

# Logbook!



No. 475

January, 2026

# 2 Hampton Roads Ship Model Society

No. 475

WWW.HRSMS.ORG

December 2025

View  
From  
The  
Bridge



## Meeting Notice

The meeting will take place  
at 10:00 hours

January 10, 2026



Captain's Log 1.10.26

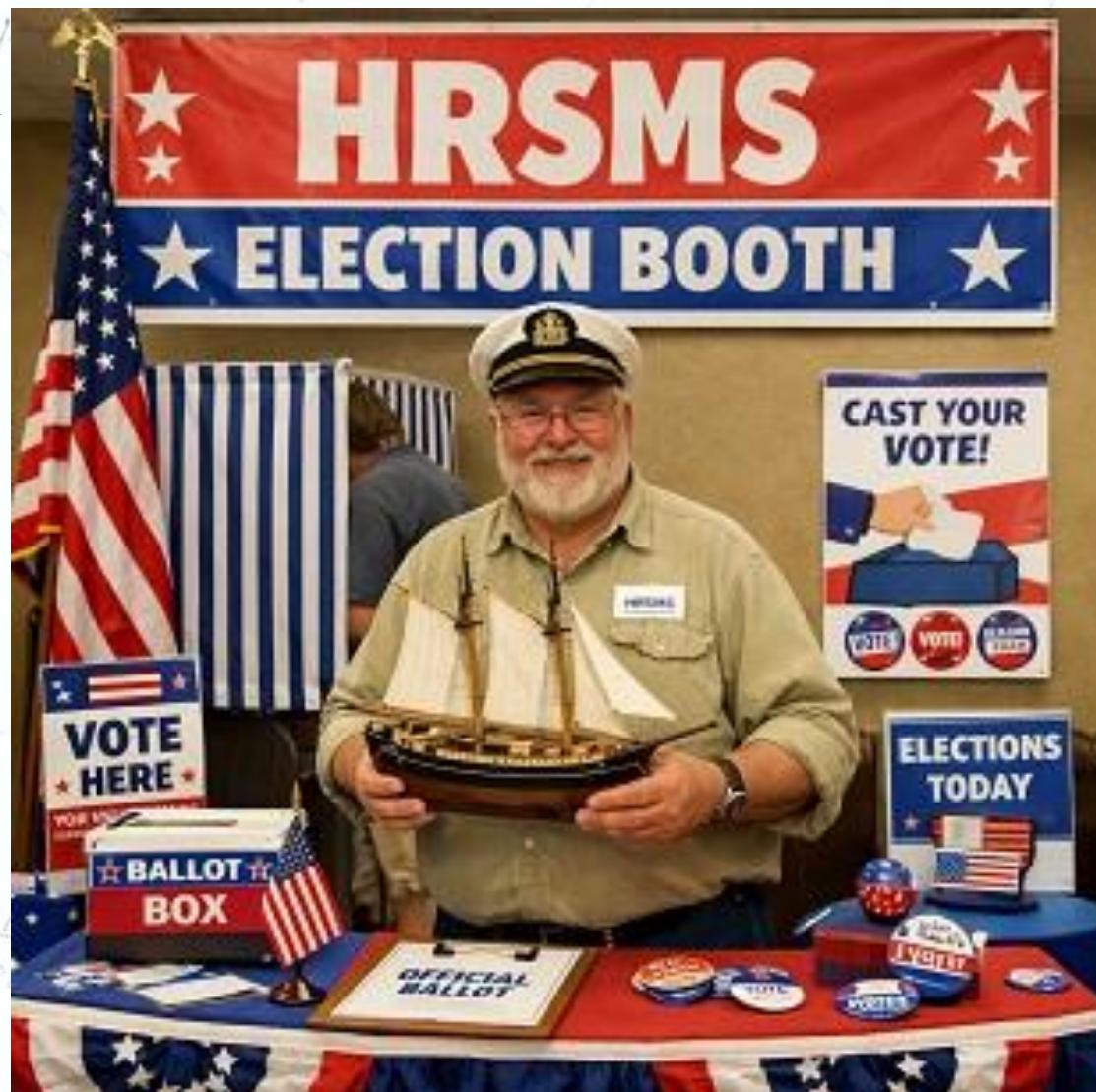
The start of a new year arrives with bold promises of renewed enthusiasm, grand plans, and the firm belief that this time we will finish everything we started last year. Meanwhile, the outgoing year is quietly shown the door, along with a few ideas best not discussed in public.

Change in leadership is a healthy and positive function, bringing fresh perspectives, new energy, and a brief period where everyone asks, "Wait... who's in charge of *that* now?" After more than six years at the helm as Skipper, the time has come for me to pass the torch again before I'm permanently lashed to the helm. Nominations for Skipper, First Mate, and Clerk will be accepted this month, with elections to be held at the February meeting. The position of Purser, I trust, will continue to be held by Ryland, who has so far resisted all reasonable opportunities to escape.

It has been my honor to lead HRSMS through these years, and I now look forward to a bit of anonymity... assuming that is even remotely possible.

"There will be growth in the spring!"— Chauncey Gardiner

SD



## Letters to the Editor



From: **Ryland Craze**  
To: **Bridge & Editor**  
Hi Guys,

I have attached a Word document of the minutes of Saturday's meeting.

I must confess that I used ChatGPT to write the minutes for me. I tried something new. I read my notes using the voice dictation feature in ChatGPT and the results are what you see in the attachment. I cleaned it up slightly. It also asked me did I want a condensed version of the minutes for a newsletter and I said yes. So that is listed below the longer version.

Thanks.  
Ryland

From: **Charles Landrum**  
To: **Bridge & Editor**

<https://youtu.be/9UI8P5Ph6XA?si=5977seRCobyNroTh>  
in case you have not seen it. Sad but cool. (progress pics on United States—Ed.)

[https://youtube.com/shorts/iUfIH\\_ipIwk?si=Af5K0QIyZmTicvX0](https://youtube.com/shorts/iUfIH_ipIwk?si=Af5K0QIyZmTicvX0) (Iowa firing 16" guns—Ed.)  
This is rare glimpse into the past!

