



# Forecastle Report

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

## ● Scuttlebutt ●

**COMMODORE, Bob Filipowski**, opened the April 2016 meeting at 7:30 with a great crew of 25 on board.

Our raffle was held first thing and the night's winners took home a side cutter and needle-nose pliers. A special \$1.00 raffle was held for a 50-year-old Sterling Models kit of the USS *Constitution*, with the proceeds going to the club.

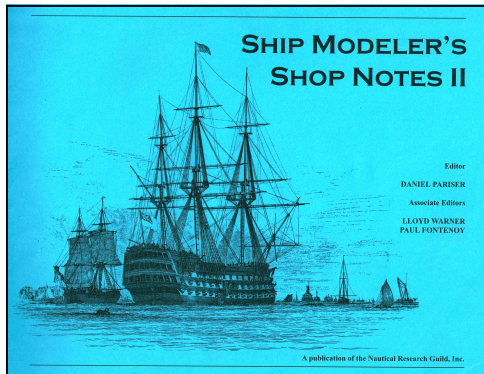
**Doc Williams'** presentation on making crow's-foot rigging was offered on a CD for \$5.00 a copy. If you have an interest, please let Bob Filipowski know.

Due to the ongoing updating of our club records, termination of newsletter delivery to delinquent members will be delayed this month. If you have not paid your dues for 2016, you will eventually receive a reminder by email.

**Kurt Van Dahm** is now planning ahead for the *NRG National Meeting* to be held in San Diego this coming October. The great weather and nautical setting are always compelling reasons to attend this event. We'll keep you all informed, as details become available.

In a discussion of problems found when working with basswood, Kurt reminded us that "Shop Notes II" is still available from the NRG at \$30 for NRG members and \$35 for non-members and has an important article on modeling wood that everyone should read.

Kurt noted that, if you take delivery at our meeting, you will save the \$6.00 shipping charge. You can order your copy directly from Kurt. Great idea, mate.



## May Meeting Notice

### Wheeler and Maxwell

We will be greatly honored this month by the presence of **Steve Wheeler** and **Bill Maxwell**, who will give us presentations on their highly renowned modeling.

This is a rare chance to hear two of the most respected modelers in the country discuss their favorite subjects. We'll also get the chance to talk shop with these two during what will be one of the highlights of our year. Be sure and attend this very special session.

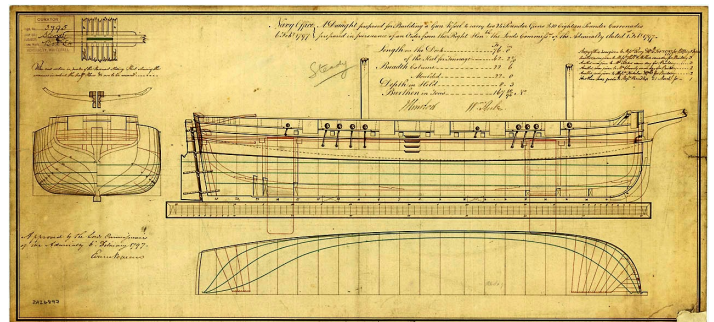
Our next meeting will be at 7:15 p.m.  
Wednesday, May 18, 2016

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

## ● Draughts ●

by Bob Filipowski

Probably no facility in the world possesses more maritime and naval artifacts than the National Maritime Museum at Greenwich, England. Their collection of draughts (plans) numbers in the thousands! Focusing primarily on lesser known and unique craft, Bob gave us a glimpse of the possibilities available to the model ship builder.



Examples of various ship classes were selected to point up their unique features. Draughts of gun vessels, gun boats, small yard craft and speed vessels were shown. Many had unusual "drop keels" not usually seen on these types of ships (see reproduction above).

See "Draughts", Page 2

### 2015 OFFICERS & STAFF

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## The Forecastle Report, May 2016 - P.2

*"Draughts", continued from Page 1*

In addition to viewing some of the unusual draughts, we were also given information on how to access these plans.

Bob stated that the prices for the digital copies, most likely, are different from the cost of hard copies. In either case, they "aren't cheap". He found that navigating their website could be a bit frustrating when trying to access this information. On the plus side, individuals on "Model Ship World" have stated that the staff at the museum are very accommodating.

