



# Forecastle Report

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

## ● Scuttlebutt ●

**COMMODORE, Bob Filipowski**, opened the December 2014 meeting promptly at 7:15 with a crew of 29 on deck.

**Kaori Philips** was introduced as our lone guest, sharing the evening's festivities with her husband **Walt**.



Dues are due but, since our **Purser** was out on sick call this evening, you are asked to mail him your check for \$20.00 made out to "Midwest Model Shipwrights". Mail to: **Allen Siegel, 843 Bryant Ave, Winnetka, IL 60093**.



Elections were held and, by unanimous vote, all officers were returned for another year, with the exception of **Paul Pollowy**, who stepped down for personal reasons. Paul's job (**Flag Captain**) was taken up by **Glen Estry**. Thanks, mate, for coming forward to fill Paul's shoes.



**Kurt Van Dahm** reminded all **NRG** members that the dues for 2015 will go up to \$48.00 effective January 1.

The hotel for the 2015 *NRG Conference* is the "Mystic Hilton", which will have a special rate of \$145.00 for attendees. You can register with the hotel via email.

Here is your quarterdeck crew for 2015: (from L) **Bob Filipowski, Allen Siegel, John Pocius, Leon Sirota,**



**John Mitchell, Glen Estry, and Tony Serigos.**

Thanks to the 2014 officers for their service over the past year and to the new crew for 2015 to come.

### 2015 OFFICERS & STAFF

President (Commodore)	- Bob Filipowski.....(847) 394-0757
Vice Pres (Flag Captain)	- Glen 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) 834-9477
	- johnpociusdesign@att.net

## January Meeting Notice

### Gudgeons & Pintles - Part 1

By Bob Filipowski

Last presented in August, 2004, Bob will offer us an updated look at the techniques he has developed to make this job easier to accomplish and which will result in a more authentic appearing model.

This is a great program for beginners as well as advanced modelers. Be sure and attend this New Year opener and sharpen up your skills.

Our next meeting will be at 7:15 p.m.  
Wednesday, January 21, 2015

**The South Church**

501 S. Emerson Street, Mount Prospect, IL

## ● Pizza and Flea Market 2014 ●

**Ken Goetz** did yeoman's service helping organize the pizza spread and hauling in the refreshments.

We all shared in the feast with platefuls of pizza made to our order, great holiday desserts and plenty of sodas. Our thanks to all



the crew who took part in putting on this great holiday feast.

Before the food arrived, our mates had a good chance to view all the fine items for sale in the flea market. Judging by the loads everyone carried out at the end of the evening, the flea market was a big success.

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"Pizza", continued from Page 1

Your Editor asked **Richard "Santa" Kuenstler** for some inspiration for 2015 as his holiday wish. Santa checked his list and agreed to do what he could. Every little bit helps, mates.



**Doc Seskind** was deep in the library of many fine books on offer. Looks like he found one he doesn't already have.



Plastic kits were in great abundance and represented everything from subs to sails.



**John Pocius, Bob Ivan** and **John Hirsch** are giving the once over to a very fine spray painting outfit on one of the sales tables.



But the real center of interest there was the metal and wood home-made model of the German battleship *Graf Spee* brought in by **Bob Ivan**.

Bob donated the model to the club to be raffled off and **"Wick" Wicklander** was the lucky winner. Now we wonder what "Wick" will make of this "Folk Art" model.



The rest of the flea market was equally filled with great stuff like kits, tools, books, models, hardware, and wood stock. A really fine evening for all the bargain hunters among us.

**Hal Chaffee** provided some light entertainment with a clever nautical trivia quiz. Test pages were handed out and we all tried our best to get the questions right. The winner,



**Gordon Field**, received a paid 2015 club membership.

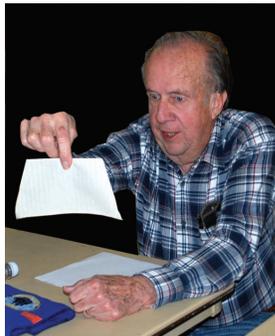
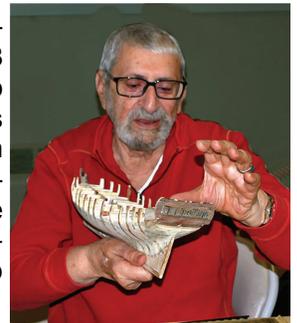
The consolation prize went to **Paul Bien**, who won a nice club pin. Good going, mates.

