



Forecastle Report

Newsletter of the Midwest Model Shipwrights ♦ www.midwestmodelshipwrights.com ♦ June 2012

● Scuttlebutt ●



COMMODORE Gus Agustin rang our May meeting open at 7:30 sharp with 29 hands present.

Walt Newman was welcomed as a guest of **Bob George** while our Colorado member, **Steve Wheeler**, was welcomed back to Chicago. **John Hirsch**, joining this evening, was introduced as our newest member. Welcome aboard, John, we're glad to have you as a fellow shipwright.

For those who would otherwise have attended the (cancelled) annual NRG Conference in Portland, **Kurt Van Dahm** says you should hold open the date of Saturday, October 13, 2012 for one of six NRG seminars to be held at locations in the Northeast. These seminars will cover a range of topics and challenges to model ship building. An all-star panel is being assembled and topics will be announced as the date nears. Please email Kurt at kurt@modelshipyard.com. If you have a topic you would like to see covered.

Saturday, May 20th, marked the day that the "Wisconsin Maritime Museum" unveiled its display of **Bruce Hoff's Chaleur**. This fine model was featured in our newsletter of December 2011 and its display is a fitting honor for Bruce's lifetime of skilled modeling.



Our mate, **Bob Wicklander**, gave us a heads up on the upcoming *MI Maritime Museum's Classic Boat Show* to be held on June 16th in South Haven, MI. This show is being held in conjunction with South Haven's Harbor Fest. Classic and traditional small craft - row, paddle, sail and motor - will be featured with demonstrations and speakers throughout the day as well as toy boat building for kids. For more info: www.MichiganMaritimeMuseum.org.

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June Meeting Notice

Manitowoc Review

By Dave Botton

Dave has volunteered to share with us his many fine photos of the *36th Annual Midwestern Model Ships & Boats Contest and Display* held in Manitowoc, WI on May 18—20, 2012.

Here's where you'll learn who the prize winners were in all categories and hear our club experts critique all the pictured entries. This will be your chance to see what it takes to be a medalist in the modeling world.

Our next meeting will be at 7:15 p.m. Wednesday, June 20, 2012

At the Community Presbyterian Church
407 Main Street in Mount Prospect

● Steve Wheeler's Clinic ●

We were happy to welcome back **Steve Wheeler**, seen here showing his 1hp *Pierce* engine during his 2011 visit, who gave us a presentation on the many things he does to make his work easier and the tools he finds truly essential.



After giving us a run-down on several of his favorite tool sources, he showed us how he uses common particle board shelving to make saw fences for his table saw, temporary building bases for his projects and building boards for his workbench.

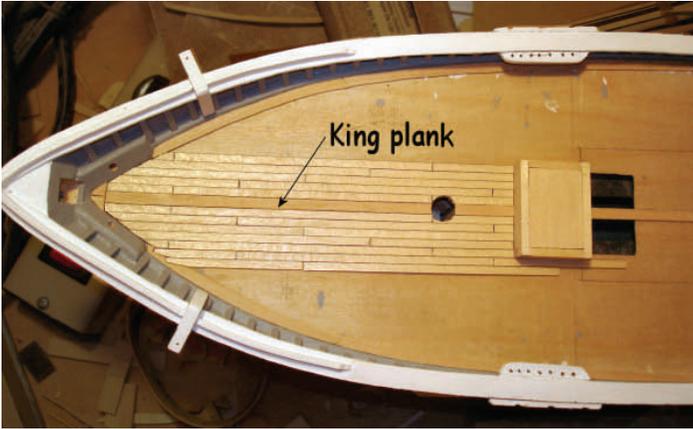
Moving on to sanding tools, Steve uses a lot of foam-backed cosmetic sanding sticks for fine shaping. He also uses sleeveless drum sanders and plastic sticks with sandpaper attached using "Scotch" brand double-sided tape.

Other tools he finds necessary are a chop saw, bench shear, sheet metal nibbler, micro planes in various shapes and a drill press with vise and X-Y table set up with a three-jawed chuck to eliminate the need for collets. He also makes a C/A applicator out of the tip of an old drill bit; picks up the glue easily and deposits it nicely.

