



# Quarterdeck

**JUNE  
2019**  
OUR 88th  
YEAR

THE PHILADELPHIA SHIP MODEL SOCIETY.

[www.philadelphia shipmodelsociety.com](http://www.philadelphia shipmodelsociety.com)

Launched January 7, 1931

The 859th meeting of the Philadelphia Ship Model Society (PSMS) was held at the Independence Seaport museum (ISM) on the sixth day of June, 2019. President Francine Serratore called the meeting to order at 19:10 and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence for Torpedo Squadrons VT3, VT-6 and VT8, whose members gave their lives in the battle of Midway Island on June 6th 1942. \*

## Minutes of the Meeting

**Treasurers's report:** Steve Bulova, presented the Treasurer's report. Approved as read.

**Secretary's minutes** were approved as printed in the *Quarterdeck*.



**Sick Call:** Pat Leif

**Presentation:** Joshua Fichmann: Lightships

**Guests:** Cooper Gilchrist, son of member Tom Gilchrist and guest friend.

## OLD BUSINESS

**Northeast Conference:** Confusion. We may or may not be host club this year. Steve Bulova and Pat Leif are working on it.

### Proposed Society outings:

1. **Annapolis Maritime Museum:** ToddWardwell- Pending
2. **Kalmar Nyckel-** John Bullock- No information.
3. **Camden Ship Museum-** Sunday in June or in the Fall
4. **Navy Museum, Washington D.C.** - will only work if we can do it during the week.
5. **Lakehurst Naval Station.** Mike Zimmerman. Will visit and report back.

**Presentation Committee:** Rick Rathgeber & Fred Signor

**July 18th Coast Guard Base Tour-Todd Wardwell-Will be the July 18th meeting site. Please come early**

**August-Picnic at the Jim and Betsy Nutt Farm.** August 10th,

**September-** Shadow boxes on Queen Mary II- Mike Zimmerman.

**October-** Captain Orvis, The SS Normandy.

**November-** Tom McElhinney's friend- 3D printing.

**New Member Committee:** Mike Weaver has contacted about 4 people a week by email with no responses.

**Website Update:** No new work, but traffic is increasing.

**Name tags:** To order a name tag, contact Spence Delin. [sdelin@verizon.net](mailto:sdelin@verizon.net).

**The Shack:** Joe Jordon - need volunteers for the shack. The old theater near the shack has been renovated with an open section with a view of the river and a bar with snacks and drinks.

## NEW BUSINESS

At St Michaels Model Expo on Saturday May 18 & 19, Joshua Fichmann reported working with The Washington Ship Model Society to run an event at the rotunda at Independence Seaport Museum.

**PSMS** will attempt to put together a maritime show with Independence Seaport Museum and other clubs. Maybe even railroads.

**PSMS** to investigate doing Library presentations again to draw membership.

**THE JULY MEETING WILL BE DELAYED UNTIL JULY 18TH BECAUSE OF INDEPENDENCE DAY** and a conflict with the Coast Guard Base. There will be a show and tell, but no presentation- a tour will be given. (See page 2)

Meeting adjourned: 9:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

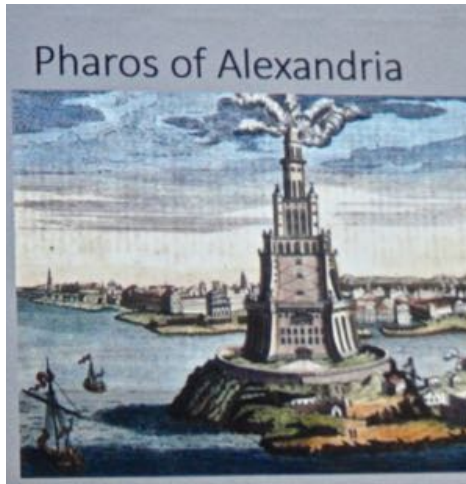
Francine Serratore, President

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\* During the opening of the battle of Midway, June 6th 1942, Navy carrier Squadrons VT-3, VT-6, and VT-8 attacked Japanese carriers. These three squadrons totaled 45 aircraft. 33 aircraft were lost. Only 1 man was rescued.

