



Forecastle Report

Newsletter of the Midwest Model Shipwrights ♦ www.midwestmodelshipwrights.com ♦ December 2015

● Scuttlebutt ●

COMMODORE, Bob Filipowski, opened the November 2015 meeting at 7:30 with a crew of 26 on board. **Keith Zeilenga** was welcomed as a guest for the evening.

While some items are still left from Bob Johnson's donated collection, Bob Filipowski has advised that they will not be used for door prizes until January 2016. Flea market sales receipts have been going into the Tri-Club treasury, which is used to pay for things like new meeting equipment and symposium speaker's fees.

The Club display at the Prospect Hts. Library closed on Saturday, 28 Nov, at 1:00 PM. A number of club brochures were given out during the display and it is hoped we will gain a few new members, as a result.



It's that time of year again and our Purser is looking for the crew to ante up their **\$20** for 2016 dues.

Please help Allen out by sending your check, made out to *Midwest Model Shipwrights*, to: **Allen Siegel, 843 Bryant Ave, Winnetka, IL 60093** or bring it to the December meeting. Thanks, mates.



December is when we hold elections for next year's officers. All current officers are willing and able to return to duty next year with the exception of our **Ship's Clerk**. If you would like to be considered for this or any other post, please let **Bob Filipowski** know. A volunteer for the Clerk's berth (the Secretary distributes "Ships-on-Deck" forms and tapes S.O.D. presentations for the Editor) would be greatly appreciated.

Videos on "Mast Hoops" and "Lofting" are now available at \$5.00 each (plus any postage) and can be ordered from **Bob Filipowski**.

See "Scuttlebutt", Page 2

2015 OFFICERS & STAFF

President (Commodore)	- Bob Filipowski.....(847) 394-0757
Vice Pres (Flag Captain)	- Glenn Estry(847) 259-1574
Treasurer (Ship's Purser)	- Allen Siegel(847) 446-7248
Secretary (Ship's Clerk)	- Tony Serigos.....(847) 392-3275
Newsletter Editor	- John Mitchell(847) 392-2259
Photographer	- Leon Sirota(847) 541-6285
Web Master	- John Pocius.....(630) 957-7298
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December Meeting Notice

Pizza Party & Flea Market



What a great way to wind up the modeling year with lots of pizza, lots of camaraderie and lots of treasures for sale in a big flea market. Don't miss out on all the fun and food.

If you missed the November meeting, you need to let Bob Filipowski know you plan on attending in December and give him your pizza preferences, too.

Our next meeting will be at 7:15 p.m.
Wednesday, December 16, 2015
At: **The South Church**
501 S. Emerson Street
Mount Prospect, IL

● NRG Conference ●

The presentation on the 2015 NRG Conference by **Kurt Van Dahm** was a real clinic on the elements of ship modeling excellence. Kurt helped us see the finer points in a wide variety of models and what it was that set them apart.

We have to thank **Tony Serigos** and **Bill Maxwell** for allowing us to use their photos of these models. They really made the presentation come alive.



The Nautical Research Guild (NRG) held their annual conference in Mystic, CT, on October 22-24, 2015. The three-day event began with a



tour of the Mystic Seaport Museum that included areas not normally seen by the public. They included the extensive model collection, archives/library, and small craft collection. Access to the shipyard, where the *Mayflower II* and 1908 steamboat *Sabino* were undergoing repairs, was also allowed.

Friday morning's Modeler's Symposium included presentations on modeling clinker-built boats, creating fully framed models using CAD and 3-D printing and Japanese model boat building. The afternoon activities shifted to

See "NRG", Page 2

The Forecastle Report, Dec. 2015 - P.2

"NRG", continued from Page 1

roundtables on "Rigging Tips & Tricks", "A Jig for Making Oars", "Serving Rope", "Airbrush Basics", and "Making Silkspan Sails".

Saturday's activities covered historical subjects, as well as the NRG annual member's meeting. The day ended with dinner and awards for the NRG Photographic Ship Model Competition winners.

The next NRG Conference will be held in San Diego, CA, October 6-8, 2016.

Here, then, are some of the many fine models that were on display at this year's gathering:



Both these models had simulated water (transparent panels) with authentic-looking bottom details including small fish.



Some really neat sternwheelers with one of them split to reveal its steam engine.

A very fine ship of the line is always a must at a great model boat show and this one had all the bells and whistles.



Our mate, **Steve Wheeler**, displayed his highly detailed *Grand Canyon River Boat* to great acclaim.

Here was another fine example of an open row boat that was so well done you would have thought it was the real thing, if not for its scale.



The Mystic Seaport Museum's collection of model ships certainly couldn't be overlooked, as they were all examples of the finest techniques.

In addition to full hull models, the museum's collection also included an amazing array of half-hull models representing just about every type of design making it a true reference library of naval architecture.



Behind the scenes views included an extensive collection of historic outboard motors, which fascinated the fishermen in the group.

Historic boat collections also included this full-size steam driven launch.



Some of the model ships were of very large scale.

Another back room look at the shed where wooden boats were being refurbished and restored.



Thanks to all who made this presentation possible and to Kurt for leading us through it in detail. We hope those of you who weren't there now feel happy that you didn't miss everything.

John Mitchell

"Scuttlebutt", continued from Page 1

Kurt Van Dahm mentioned that the Tri-Club is selling a donated "Sergal" kit of the HMS *Victory* which dates to 1975 and makes up into a model 49" long (1:78).

In addition to this totally complete kit, there are also a number of items included that relate to the history of this ship.

Asking price is \$200, which is way short of the new price on this kit and a very good bargain.