I remember being in a column in the Vir-



gin Passage (between PR and the USVI) on USS Kidd with USS Iowa dead astern – it was unnerving; especially when we had to pull out of column to launch SH-3 helicopters for NAS Roosevelt Roads. Iowa passed us about 500 yards on our port beam! I met Secretary Lehman in October 1985 on Kidd at our Change of Command. The new CO, CDR Dan Murphy, had been his aid; Murphy went on to earn 3 stars. Since SECNAV was there, every admiral in Hampton Roads was too, all on the flight deck of a destroyer! The ships around us hated all of the pomp and circumstance. I met Secy Lehman again at the Mariners Museum around 2018 and had him autograph his picture in the cruise book!

From: **Ron Lewis**  
To: **Editor and Crew**

Happy New Year, Mates! I will end my *pro-tem* position as program-getter as of today. Please consider A) doing a presentation and B) taking over as program chair. We've had some great and valuable presentations over our many years but there's still more info out there! Please let me know if you can come up with a presentation starting in February.

Very Best,  
Ron

From: **John Jones**  
To: **Editor**

John - will miss you Saturday! I looked at the last Log-book and did not see anything about bringing holiday snacks (cookies etc). Do you know if anyone is bringing anything?

(the remainder of John's letter can be found on page 15—Ed.)

## January Cover:

This month's cover shows the 181,000 ton Carnival cruise ship Mardi Gras at the Celebration Key pier in the Bahamas—it was a fine day in December. Taking a cruise in December is a sure way to beat the cold and avoid the snow. I understand it snowed about 3 inches two days after we left for Florida. I missed it, but Ellen did not! Cruise ships have grown exponentially in the last 20 years, and I understand that larger ones are planned and on the way. And I don't really think they are good subjects for the ship modeler, but you can dream. Maybe one day, I'll cut lifts...—Ed.

## The Jape



**Until they invented the other side of Velcro, it never really caught on.**



## Scuttlebutt



### Nautical slang for January

**Even keel** - A vessel that floats upright without list is said to be on an even keel and this term has come to mean calm and steady. A keel is like the backbone of the vessel, the lowest and principal centerline structural member running fore and aft. Keeled over (upside down) was a sailor's term for death.. —Ed.



# Minutes



The Skipper proposed the idea of obtaining challenge coins featuring the HRSMS logo. He will investigate options. A motion was made and passed by a majority vote to proceed, with the goal of having the coins available for the IPMS Richmond Old Dominion Open in February.

## Meeting Minutes, 12-13-25

The meeting was called to order shortly after 10:00 a.m. by the Skipper. There were 20 members and guests present and six members and guests on-line.

### Business Meeting

The meeting then transitioned into the business portion.

The Skipper welcomed first time guest Steven Milne to the meeting.

The Skipper announced that club elections are upcoming. Nominations will be taken at the January meeting for all officers. Members were encouraged to consider stepping forward.

A motion was made to donate \$1,000 to the Mariners' Museum. The motion passed unanimously.

**Show and Tell:** Sean Malone was the first presenter, sharing the progress on his model of the *Winchelsea*.



The Purser's Report was presented by Ryland Craze, who reported that the Society's finances are in good order. He also shared a letter from Pat Derby's wife thanking the Society for a \$100 donation to Pat's church, as well as a certificate from the Nautical Research Guild confirming that the Society is a chapter club member in good standing.



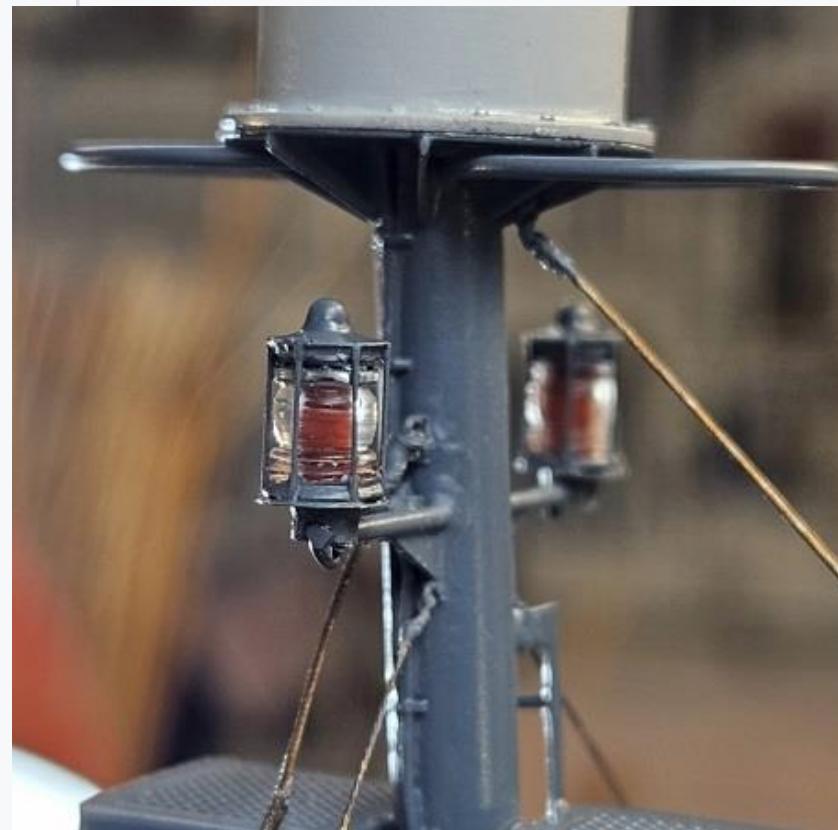
Greg Harrington provided a report on the Society's website, noting that while there were some operational issues, they have since been resolved and the site is now functioning well.

Dave Chelbow followed with a presentation on his work on a model of the New Bedford whaleboat. (*and next page—Ed.*)



**Show and Tell (cont.):**

Gene Berger then shared the current issue of the IPMS Journal, which featured a front cover photograph of his *1916 USS Arizona*. The model won the Grand Prize Award at the recent IPMS show in Hampton. He also presented updated photos of his ongoing work on his model of the *USS Zircon*, which he hopes to complete in the next several months.



## Show and Tell (cont.):

Greg Harrington shared photographs from a recent trip to Denmark that he took with Gene Berger, including images from Copenhagen and the Museum Ship *Jylland*. He concluded with a photo of a restaurant featuring Carlsberg beer, “The Best Beer in the World.”