## Lightships, By Joshua Fichmann

Photos by Ron Spicer



Starting with the need for navigation aids in the times of the Pharos, Joshua traced the history of, and need for lightships through history. Showing examples of the types of ships and their development. Their onboard activities and equipment, crew accommodations and light maintenance. He also talked about the sounds made to warn off ships and the bells that, when lowered in the water, could be heard for 15 miles ( with a practical range of 1 to 3 miles.)

The first United States lightship was established at Chesapeake Bay in 1820. The official use of lightships in the U.S. ended March 29, 1985 when the U.S. Coastguard decommissioned its last such ship, the Nantucket.

## JULY MEETING CHANGE OF DATE

THE JULY 18TH MEETING OF PSMS WILL BE HELD AT THE US COAST GUARD STATION LOCATED AT WASHINGTON AVE. AND COLUMBUS BLVD., SOUTH OF ISM. THE BASE TOUR WILL BE CONDUCTED BY SOCIETY MEMBER CWO TODD WARDWELL.

THERE WILL BE A SHOW AND TELL.

COME AS EARLY AS 6PM. PARKING IS FREE

**FAMILY MEMBERS ARE WELCOME**

**Please mark your calendars**



### PSMS OFFICERS & EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: Francine Serratore [fserratore@verizon.net](mailto:fserratore@verizon.net) Vice-President: Fred Signor [fsignor@comcast.net](mailto:fsignor@comcast.net)  
Secretary: Joshua Fichmann [fichmann@yahoo.com](mailto:fichmann@yahoo.com) Treasurer: Steve Bulova [bulovastavel@msn.com](mailto:bulovastavel@msn.com)  
Historian: John Oddo [johnmariao.1959@gmail.com](mailto:johnmariao.1959@gmail.com) Webmaster: Todd Wardwell [highlanderburial@gmail.com](mailto:highlanderburial@gmail.com)  
Editor: Ron Spicer, [rspicer33@aol.com](mailto:rspicer33@aol.com) President Emeritus: Mike Weaver, Ed Leaf

### MEMBERS AT LARGE

John Christinzio, Spence Delin, John Esposito, Joe Gudonis, Joe Jordon, Pat Leaf, Jim Macintyre,  
Tom McIlhinney, John Oddo, Rick Rathgeber, Francine Serratore, Mike Weaver, Jim Wheeler  
Todd Wardwell, Mike Zimmerman

### REPRESENTATIVES TO ISM

Joe Jordon, Pat & Ed Leaf, Tom McElhinney





## The Ship Model Shack

The Seaport Museum has chosen PSMS to demonstrate ship modeling to the public. We are one of the few exhibits that can respond when asked a question (one other being the boat shop). To fulfill this responsibility, we need volunteers to sit the shack on weekends. See if you can find the time in your schedule. Take a model, meet the public and share our hobby. Support PSMS.

Contact Joe Jordan. [jvtown@aol.com](mailto:jvtown@aol.com)

Or sign up on the web:

