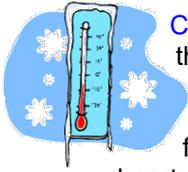




Forecastle Report

Newsletter of the Midwest Model Shipwrights ♦ www.midwestmodelshipwrights.com ♦ February 2016

● Scuttlebutt ●



COMMODORE, Bob Filipowski, opened the January 2016 meeting at 7:30 with an eager crew of 23 on board. As usual for this time of year, the temp outside was frigid but spirits inside were warm and hearty. Thanks, mates, for mushing your sleds in for another great meeting on such a night.

Bob's call for feedback on new program subjects has not generated any response to date. Some topics being considered are Kurt Van Dahm's program on model ship photography techniques, Steve Wheeler's presentation on building two *Grand Canyon Cataract Boats* and Ken Sykes' *New Bedford Whaleboat* in February. Any suggestions would be welcome.

Kurt Van Dahm reports that the Tri-Club has acquired a wireless loudspeaker system for use at meetings and symposiums. Perfect for those of us short of hearing.

Also mentioned was the *40th Model Ships & Boats Contest* in Manitowoc coming up in May. Part of this contest will, for this year, include a "Masters Competition" for past Gold Medal winners. As one of the sponsors of this overall event, our Tri-Club has been asked to help support this added award. A motion was passed to contribute to the cost of commemorative plaques, which will be given to those who participate in this special competition.

DUES ARE DUE!



If you haven't already paid, a check in the mail with your \$20 dues for the year would be welcome. We'll keep reminding you until March when, if you haven't paid, your newsletter mailing will cease.

Mail to: **Allen Siegel, 843 Bryant Ave, Winnetka, IL 60093**. Thanks, mates.

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
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Newsletter Editor	- John Mitchell(847) 392-2259
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	jpdesign@mindspring.com

February Meeting Notice

Building the New Bedford Whaleboat by Ken Sykes

Not only did Ken Sykes build a very fine "Model Shipways" kit of a New Bedford Whaleboat, but he also embellished it with some amazing details that really brought his work to life. We will learn about many of the special building techniques that he employed to turn his model into a museum piece for which he earned a Blue Ribbon at the 2015 Texas State Fair.

Our next meeting will be at 7:15 p.m.
Wednesday, February 17, 2016

The South Church
501 S. Emerson Street
Mount Prospect, IL

● Judging Model Contests ●

by Bob Filipowski, Kurt Van Dahm & Doc Williams

Bob, Kurt and Doc began their presentation by asking the question: "Why worry about model contest judging, if you don't ever expect to compete"? They answered their own question by saying that, if modelers can avoid things judges deduct points on, they will be able to build better models and gain more pleasure doing so. We all bought into that proposition.

Working off that statement, a list of the **Best Assets** a modeler can possess include:

- Knowledge of what you are building
- Preparation think-through
- Your trash can!

In the Wisconsin Maritime Museum's *Model Ships & Boats Contest*, the judging categories (points) are:

- Historical Account (10)
- Construction Account (10)
- Historical Accuracy (10)
- Construction Value (50)
- Overall Appeal (20)

Drilling down into these categories, our mates gave us all the fine details on how to accomplish these tasks and threw in a few examples of the good and the bad along the way. Here are the category details:

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"Judging", continued from Page 1

- **Historical Account Paper** (one page)
 - > Details the particular vessel or type
 - > Notes the "date" the model represents
 - > Lists research sources
 - > Lists anomalies, odd/special features
- **Construction Account Paper** (one page)
 - > Tells how you built the model
 - > Highlights new or special techniques
 - > Lists unusual materials
 - > Notes problems encountered along the way
- **Historical Accuracy**
 - > Is the model correct for the era/date?
 - > Is it correct for the type?
 - > Does it adhere to reference sources?
- **Construction Value**
 - > Rates how well the model is built
 - > Looks at all phases of construction
 - > Joinery, hull, rigging, paint, etc.
- **Overall Appeal**
 - > Scores the visual "look" of the model
 - > Rates the model and mount as a whole

Scale Appearance—Common Problems:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wood type | <input type="checkbox"/> Canons |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Treenails | <input type="checkbox"/> Sails |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rigging | <input type="checkbox"/> Paint job |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fittings | <input type="checkbox"/> Figures |

Hull & Deck—Common Problems:

- Hull twisted
- Sides not symmetrical
- Bumps & hollows (not "fair")
- Improper planking
- Keel not straight
- Fasteners too big, wrong material
- Fasteners too few
- Fasteners out of line
- Improper plank butts
- No deck crown
- Hull planks not "fair", flush
- Inappropriate plank widths, lengths
- Plank seams not uniform
- Lift joints visible (solid hull)
- Wrong coppering pattern
- "In-line" stuff not aligned

Wood & Plastic—Common Problems:

- Open joints
- Poor fit between parts
- Glue "blobs"
- Inappropriate wood selection: poor grain size or pattern
- Visible sanding scratches, dents, etc.