Thanks again, Steve, for another enjoyable evening. We're always glad to have you aboard.

● Ships on Deck ●

John Mitchell's clipper-schooner *Challenge* is making slow but sure progress. A margin plank was installed and the deck planking begun using a mid-line king plank. Planks were then laid outboard from there with a 4-plank



offset. Plank length was estimated to be 16 ft. (4" in scale). Plank width was estimated to be 6 in. (1/4" in scale) and the King plank 7.5 in. (5/32" in scale).

Bob Ivan has put the finishing touches on his scratch-built model of the 1915 racing boat *Berryla II*. Bob used his own plans, taken from photos of the time, to build this unique boat.



Getting the correct shape to the domed portion of the stern took a high degree of imagination. Bob used an existing form as a model and shaped the metal panels over it. Really fine work, mate.

Doc Williams completed a permanent base for his 1:64 "Model Shipways" kit of the whaler *Charles W. Morgan*.



The base was designed to (vaguely) represent a dry dock. Next up will be the windless, whale boats, masts



and rigging. View above is looking forward to the forecandle and the eventual site of the windless. She's going to make you very proud, mate.

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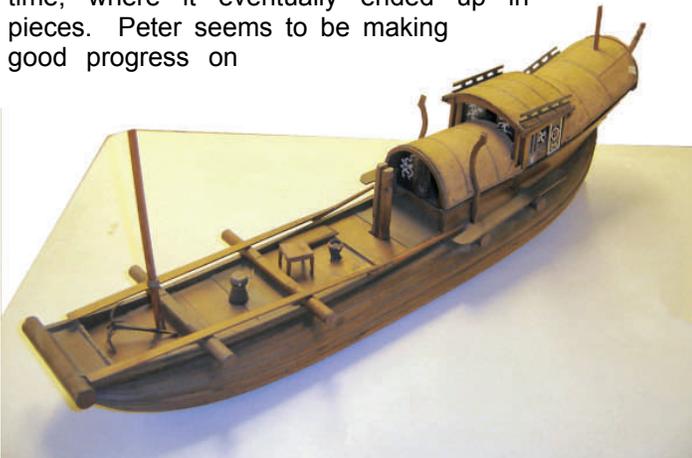
Ships-on-Deck, continued from Page 2

Paul Bien has his 1:32 paddlewheel steamer model of the "Model Shipways" kit *Chaperon* well under way now



and the hull is very recognizable. Paul has been very impressed with the quality of the kit and says that "all of the parts fit!". Not always what can be said of many kits from across the pond. Glad to know your experience has been so rewarding, mate.

Peter Pennigsdorf brought in a really fascinating model of a *Yangtze River Junk* that he is in the process of rebuilding. This particular model was originally offered for sale to foreign tourists visiting Asia. It was carted about the US over a considerable time, where it eventually ended up in pieces. Peter seems to be making good progress on



sorting out the puzzle, as it already looks very authentic.

Pete's other model was his "Footy" racing sailboat that has been made out of balsa (to reduce weight and increase buoyancy) and waterproofed with a coating of epoxy thinned with 90% rubbing alcohol. The name "Footy" comes from the fact that the boat must fit into a box one foot square, to meet racing requirements. This looks like real fun. Great job mate.



John Pocius' diorama of the punt *Rinky Dink* and the pond yacht *Pirate* is just about complete. Work is progressing on the punt's seated figure, who's shape is complete but which needs painting. The outboard motor is a marvel of detail. The diorama, ca 1927, is in a scale of 1:32.



Bob Sykes has finished another of his masterfully assembled kits, this one the "EuroModel" 1:72 HMS *Ajax*. Bob added a lot of finely crafted extra details and plans on adding a set of scratch built flags to adorn the masts. We will hope to capture this model with finer photographs when she has her official launch.