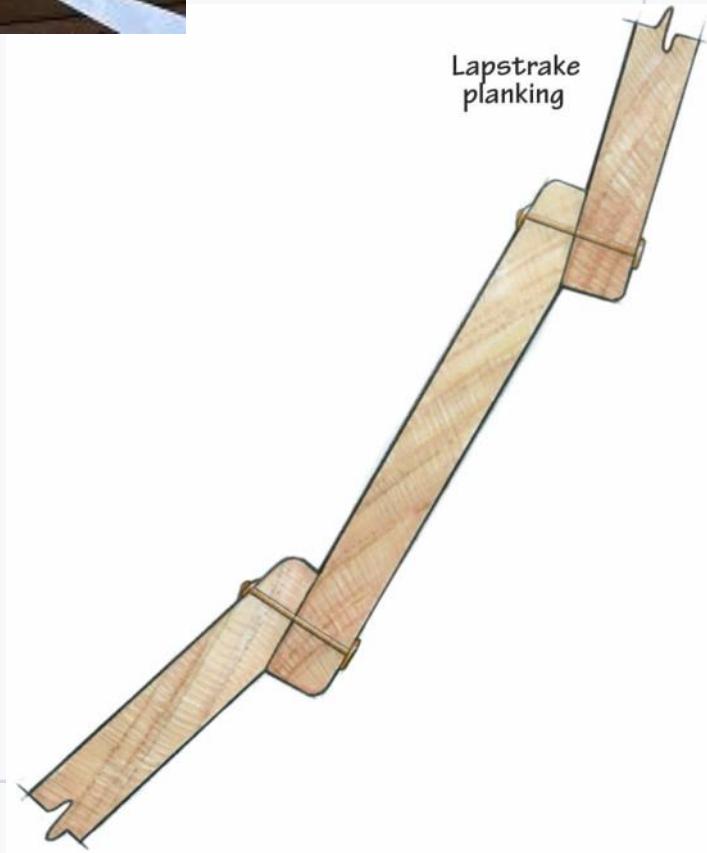
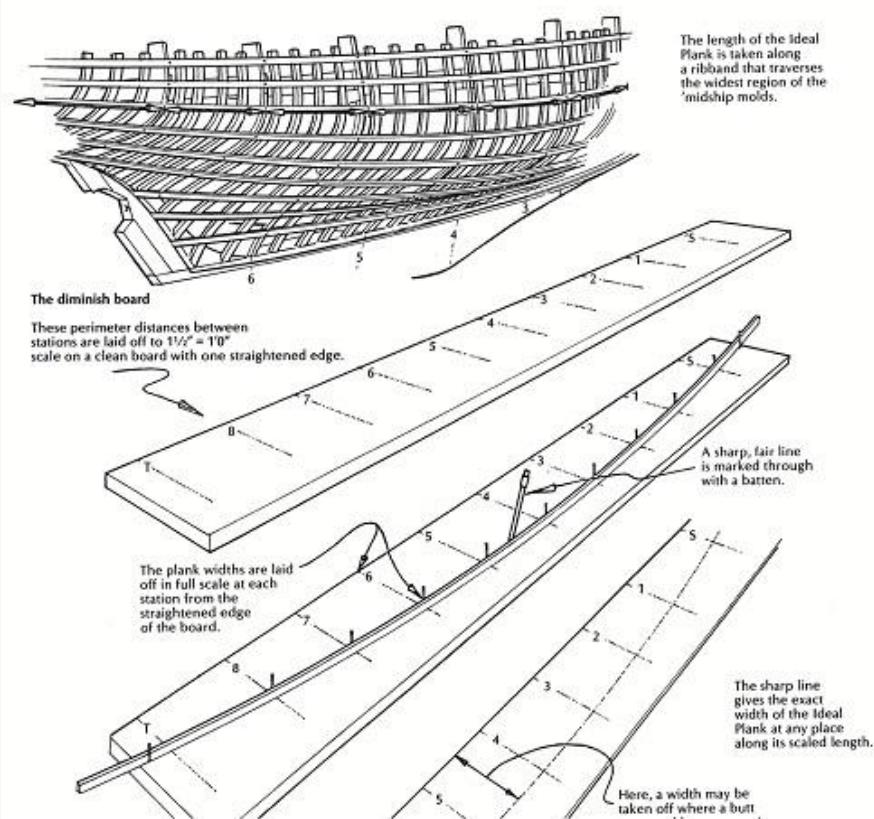
Mort Stoll shared progress on the stern of his *Diana* model. (no image)

Kevin Kenny displayed a capstan he made for his *HMS Thorn*. (See his column for more on his activities.-Ed)

## Presentation:

Greg Harrington gave a presentation on building and planking a lapstrake model hull. As an added bonus, he followed with a presentation demonstrating techniques for making rivets for the planking.

*A properly planked hull is beauty incarnate. If you don't believe me, then get your eyes checked. I wasn't there for Greg's presentation, but I understand the subject matter. Here are some photos and illustrations (without caption—sorry) that highlight aspects of the process.—Ed.*



## Mystery Photo

If you know the answer, contact John Cheevers by mail, text, or Email

The year is 2026, the year of the 250. Can you guess what this means? Some Mystery Photos this year will have the number 250 someplace in their theme. Your job is to identify where and why? This will provide an excellent oppor-

tunity for you to talk about the photograph. If you know anything about the image, sent that information in to the Mystery Photo. All replies will be blended into an interesting essay.

Also, If you have a “250” themed photograph that asks these questions: who, what, when, where, and why, send it on to the Logbook editor for consideration.—Ed.



## Mystery Photo Explained

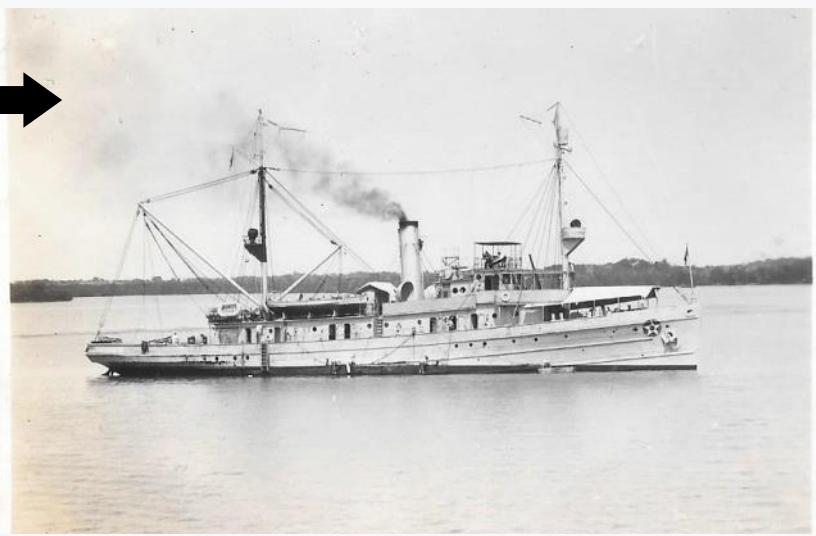


At first glance, you might think that the monthly Mystery Photo (MP) only offers an image of a random tug boat. And you would be wrong! And you might think that the random tug would only provide the opportunity of a short essay. Again, you would be wrong! This is why we play