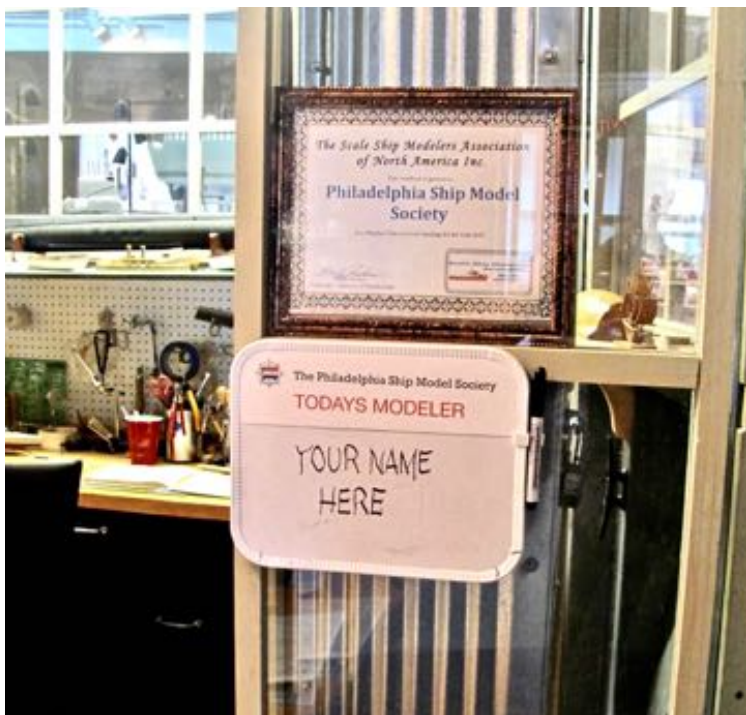
[philadelphiaishipmodelsociety.com](http://philadelphiaishipmodelsociety.com)

THE PEOPLE YOU MEET..... A FEW OF THE VISITORS TO THE SHACK ON SUNDAY JUNE 22ND



From left to right: The Summers from Beijing, China. Jon and Sherry Dunn, from Rancho Cordova, California and Aaron and Rachel Stampa from N.J.

Photos by Ron Spicer



## A NEW ADDITION TO THE SHACK

**WE HAVE RECENTLY ADDED AN IDENTITY SIGN TO THE SHACK. VISITORS WILL KNOW WHO YOU ARE AND MAKE IT EASIER TO CONVERSE WITH YOU.**

**IF YOU SIT THE SHACK, PLEASE, SIGN IN....FIRST OR FULL NAME. YOUR CHOICE.**

**IT IS A DRY ERASE SIGN, WITH THE PEN ATTACHED TO THE SIDE OF THE SIGN. THE ERASER IS ON THE UPPER SHELF ON THE RIGHT SIDE.**



# The Pennsville Farm Show, Saturday, June 1st, 10 am to 3 pm



For the third year, it was a beautiful day. Pleasant temperatures and our set-up under the shade trees close to the river, could not have been better. The crowds were large and showed great interest in our models. We had a great time and are invited back next year. Attendees were Fred Signore, Ron and Jean Spicer, Jim Wheeler, Joshua and Kathleen Fichmann, Ed and Pat Leaf, Joe Jordan, Francine Serratore and three members of the Ship Model Society of New Jersey, led by Tom Ruggiero.

Photos by Ron Spicer





# SHOW and TELL

FRED SIGNOR

photos by Ron Spicer



USS SAN DIEGO OPEN CLASS LIGHT CRUISER 1943. 1/96 scale  
Sub class of the Atlantic class of ships. Wood with fiberglass hull.  
The model was acquired through a contact at a model club.  
Fred said the guns are definitely manufactured, but a lot of the ship looks  
scratch built. It is RC with a receiver for the rudder.  
It is 85% complete. Needs railings props and rigging. The model came  
from an estate sale of other models



MIKE WEAVER



ENGLISH GALLEON  
Scale 1/48  
Circa 1700  
Found in his attic, a ship  
he made when he was 12  
years old. He plans to  
rehab it to how it was  
originally built,  
The hull was carved from  
a solid block.