If no members make an offer, it will be sold on the internet with the proceeds going to the Tri-Club. Get in touch with Kurt before the end of December, if you are interested.



● **Ships on Deck** ●

Glen Estry made a great job of building the 1:32 resin kit of a *Civil War Mortar* that he had won in last month's raffle. Since many of the resin parts were too fragile/brittle to hold up, Glen very neatly reproduced them in brass and wood. Only the mortar, cannon balls and two sides were usable from the kit.



John Mitchell has begun rigging work on his 1:48 scratch-built model of the Great Lakes Clipper-Schooner *Challenge*. Details on how



to rig the lift tackle were

Spartan on his plans, so John relied on details he saw on the *Star of India* in San Diego as well as in Milton Roth's book "Ship Modeling from Stem to Stern". Blocks and rigging line are from the "Syren Ship Model Co".

Bob Filipowski is putting the finishing touches on his 1:48 model of



the English Longboat from "Model Shipways" and has zeroed in on details up in the bow to permit mounting a pulley next to the cap rail.

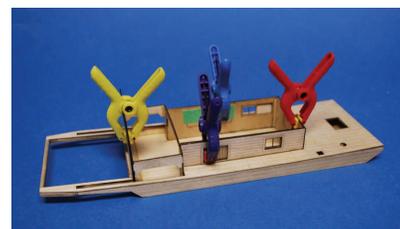
Allen Siegel keeps refining the look of his 1:50 model of Henry Hudson's ship *Half Moon*. The hull was coated with "tung oil" and was then given a coat of "Testors



Dull-coat". Transom decorations were made off the model and then added as an assembly. Masts will either be made from cherry stock or with stained doweling pins, which

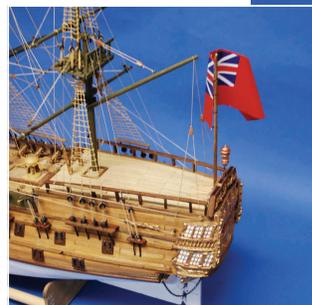
ever looks best.

Kurt Van Dahm brought in the model of the steam logging tug *Smokey Duck* that he purchased while at the recent NRG Confer-



ence. This kit is made by the Train Troll Manufacturing Co. in a scale of 1:48 and is unlike any kits that Kurt has come in contact with recently.

The **Sykes** brothers, **Bob** and **Ralph**, have collaborated on the building of this lovely model of the HMS *Falmouth*. While Ralph did up the hull, Bob added



the sticks and string and the result is first rate. Rigging details are pure Bob Sykes, with working blocks and meticulously tied rat lines. The hull is very neatly planked and painted below the water line with the rest left naturally finished. Hand painted flags

round out the model. Nice job mates.

The Forecastle Report, Dec. 2015 - P.4

"Ships", continued from Page 3

Gus Agustin has dusted off the 1:192 scale model of the *HMY Kitchen* c.1670 that he had started years ago and never finished. Gus says this is an exercise to help him get back into "it", meaning back into creating some of the finest miniatures to be seen. Glad to have you back, mate. Your work always thrills us.



Helmut Reiter brought in his 1:48 model of the *HMS Pegasus* to show us the work he had done in painting of the frieze. Unfortunately, Helmut had to leave the meeting before we were able to photograph his work, but suffice it to say he had "nailed" it with the decorations.



As it turns out, he did not resort to any "tricks" to get the pattern painted on but rather used the straightforward approach - a paintbrush with a very fine tip and a steady hand. We all applauded his efforts and we hope to have the work pictured in the very near future.

In the meantime, mate, keep up your outstanding efforts.

Sid Wotman continues to apply the second layer of outer planking to the hull of his 1:48 model of *Fair American* to good effect. Sid had a bit of disaster with his deck plank-



ing, when the coloring of the plank edges bled out after he had applied a light stain to the wood. Now Sid needs some advice as to how to overcome this setback. Anyone with a good idea please wade in on this one. Thanks, mates.

Gordon Field has started the rigging on his 3/8" scale scratch-built model of the fishing pinky *Dove* and it looks like he has laid the ground work very well - deadeyes beautifully mounted on the hull and bowsprit tackle well in hand. A launching on the horizon, mate?



THE NAUTICAL RESEARCH GUILD "ADVANCING SHIP MODELING THROUGH RESEARCH"

Annual membership includes our world-renowned quarterly magazine, *Nautical Research Journal*, which features photographs and articles on ship model building, naval architecture, merchant and naval ship construction, maritime trade, nautical and maritime history, nautical archaeology and maritime art.

Other benefits include discounts on annual conferences, ship modeling seminars, NRG products and juried model competitions which are offered exclusively to Guild members. We hope you will consider joining our ongoing celebration of model ships and maritime history.

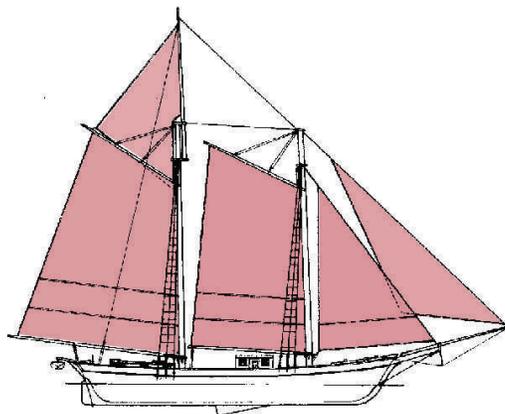
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For more information contact us at: www.thenrg.org or telephone 585-968-8111



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