Many ship plans in the collection are available via a print sales website. However, some ship plans in the collection have not been digitized.

Follow these steps to find a ship plan:

Search the print sales website. If the plan you are looking for is available, you can order it on line for home delivery:

[rmg.co.uk/.../ship-plan-prints-scanning](http://rmg.co.uk/.../ship-plan-prints-scanning)

If the ship plan you are looking for isn't available, contact the Ship Plans team with key information about the plan you are looking for, such as **ship name, date of launch or ship type**. If the Museum holds the original plan, the team will provide you with the ship plan title and ID number.

**Email: [plansandphotos@rmg.co.uk](mailto:plansandphotos@rmg.co.uk)**

On receipt of ship plan details, contact the Picture Library team and make a request for the plan you would like to purchase.

**Email: [pictures@rmg.co.uk](mailto:pictures@rmg.co.uk)**

The price of digitizing a ship plan is in the table below.

It takes two to three weeks from the date of order to deliver a digital file of the requested ship plan.

First ship plan (high resolution JPEG file downloadable via FTP) = £70 + VAT

Additional ship plans (high resolution JPEG file downloadable via FTP) = £50 + VAT per scan.

Good luck and happy hunting to all those who wish to find a set of plans.

And many thanks to **Bob Filipowski** for his diligence in compiling all these useful details and for his very detailed and fascinating presentation. Great evening, mate.

## ● Ships on Deck ●

**Allen Siegel** has been working on the rigging for the foremast top on his 1:50 model of Henry Hudson's *Half Moon* and they are looking very neatly done. In our photo, below, you can also see his bowsprit protector shield made of clear plastic. Great idea, as it will save a lot of heartaches over broken parts.



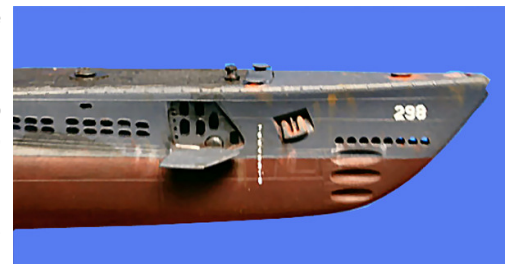
Another neat technique from Allen is his method of setting up the dead-eyes for the mast shrouds. He pre-reeved the deadeyes and secured the lanyards with diluted white glue. Now all he has to do is to attach the shrouds and the deadeyes will come out spaced correctly.



**Glen Estry** has built a fine looking 1/220 "Revell" plastic



model of the submarine USS *Lionfish* and used it to help himself develop weathering techniques. Starboard side has been completed and looks very realistic. Really fine job, mate!



*See "Ships", Page 3*

## The Forecastle Report, May 2016 - P.3

"Ships", continued from Page 2

. **Bob Sykes** continues to add to the beauty of his 1:75 "Mantua" kit of the *San Felipe* c.1690.



Bob even counted the number of half-hitch knots he has already tied installing the ratlines.

His patience with the small details always impresses us and his results justify the efforts he puts in. She's a real beauty, mate.



**Doc Williams'** work on resurrecting the 1/8 -scale model of the frigate USS *Constitution* is really showing great re-



sults.

Main mast shrouds and ratlines on the fore and main masts have been installed. Topmast shrouds are next.



A ship's launch adds to the deck interest and all canons have been fully rigged, as well. Properly rigged crow's-feet on the fore and main stays are so well done they now feature in a CD presentation.

**Ken Goetz** is working on a 1:128 scratch-built model of the fishing schooner *Bluenose*. "Model Shipways" plans were reduced by 50% as a basis for this job.



Scuppers have been cleaned up and the hull planking is now complete. Mounting pedestals were shaped and temporarily mounted on a display board.

Your model really shows off the beautiful lines of this schooner, and the clean mounting adds to the effect. A real gem in the works, mate.

**Helmut Reiter** reports that the forecastle on his 1:48 scratch-built model of *Pegasus* is nearly done and that he is about to start work on her quarter deck.



Painting details on the outer bulwarks is all the more amazing for the fact that Helmut hand painted it. This shows a really steady hand and very fine brush. As ever, your models are works of art, mate.

