



Forecastle Report

Newsletter of the Midwest Model Shipwrights ♦ www.midwestmodelshipwrights.com ♦ June 2014

● Scuttlebutt ●

COMMODORE, Bob Filipowski, opened the May 2014 meeting promptly at 7:15 and noted that we had 25 hands aboard, despite the Manitowoc hangover.

The **Saturday Airbrush Workshop II** will be held at **Kurt's** shop on 28 June, and is aimed at intermediate level modelers. A future workshop will be scheduled if there are an ample number of members still interested in attending. To date, the workshops have been very well received with filled up attendance.

Note: **Allen Siegel's Fair American** is featured in this month's issue of the NRG Journal. Great showing, mate.

Kurt Van Dahm says the 2014 NRG Conference being held in St. Louis, MO, Oct 16, 17, and 18 will have a new format with the tour on Thursday, Technical Sessions on Friday and the General Sessions on Saturday. Registration information, and more details on the conference can be downloaded off the web at www.thenrg.org.

Tri-Club News



At \$25.00, this year's price of the **Tri-Club Symposium** remains one of the great bargains of the year. Where else can you get a day of modeling with coffee and rolls in the morning, a fine box lunch, great speaker presentations, modeling round tables, door prizes and a flea market? Hold the date of Saturday, September 20th and get your cash or check (made out to *Nautical Research and Model Ship Society*) to our treasurer to reserve a place. Early registration would be appreciated, so the planners can order lunches in a timely manner. Same location at the Lutheran Church of the Ascension, 460 Sunset Ridge Road, Northbrook, IL.

Tri-Club Treasurer's report:

Balance forward: \$1,146.59
Income: \$0
Expense: \$100.00 (donation to WI M. Museum)
End balance: \$1,046.59

2013 OFFICERS & STAFF

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June Meeting Notice

Manitowoc Model Competition

By Bob Filipowski

If you weren't there, then you need to be at this meeting to catch Bob's review of all the activities that took place at the 38th Annual Midwestern Model Ships and Boats Contest & Display. Modelers from all over got together May 16 to 18 in Manitowoc, WI for a great meeting. Next best thing to being there mates!

Our next meeting will be at 7:15 p.m.
Wednesday, June 18, 2014
At the Community Presbyterian Church
407 Main Street in Mount Prospect

● Small Boat Construction ●

By John Mitchell



The key elements discussed in the production of a small rowboat were: ●RESEARCH ●PLANS ●PLUG CONSTRUCTION ●PLANKING ●DETAILING

●RESEARCH - To build the type of small boat you want, you first need to know something about the era in which it existed and the uses to which the boat would have been put. Using "Google" to scan the internet, queries were entered for "Tender", "Skiff", "Rowboat", etc. The above image was picked as the best representative of a Great Lakes schooner's tender c. 1852.



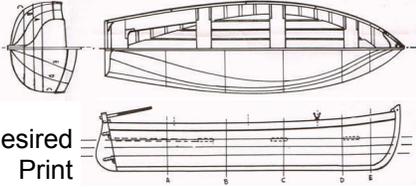
●PLANS - Once an example was found, it was time to find a set of plans that could recreate it. A number of plans were obtained from friends and modeling books.

See "Small Boat", Page 2

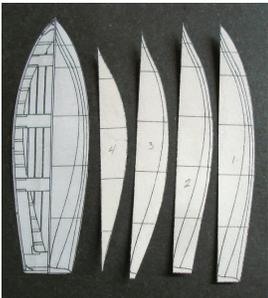
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"Small Boat", continued from Page 1

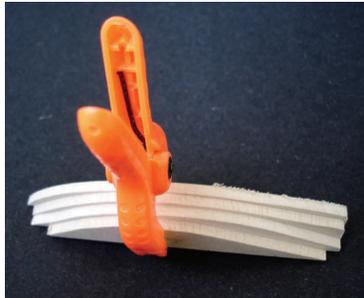
Create picture files on each of the views and paste them to PowerPoint. Resize the images to the desired scale for your model. Print multiple copies of the body view to allow cutting out station line templates for use in shaping the hull and locating the sheer line on the plug.



