



Forecastle Report

Newsletter of the Midwest Model Shipwrights ♦ www.midwestmodelshipwrights.com ♦ November 2015

● Scuttlebutt ●

If this Report looks a little different, it's because our most excellent Editor, John Mitchell, had to go into dry-dock for some repairs. He's going to be alright, but you may have to put up with his rookie replacement, who prefers to remain anonymous, for one more issue. Please hurry back, John, before there's a mutiny!



COMMODORE, Bob Filipowski, opened the October 2015 meeting promptly at 7:15 with a small, but enthusiastic crew. Our ranks were, no doubt, depleted due to the fact that many Shipwrights were attending the NRG Conference in Mystic Seaport, Connecticut, or watching game 4 between the

Cubs and Mets.

Two items were raffled off at the October meeting. One was a resin model of a Civil War siege mortar. The other was a storage case loaded with miscellaneous fittings. This last item was donated by Bob Ivan.

These two door prizes weren't the only free items available for those in attendance. A large quantity of black walnut burl veneer was there for the taking. Gus Agustin uses this material to create the ornate plinths (mounting boards) for his miniatures. He pointed out that this material is quite valuable. A small package can be worth as much as \$35.00 to \$40.00!

Tri-Club News



As has been the case at almost every meeting this year, Bob Filipowski reminded the membership that there will not be a 2016 Tri-Club Symposium, unless some volunteers step forward. It would appear that the window for next year is closing, since no one has stepped forward.

On a positive note, it was reported that the Tri-Club treasury is doing extremely well. This is primarily due to the DVD video sales, and the income derived from the large kits and various modeling items donated by Gerald Reed.

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Secretary (Ship's Clerk)	- Tony Serigos.....(847) 392-3275
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November Meeting Notice

NRG Mystic Seaport

This meeting is the one you don't want to miss, especially if you didn't attend the NRG Conference in Mystic Seaport, Connecticut. Thanks to Tony Serigos, we will be reviewing photos



taken at this year's event. This will be the next best thing to being there!

Our next meeting will be at 7:15 p.m.

Wednesday, November 18, 2015

At: The South Church

501 South Emerson St. in Mount Prospect

● 2015 Library Exhibit ●

Several months ago, **Tony Serigos** spoke to Bob Filipowski about the feasibility of having a model ship exhibit at the Prospect Heights Library, where Tony is a volunteer. Bob thought that it was an excellent idea, and plans began for presenting our second such show at this facility. The first was held back in August, 2000.

The call for volunteers went out, and it wasn't long before we had more than enough models for the event. Due to the limited space available, Tony and Bob were hoping for a nice variety of subjects, and they weren't disappointed.

Twenty models were chosen, and arrangements were made to set up the exhibit on Saturday, October 31st. It actually turned into a bit of a social event as some members



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brought their wives, who added to the camaraderie.

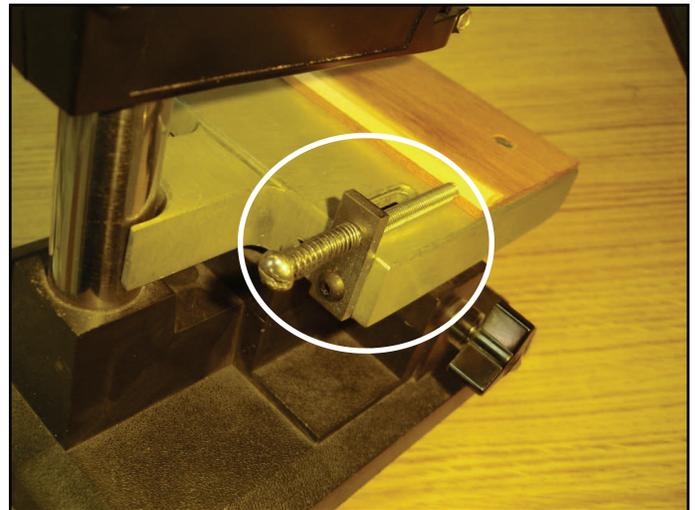
The eleven Shipwrights participating in the exhibit were Gus Agustin, Glenn Estry, Tim Foster, Ken Goetz, John Mitchell, John Pocius, Paul Pollowy, Richard Romaniak, Tony Serigos, Kurt van Dahm, and Bob Filipowski.



The exhibit will run until Saturday, November 28th. The library is located at 12 N. Elm Street in Prospect Heights. If you have time, stop by, and check it out!

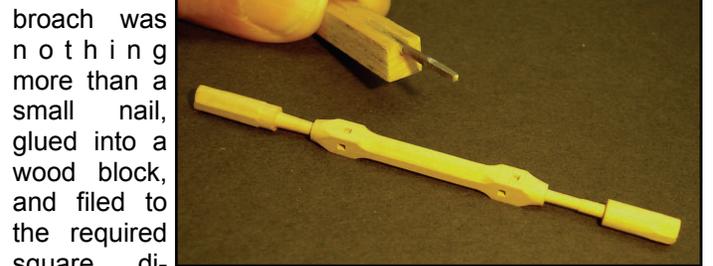
● October Round Table ●

Bob Filipowski started the round table session by discussing three items. The first was a mini-presentation on blackening brass parts. He recommended Sparex No. 2 for pickling the parts. His preferred blackening agent was Birchwood Casey Brass Black. Although not made anymore, Blacken-It is also a popular blackening agent. Bob stated that, for better results, this particular product should, supposedly, be diluted with distilled water.



