

● Scuttlebutt ●

COMMODORE, Bob Filipowski, opened the October meeting at 7:15 with a loyal crew of 23 on board. Not a record but not bad, either; and there was a great turnout of models for Ships-on-Deck, which livened up the evening with lots of exchanged information about the models.

Once again, the members were advised that there would be **NO MEETING** in November. The next meeting will be in December, when we will have our annual pizza party. If you have not given Bob Filipowski your pizza order, you need to contact him and let him know whether or not you will attend and what you'd like on your pizza.

There was a fine "freebie" table this evening loaded with great ship model plans, many of which were historical themselves. Hopefully some ships will be built as a result of members taking them home.

The raffle was won by **Cole Seskind**, who took home a fine Dremel 1001 drill. Other prizes on offer were an Opti-visor and a quantity of great wood stock, including pear and hawthorn.



Kurt Van Dahm reported that the NRG Conference still had some space available for the boat tour on Lake Mead. He also reminded everyone that the Journal has a free view on the NRG web site this month only. That's a great way for any modelers who are thinking of joining to get a preview of what a membership would provide them.

Kurt also announced that **Cole Seskind** will be awarded a **50-year Pin** at the NRG Conference. A remarkable milestone honoring a lifetime of modeling. Heartiest congratulations from the entire crew go out to Cole on this special occasion.



December Meeting Notice



Ahoy, mates, we're all set to end the modeling year with a great pizza feed and an exciting flea market. Be a part of the action and bring stuff you'd



like to sell and enough cash to take home some treasures, too. Let's all really enjoy the comradeship we've built up over the years and share our good times together. Hope to see you all there!

Our next meeting will be at 7:15 p.m.
Wednesday, December 19, 2018

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

● Kit Bashing the *Sultana* ● - A Novice's Approach - By Patrick Sand

Patrick opened his presentation by giving us some background on his choice of the *Sultana* as his first ship



model. Being new to ship modeling, he was advised to pick a model that was not too complex and so he found the *Sultana* at "Model Shipways" advertised as recommended for beginners. Even though she was a solid hull model, Patrick found plenty of challenges to hone his modeling skills.

Most of the construction was fairly straight forward, only requiring some of the great building tips and advice that our club is known for providing. Where he ran into real challenges was with the *Britania* cast metal fittings supplied with the kit.

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2017 OFFICERS & STAFF

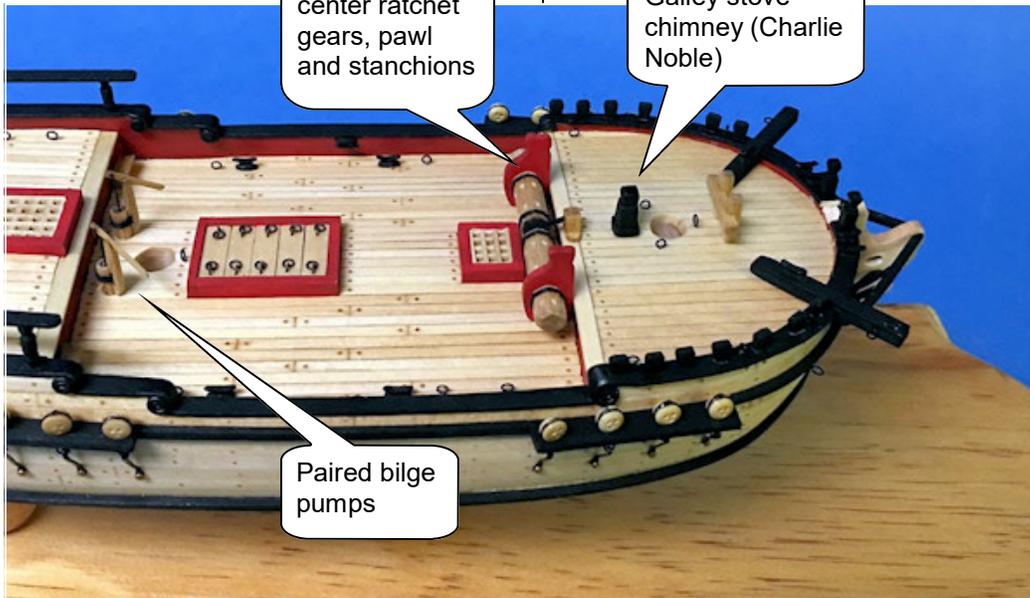
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Newsletter Editor	- John Mitchell(847) 956-4327
Photographer	- Leon Sirota(847) 541-6285
Web Master	- John Pocius.....(630) 957-7298
	jpdesign@mindspring.com