## SHOW & TELL

JIM NUTT



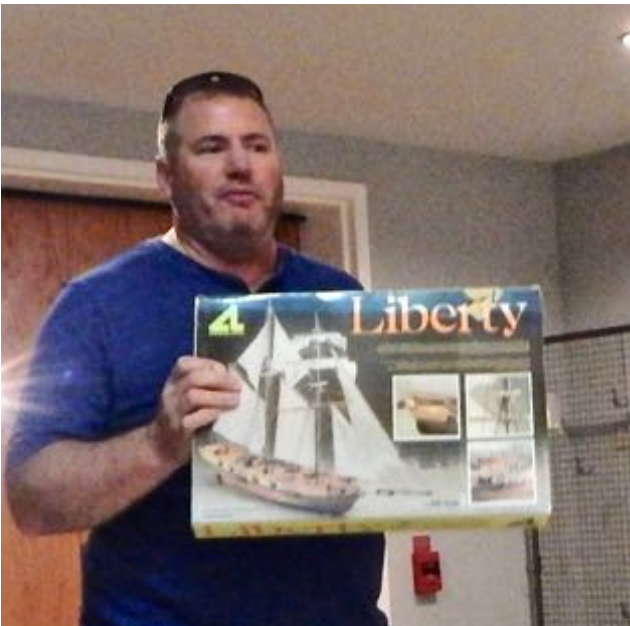
1887 SCHOONER, SMUGGLER

Scale 1/4"

Blue Jacket kit.

A solid hull model, Jim is utilizing a *Ships in Scale* 2012 article as an additional reference. The article made a modification which included planking the hull which Jim is looking to adopt. Now he's trying to map out the plank placement by lining the hull with tape. This method has given him a problem and after asking for help from the membership, he may try using wood battens instead. Blue Jacket gave some valuable advice regarding the scuppers. Instead of carving bulwarks on the hull block, shave them down completely and build them back using planking strips. Then cut out the holes that are needed. Spence Delin stepped forward to give Jim some help. (Above right.)

TODD WARDWELL



Todd received an AL kit of a basic kit of the Liberty, but the hull was made of paper mache. He plans to scratch build the hull from wood. The scale is 1/100. Overall, not a bad kit other than the provided hull.



## SHOW and TELL continued

RON SPICER



AMERICAN SCOUT C-2 CARGO SHIP 1945-46

Scale 1/100

The kit was missing many parts. His primary mistake was building the kit with balsa as it was meant. Influenced by Joe Jordan, Ron decided to rebuild the Cabin superstructure out of Bass wood. The railings were built to plans using thread. It looked nice for a bit but then started to sag. The hull is fiber glassed and started out with a matte finish. He decided to redo it with a gloss finish which pointed out all of the hull's issues. Ron re-sanded and repainted the hull to improve the gloss finish.



FRANCINE SERRATORE

Lupo continued. The decks are fiber glassed down. Gaps between the deck and the hull need to be filled with bondo. She will now sand the decks and start the superstructure. Francine has brought the model for the past few meetings in answer to the request of how to install radio control in a model. These presentations have shown the progress as Francine tries to show each of the installations during the progress of the build.





## HOW'S THIS FOR SHOW AND TELL?

The original [tweet](#) was by OrcamanS, and was in Japanese, but thanks to the wonder of Google Translate, here is a rough version of what he said.

"I did not have any money, so I made the battleship Yamato out of cardboard and bond paper. I think that the total length was about 2.5 M and the cardboard 50 to 80 big sheets".

..... And a LOT of glue!

From the internet



## THE EGO BOAT



More submarine than boat. You can share underwater travels with a friend or loved one without any submarine training. This semi submersed catamaran is built by south Korean company Raonhaje, which plans to sell fleets of these Ego Semi-Submarines to resorts and single units to individuals and match

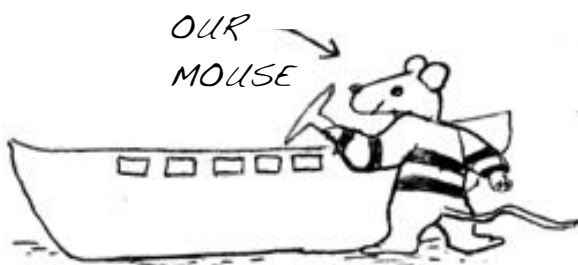
## GUEST THIS MONTH



It was nice to welcome Cooper Gilchrist and his friend. Our apologies for not getting his friend's name. Cooper is the son of member Tom Gilchrist.

It's always good to see younger people at the meetings who may someday participate in this great hobby.