- Visible ejector pin marks (plastic)
- Visible mold flaws (plastic & metal)
- Seams/joints not filled
- Visible filler

Spars—Common Problems:

- Masts out of line
- Wrong or unequal rake
- Masts, yards bent
- Yards crooked or out of line
- Masts, yards too heavy
- Spars not tapered

Rigging—Common Problems:

- Wrong size line
- Fuzzy line
- Big knots
- Wrong colors
- Square "Italian" blocks
- Wrong era
- Belaying, cleating wrong
- Not enough line in coils
- Ratlines too far apart, uneven
- Lines adrift
- Deadeyes and blocks upside-down
- Deadeyes not aligned
- Irish pennants
- Oversized or rough seizings
- Knots instead of real or simulated splices

Sails—Common Problems:

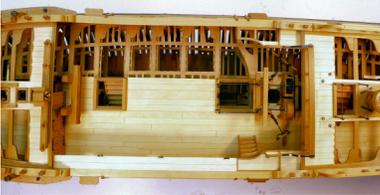
- Cloth too thick
- Seams too big
- Weave in cloth too visible
- Wrong panel size
- Stitches too far apart
- Hems, edging too big, too bulky
- Wrong color
- Missing items (i.e. reef points, etc.)
- Poor "set"
- Bulky appearance
- Attachments to spars wrong
- Seams not aligned side to side

Paint & Finish—Common Problems:

- Brush marks
- Too Glossy
- Wrong colors (too bright)
- Gloss variations
- Visible glue spots
- "Wavy" water lines
- Ragged color demarcations
- Overdone weathering
- Decals silvered, out of line
- Paint too thick; fillets
- Paint too thick; detail obscured

● **Ships on Deck** ●

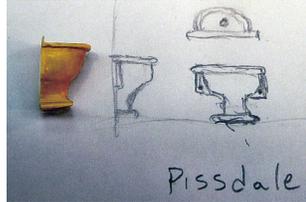
Bill Maxwell has sent us a number of fine photos of his HMS *Fly*, which we last featured in our February 2015 issue. The photos are evidence of what Bob Fillipowski



says is "one of the finest models, of this complexity, that I have ever seen".

Deck planking and details of the bilge pumps at deck level are visible in these three photos.

In January, Bill sent us more photos of work he has just completed on the installation



and plumbing of the ship's "Pissdale", an idea he got from Grant Walker's first new book of models at the Naval Academy. The drain of this fixture exits just aft of the main pump scupper. Seats of ease were essential, but a "relief tube" on deck was also a must for a busy crew. Great work there, mate. We're looking forward to seeing you and your model at one of our meetings this year.

Hal Chaffee shared some photos of the work his company did to create a hanging medallion of the ship *Argonaut* for the Argo Community High School in Summit, IL.



Great looking ship, mate.

Kevin Hudson, our mate from down under in Australia, has built his first miniature, in a 1:200 scale, of the *Halifax*. The hull is almost 4in. long and has 912 separate pieces of boxwood and ebony timber. His comments, written to Gus Agustin, was that this was his last miniature, as the stress on his eyesight was too great. She's a gem, mate.

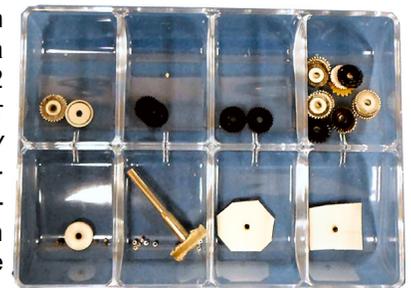


John DePew gave us a look at the model of HMS *Diana* he finished this past year. This is a beautifully done model at



a great scale showing plenty of fine details. The case, alone, is a real piece of work. All the deck furniture is spot on, as is the detail at the bow. Thanks for sharing her with us, mate.

