibit has languished, lost in storage, since we used it during a spar hewing demonstration at MMM in 2007. This child high "build a model" Virginia includes the keel, stem, transom, frames, keelson, hull, deck and masts.

When assembled, it looks just like the rigging model!



APRIL 2015 PRESIDENT'S INVITATION

Dear Members and Friends of Maine's First Ship,

Thanks to all who attended our annual meeting March 28th where we (re)lected our slate of officers and welcomed our newest board member Lori Benson. Re-elected for another term, President: Orman Hines, Vice President: Jeremy Blaiklock, Secretary: Allison Hepler, and newly elected Treasurer: Dan Burchstead.

We're preparing for an exciting season in both Vessel and Education programs and we invite you to visit us soon and often.

We cordially invite you to our next benefit event, the annual reception, dinner and silent auction. Held in honor of the reconstruction of *Virginia* the first ship built by English settlers in North America, this is always a sellout event. This year our speaker Joe Patterson (Maine's First Ship past board member) will deliver a dinner speech, "Eight Weeks before the Mast: A Deckhand's View of the 38th Voyage of the Charles W. Morgan". Held at J. R. Maxwell's Restaurant, Front Street, Bath, Maine, ticket prices are \$35 for one \$65 for two.

RSVP By May 6, 2015 to MFS1@myfairpoint.net or by telephone 207-443-4242, with your Main Entrée Choice: Chicken Cordon Bleu, Baked Maine Haddock, Vegetarian Quiche, NY Sirloin Steak. Please join us Tuesday May 12, 2015, 5:30 PM to 8:30PM for a fun and informative evening.

Our Development Committee is conducting the individual donor phase of our 2014-2016 *Virginia* Capital Campaign, led by Dan Wood. Please respond favorably and help fund the material procurement to build Virginia.

Thank you for your continuing generosity.

Best Regards,

Orman Hines

President, Maine's First ship

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

Virginia's Fo'c'sle April 2015

Editor & Photographer Gayla & Tim Teague

Last week was the last 2015 winter farmer's market at the Freight Shed, next Saturday (May 2) they are back on the waterfront for the summer and we'll be helping the Freight Shed Alliance hold a yard sale to raise money to pay of the \$1500 snowplow bill from our record winter. There will be a huge clearing and cleaning effort to prepare for the yard sale, the re-assembly of the MFS visitor center, education area and sill work on the south end Commercial Street side. This is a transitional time of year between the non-profits that share the Freight Shed, with shipwrights busy cleaning up the yard and boatshed winter debris, and the Education Programs and Visitor Center volunteers gearing up for the new season. Expect new exhibits, merchandise, tons of progress on Virginia and the return of Volunteer Recognition.

Special thanks to Helen Richmond Webb for the high res logo images and the beautifully balanced Ed Poster.

Come see us soon! With best regards, Gayla & Tim

PLEASE SUPPORT MAINE'S FIRST SHIP BUSINESS MEMBERS AND PARTNERS

Capital Campaign		Partners:	
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Spencer Gray Insurance	The Hampden Inn	Maine Maritime Museum	
Now You're Cooking	Dot's Ice Cream Shop	Main Street Bath	Foundation Supporters:
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Sharon Drake Real Estate	First Federal Savings & Loan		Schooner Ardelle Inc



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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