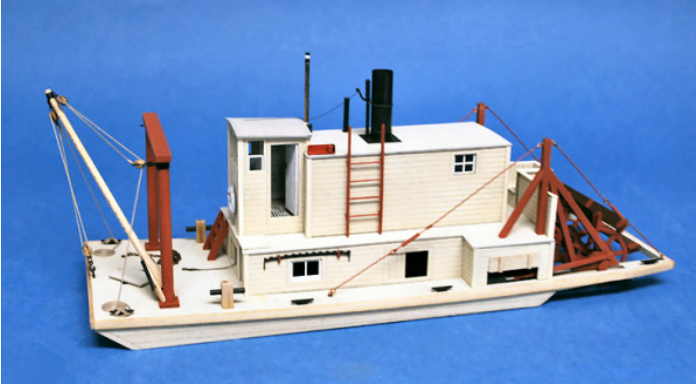


See "Ships", Page 4

## The Forecastle Report, May 2016 - P.4

"Ships", continued from Page 3

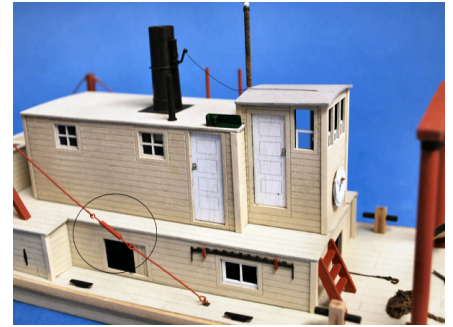
**Kurt Van Dahm's** 1/48 model of the lumber tug *Smokey Duck* is now finished. Congratulations, mate, on another beautiful result! We're sure you're proud of your work and the manufacturer should be delighted, as well.



Kurt gave high praise for the quality of the "Train Troll" kit, as laser cutting of all the parts was of very high quality. Many assembly features were also remarkable, including adhesive backed parts that were easily assembled or mounted.



Kurt also added a few twists of his own, like the fine job he did in creating very realistic turn-buckles as part of the hog chains (circled). Sliding cabin windows and workable cabin doors were also integral to the kit.



The *Smokey Duck* will form part of a "logging" diorama that Kurt hopes to enter into future competition.

**Ray Oswalt** brought in two of the ship's boats he has built for the slave ship model he has in the works. Ray is a staunch believer in building everything off the hull that he can before final assembly. These lovely boats were built out of apple wood over a plug, which was sized less than the thickness of ribs and planking, to yield the correct outer dimension. Oars were turned on a lathe from tooth-picks. And that's a whole other story!



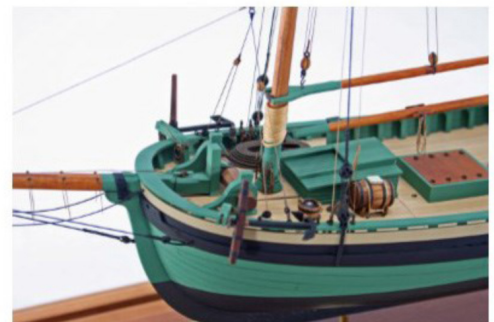
## THE NAUTICAL RESEARCH GUILD

"ADVANCING SHIP MODELING THROUGH RESEARCH"

Annual membership includes our world-renowned quarterly magazine, *Nautical Research Journal*, which features photographs and articles on ship model building, naval architecture, merchant and naval ship construction, maritime trade, nautical and maritime history, nautical archaeology and maritime art.

Other benefits include discounts on annual conferences, ship modeling seminars, NRG products and juried model competitions which are offered exclusively to Guild members. We hope you will consider joining our ongoing celebration of model ships and maritime history.

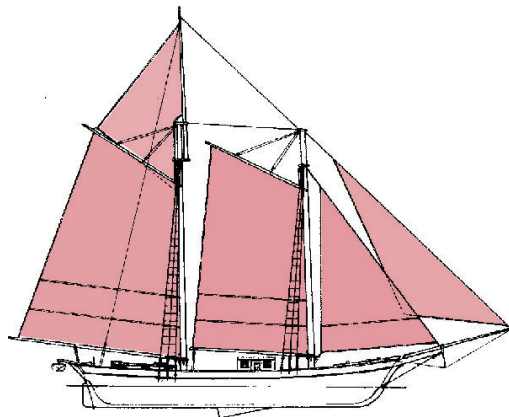
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