

The 2nd Annual Apprentice School SNAME Boat Competition

April 18th, 2009 was a beautiful day to be standing on the Lion's Gate bridge at the Mariners' Museum in Newport News, Virginia watching the 'Final Four' Apprentice School SNAME boats race for the title. The crowd intently watched as the students worked the remote controls to steer their boats around a race course specifically designed to test for speed and maneuverability. Only one student-designed, Apprentice-built steel boat could win the coveted traveling trophy. This year the honor went to the sleek mono-hull of the York High Falcons team.

Over 200 students from the state of Virginia and Northeast South Carolina participated in this year's competition doubling the team entries from a year ago. The designs and calculations were evaluated in a collaborative effort by Northrop Grumman Naval Architects and Webb Institute scholars. Only four finalists would be selected from the 23 teams to have their boats built by the Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding – Newport News Apprentice School.

The design parameters were even more demanding on the students this year challenging their knowledge of construction material, payload, propulsion, steering, speed and maneuverability. The boats were made from two sheets of one-eighth inch thick steel, 10 feet by 5 feet which made each boat weigh approximately 300 pounds. The final designs were lofted and electronically converted to suit the shipyard's new in-house laser cutting machine.

Events such as the Apprentice School Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers (SNAME) Boat Design Competition are needed now more than ever. Taking math and science skills from the classroom into real life applications is a great way to keep young minds challenged and focused. "The competition was designed to engage student's math, science and creative abilities and expose them to engineering, drafting and project planning," from Dr. Richard C. Boutwell, advisor to the Apprentice School's SNAME chapter and boat competition founder.

Below: Sink Oar Swim II
ATC – Virginia Beach, VA



Below: Smooth Sailing
ATC – Virginia Beach, VA



Below: Integrated Aluminum
Jamestown High, Williamsburg, VA



Above: Integrated Aluminum earned the "Speed Freak" boat decal for being the fastest boat.

Photography by Kathy McIntire – Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding – Newport News

SNAME Boat Competition Cont.

The team captain from the winning York team agrees, “This really shows us what it takes to make a boat, math is key.”

The ‘Final Four’ teams included: Sink Oar Swim II and Smooth Sailing from the Advanced Technology Center in Virginia Beach, Virginia; Integrated Aluminum from Jamestown High School in Williamsburg, Virginia; and the Falcons from York High School in Yorktown, Virginia.

Congratulations to the Falcons team from York High School who entered the competition for the second time and surpassed their 2nd place accomplishment in 2008 by winning it all in 2009. Accolades to all the students who participated and for achieving such a remarkable, challenging goal. The Apprentice School SNAME students are already excited about the possibilities for the competition in 2010.

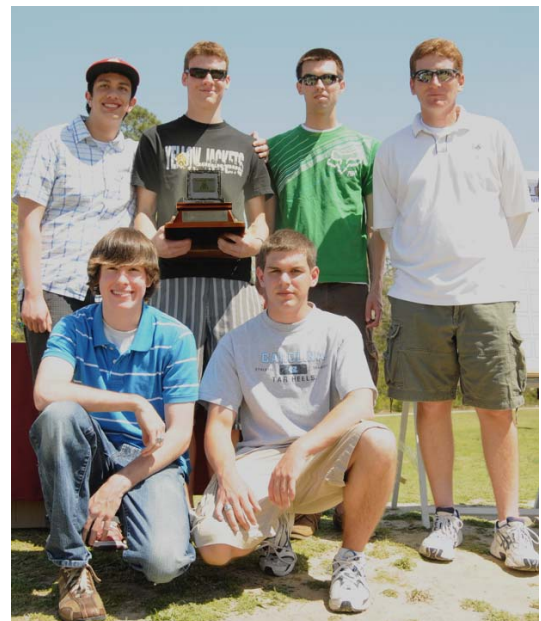
Danny Hunley, Vice President of Operations at Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding – Newport News said, “Everyone comes out of this a winner – the students from The Apprentice School Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers, the high school student designers and the Northrop Grumman shipbuilders who stood beside the students to build their confidence and prepare them for their next challenges in life. We have forged bonds that will serve us well into the future.”

More information about The Apprentice School at Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding – Newport News and The Apprentice School SNAME Boat Design Competition can be accessed at www.apprenticeschool.com.

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Above: The 2009 SNAME Boat Competition winners team Falcons, York High School, Yorktown, VA



Above: The winners - team Falcons from York High School (back row, left to right); Joseph Bray, Nic Baines, Brian Mastracci, and Technology Education teacher John Hammons, (front row, left to right); Ryan Snyder and Matt Hill