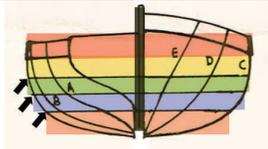
● PLUG CONSTRUCTION



Lift templates, lifts glued



Keel & spacer templates



Lift halves joined



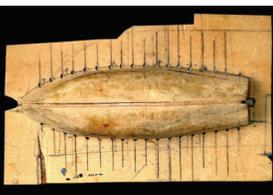
Hull carved



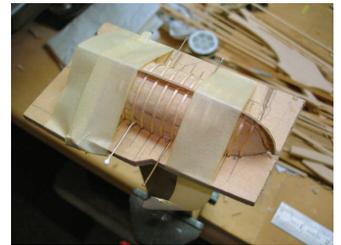
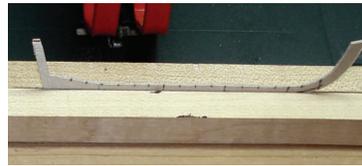
● FRAMING & PLANKING



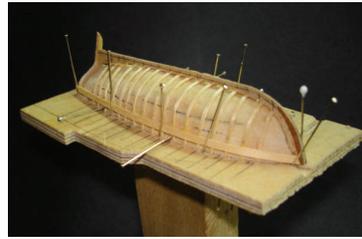
Bending frames & planks



Inserting frames on plug



Notch keel, add transom, glue to ribs.



Mark sheer line with pins, add main wale.



Plank hull. Sand or scrape hull before release



Release hull by cutting ribs, add rub strip.



Add inner wale, breast hook, transom supports.

● DETAILING



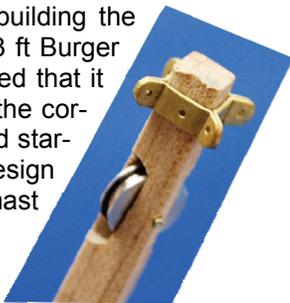
Add stern bench, thwart risers, floor boards. Paint as you go. Add thwarts, oar locks and oars.

And here she is all done at last!



● Ships on Deck ●

Kurt Van Dahm has started building the mast for his 1:12 model of the 23 ft Burger Built Sloop *Splash*, and we learned that it is square rather than round with the corners oriented fore and aft/port and starboard. Added to this unique design were the required "square" mast hoops. These were made from annealed brass, which were resistance soldered together. Other mast fittings came from his stock of parts gathered from old companies no longer around.



Kurt also showed us his 1:24 "Model Shipways" model of the U.S. Gunboat *Philadelphia*, which has the final finish



applied to the hull with weathering to follow. The authentic color was not paint but a type of stain, so Kurt applied it via air brush to match the finish as seen on the modern replica at the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum.

John Pocius has completed the female figure on his 1:32 *McKenzie River Drift Boat* and added a beautifully oil painted background. Other additions are a fishing pole and tackle box - a fish lure and hook can be seen on the boat's fore deck, if your eyesight is very good (said to be a "spinner" by the 20/20 members). A really beautiful presentation, mate.



Ken Wallenberg has built a 1:96 scale model of the schooner *Bluenose*, which he says is a result of his being snowed in this winter. He didn't just end his building project with the completion of a very fine looking ship, but carried on by making a unique display base for her, as well.



The basic idea was to create a table center piece using a candy dish to which he fastened a cabinet handle using epoxy and into which he cut a groove for the keel.



Since this is a fishing schooner, Ken made some fish out of rice and added a fishing (hair) net from a notion counter. A crew was added using HO gauge RR figures. Great to see such an imaginative presentation, mate.

Walt Philips is taking his time and carefully adding detail to his unique presentation of the 1:32 Lobster Smack



Emma C. Berry. Walt is using the "Model Shipways" plans drawn by Ben Lankford but adding some of his own very fine embellishments. A windless was built but may be redone due to concerns over its scale. It's really a joy to see all the detail Walt has created on this great model.

Bob Sykes announced that he had completed his 1:60 model of the *Friedrich Wilhelm* c. 1660 and she's a beauty. Building this "Euromodel" kit really was a monumental task and Bob has carried it off in great style. From



the base stand right up to the flags flying on her topgallant masts, this work commands your attention. Congratulations, mate, on a magnificent job.