Walt Philips has been working on building a windlass for his 1:32 model of the lobster smack *Emma C. Berry* but found that scratch-building such items carried with it the problem of how to make the gears to scale. Since Walt didn't have the necessary tools to cut the gears out of metal, he chose to make them out of cardboard, which all have a very real appearance once painted. Nice solution, mate.



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"Ships", continued from Page 3

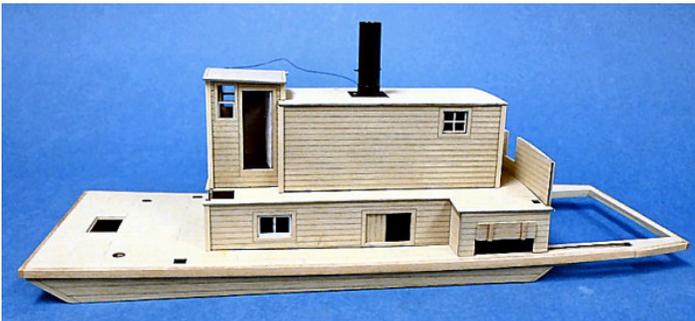
Gordon Field says the final stages on his 1:32 scratch-built model of the fishing pinky *Dove* are under way. Masts are in and the standing rigging is in place, having been scaled down to achieve more realism. Work was also



started on a set of sails to be made from architectural linen velum, that was selected for its scale weight. The velum was boiled to remove a plastic coating, making the material more flexible.

Seams will be drawn on and bolt ropes glued in place. We're looking forward to seeing your results, mate.

Kurt Van Dahm is building the 1:48 logging tug *Smoky Duck* from a kit by the "Train Troll" and extolled the virtues of this laser cut model and its ease of construction.



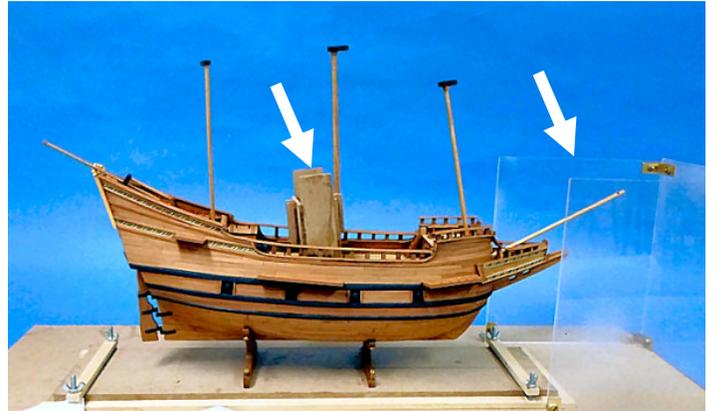
The *Smoky Duck* was about as graceful as a claw hammer, but her design was



equally as purposeful to the task at hand. Cabin siding was laser etched and the windows were made to allow them to be raised or lowered.

The only change Kurt made was to add "L" channels to the cabin corners to conceal the panel end grain. The more we view her, the more beautiful she becomes, mate.

Allen Siegel's 1:50 model of Henry Hudson's *Half Moon* is really shaping up. His unique building stand with its plastic bowsprit protector (insurance against the all-too-common workshop disasters) is clearly visible in this photo, as is the rake alignment jig on the main mast.



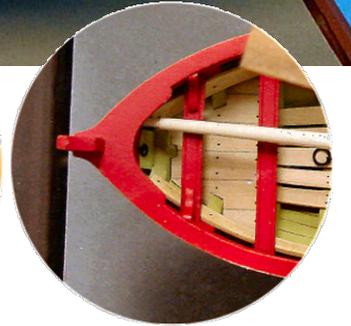
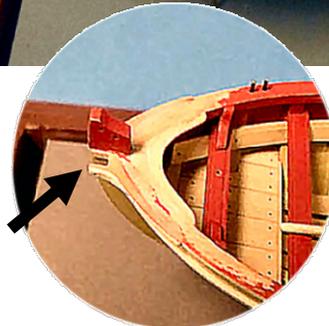
Looking ahead to rigging tasks, Allen also made a jig to space dead-eyes, which he's rigging off-model before attaching the shrouds. Neat!

Another of Allen's triumphs has been the beautiful work he has done on the ship's transom decoration. Rather than trusting himself to do this job directly on the model (where errors would be hard to correct), he chose to build the transom off-model and, when satisfied with the results, mount it in place. Great job, mate.



Bob Filipowski had to really "bite the bullet" when he decided to modify the cap rails to mount a pulley on the port bow of his 1:48 *English Long Boat*.