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The *Britania* fittings just didn't look anywhere near authentic or in scale to his eye and, as it turns out, his judgment was spot on. That's when his creativity took over and he designed and built some really neat deck furniture that greatly added to the model's overall appeal.

As Patrick explained it, he analyzed each item to find the best



The ship's binnacle turned out to be a thing of beauty the way Patrick was able to create a very authentic looking cabinet to house the ship's compass. Viewed alongside the *Britania* fitting supplied with the kit, it is easy to see what a vast improvement was made in the scale and detail.

To simplify the building process, Patrick cut out several blocks of wood to form the bottom and sides. Flat sheet stock was used to add the top and bottom surfaces - and these were embellished with routed edges. Drawer pulls



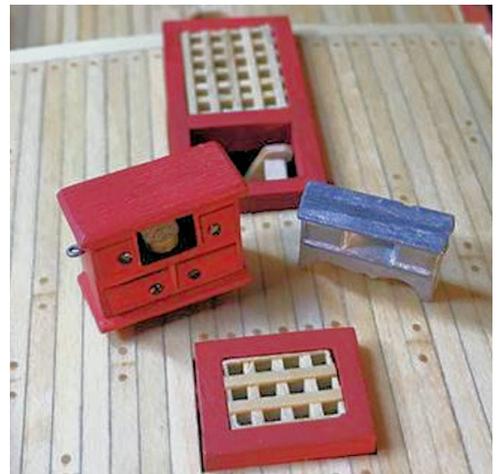
way to duplicate it. This very often meant that he built the item up out of several pieces. One great example of this is the way he did up the windlass. The barrel was made from a single dowel cut into pieces after it was shaped to an octagon and then reassembled with the riding bits to form the windlass. Steel bands were simulated using painted paper. The toothed cog gear was also cut from a piece of dowel. The end result far surpassed the metal fitting supplied with the kit in

beauty, scale and authenticity. Real wood vs. metal always wins out.

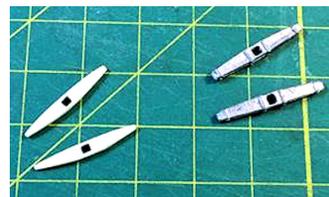
And how about those bilge pumps! The metal version is obviously out of scale and shows no sign of any functionality, whereas the pump Patrick built actually works. Once again, he used black paper to simulate steel bands surrounding the pump and a piece of dowel for the pump body.



were simulated by using pin heads. Drawer faces were added to the outer surface of the bottom and side blocks and a compass was built of a piece of dowel. Lastly, feet were added to the bottom of the binnacle and it



was painted to match the rest of the deck trim. Other parts nicely made were the galley stack (Charlie Noble), the ship's tiller and the anchor stocks.



All the time and effort Patrick put into these seemingly small details have really paid off for him in helping to create a very beautiful and authentic looking model. Our thanks to Patrick for showing us what a difference details can make.



● Ships on Deck ●

Toni Levine has completed a 5-year project building the 1:48 HMS *Atalanta* 1775, a Swan Class Sloop of War. Toni's photos show her model on a marble base with pedestals turned from natural pear wood.

The flag was described in our October issue and was made following Gus Agustin's method using typing paper.

This is an all scratch-built model using plans by *Antscherl* and made of boxwood and holly. The only outside parts used were the cannon. Of great interest is Toni's



choice to finish one side and leave the other un-planked to show the framing. A remarkable piece of work, Toni.

