



Forecastle Report

Newsletter of the Midwest Model Shipwrights ♦ www.midwestmodelshipwrights.com ♦ June 2011

● Scuttlebutt ●

FLAG CAPTAIN **Bob Filipowski** called our meeting to order at 7:30 PM with 20 hands on deck. First on the agenda was to welcome back two old hands, **Steve Wheeler** and **Ed Coty**. Steve is not only a member of our club but also the *Rocky Mountain Shipwrights* in Colorado. Ed is a Member Emeritus, having been one of the founders of our club. Thanks for being with us, mates.

COMMODORE **Gus Agustin** was reported to be in sick bay. Our best wishes go out to Gus for a speedy recovery and a return to duty soon. Your mates all miss you, Gus.

Kurt Van Dahm reported that part of the upcoming NRG Conference in San Mateo (San Francisco), August 21-27, will feature a tour of the aircraft carrier *Hornet* as well as the Kriegstein model collection. Well worth the trip.

As expected, the Wisconsin Maritime Museum show in Manitowoc was a very exciting meeting. See an abbreviated report on the contest results and a few selected photos put together for us by **Sid Wotman** on pp.4-5.

Metal Plating at Home

By Steve Wheeler

For those of you who have not met Steve, he is the sailor on the left in this photo and is being thanked for his presentation by our Flag Captain, Bob Filipowski.



We were honored to have Steve join us for the evening and share with us his very fine presentation on the art of metal plating made easy. We were double blessed, as this is the presentation Steve also was giving at the Manitowoc show - so we got an exclusive preview and a great evening to boot.

2010 OFFICERS & STAFF

President (Commodore) - Gus Agustin.....	(847) 398-5208
Vice Pres (Flag Captain) - Bob Filipowski.....	(847) 394-0757
Treasurer (Ship's Purser) - Ken Goetz	(847) 678-4249
Secretary (Ship's Clerk) - Jim Merritt.....	(847) 888-3882
Editor (Signals Officer) - John Mitchell	(847) 392-2259
Photographer (M. Chief) - Leon Sirota	(847) 541-6285

June Meeting Notice

Manitowoc Show Highlights

By David Botton

Dave was our eyes and ears at the 35th Annual Midwest Model Ships & Boats Contest and Display held May 20-22 at the Manitowoc Maritime Museum, Manitowoc, WI.

Come and enjoy photos of the many models Dave has captured through his lens, hear about the impressions they made on the judges and learn who were the winners in all categories. It's sure to be an exciting evening.

Our next meeting will be at 7:15 p.m. Wednesday, June 15, 2011

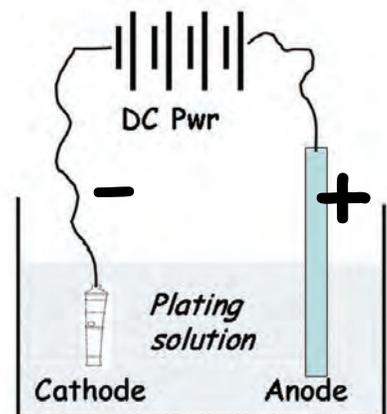
At the Community Presbyterian Church
407 Main Street in Mount Prospect

Throughout his presentation, Steve referred to the firm "Caswell" and the plating kits it sells as well as their web site www.caswellplating.com. If you would like additional information on plating supplies, it is recommended that you go to this web site or check with your local hobby shop to see if they handle the "Caswell" products line.

Main reasons given for doing your own plating are to convert pewter-base metal parts to brass or to hide solder joints on built-up parts. Only exceptions would be that you can not plate aluminum or SST.

The basic parts involved are a DC power supply, anodes, cathodes, solution tank and plating solutions. You can either buy the

"kit" or make your own. If you opt to make your own, power supplies can be purchased from *Radio Shack* (1.5—12V) at approximately \$18.00. Other parts can be created from available materials but you'd need to follow detailed instructions, as there are hazards involved.



● Ships on Deck ●

Bob Ivan brought in his latest project, a pontoon mounted to an airplane (Guillow's kit 507, Nakajima A6M2-N "Rufe"). Sort of a boat, since it floats and has a source of propulsion. His building techniques are very unique in that he covers a balsa frame with 0.0075" thick sheets of utility grade aluminum. Makes for a very strong structure (capable of withstanding a lot of child punishment). Even though we were not able to get a good photo of his work this time, we've included an image from the assembly instructions to give you a reference.