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"Ships-on-Deck", continued from Page 3

Ken Goetz is having great fun building a 1:128 model of



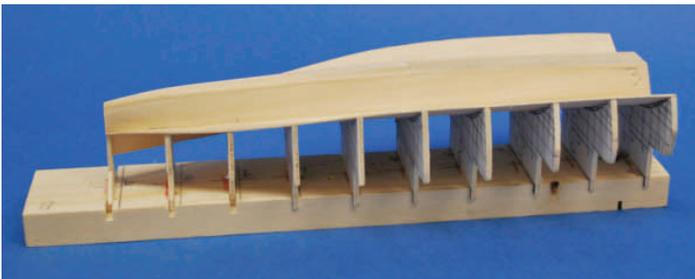
the fishing schooner *Blue-nose*. Using "Model Shipways" plans, he reduced the scale 50% to arrive at the size model he wanted. Decks were re-planked over balsa and bass wood fillers between bulkheads to eliminate "sponginess" caused by a lack of support for the planks. The next challenge for Ken will be to cut out scuppers in the bulwarks - not an easy job at that scale.



Ken is also getting ready to start building a commission model for a friend of a "Pirate Ship". Luckily, Ken found a "Model Shipways" pre-introductory offer of such a "Mamoli" kit on the internet at a great price saving. From a list price of \$599 Ken paid only \$99. However, Ken's impression is that it's not a \$599 kit based on the materials provided, but he says it will go together just fine and in record time.



Bob Ivan has started a model of a speed boat design



contest winner that he found in a "Wooden Boat" magazine. The *Spade 21* has a trimarine hull and the plans that were shown were very small. This gave Bob real problems when it came to reproducing them to scale so he had them blown up 400% to help him visualize her lines. Bob always likes challenges, and the ways he meets them are always a learning experience for us, too.



Allen Siegel had three projects to show; the *Half Moon* (1:48), the *Long Boat* (1:48) and *Noah's Ark* (1:?).

The *Ark* was a gift bought in a museum but it turned out to be an amazingly well designed kit built by an Israeli firm called "Touchwood". The parts are all held together without any glue. Laser cut parts include highly detailed figures.



The *Long Boat* has been finished and it looks like a real winner, mate.



The *Half Moon* offered some puzzles but Allen is building it as he feels it looks best. Not being bound too much by the instructions, he is having a lot of fun with it. She's looking shipshape to us, mate.



Still not a member?

Our new 80-page Journal has more model ship articles than ever!

The annual cost of membership remains at \$38 US, and \$50 for all other countries. Visit our website at www.theNRG.org for more information.



THE NAUTICAL RESEARCH GUILD
"Advancing Ship Modeling Through Research"



The 38th Annual Midwestern Model Ships and Boats Contest

By Bob Filipowski

These contests seem to get better, and better, each year. Add to that the camaraderie shared by all, and you have an unbelievable weekend!

The 2014 edition featured 50+ models, with 39 of them vying for medals. The overwhelming majority, 19 to be exact, qualified for Gold awards, with 10 receiving Silver, and 6 going home with the new Bronze plaque. Since I was privileged to be a judge, I can assure you that it was not an easy task choosing the special awards models.

Best of Show and **Best Miniature** went to a WWII



Japanese Heavy Cruiser, the *Myoko*, by Joe Simon. Joe was also a guest speaker on Saturday afternoon. His topic, appropriately, was "Secrets of a Plastic Modeler," which featured building the "*Myoko*."

In a unique development, the same model won **Model-**



ers' Choice and **Peoples' Choice**, which may have been the first time that this has ever happened. Greg Rice's *Thunderbird* was the recipient, and it was well deserved.

Incidentally, the **Peoples' Choice Award** is sponsored by the Midwest Model Shipwrights. I had the honor of presenting it to Greg at the conclusion of the show on Sunday afternoon.

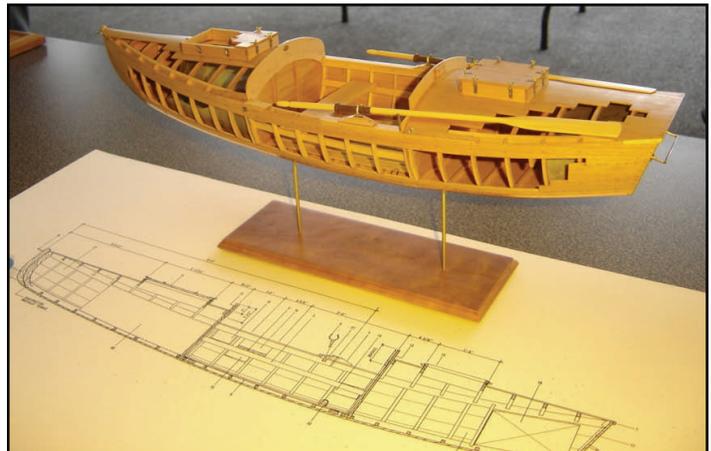


Probably, one of the most coveted awards is the **Badger Airbrush Best Paint Finish Award**. In addition



to a special plaque, the lucky winner receives a Badger airbrush, compressor, and a selection of Badger paints! Greg Rice scored again with his impressive yacht, *Principia*!