Going from a beautifully finished model to a work-in-



progress stage really shows what faith he has in his abilities. We are sure the end results will be well worth the effort, both visually as well as historically.

See "Ships", Page 5

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"Ships", continued from Page 4

Bob Sykes's 1:75 "Mantua" model of the ca. 1690 Spanish warship *San Felipe* is now in the hull planking phase with some of the deck detail already finished. For us, it's a rare chance to see one of his models in other than fully finished form, considering the speed with which he usually completes his work. As usual, kit models are far from

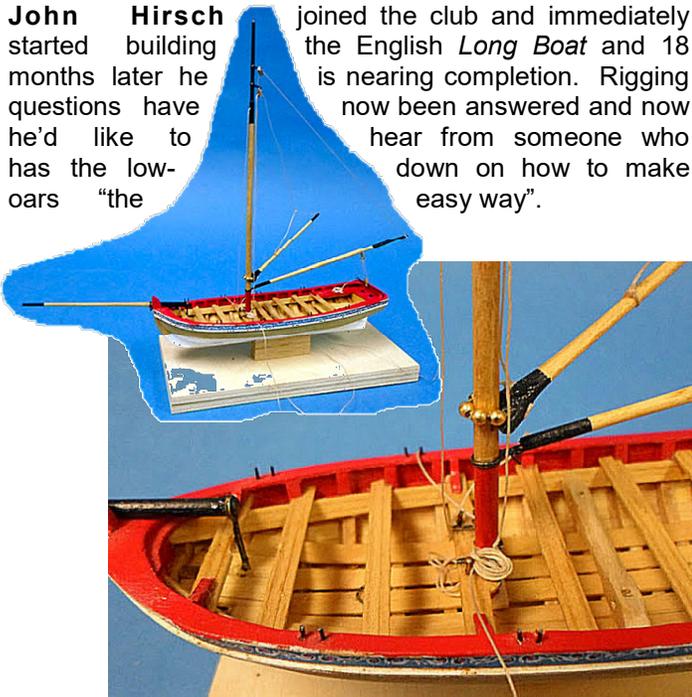


perfect, and this one is no exception. Gun port alignment was certainly a challenge, which Bob met with skill.

A remarkable amount of detail is evident in the railings and stairs as well as cabin door trim and deck. Deck planking is very neatly done and Bob says he used 1,532 individual tree nails for this model. That will keep you up nights for sure, mate. We know this model will be one of your very best.



John Hirsch joined the club and immediately started building the English *Long Boat* and 18 months later he is nearing completion. Rigging questions have now been answered and now he'd like to hear from someone who has the low-ears "the down on how to make easy way".



"Judging", continued from Page 2

Metalwork—Common Problems:

- Solder blobs
- Obvious file, machining marks
- Burrs & ragged edges
- Too thick or out of scale
- Wrong color
- Wrong gloss, surface finish
- PE sprue nubs not removed
- Parts bent, distorted

Accept the fact that a more detailed model offers a greater potential for errors!

Overall Appeal:

- Scores the visual "look" of the model
- Rates the model & mount as a whole, not its individual attributes

Presentation, Appearance:

- Fingerprints on the case or model
- Poor case construction (if it's a traveling case only, note this in the construction paper)
- Model dusty, dirty
- Mounted crooked
- Mount "inappropriate"
- Parts broken, adrift
- Plaques, "add-ons" detract from model

Check off all these points on your way to completing your next model and you'll have a winner for sure!

Our thanks to Bob, Kurt and Doc for their fine presentation and for giving us such an in-depth look at the world of model ship competition. See you all in Manitowoc - one of these days?

Reviewed by: *John Mitchell*

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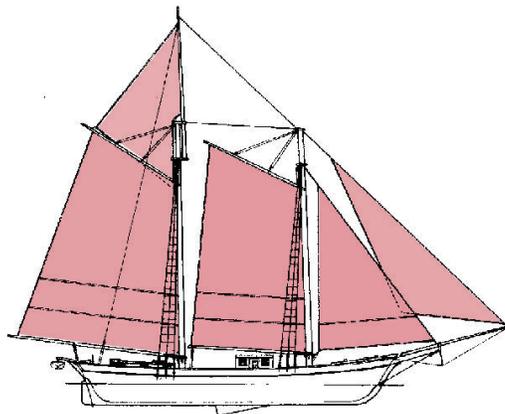
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