Gordon Field is also working on a scratch-built model, a 1:48 HMS *Halifax* using plans by Harold Hahn. He is just finishing the deck joists and he's used cherry for the frame and keel, apple for the outer hull, beach wood for



the inner hull and boxwood for the decking. Finish on the hull has been Floquil Swedish Oil. She's really coming together in fine shape, mate.

Ken Wallenberg scratch-built an outstanding reproduction of the *Moana* Outrigger Canoe so well know from the Disney animated movie. This was in response to a request from one of his grandchildren, who will be truly amazed to receive this as a gift.



While the canoe was scratch-built, the figures in the crew were from the Disney store to match the cartoon characters.

A wonderfully imaginative job of modeling, mate.



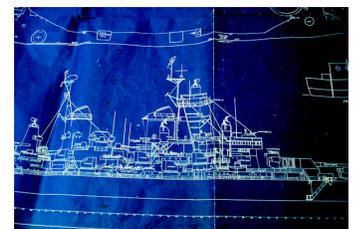
Helmut Reiter showed us the progress he has made on his 1:36 model of a Mediterranean *Felucca* built from plans by *Boudriot*. Helmut says that, as she now stands, the hull is almost done.

We learned how he developed a technique to complete some of the stern bulwarks in a more efficient manner.

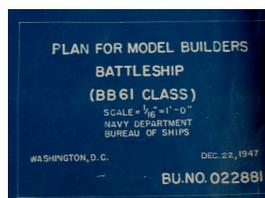
Since the aft bulwarks were mostly flat, it made more sense to build them off the model, where he could be more accurate in laying down all the planks and trim. They were fully built on his workbench then mounted to the hull. Next up are the masts. Great job mate.



Ed Morris brought in a set of 75-year old plans he acquired for a cruiser, battleship, and destroyer and he has kindly offered to loan them to



any one who is interested in building one of these ships. Thanks, mate, for your thoughtfulness.



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John Pocius, has sent us some follow up info on the painting technique he used on his just completed *English Pinnace*.

In last month's issue we showed the beautiful results John had obtained, not only with the construction but painting of his model.



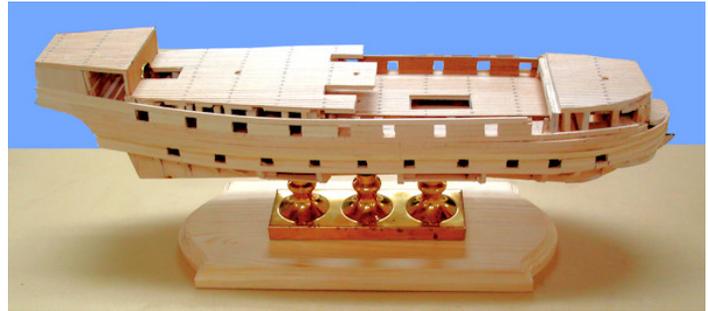
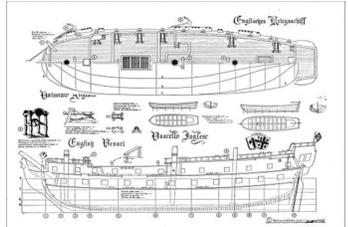
We received several inquiries as to how John achieved such a fine painted finish, so here is his explanation:

"(use) Testor's Model Master Enamel. Apply by brush and airbrush. Let dry for a few days, then two airbrushed coats of 50% Testor's Matte lacquer-50% semi-gloss lacquer mixed together. That is done to even out the finish overall. I like this paint better than the old Floquil. It is slow drying, so it flows out real nice. Because of the slow



drying time (you) have to be very clean and protect against dust. Except for the gold, all of the colors were muted by mixing in small amounts of the complementary color to tone them down, some ivory into the black".

Bob Sykes has started building a first-ever scratch built model from a set of very fine plans by "Vincenzo Lusci" he picked up at our last flea market. Bob believes in challenges, and chose an English 18th century 2nd Rate.



True to form, he has already got her hull built up and mounted on one of his unique bases using candlestick pedestals. Can't wait to see the end result, mate.

