

## Fleet 15 “Goes Deep” for 2007

**By Rich Payne**



*QUESTION:* What is missing from the two J/105s shown in this picture? Is it:

- a) The rig.
- b) The shoal draft keels that the boats originally came with.
- c) The new deep-draft keels being fabricated for them in the J/Boats factory.
- d) All of the above.

The answer, of course is d. Shown here are *Loose Cannon* (hull 517) and *Blade Runner* (hull 498). *Corryvreckan* (hull 198) is shown below. All three were converted this spring in Deltaville Boatyard, and will race the 2007 season as deep-draft boats. Strother Scott has assembled pictures documenting the process of installing the new keels, at <http://www.fbyc.net/Events/2007/04.21.offshore/eventPhotos/> .



At the time that Fleet 15 started up at Fishing Bay Yacht Club some years ago, virtually all J/105s in the Chesapeake Bay were shoal draft. Several years ago, Fleet 3 in the Northern Chesapeake Bay converted their boats to deep draft *en masse*, with keel changeouts keeping boatyards in Annapolis and Solomons humming. With the addition of Rich Payne's brand new deep draft boat *Flying Colors* to Fleet 15 in 2006, longtime J/105 owners Brad Davis (*Blade Runner*), Strother Scott (*Loose Cannon*), and David Clark (*Corryvreckan*) negotiated a package deal with Deltaville Boatyard to do the keel changeouts at a reduced price. The trend appears likely to continue, since longtime Fishing Bay Yacht Club members Mike Karn and Lori Moyer have pooled their resources to purchase a used deep-draft J/105. A purchase is reputed to be imminent, since Mike and Lori plan to have their new boat on the line for the one-design event at Southern Bay Race Week in Hampton next month. With the new addition to the Fleet, all five J/105s owned by Fleet 15 Active Members will be deep-draft, although the Fleet 15 Sailing Instructions still allow the time adjustment specified by PHRF of the Chesapeake for any shoal-draft boats racing with us.