

Photos launch artist's marine paintings

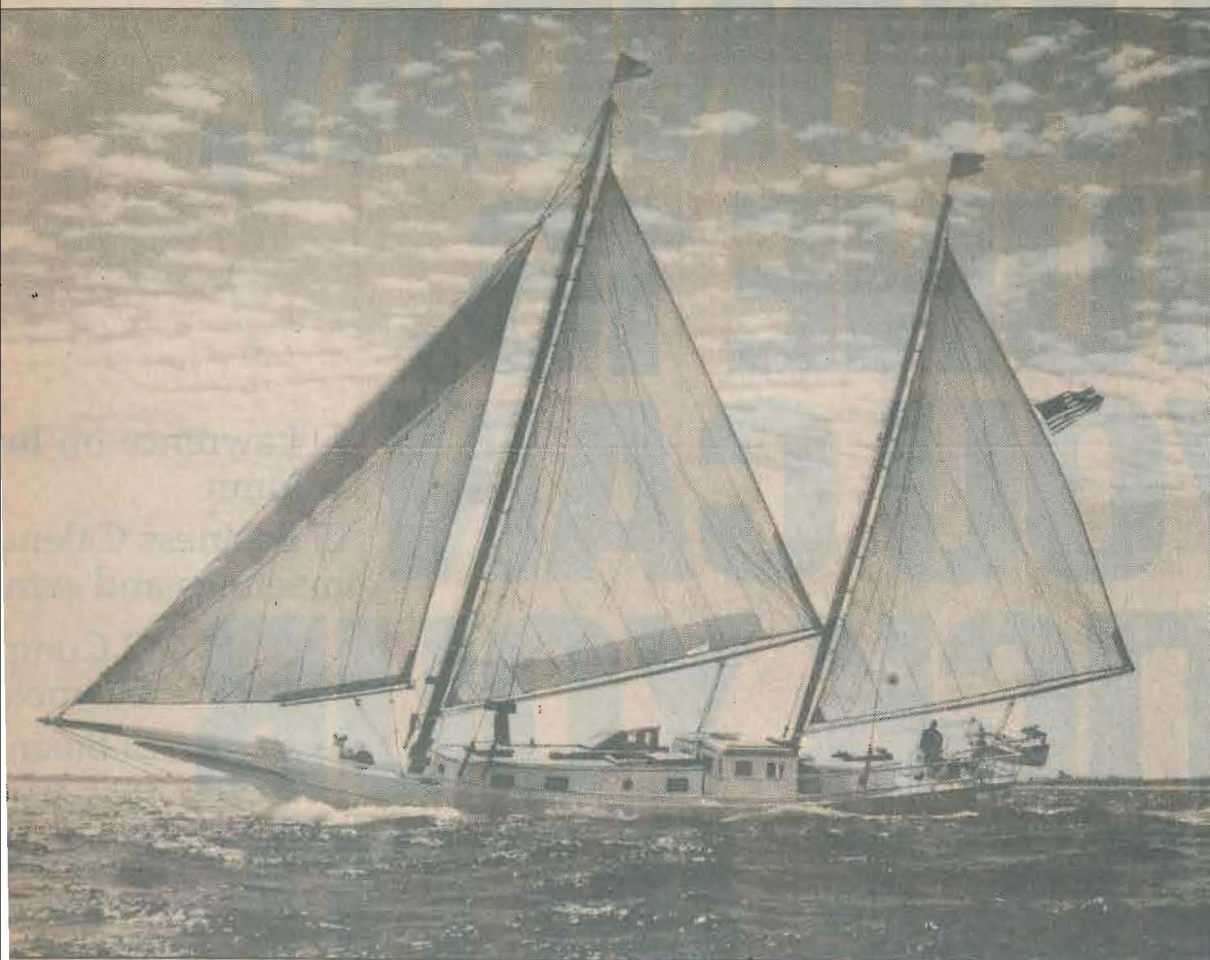


Photo © by Peter Barlow

ERTY SAILS — The Little Jennie, which will be the lead boat in New York City's July 4 Parade of Sail to honor the Statue of Liberty, is the subject of an oil painting by John P. MacLeod.

By Ed Booth
Special correspondent

John P. MacLeod, 50, is a successful Richmond Area artist, photographer and natural history devotee, who for the past 24 years has used photography as the basis of his popular and stunning wildlife and marine paintings.

He has now completed a four-by-three-foot oil painting of the Little Jennie, a two-masted Chesapeake bay-built oyster-clam dredger constructed in 1886. Because the 100-year-old vessel is the oldest one of its kind, it is scheduled to be the lead boat in a line of authentic wooden working boats in the Parade of Sail featuring tall ships in New York Harbor for the Independence Day rededication of the Statue of Liberty.

MacLeod has just put the finishing touches to his oil painting of the ill-fated Revolutionary War clipper, The Pride of Baltimore, which was in the news recently. His painting now has added significance since the vessel's sudden disappearance May 15 in the Bermuda Triangle. Four out of a crew of 12 seamen were lost.

These two paintings and others depicting nature subjects, such as Canadian geese and other species of wildfowl, along with MacLeod's color slides that have been the basis for much of his finished art work will comprise a special program at the 7:30 p.m. meeting of the Camera Club of Richmond, Wednesday.

PHOTOS

John F. Reilly will coordinate the program. The club meets on alternate Wednesdays in the vault-level auditorium of the Bank of Virginia Building, 7 N. Eighth St., and meetings are open to the public. For more camera club information, call 262-2900.

MacLeod learned much about photography while working as a graphic artist for WLVA-TV, an ABC affiliate in Lynchburg, from 1961 to 1964. He now owns a Canon F1 with motor drive and 50mm, 280mm, 400mm and 500mm lenses.

He attended the Virginia Military Institute from 1956 to 1958, served in the U.S. Army from 1958 to 1961 as a paratrooper instructor and attended Lynchburg College from 1962 to 1965. He majored in history at both schools.

Over the past 15 years he has published 32 limited edition art prints of wildlife and marine studies and was included in "Who's Who in Waterfowl Art," a book published and edited by Ray Chapman of Ambassador Graphics and Wildlife Inc., Summerville, S.C.

He has a studio and lives in Brandermill, Midlothian, with his wife, Carol and their son, Christopher, 9.

MacLeod's mediums are pastel, watercolor, acrylic and oil, and prices range from \$500 to \$30,000 for a painting depending on the size and medium.