Or don't play, in the case of this Mystery Photo. The small, tug-like vessel rides peacefully, with no drift, in calm water. With no anchor set, some smoke from the stack, and no wake you might say that the vessel is holding place with very slow turns of the screw. There is work going on along the waterline, it appears they are tidyng up the boot top. Some awnings are set so it must be in a hotter climate or summertime. There is a round emblem encasing a star at the bow —a very good clue. There is also a large mast with several booms at the stern. She is meant to do some heavy lifting—another clue. Forward of the bridge we see another mast with a spotlight platform and a crows nest higher up. After that, she has the appearance of a large, perhaps seagoing, tug.

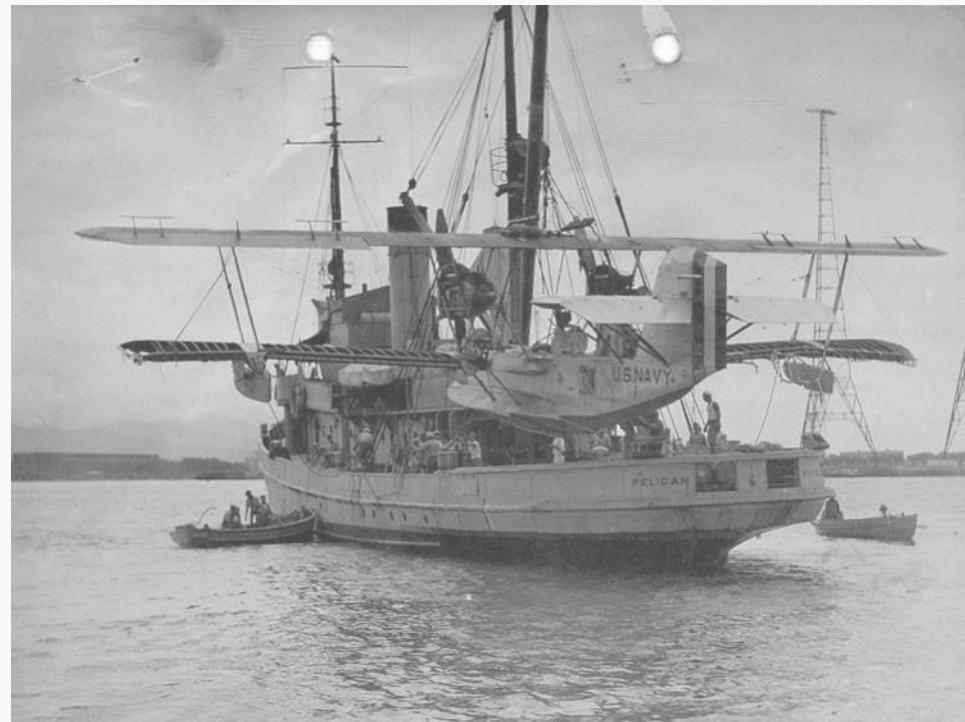
Let's begin with the round emblem. You might be familiar with it if you studied military aircraft from before World War Two (WWII). It is called roundel. And just like flags, warplanes from all nations carried their own, unique roundel designs to identify their country. The one used by US military, Army and Navy, featured a blue circle, with a white star. It had a red ball in the center up until 1942. The one in our MP has the red ball: red, white, and blue for Old Glory. The fact that it is carried on a ship defines the service for us. It must be noted that US Navy ships typically did not carry this as an identification marking, but we see it here as an example of an exception to that rule.

So, what US Navy ships or types do you think carried the roundel? Easy. Those used to service naval aircraft, typically seaplanes. The ability to service seaplanes



also meant that on occasion the planes had to be lifted from the water. And that's where the second clue comes into the discussion. You can see in the photograph at the bottom of this page where a vessel similar to our MP offering has landed a seaplane on her fantail. The fin flash, or rudder stripes, add an additional identification. They were used up to 1942 as well. Looking carefully at the image, you can see the name "Pelican" stenciled on her stern.

Pelican is an old Lapwing-class minesweeper, sometimes called the Bird class. And now you understand the name. These ships were commissioned around 1918 and were used primarily to clear the North Sea mine fields following World War I. She and others were

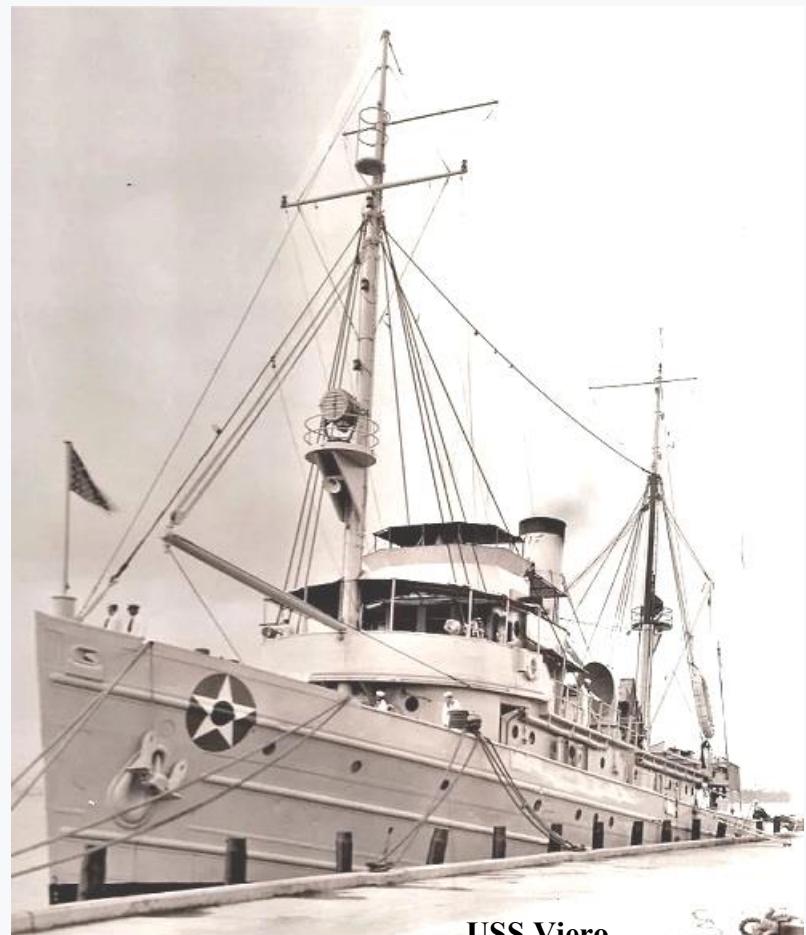


decommissioned in 1922 once that work was complete.