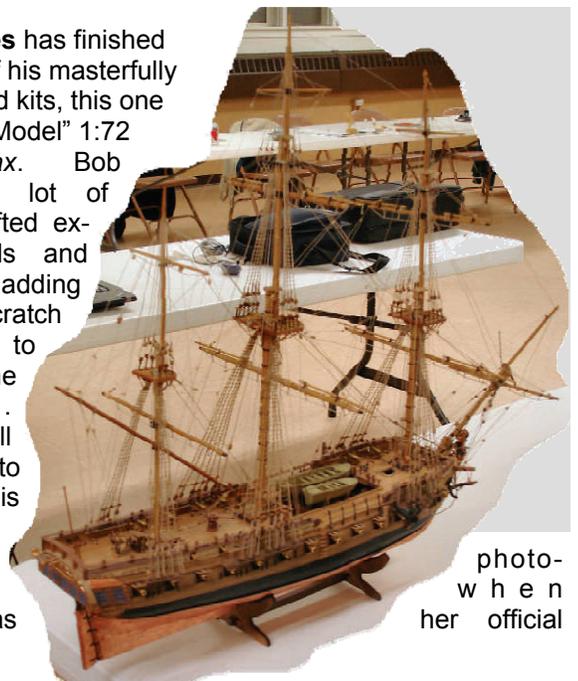


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See Ships-on-Deck, Page 4

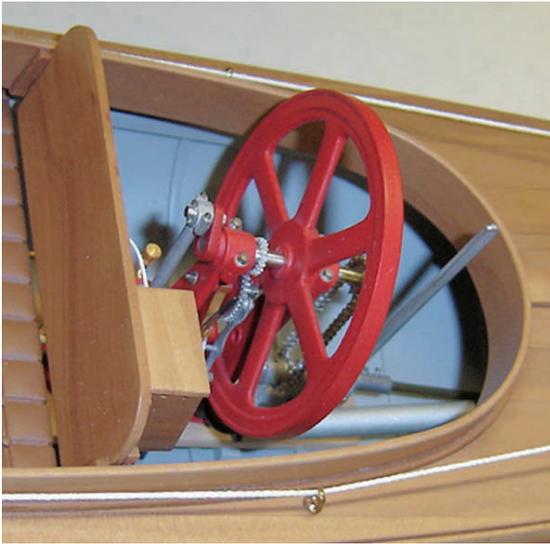
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Ships-on-Deck, continued from Page 3

Steve Wheeler brought with him his 16-ft *Pierce Engine Co. Launch & Engine* ca 1897 in a scale of 1:144.

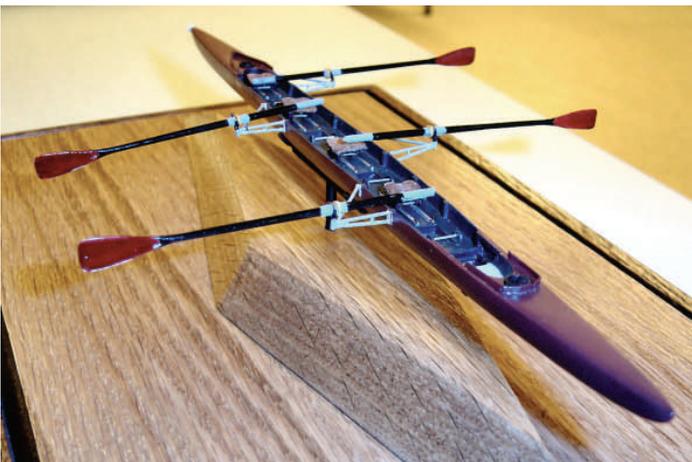


This model was scratch built with a hull of fiberglass and apple. The engine was made of cast resin and pewter with machined and plated parts.

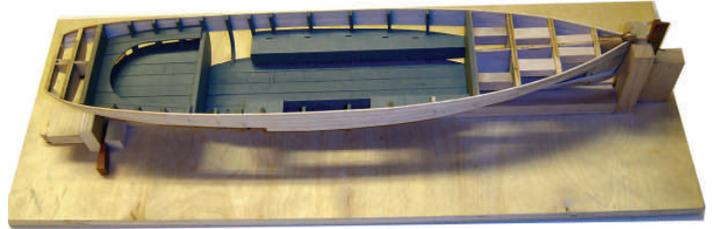


Need we add that she is a real beauty and will surely be a favorite at the Manitowoc show. With all of Steve's models, attention to detail is remarkable. Thanks for sharing her with us, mate.