Kurt Van Dahm is building a model to back up a research article on the I & M Canal Boat *City of Pekin* he started researching in 1997. Half the framing he is doing will represent the boat as really



built and the other half as per the HAMMS plans from the Smithsonian Museum. In the photo, you can see one side has a rounded turn of the bilge while the other is nearly vertical. We'll be looking forward to seeing the full report soon and learning more about its history.

Paul Pollowy recently purchased a unique model from a store not usually associated with model ships. This one is totally made of photo etched parts. No glue is required to assemble it - tabs being bent to lock the parts together. The final result is a remarkably accurate model of the *Hong Kong Star Ferry*. Scale is unknown. Nice job.



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"Ships-on-Deck", continued from Page 4

Bob Filipowski gave us a rundown on a new tool he just purchased to do the job of serving rigging.

This was the "Serv-O-Matic" rope serving machine made by the *Syren Ship Model Company*.



After building this device, he sealed the wood with Poly Wipe. Bob pointed out that the steel shafts have been sleeved with brass tubing, thus eliminating any chance of corrosion with age.

Some of the features listed by the Syren Ship Model Company on their web site are:

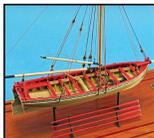
- Kit is laser cut from solid 1/4" thick Cherry wood with 1/4" thick laser cut gears.
- Serve any length of rope
- Space between uprights roomy
- Bar connecting the two sprockets is above the rope being served compared to other devices where the bar is below the rope.
- Machine and gears turn easily and smoothly
- Can be cranked with just your index finger
- \$2.50 charge for shipping
- List price \$55.00
- Instructions are downloadable from the companies web site. No instructions provided with kit.
- Not recommended for motorizing

THE NAUTICAL RESEARCH GUILD

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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.

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For more information contact us at: www.thenrg.org or call 585 968 8111

HISTORIC SHIP PROFILES

● HMS *Atalanta* ●

HMS *Atalanta* was a 14-gun ship-sloop of the Swan-class, launched on 12 August 1775. She served during the American Revolutionary War.

The Swan-class were built as a 14-gun class of ship-sloops for the Royal Navy, although an extra 2 guns were added soon after completion¹.

The class was designed by the Surveyor of the Navy, John Williams, and two vessels to this design (*Swan* and *Kingfisher*) were ordered in January 1766.

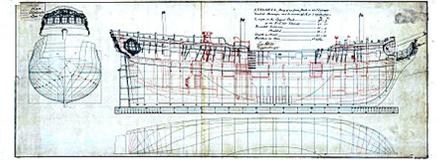
Following the initial 1766 order for two ships, a second pair was ordered in 1773 (*Cygnat* and *Atalanta*). Twenty-one more were ordered to the same design between 1773 and 1779; they formed the 'standard' ship-sloop design of the British Navy during the American Revolutionary War, during which eleven of them were lost. Surviving vessels went on to serve during the French Revolutionary War and Napoleonic War.

The design provided for 16 gun ports (8 per side, excluding the bridle ports) but one pair was initially left unoccupied, and the ships were always rated at 14 guns. However an eighth pair of guns was added from 1780 onwards to utilize the vacant ports, without any change in the nominal rating².

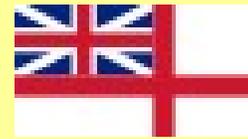
After serving during the French Revolutionary War, the *Atalanta* was then renamed HMS *Helena* in March 1797 before being sold for disposal in 1802¹.

¹[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Atalanta_\(1775\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Atalanta_(1775))

²https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swan-class_ship-sloop



History



Name: HMS *Atalanta*

Ordered: 1 December 1773

Builder: Sheerness Dockyard

Laid down: 9 April 1774

Launched: 12 August 1775

Commissioned: August 1775

Renamed: HMS *Helena*, March 1797

Fate: Sold August 1802

General characteristics

Class and Type: *Swan* class ship sloop

Tons burthen: 300 bm

Length: 96 ft 7 in (gundeck)

78 ft 10 in (keel)

Beam: 26 ft 9 in

Depth of hold: 12 ft 10 in

Sail plan: Full-rigged ship

Compliment: 125

Armament: 14 x 6-pounder guns;
2 more added ca. 1780



Arlington Heights, IL 60005