However, she is not our Mystery vessel. There were over 50 minesweepers built to the Lapwing, or Bird, design. The first nine of the class were converted and re-designated as "minesweeper for duty with aircraft" beginning in 1931. By 1936, they were reclassified as small seaplane tenders—AVP-#. I searched all ten in NavSource.net for the photograph but came up empty. To get to the correct identification, you may have to use a Rob Napier trick. If you make a Google search of images and insert the Mystery Photo you should get a result that provides the correct ship's name. Check "exact matches". If that works, you can then read about the correct ship.

But that is not how I found the photograph. The image came to my attention when it was posted on a Facebook page titled "Navy Veterans (sons of the sea) by an anonymous participant. The person who posted it provided this question: "I know it's pre-WW2 but can anyone figure out what she is?" That got my attention. One of the replies said: "USS Sandpiper (AVP-9), a Lapwing class Minesweeper reclassified as a Small Seaplane Tender in January 1936." I inquired as to how he knew the identification as the photo did not appear on NavSource.net. I did not get an answer. So I made my own "Napier" search, and it was not conclusive.

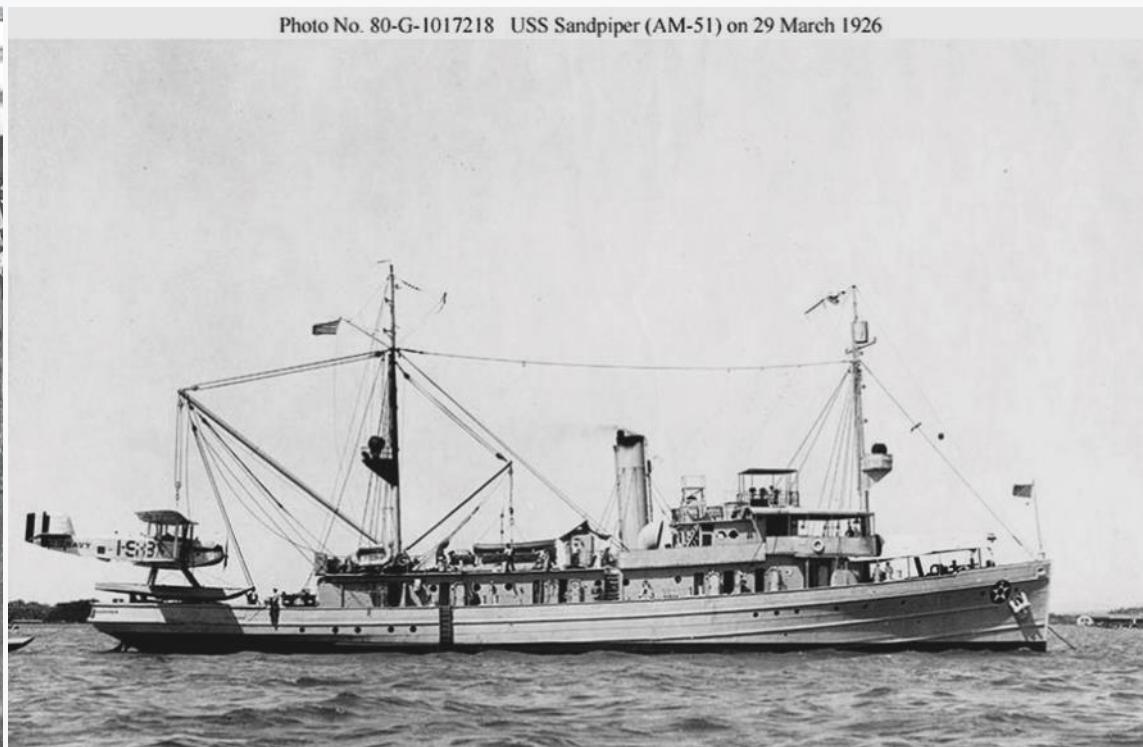
In the absence of a positive ID, I did the next best thing: I looked at images of all nine vessels to see how consistent the navy was in locating the roundel relative to the cap and upper rub rails. Guess what?



USS Viero

USS Viero above has the roundel located high, centering it on the rub rail, as did others. USS Sandpiper (AVP-9), below right, and USS Gannet (AVP-8), below left, had theirs located like we see in the Mystery Photo, so that was no help. I guess we have to go with that the unconfirmed response found on that Facebook site and declare the image to be of USS Sandpiper.—John