Paul Pollowy has completed his 1:48 model of a *Four-man Rowing Shell with Coxswain* and finished off the boat's case, as well. The entire work has been scratch built and finely detailed with a display stand that really sets off his work beautifully. Great result, mate.



Kurt Van Dahm has completed all the framing on his "Model Shipways" kit of the USN *Picket Boat #1* (1:12) and is now into planking the hull. As with all of the recent "Model Shipways" kits, Kurt says this one is a joy to build. The detail is so well thought out that the hull planks are ready for spiling. Building sequence was important, as Kurt had first painted the inboard frames before assembly to make the final finish easier.



Learning about the history of this boat is almost as much fun as building it. For reference, Google: CSS *Albemarle* or USN Lt. William B. Cushing. You will enjoy what you find.

Ken Goetz continues to amaze us with all the beauty and fine details he has built into his 1:76.8 "Model Shipways" kit of the USS *Constitution*. Ken's description of his latest efforts goes like this: "The four jib sails are on; often called the headsails. The larger jib sail has a bonnet sail attached with a quick-release bonnet lacing. The foremast is on and rigged with the backstays and the royal, top gallant and top sails are installed. The buntlines, leech lines, clew lines, bowlines, and reef tackle won't be attached until the main mast is set, as a lot of them tie into the main mast". There is a sailor who's really into his work; and it shows. We're only sorry that, once he gets all the masts installed, the ship will be too big to bring to our meeting - Ken's vehicle isn't tall enough. Maybe someone with a van will give him and his model a lift.

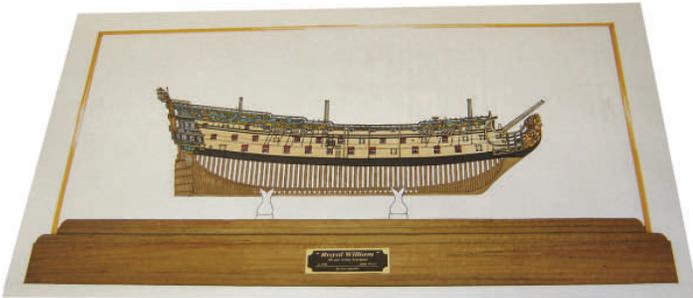


See Ships-on-Deck, Page 5

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Ships-on-Deck, continued from Page 4

Gus Agustin is already planning ahead to his next model project by creating a really artistic rendering of the British warship *HMS Royal William*.



This model will be created in a scale of 1:192. By doing these drawings before starting work, Gus is able to have something visual to which to work and allows him to design the size of the base and case to fit the final product. And this is it for plans - the rest is pure skill and experience. Makes his work all the more remarkable.

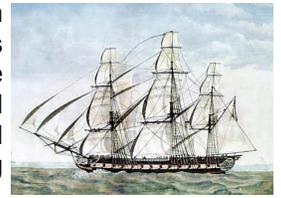
Bob Filipowski has really added some great details to the deck house cabin on his 1:64 scratch-built model of the schooner *Arrowsic*. The cabin now sports a compass inside a bulkhead mounted binnacle box, paneled doors and glazed windows. With such neat details to draw our attention, one might overlook the very fine planking work that went into building the deck house itself. Next time be sure and check out all the great spiling work Bob laid down.



Scuttlebutt, continued from Page 1

Bob Filipowski advised us of a promotional offer being run by the NRG. New members or renewing members can save with a special rate being offered to Midwest Model Shipwrights members. See page 6 for details.

Kurt Van Dahm gave us a run down on one of the newest models to come out of "Model Expo", the US Frigate *Essex*. This kit is said to be of very high quality and should be a beautiful and exciting project for the experienced builder.



Kurt also advised the members that the Chicago area *Tri-Club* was in need of a replacement projection screen for use in showing presentations to all the three member organizations. Our share of the cost would amount to \$72.00. A motion was made by Bob George and seconded by Tony Sergios to join in this cost. The motion was carried by unanimous vote of the members present.