Hal also passed out a very useful "Cheat Ship Sheet" that detailed a lot of nautical trivia. We ended the year on a high note, full of pizza and hope for another great year in our new home.

**A very happy New Year to all!**

## ● Ships on Deck ●

**Sid Wotman** showed us the progress he has made on his 1:48 "Model Shipways" kit of the sloop *Fair American*. The transom was added and the fine stern cabin window detail was finished by installing a film layer behind the frames to simulate glass with water/sky reflections. Very nice job there, mate.



**Ken Goetz** showed us the lower foresail he made for his "Mamoli" model of *Blackbeard's Corsair*. This is a technique we'd all like to master.

**Gordon Field** brought in his scratch-built model of the pinky *Dove*, which he started some 25 years ago. A launch in sight?



**John Mitchell** has finished gluing up the plug for his 1:60 scratch-built English fishing smack *Boadicea* ca. 1908. The keel/stem/stern post was cut out and a transom added, as well.

**● Ship Launches 2014 ●**

**Steve Wheeler - Grand Canyon River Boat**



**Glen Estry - Nautilus, Chris Craft Runabout, U-Boat Type VII diorama**



**Paul Bien - Chaperon**

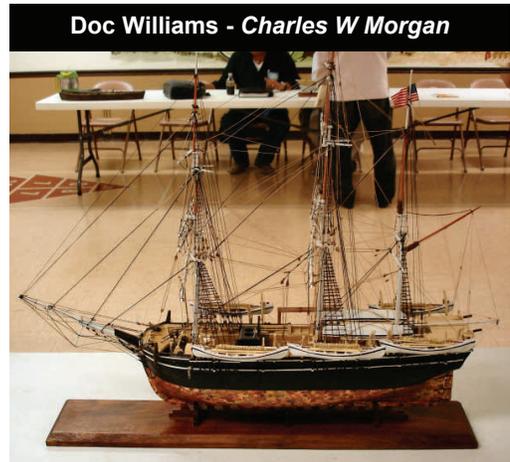
**Gus Agustin - HMS Royal William**



**Richard Romaniak - Composite Schooner**



**John Pocius - U-Boat diorama**



**Doc Williams - Charles W Morgan**



**Bob Sykes - Friedrich Wilhelm**

**John Pocius - McKenzie River Drift Boat diorama**



**Ken Wallenberg - Bluenose**



*17th Century*

# *Dutch Merchant Ships*

**Text, Photos and Plans for the Ship Modeler**

by **A.B. Hoving**

Plans by **C.A. Emke**

Models by **H. Tomesen**, Graphics by **E. Hoving**

Distributed by: Sea Watch Books, LLC, Florence, Oregon

[www.seawatchbooks.com](http://www.seawatchbooks.com), [seawatchbooks@gmail.com](mailto:seawatchbooks@gmail.com)

SeaWatch Books continues to outdo itself with each new book this company publishes. Just in time for the holidays, there's no doubt that *17th Century Dutch Merchant Ships*, by Ab Hoving, should be on every model ship builders wish list. The book begins with an introduction that explains that although the Dutch East India Com-



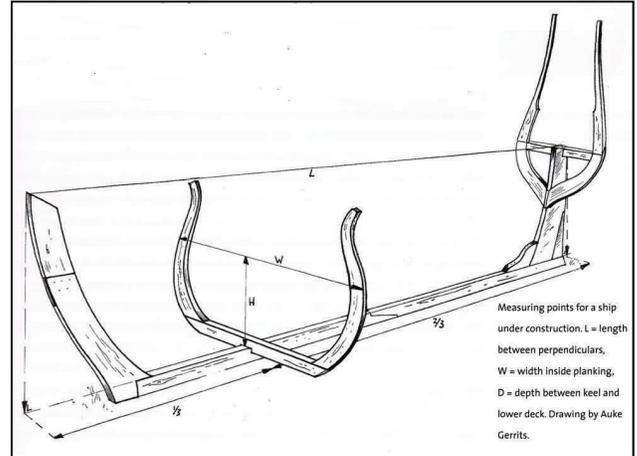
pany and Dutch Admiralty have received the lion's share of attention from historians, it was the great number of unheralded merchant vessels that drove the Dutch economy. This book focuses on the type of vessels that formed the bulk of this vast fleet.