Photo No. 80-G-1017218 USS Sandpiper (AM-51) on 29 March 1926

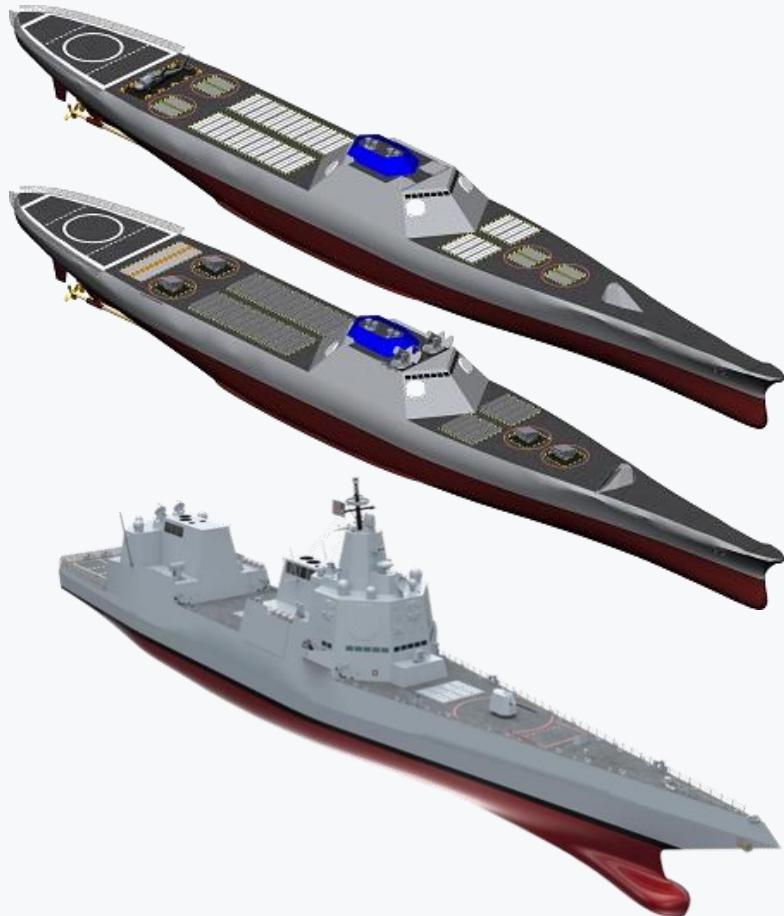


## Designer's Soapbox.

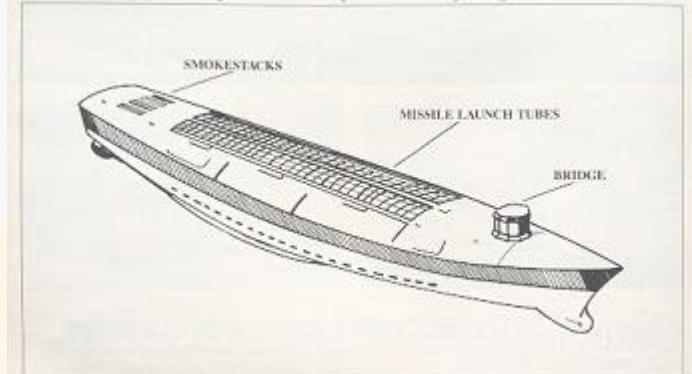
In the News a few weeks ago was a story where our President wants to resurrect the “Battleship” as a ship class in the US Navy. Is it an outdated idea or is it time to redefine our capitol ship? In a lot of ways, reintroducing the designation would ease identification and classification amongst the great unwashed. After all, they seem to call everything that is not an aircraft carrier a battleship—much like a child will call anything that floats a boat.

That brings us to the concept of the battleship—the visual idea of what it should be and look like. The great unwashed (them, again) have little understanding of ship design, and even less understanding of the requirements that would drive what the navy actually needs—they go about their lives in the bliss of ignorance, and it really shows up on social media. There are those who would craft the vessel with “Iowa” undertones. And those who follow the “Burke” bible. Then there are the practitioners who want a barge like vessel that is just a missile, dump truck.

Me, I like the one at the bottom of the page. It encompasses the best of naval tradition and ship design through the ages. And it, thankfully, does not include any of that pesky aviation stuff. Let the designing begin!—Ed.



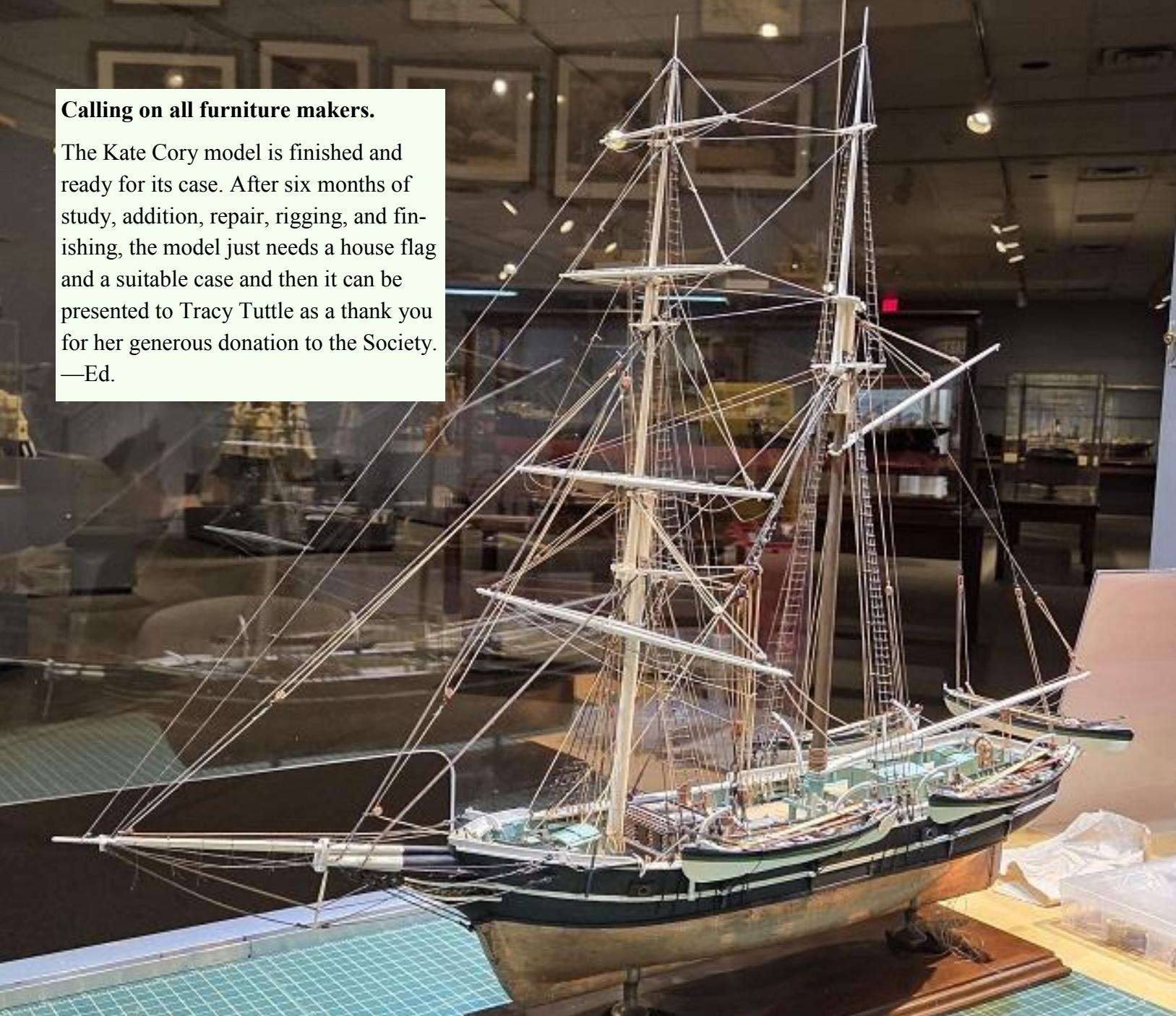
V. Adm. Metcalf's concept for a 21st century warship or "deadringer"—"Ordnance from bow to stern, curved surfaces for low radar signature, only two people on the bridge. . . I want a radical departure from the old ways of doing business!"