Kurt also reports that he found a razor saw that makes a cut with absolutely minimal kerf waste so as to retain the size of the item. This saw blade is only 0.004-inches thick and has a fine saw tooth on one side and a very fine tooth on the other. Despite its being very thin, it is very strong and flexible, similar to a double edge razor blade. It is available from "Unique Master Models" in Deerfield via their web site (<http://umm-usa.com>).



We're pretty sure you'll like us.

Just to prove it, we are featuring on our web-site, Part 4 of Richard Yorczyk's treatise on building the South Seas Trading Schooner *Equator*. You can find it, and much more, at www.theNRG.org.

In addition to features on naval architecture, maritime trade, nautical history, and maritime arts, the Journal now offers more color photographs, articles on ship model building, and an expanded Shop Notes.

THE NAUTICAL RESEARCH GUILD

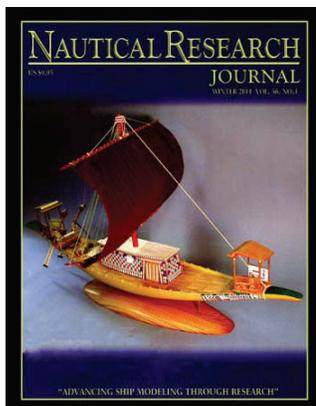
"Advancing Ship Modeling Through Research"

South Seas Trading Schooner *Equator*:
The Saga of an Apprentice Scratch Builder.
Part 4
By Richard Yorczyk



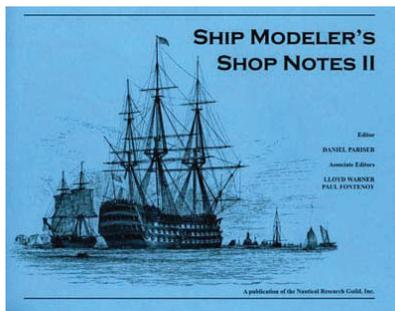


A special offer for our friends in the Midwest Model Shipwrights



For a limited time, members of the Midwest Model Shipwrights have an opportunity to join the Nautical Research Guild at a special rate of \$33.00. Existing members can renew or extend their membership at a special rate of \$35.00. The Nautical Research Journal is better than ever, with more color photos, more articles on model ship building and an expanded Shop Notes section.

The NRG website offers members exclusive access to a 2000–book lending library, project photos, research assistance, a members list, and the Guild’s e-mail system and member e-mail forums.



ADDED BONUS: A copy of *Shop Notes II* will be donated to the Midwest Model Shipwrights' library.

To receive a complimentary copy of *Shop Notes II* for your club library, a minimum of five MMS members must fill out the special registration forms and return them, along with their remittance, to the NRG Home Office, by no later than June, 30, 2012.

Midwest Model Shipwrights

Special Order Form (expires 6/30/12) for

MEMBERSHIP DISCOUNT

Name: _____

Address: _____ City, State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email _____ I am a Model builder, Artist, and/or Writer/Historian

My nautical interests are: _____

New member \$33 Renewing/Extending Member \$35

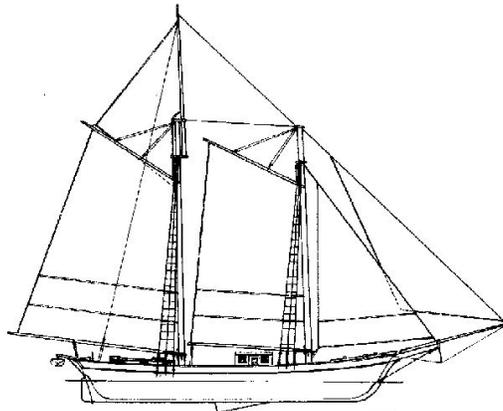
Payments can be made by cash, check or credit card (Mastercard or Visa)

MC Visa # _____ Expiration _____

Complete and mail to: **Nautical Research Guild, PO Box 7, 20 Water Street, Cuba, NY 14727**



John R. Mitchell, Editor
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