In the early chapters, the author discusses the sources used to compile this book. They include paintings, drawings, etchings, grisailles, archaeological findings, ship models, written sources, and experiments. In many cases, Mr. Hoving outlines the strengths and weaknesses pertaining to each reference.

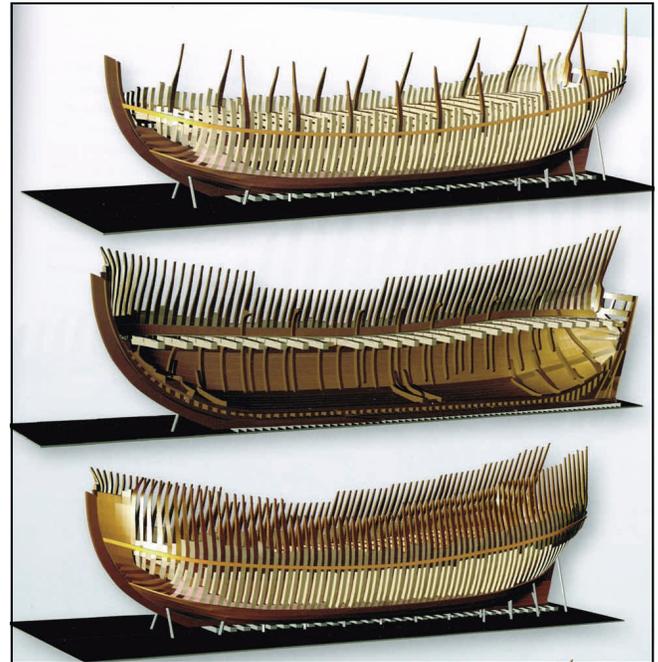
A brief description of the various trade routes, and the materials and products that were transported by Dutch vessels is outlined. This also provides the reader with some understanding as to how the Dutch Republic became the center for trade in 17th Century Europe, and

precipitated conflicts between the Dutch, and France, England, and Spain.

Dutch shipbuilding practices in the seventeenth century are the focal point in Chapter 3. The author explains how draughts and blueprints did not exist. Instead, ship-



wrights relied on a simplistic Proportional System, which worked remarkably well when building large, complex sailing ships. Two basic rules of thumb are described that impacted the design of the ship, and helped determine the strengths and thicknesses of key timbers. Hoving explains how these rules were adjusted, according to the purpose for which the vessel was being built.



With Chapter 4, 17th Century shipbuilding concepts are melded with 21st Century technology. This chapter is profusely illustrated with digitally produced sketches outlining the construction of a 134-foot pinas. These full color illustrations are interspersed with numerous historical diagrams. Together, they provide the reader with a better understanding of how the seventeenth century shipwright was able to complete a large vessel in as little as four to five months, utilizing only twenty to twenty-two men!

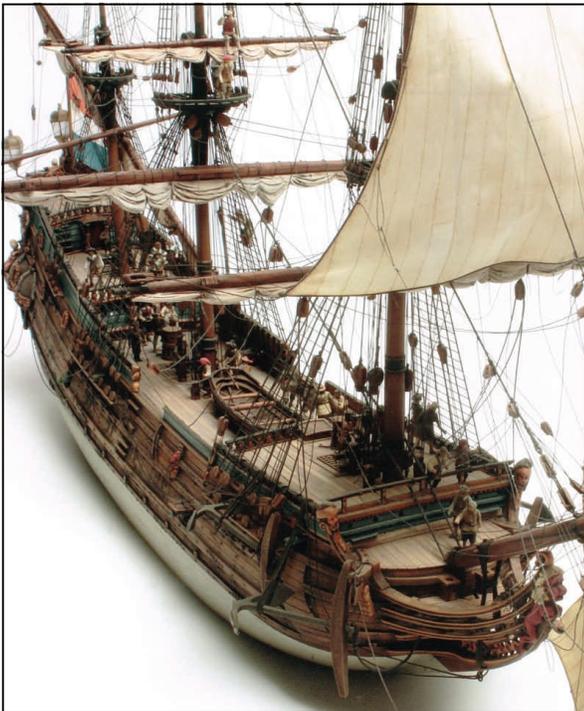
*Continued on page 5.*

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The next chapter is devoted to ship types, and is, to say the least, a visual treat! Numerous full two-page color



illustrations depict the various vessels in their natural environment. Models, primarily by Herbert Tomessen, were photographed by Emiel Hoving, the author's son, and



photoshopped into remarkably realistic scenes. The close-up photos of many of Tomessen's models will be of considerable help to the model ship builder.