## Calling on all furniture makers.

The Kate Cory model is finished and ready for its case. After six months of study, addition, repair, rigging, and finishing, the model just needs a house flag and a suitable case and then it can be presented to Tracy Tuttle as a thank you for her generous donation to the Society.

—Ed.



## What's Happening at The Museum

It might not be the Rolling Stone, and he might not be Dr. Hook, but when you can play like he can you earn respect. Our own Kevin Ritton was featured in the latest edition of Ahoy, a publication from The Mariners' Museum. His image, on page 19, heads their schedule of events for 2026. As you can see, he is marking time as he waits for the Battle of Hampton Roads Commemoration this upcoming March 7th. That's the weekend before our standing meeting, so you don't have an excuse to not attend.—Ed.

### American Naval History The Civil War

AMERICAN NAVAL HISTORY  
—WW II

1942

January 20: A American destroyer cooperates with three Royal Australian Navy corvettes to sink the I-124.

January 20: The American sub S-36 runs aground and has to be scuttled.

January 24: A elderly division of four destroyers surprise a Japanese invasion force off Balikpapan, Borneo, and sinks 4 out of 12 transports.

January 24: The Submarine S-26 is rammed and sunk by PC-460. Only three men survive.

January 27: The Submarine Gudgeon sinks the Japanese submarine I-173 west of Midway Atoll.

End of 1942 Part 1



# PTSD All hands; Lend a hand...

On a separate note, I will be standing down the "Comfort Bird Champaign" (arthritis) by 1 Jan 2026, As of that date, we will have delivered 1,000 birds to Hampton and Chesapeake VA Hospitals as well as the Charlotte VA Hospital and Virginia Beach EMS also received 100 (they keep at least one in each ambulance). DAV has received another 100 for counseling for Gold Star families and Military Victims of sexual trauma. Several Psychiatrists also use them during for PTSD victims. In all those organizations, I have been told by the above organizations that the birds have been a most positive addition to their efforts! HRSMS has also been a great help for the birds they contributed. I cannot adequately express my gratitude to all!!!! Thank You !!!! John Jones

Member John Jones is making these small hand carved birds for veterans who are in need as anti suicide support items. They are a tactile reminder to those in trouble that help is

just a phone call away. On the bottom is the phone number for the **suicide and crisis hotline**.

## A message from your Taco Stand



## Repeatability

Our Lame-duck Skipper is fond of saying that "anything worth doing, is worth overdoing." How true, how true. In finishing up the build of Bill Tuttle's model of Kate Cory, four whaleboats had to be outfitted, and they all had to look about the same. In 1/48 scale, that was an interesting challenge—look alike, but not identical. The nice thing about building in the "wooden ship" era is that almost everything was hand made which allows for some discrepancy in detail and fit-up. Whew. —Ed.

As promised on the Letters to the Editor page, here are some update shots of the United States. They are from a Facebook video post (Color Earth with Shane O) taken December 6, 2025. The fellow hails from Destin, FL and is fortunate to have the equipment and proximity to record this. Check out his other marine related posts and videos, you may decide to follow him on Facebook.

The drone footage that is addressed in Charles' letter to the editor is from November, 2025. If you are interested in the preparation of the ship to become an artificial reef, I encourage you to visit both posts and other on-line sites where "nauticans" are following the progress.

—Ed.



with Sha... Follow  
ates  
ome of the shots fr... more

# Caelan's Corner

This winter break I started construction on the PT boat. I spent some time with John, Kevin, and Tim helping me glue together the deck at the Taco Stand. I am currently working on the sanding blocks for the deck. There is a cabinet shop up the alley from our shop that makes them. I make my blocks from the particle board scrap from their dumpster. I am also currently working on filling the gaps in the deck with wood filler. I owe a huge thank you to Gene for giving me some of his brass propellers.—Caelan



## Club gear:

If you need a shirt, hat, or name badge, be sure to see either Ryland Craze or Tim Wood. They have all the details on what's available; pricing and so forth. And I will say that most of the gear comes with our embroidered logo

Or you can search the website for info. Simply type "hat" in the search window...



Time for .....



I think it's Garth Brooks who "set sail with Captain Morgan" in his hit tune. Well we're not setting sail, but we are bracing for the goodness of Captain Morgan with the Coquito. I like this recipe as it makes a bunch.

### Ingredients

1 can (12 oz) evaporated milk

1 can (14 oz) sweetened condensed milk

1 can (15 oz) cream of coconut (such as Coco Lopez or Goya brand)

1 can (13.5 oz) coconut milk

1 to 2 cups Captain Morgan Original Spiced Rum  
(adjust to taste)

1 tsp vanilla extract

1 tsp ground cinnamon, plus more for garnish

1/4 tsp ground nutmeg (optional)