## OUR RESIDENT MOUSE By Joe Gudonis \*

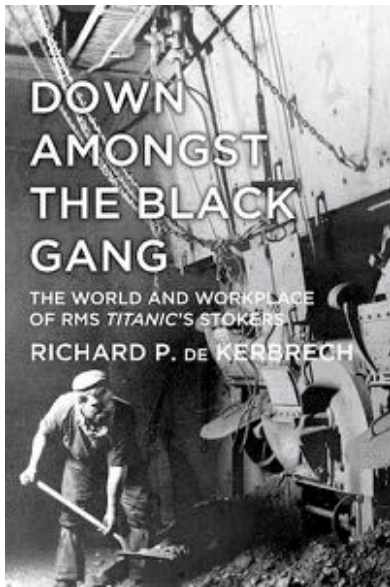


*IF I'M QUIET CAN I JOIN ?*

Joe  
GUDONIS

\* During last few meetings, our resident mouse has appeared during Show and Tell. Joe thinks he should be included in our membership drive. Ed.





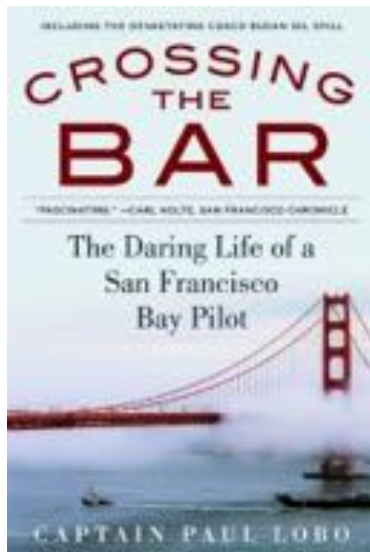
## Down Amongst the Black Gang

by Richard de Kerbrech

Down in the fiery belly of the luxury liners of the Titanic era, a world away from the first-class dining rooms and sedate tours of the deck, toiled the 'black' gang. Their work was grueling and hot. A grimly lit world and workplace of Titanics stokers. Beginning with the journey of the major elements of machinery that one might encounter in the giant ship's engine and boiler rooms, the sheer skill and strength that man in this employ must have had is brought to the fore.

As strange as it may seem, no known photographs of the engine and boiler rooms, with the machinery in place of the Olympic, Titanic, and Britannic exists. In an attempt to compensate for this, any images of the black gangs are from coal burning vessels contemporaneous with the 'Olympic'-class ships.

The Titanic had 24 double ended boilers and 5 single ended boilers. When all the double enders were fired up they consumed 850 tons of coal per day (35 tons per hour. It was 'Black Gang's' job to keep these boilers fed, which meant shoveling a ton of coal into the boiler furnaces every 2 minutes. Every boiler room was manned by 10 firemen and 4 trimmers. rarely seen or encountered by passengers.



## CROSSING THE BAR

The Adventures of a San Francisco Bay Bar Pilot

By Captain Paul Lobo

There is nothing placid about San Francisco Bay. Its raucous waters have hosted brutal storms, daring rescues, horrendous accidents and countless hours of drama and tension. Captain Paul lobo knows that better than most people. As a licensed harbor in those treacherous waters, Lobo captained nearly 6,500 boats in a 31 year career.

Reading Crossing the Bar is like being on the rolling bridge with Lobo.

Here are the tragic deaths and lives saved, inspiring rescues, devastating storms, and the infamous and horrendous oil spill after the Cosco Busan rammed the Oakland Bay Bridge which resulted in the first imprisonment of a maritime pilot for making an error.

Readers will also find a December sea rescue in hurricane strength winds and monstrous seas. Without Lobo's pilot boat and its crews' supreme effort, the ship they saved would have foundered with the loss of all hands

## HMS TRINCOMALEE MARKS 200TH BIRTHDAY

Birthered at the National Museum of the Royal Navy in Hartlepool and still afloat, brings more than 50,000 visitors each year to the town. More than 500,000 Pounds has been invested this year in the maintenance and conservation the ship, which is the sole-surviving link with the 19th century Bombay shipyards.