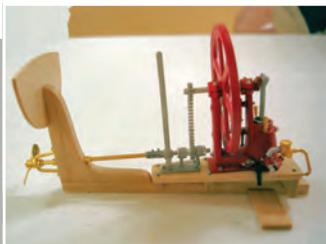
Doc Williams has been busy cutting copper plates for the hull of his 1:64 "Model Shipways" kit of the *Charles W. Morgan* using the copper roll material supplied.



Here we see Doc gingerly mounting the jib boom to the bowsprit for demo. In describing the bowsprit, Doc says: "It's square except where it isn't" - that means it starts out square at the deck and out to the stem and then rounds off on the sides and bottom

forward. To work this up, Doc selected cherry wood rather than the basswood supplied, as it is easier to shape. The bowsprit cap was also scratch built out of cherry for the same reason. Looking shipshape, mate.

Steve Wheeler showed his newest creation, a 1 hp *Pierce* inverted gas engine ca 1897 in a scale of 1:12. This model was made of scratch built resin, metal castings and machined parts.



This is one of a pair of these engines built as part of a planned model of a *Fred Martin* designed 16' launch built for *Pierce* in Racine, WI.

We know this model is a winner, for sure mate, and can't wait to see the finished product.

Allen Siegel is very happy with the results he has achieved on his 1:48 model of the *Fair American* - and rightly so, we can add, as the work he has done is very beautiful. This model has been converted from the solid hull kit sold in the 1950s to the present plank on bulkhead offering. Unfortunately, the plans didn't provide adequate building instructions for the changes being made from solid to POB. Even though Allen didn't want to get into scratch building just yet, guess what? He's into it now on many of the details he has been adding. It's the way a lot of modelers fall into the scratch building camp, so it seems.



Allen would like to do all the decorations on the transom but needs some advice on going about it. One suggestion was to try making some decals using a kit that



includes special PC printer paper. These are made by "Testors" and available at many hobby and craft stores. With such a kit, you first create the artwork on a PC or by hand and then print it out using the special transfer paper. Hope this helps, mate.

Kurt Van Dahm has finished painting the hull on his 1/8" scale model of the tug *Lackawanna* and has added cap rails and rub rails. Now he's starting work on the



main cabin and the pilot house, which is made from photo etched parts. Great port holes, glazed with "Crystal Clear", and a fine job on the sign boards have really added realism and interest to the hull.

The Forecastle Report, June 2011 - P.3

Helmut Reiter's 1:48 model of the Tartane *Gemma* is a feast for the eyes, so let's zero in on some of the outstanding details he has added in the short month since we saw her last.

First off, there is the bilge pump he created from scratch. This one looks so good you couldn't tell it from a real pump, if it were not for the size.



Next is the neat way Helmut constructed his companionway hatch with the companionway ladder attached to it. This was done so he could lift the whole thing out to clean it from time to time and vacuum out the hold. What a great idea!



Even though it doesn't look difficult, the mast on his ship was a real project, as it was turned down on a lathe from a square piece of wood.

He starts this process by gluing centers on both ends with epoxy then filing the corners to create an octagon.

The mast is turned round in 3" sec-



tions. The stock is advanced through a special chuck for each section so the mast doesn't start to whip when it turns. The final step is hand finishing with sandpaper to get rid of the step marks. Next time you look at this model, have an eye on the mast as well as everything else. Everywhere you look, there is something to see that pleases the eye and sets a modeler's heart beating.

Ken Goetz says he is into his 1:76.8 "Model Shipways" kit of the USS *Constitution* to the tune of 3.5 years and his patience and attention to detail show. This may be the last time we see his model at our meeting, as the finished product with all masts in place will not fit into any vehicle he owns. So it's a photo or Manitowoc or else.

All the spars with their stuns'le booms, flying jib boom and "one of several" dolphin strikers are



finished. For a better appearance, Ken is building his own chain plates from selectively annealed brass wire soldered together, rather than those supplied with the kit. We'll hope for some photos of her when she's done.