The **Roger Jaekel Best Great Lakes Award** went to



Steve Wheeler for his *Defiance* Cut-Away. Steve's other offering, a diorama portraying the *Edith*, the *Defiance*'s sister ship, pulled up on to a beach in the Grand Canyon, was equally impressive, and won a gold award.

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Rounding out the special awards, was the **Best Novice Award**, sponsored by the North Shore Deadeyes. The model receiving this award, in addition to being a beautiful



example of the modeler's art, featured one of the more unique presentations. The photos of Rob Ecker's *Grant's Ghost* speak for themselves!

The Shipwrights were well represented with John Pocius, Tony Serigos, and Bob Sykes competing, and winning awards. Ken Goetz brought in his current project for display only, and several other members drove up to just see the exhibit.

The variety of models featured this year was one noteworthy aspect of this 38th competition, which is the longest continuous running event of its type in the country. Here are some of the models, enjoy!



MODERN SHIP PROFILES

● BPC *Mistral* ●

The *Mistral*-class is a class of three amphibious assault ships, also known as a helicopter carrier, of the French Navy. Referred to as "projection and command ships" (*bâtiments de projection et de commandement* or BPC), a *Mistral*-class ship is capable of transporting and deploying 16 NH90 or Tiger helicopters, four landing barges, up to 70 vehicles including 13 AMX-56 Leclerc tanks, or a 40-strong Leclerc tank battalion, and 450 soldiers. The ships are equipped with a 69-bed hospital, and are capable of serving as part of a NATO Response Force, or with United Nations or European Union peace-keeping forces.

Three ships of the class are in service in the French Navy: *Mistral*, *Tonnerre* and *Dixmude*. A deal for 2 ships for the Russian Navy was announced by the French Government on 24 Dec 2010.

The ships were to be constructed at various locations in two major and several minor components, which would be united on completion. The engines were assembled in Lorient, combat systems in Toulon, the rear half of the ship in Brest, and the forward half in Saint-Nazaire.

Mistral was launched in 2004, and *Tonnerre* in 2005.

Based on displacement tonnage, *Mistral* and *Tonnerre* are the largest ships in the French Navy after the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier *Charles de Galle*, for roughly the same height above water.

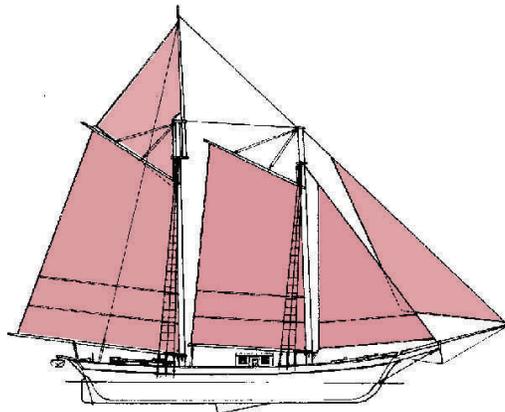


General characteristics

Class & Type:	<i>Mistral</i> Landing helicopter dock
Displacement:	16,500 tons (empty)
Length:	653 ft (199 m)
Beam:	105 ft (32 m)
Draft:	21 ft (6.3 m)
Propulsion:	2 Rolls-Royce Mermaid Azimuth thrusters, 2 5-bladed propellers
Speed:	18.8kn (35 km/h)
Range:	5,800 nmi (10,800 km) at 18 knots
Complement:	20 officers, 80 petty officers, 60 quartermasters.
Armament:	2 x Simbad systems 4 x 12.7 mm M2-HB Browning MGs
Aircraft:	16 heavy or 35 light helicopters
Av facilities:	6 helicopter pads sea-planes.
Troops:	900 (short duration) 450 (long duration) 150 (HQ ops)
Boats & LC:	4 CTM or 2 LCAC (Landing Craft, Air Cushion)



John R. Mitchell, Editor
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