Todd Wardwell at the Washington Navy Yard standing at the ‘business end’ of the 14 inch spare barrel of the USS New Jersey during a recent trip. Photo taken by Joshua Fichmann.



## DANGERS OF THE SEA

From banning bananas to fearing flat footed people, here are some picks from old European sailing superstitions. While most no longer apply, we're guessing that some still linger in sailor's minds.

### **Re-naming a boat**

It is bad luck to change the name of the boat. If you do, you must have a de-naming ceremony and officially christen the boat again.

### **Tattoos**

When tattooing became popular at sea, a rooster and a pig were often tattooed on to sailor's feet. It was believed these animals would prevent the sailors from drowning by showing the way to shore.

### **Blood**

It is unlucky to set off at the start of the fishing season without having first shed some blood in a fight or in an accident.

### **Hat overboard**

Losing a hat overboard was an omen that the trip was going to be a long one.

### **Egg shells**

Egg shells had to be broken into tiny pieces once an egg was cracked open. This was meant to stop witches coming to the ship to sail in the pieces of shell.

### **Personal grooming**

Anyone aboard who trimmed their nails, cut their hair or shaved their beard brought bad luck to the ship.



## THE PHILADELPHIA SHIP MODEL SOCIETY

Launched January 7, 1931

The Philadelphia Ship Model Society (PSMS) meets on the first Thursday of each month at the

Independence Seaport Museum (ISM) at 1900 hours.

ISM is located at Penns Landing,

211 South Columbus Boulevard,

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106.

### GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

PSMS annual dues are \$35.00 for an INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

\$40.00 for a FAMILY MEMBERSHIP: Includes MEMBER as well as family with children FREE



Short Sleeved Polo



## PSMS SHIRTS & CAPS WITH EMBROIDERED SOCIETY LOGO

LONG SLEEVED POLO SHIRTS NAVY BLUE

**Men's sizes** small thru 4 XL.

Add \$2.00 for 2XL, \$3.00 for 3XL and \$4.00 for 4 XL

**\$35.00**

**Women's sizes** thru 2X.

**\$35.00**

SHORT SLEEVED POLO SHIRTS, NAVY BLUE

**Men's sizes** small thru 6XL and tall in XL thru 3X

**Women's sizes** small thru 3XL

**\$28.75**

**Hat** 6 panel wave cap, navy with white trim

**\$14.50**

### FOR ORDERS:

Contact Pat Leaf at [pilebl@comcast.net](mailto:pilebl@comcast.net)

**Please be sure of your size**

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**\*July 18th**

**PSMS Meeting** CWO Todd Wardwell

Coast Guard Base tour

August 10th

**PSMS Picnic at Nutt's Farm**

August 18th

**Task Force 50** Boat Show and Fun Float

September 5th.

**PSMS Meeting**

**Program:** Shadow boxes on

Queen Mary II by Mike Zimmerman

September 7th.

ISM Coast Day

October 3rd

**PSMS Meeting**

**Program:** SS Normandy

Captain Orvis

October 24-26th.

Nautical Research Guild

2019 Conference

November 7th

**PSMS Meeting**

**Program:** 3D Printing

December 5th

**PSMS Meeting**

**Holiday Party/ White Whale Sale**

**\* Note change of date**



Delaware Valley Chapter meetings are held at The Independence Seaport Museum at Penn's landing on the Delaware River. Membership is \$15 for one year. Contact Steve Lovless at [slldvesshsa@gmail.com](mailto:slldvesshsa@gmail.com) or 215-495-8889 for more details or if you are interested in joining



## THE SSMA JOURNAL

Become a member of SSMA

Annual dues are \$25.00

All membership applications and renewals should be sent to:

**Heinz Ricken**  
514 Cranford Avenue  
Cranford NJ 07016

# PSMS ANNUAL PICNIC

SATURDAY AUGUST 10th

3 TO 6 PM

## Bonnie Ridge Farm

Home of Jim & Betsy Nutt

475 Skippack Pike, Blue Bell, PA

The Nutts will provide:

Hamburgers & Hot Dogs, Condiments  
and Paper Products

**YOU** are to bring chair(s) & towel(s) & pick from  
the following :

Potato Chips

Salad: Waxed Bean, Green Bean, Potato, Veggie,  
Toasted, Macaroni, Beets;

Fresh Corn ( shucked, please )

Deviled Eggs

Baked Beans.