Bob Filipowski has finished the hold on his 1:64 model of the schooner *Arrowsic*. Cargo sacks were epoxied into place after being painted a light tan color, coated with an antiquing agent and dark brown chalk and then sprayed with dull coat fixative. Decking is next. To hatch cover or not to hatch cover is the question. Whatever, it's a beauty.



Jim Merritt has added the finishing touch to his *Yacht Mary* model by assembling a very complete Log Book. The book compiles all the phases of construction and details many of the problems encountered and their solutions. Makes a really impressive companion to the model, mate. Something all could copy.

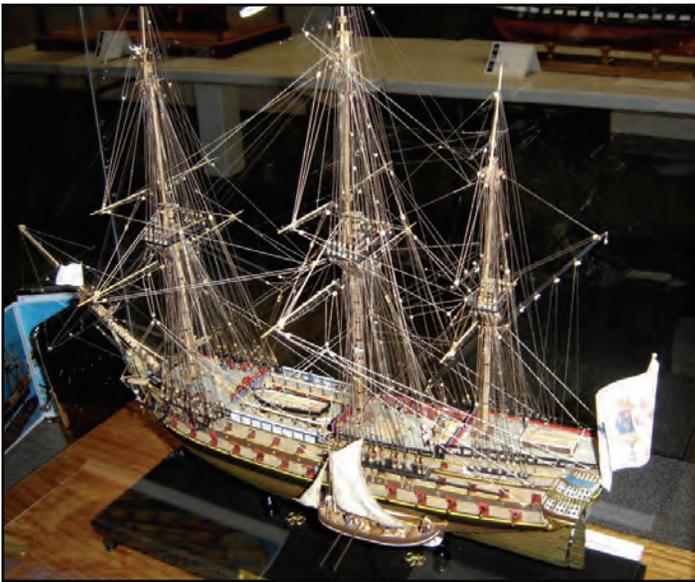


The 35th Annual Midwestern Model Ships and Boats Contest

By Sidney Wotman

As you would imagine, the 35th Annual Midwestern Model Ship & Boats Contest was a landmark event for the Wisconsin Maritime Museum, and the quality was consistent with the significance of this particular anniversary.

The forty-plus models on display represented a level of diversification rarely seen in previous contests. The Chicago Tri-Club Association did very well as our Richard Romaniak scored top honors with his appropriately



named, French Ship of the Line, *La Superbe*. This beautiful miniature took home a gold medal, as well as the **Dana McCalip Best Miniature** and **Best of Show Awards!**

In what has to be one of the most unique developments in the history of this contest, Bruce Hoff's split example of

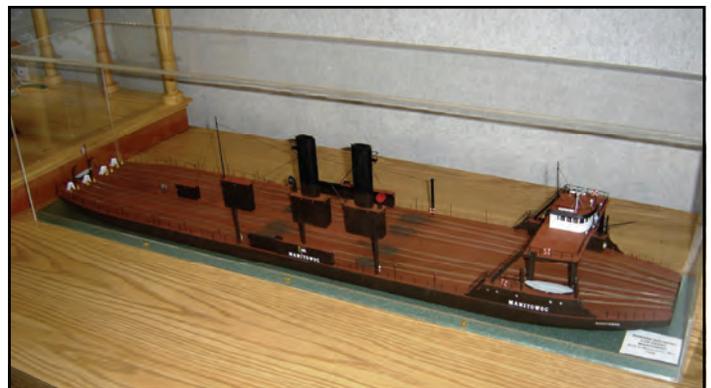


the colonial schooner *Chaleur* won a gold medal and **Modeler's Choice**. Although truly deserving, what made this so noteworthy was the fact that Bruce had not entered the models in the contest! They were for display only, but the judges and fellow contestants felt otherwise about these remarkable pieces, and acted accordingly.

The **Best Novice Builder Award**, which is sponsored by the Chicago Tri-Club Association, went to Ed Leviker of Golden, Colorado. The coloration of the sails and deck were very realistic, and made for a most unique model.



