



“... reconstructing the pinnace VIRGINIA, built 1607  
by the first English settlers of Popham Beach ...”

Summer 2004

NEWSLETTER  
THE VIRGINIA PROJECT, INC., BOX 358, PHIPPSBURG, ME 04562

**VIRGINIA's DESIGN GOES TO COAST GUARD** - After years of research, planning, and hard work, our Vessel Committee's design for the reconstruction of *Virginia* was sent to the U.S. Coast Guard for approval in May. In response to preliminary review, several changes have been incorporated and resubmitted. We are anticipating final action shortly and will let our members know as soon as approval has been received.

**RIGGING A 17<sup>th</sup> CENTURY PINNACE** – It hasn't been done for 400 years, but we plan to do it right! Rigging and sailing a 17<sup>th</sup> century ship in the 21<sup>st</sup> century will be a challenge. To make sure we're on target, we consulted a mariner experienced in building and sailing vessels of *Virginia's* era. In late June, key members of our design team met with Capt. Peter Arenstam, the builder of the 1628 replica *Elizabeth Tilley* and master of the famous *Mayflower II*. The team reviewed all aspects of rigging and deck arrangements. Peter's positive reaction to our approach was heartening, and our team enjoyed working with someone who could speak knowingly about the kind of details in which we've been immersed for so long.

**RIGGING MODEL** – One outcome of this meeting was a decision to create a working model of *Virginia's* rigging. It'll be large, about 7 or 8 feet in length, with masts standing about 8 feet high. We'll be able to haul on each line and halyard to make sure that all lines run free and that sails can easily be raised, lowered and adjusted. Because of its size, it will be a great way to verify the working rigging. We're also hoping to be able to use it as a training aid for crew members and volunteers who will sail on the vessel. Rob Stevens, our shipwright, hopes to have it ready to share with members at our Annual Meeting, Saturday August 21<sup>st</sup>.

**CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING**

This year's Annual Meeting will be held at 7:00 PM Saturday, August 21<sup>st</sup> at the Popham Chapel, Popham Beach, Maine. Highlighting the program will be a two-part presentation about *Virginia's* design and planned construction process, offered by naval architect David B. Wyman and shipwright Robert Stevens.

There will be committee reports, election of board members and any other business that should come before the membership. A social hour will follow the meeting.