Desserts: Cookies, Fresh Fruit, Cake, Pie

(Try for things that can take outside temps):

Soft drinks, lemonade, beer, wine

**SWIMMING AT YOUR OWN RISK!**

**YES, RICS ARE WELCOME!**

**RSVP by 1 August:**

**(ARE YOU COMING AND WHAT ARE YOU BRINGING)**

**Betsy Nutt: 610-220- [betsynutt1@gmail.com](mailto:betsynutt1@gmail.com)**



## TF 50 RC MODEL BOAT SHOW & FUN FLOAT

Sunday August 18, 2019 - 10AM until ??

Manchester Township's Cousler Park is the venue for this event.

1060 Church Road, York PA 17404. Photo from 2018 Regatta



FREE ADMISSION TO THE PUBLIC • BRING A LAWN CHAIR  
PACK A LUNCH. – BOTTLED WATER WILL BE AVAILABLE.  
EVENT HELD RAIN OR SHINE

RAMPS FOR LAUNCH AND RETRIEVAL WILL BE SET UP  
MEMBERS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ASSIST IF NEEDED  
ELECTRIC OR STEAM ONLY, NO GAS

CAPTAINS USING **SPREAD SPECTRUM RADIOS** CAN RUN AT ANY  
TIME. SHOW OFF YOUR FAVORITE BOATS ALL DAY LONG.

The Park features walking paths, regular rest rooms, (no "Porta Potties"),  
playgrounds for children or grand kids, tennis courts, and ample parking close  
to the pond. The club reserved pavilion "B" for our exclusive use. It has  
electrical outlets and is close to a charcoal grill stand.

Vehicles can be driven close to the pond for **LOAD AND UNLOAD ONLY**.

39.998034 N -76.771813 W  
[http://www.mantwp.com/pr\\_cousler.asp](http://www.mantwp.com/pr_cousler.asp)



# 2019 CONFERENCE UPDATE

## New Bedford, MA

### October 24<sup>th</sup> through October 26<sup>th</sup>



The NRG is partnering with the New Bedford Whaling Museum located in New Bedford, MA. for the 2019 Conference. <https://www.whalingmuseum.org/>  
The Conference will be held at the Museum. Attendees will have free access to the museum during the Conference and on Sunday following the Conference

### **Registration Information**

Registration forms are downloadable from the NRG web site - <https://www.thenrg.org/nrg-2019-conference.php> Additional information on speakers will be posted there first.

### **Hotel Information**

We have a block of rooms at the Fairfield Inn and Suites New Bedford. At this date half of the rooms have been reserved – it's looking like it will be a well-attended event this year so don't delay in reserving a room. The Fairfield Inn

## **\* CONFERENCE MODEL REGISTRATION \***

### **CONFERENCE MODEL SHOW** **MODEL REGISTRATION FORM**

The registration form for the 2019 Conference Model Show is now available for downloading from the web site.

Members attending the conference who are planning to bring models for display must preregister their models on a first come basis. We expect a lot of models and there is limited space. Models must be preregistered to be displayed. Please mail or scan and email the registration form - your signature is required.

### **PREREGISTRATION OF MODELS IS REQUIRED**

October 6, 2019 is the cutoff date for registration of models and the final date in order to have a tent card made up with the model's information, as listed on the registration form.

**All models for display must be accompanied by their registration confirmation.**

### **PREREGISTRATION OF MODELS IS REQUIRED**