One of the more desirable awards given out is the **Badger Airbrush Best Paint Finish Award**. The reason for this is, in addition to the traditional plaque, an airbrush, compressor, and various painting supplies go to the lucky winner. This year's recipient was Don Manlick of Manitowoc, Wisconsin for his Rail Road Car Ferry, *Manitowoc*. In addition to an impeccable paint job and custom made



decals, the model possessed some very subtle antiquing, which added to its realism.

The final special award, the **Roger Jackel Best Great Lakes Award**, was taken by Paul Wilson of Hessel,



Michigan for his *Kramen Rowboat*. The lapstrake construction and attention to detail on this beautiful little model was truly amazing!

The Forecastle Report, June 2011 - P.5

Award winners from the Tri-Club Association were not confined to those previously mentioned. Gus Agustin for his *Saint George* and Steve Wheeler for his *Pierce Engine* both received gold medals. Jim Merritt accepted a silver plaque for his *Yacht Mary*, Tony Serigos' *HMS Bounty Launch*, and John Hazard's *America* also took home silver awards.

Here are some other noteworthy entries that made this competition truly special.



Barge of King Tut by John McGann of Arvada, Colorado—Gold Medal

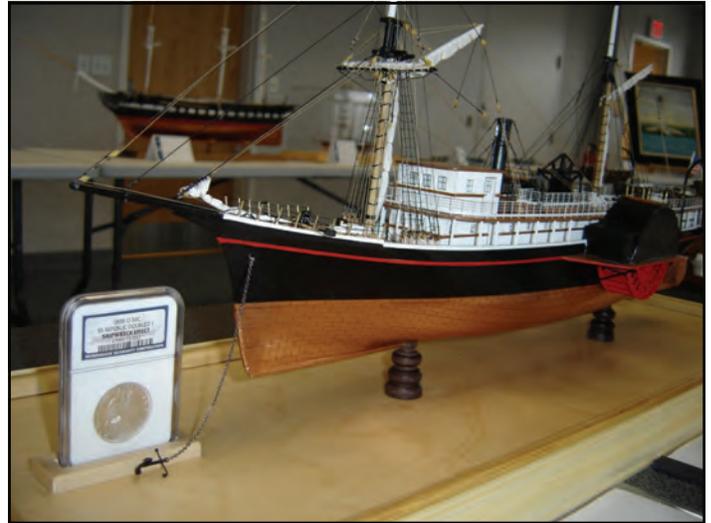


USS Missouri by Gordon Stiller of Omro, Wisconsin—Gold Medal



Confederacy—Bone Model by Larry Pulka of Canton, Ohio—Gold Medal

Other Tri-Club members who attended the conference included Rita Berg, David Botton, Bob Filipowski, Ken Goetz, Ed Urbanczyk, Kurt Van Dahm, and Doc Williams.



SS Republic by Ralph Buckwalter of Lakewood, Colorado—Gold Medal



La Licorne—Bone Model by Larry Pulka of Canton, Ohio—Gold Medal



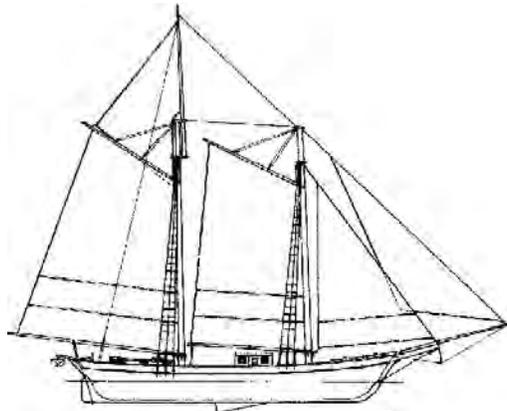
Noah's Ark by David Hunt of Wauwatosa, Wisconsin—Certificate of Merit

An old friend paid a visit to Manitowoc. The *St. Marys Challenger*, more well known as the *Medusa Challenger* to Chicagoans, looked like a ghost from the past as the old laker steamed through the heavy fog past the museum. This vessel is the oldest ship still operating on the Great Lakes. She was launched in 1906, six years before the *Titanic*!





John R. Mitchell, Editor
2011 N Charter Point Dr. • Arlington Hts., IL 60004



Forecastle Report

Newsletter of the Midwest Model Shipwrights
www.midwestmodelshipwrights.com