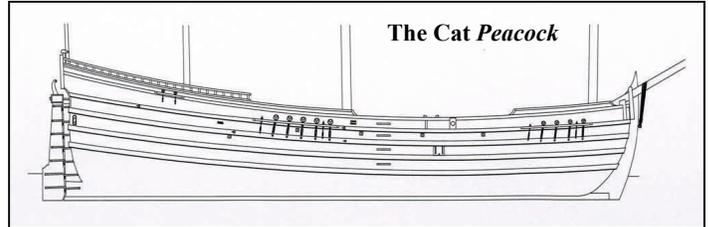
The featured vessels, twelve in all, are broken down into four primary groups: seagoing ships, coastal carriers,

inshore vessels, and fishing vessels used as traders. Within each of these groups are sub-types.

The seagoing craft include the pinas, the fluit (flute), of which three variations are discussed, and the cat. Coastal carriers include the boyer and galliot, while the narrow or wide ship, and the kaag are the inshore vessels. The fishermen/traders category is composed of the buss, pink, and hooker.

In each case, the author discusses the origins, history and a brief anatomy of each type. He also explains how the cargo that would be carried by a vessel could impact its design, which in turn determined its area of operation.

Hoving's easy style of writing makes for some enjoyable reading. Case in point, his comments about the Cat, ar-

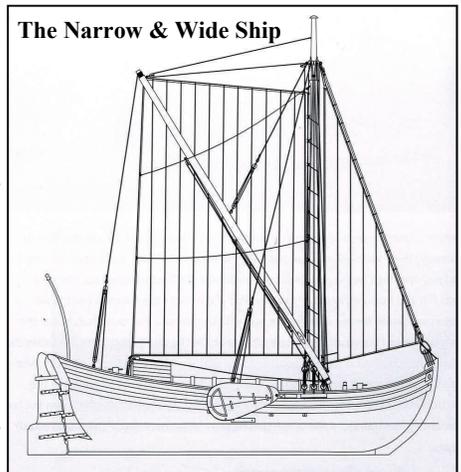


guably, one of the homeliest vessels ever built. With a slight touch of humor, the author points out unique aspects of this craft, which include rigging and sailing peculiarities. This type of insight is a common theme throughout *Dutch Merchant Ships*.

The book concludes with a bibliography and an appendix. This latter item features a table that compares the formulas for various scantlings as outlined by Nicolaes Witsen and Cornelius van Yk.

Containing 152 pages, *Dutch Merchant Ships* is not an especially large book. Yet, by itself, it would still be worth the asking price. Add the portfolio of plans by Cor Emke, and this publication becomes a remarkable value. All the vessels featured in this book are presented on 24 sheets measuring 33" x 27".

Seven ships are drawn to a scale of 1:96, and include the pinas *Witsen*, the flutes *Zeehaen*, *Langewijk*, *Roode Leeuw*, the cat *Peacock*, and two fishing/trader vessels, a Buss of 1598, and a



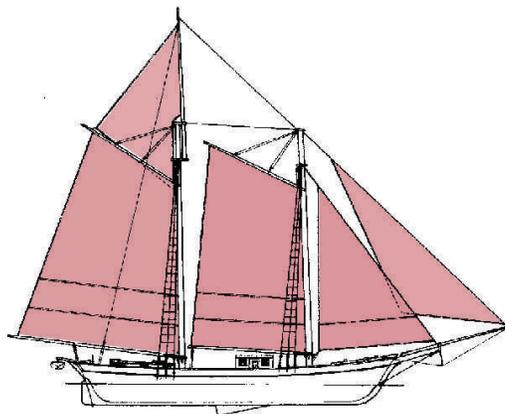
Hooker. The other five smaller craft are portrayed at a scale of 1:48, and include the Boyer, Galliot, Narrow and Wide Ships, Kaag, and Pink.

*17th Century Dutch Merchant Ships* is a remarkable achievement, and would be an excellent addition to the library of any maritime historian or model ship builder. It is highly recommended.

Reviewed by  
Bob Filipowski



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