Cinnamon sticks for garnish

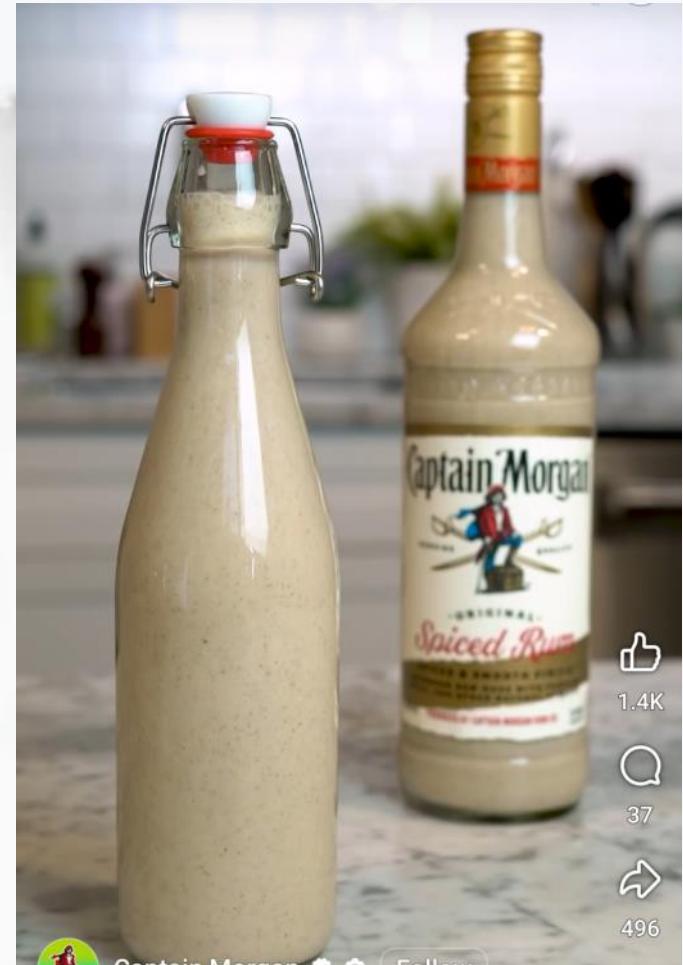
### Instructions

**Combine ingredients:** In a large blender, add the evaporated milk, sweetened condensed milk, cream of coconut, coconut milk, Captain Morgan rum, vanilla extract, ground cinnamon, and ground nutmeg (if using).

**Blend:** Blend on high until the mixture is completely smooth and well combined (about 1-2 minutes).

**Chill:** Pour the coquito mixture into glass bottles or a large pitcher. Seal tightly and refrigerate for at least 4 hours, or preferably overnight, to allow the flavors to meld and the mixture to thicken.

**Serve:** Shake the bottle well before serving, as some separation is natural. Serve the coquito chilled in small glasses, garnished with a sprinkle of cinnamon and a cinnamon stick.



# Mess Call



It's cold out, it's time for a hot, hearty soup.

This is one of my favorite soups, simple and easy to make. Try it, I hope you'll like it too!

## Beef and Barley Soup:

### INGREDIENTS:

- \* 1 pound boneless chuck roast trimmed and cut into 1/2-inch pieces
- \* 1 1/2 cups carrots thinly sliced
- \* 1 1/2 cups celery thinly sliced
- \* 2/3 cup onion chopped
- \* 1 package pre-sliced mushrooms 8-ounce
- \* 2 tbs beef base (this is different than beef broth it is a base that makes beef broth)
- \* 8-10 cups water
- \* 1 large bay leaf

### DIRECTIONS:

1. Brown beef in non-stick fry pan until browned, stirring frequently.
2. Remove beef from pan and place in crockpot, Add carrot, celery, onion, and mushrooms, beef base, water, garlic and bay leaf.
3. Cook on high heat for one hour, add pearl barley then turn down to low and cook till vegetables and beef are tender. Stir in salt and pepper.
4. Discard bay leaf.

Don't forget some nice artisan bread to sop up all that good pot liquor.



# Post it to the (Bulkhead)

This last minute email is well worth watching.  
Spoiler alert: it may make your blood boil.

**From:** Charles Landrum  
**To:** Editor and Crew

<https://youtu.be/TbUn2rot3O0?si=lx0OoTGcBwscdxP4>

Now this is a project. BTW the boat is in the hometown of LL Bean

## Mariners' museum 2026 events

Save the Date

JAN-FEB

Winter Wednesdays

January 21 - February 25  
9:30

ALL YEAR

USS Monitor Legacy Program  
Select Fridays

MAR 07

Battle of Hampton Roads Commemoration

APR 18

Safety at Sea Training Course

APR 19

MilKids Festival

MAY 23

Public Lake Rental Season Begins

JUN 27

Sips & Trips

NOV 07

Fall Festival



The Wall can be used for news, or to post things you want to sell, or things that you are in need of...It is your page for announcements!

All we are is just...

# The Deckplate

## JANUARY 2026

10 HRSMS Monthly Meeting: Mariners' Museum  
Nomination of officers  
Presentation: Ron Lewis—Earth will not see such ships again

## FEBRUARY 2026

14 HRSMS Monthly Meeting: Mariners' Museum  
7 National Fettuccine Alfredo Day  
Election of officers  
Presentation:

## MARCH 2026

14 HRSMS Monthly Meeting: Mariners' Museum  
14  $\pi$  Day  
14/15 Battle of Hampton Roads Weekend at the MM  
Presentation:

## April 2026

11 HRSMS Monthly Meeting: Mariners' Museum  
22 Earth Day / 26 Arbor Day  
26 Model Boat Show, Deltaville ?  
Presentation:

## MAY 2026

9 HRSMS Monthly Meeting: Mariners' Museum  
21 Talk like Yoda Day  
Presentation:

## JUNE 2026

13 HRSMS Monthly Meeting: Mariners' Museum  
22 Sips and Trips at the Museum ?  
Presentation:

## WATCH, QUARTER, AND STATION BILL



Skipper: Gene Berger (757) 850-4407  
1<sup>st</sup> Mate: Greg Harrington (757) 218-5368  
Purser: Ryland Craze (804) 739-8804  
Clerk: Stewart Winn (757) 508-9881  
Historian: Tim Wood (757) 639-4442  
Logbook Ed.: John Cheevers (757) 876-7466  
Columnists: Ron Lewis  
Bob Moritz  
Tim Wood  
Webmaster: Greg Harrington (757) 218-5368  
Photographer: John Cheevers (757) 876-7466



## JULY 2026

11 HRSMS Monthly Meeting: Mariners' Museum  
Presentation:

## AUGUST 2026

8 HRSMS Monthly meeting:  
6-9 IPMS-USA National Convention  
Hampton Roads Convention Center, Hampton  
28 National Bow Tie Day  
Presentation:

## SEPTEMBER 2026

12 HRSMS Monthly Meeting: Picnic Newport News City Park  
19 **Talk like a Pirate** Day  
Presentation: **Picnic At Newport News City Park....Shelter**

## OCTOBER 2026

10 HRSMS Monthly Meeting: Mariners' Museum  
Presentation:

## NOVEMBER 2026

14 HRSMS Monthly Meeting: Mariners' Museum  
Presentation:

## DECEMBER 2026

12 HRSMS Monthly Meeting: Mariners' Museum  
Presentation:



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