Bob enjoys modifying his hobby machines to improve their versatility, and the latest piece to undergo some changes was his old Dremel Drill Press. By mounting two threaded brackets on the back of the work base, he now has fine adjustability for a temporary rip fence.

Filipowski's final offering was a home-made broach, which he used to produce square mortises in a windlass for his long-boat. The broach was nothing more than a small nail, glued into a wood block, and filed to the required square dimension.



The device was then tapped into a hole equal to, or slightly smaller than the dimension of the broach.

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One of **Ken Goetz's** favorite tools is an old EXACTO sanding block that dates back to the 1950's. Unfortunately, the pine material kept breaking at the point where



the wedge is inserted. So, he decided to make a better one, with the wood of choice being maple. Ken was able to trace the original block, and cut the new piece to shape using a scroll saw. He liked the results so much, he decided to make six of them—one for each grit he uses. Great idea, mate!

For making sanding sticks, **Bob Sykes** uses sandpaper with a sticky backing, which he applies to strips of wood. He stated that you can find this product at Ace Hardware stores, and it comes in various grits. Excellent tip!

Partial cans of polyurethane can become a real problem. They eventually dry out, or develop skins that compromise the effectiveness of the product. **Gordon Field** suggested filling the can with marbles! This displaces the air in the container, and extends the life of the material. Simple, but effective!

Paul Pollowy likes to work with Styrene. On occasion, he has the need to cut very small disks made from this material. He considered purchasing a punch set from Micro Mark, but the price was more than he wanted to



pay. While shopping at a local arts and crafts store, he noticed a mini punch set made by **Dandy Leather Factory**. The punches range in size from 5/64" to 11/64", and cost only \$6.00. Now, THAT'S a bargain!

● Ships on Deck ●



Bob Wicklander has a knack for finding bargains in the most unlikely places. While browsing in an antique retail store, he noticed this magnificent model of a 1790 Armed Launch. Apparently, the model had been languishing in this shop since 1984, and the proprietor was very interested in selling it. After some negotiating, Bob sealed the deal, and walked out with what Gus Agustin called a "real



steal!" The paperwork that came with the model indicated that it had been built by Dana McCalip, a former NRG Director and President of the Chicago Nautical Research and Model Ship Society. How it came to be in that shop is unknown. No doubt, it would be an intriguing story!



While visiting Halifax, Nova Scotia, **Al Opitz** came across a unique kit of the Titanic. Halifax happens to be where many of the casualties from this sinking are buried. This two-foot long card model is, what you might call, a "hybrid" kit. Unlike most kits of this type, this version comes with plastic parts that represent the smaller fittings on the model. Al stated that this model is definitely on his "to-do" list. We're looking forward to seeing this one come together!

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Back in August, **Gus Agustin** purchased one of the models that John Pocius was selling. Gus immediately started planning how to display this remarkable miniature of a Type VII U-Boat. It's hard to believe, but the base is



merely pine, trimmed with some gloss brown paint and black tape. Prior to leaving for Oregon, John stated that this particular model was used to perfect his weathering skills. It sure looks like it was a success!



Doc Williams brought in a magnificent kit of the *Royal William* c:1719. Until recently, he didn't even know he owned it. In 1998, his wife purchased this kit as a Christmas gift. Unfortunately, at about the same time, the Williams moved to a new house. The model was lost in the shuffle, and Doc never received the gift ... until recently when



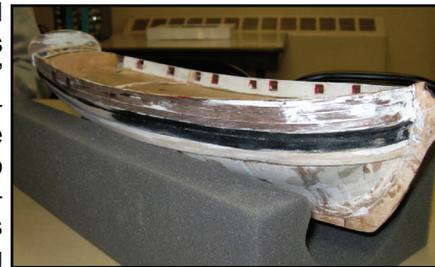
it was discovered tucked away in the back of the garage. At 1:72, this is a BIG model—just the type that Doc loves to build. We're looking forward to seeing this one at meetings, mate!



Bob Sykes has finished another one! He stated that this Corel offering of the *La Couronne* c:1636 is not a bad kit, but the rigging plans left a lot to be desired. In many cases, Sykes had to use the "best guess" method when it came to belaying lines. Well, you could have fooled us, mate. Congratulations on another fine model, Bob!



Sid Wotman's *Fair American* is receiving its initial layer of planking, which is a new experience for this ship modeling veteran. Confining all his previous efforts to solid hulls, Sid admitted that this is "uncharted territory" for him. This is especially so, since he has made an effort to understand the concept of spiling. As part of the planking process, Sid is also taking time to lay out the gun ports, which will be fitted with lids salvaged from another kit. Looking ahead, he is also trying to find the right shade of ochre paint that would be appropriate for this period.



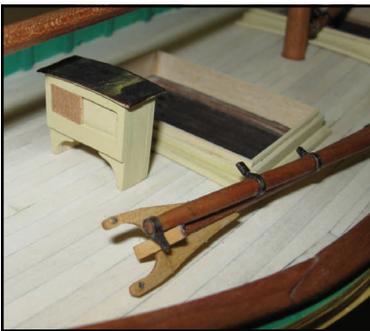
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As you can see from the photos, **Gordon Field** has put the finishing touches on the *Dove's* deck furniture, and is preparing the model for rigging. The "iron work" on the



masts, booms, gaffs and bowsprit was simulated with strips of sheet brass wrapped around the part, soldered, and drilled out. This last operation caused Gordon considerable frustration as he broke a number of micro-bits during the process. As a last resort, he tried dental drills, which stopped the "carnage."



Although the *Dove's* windlass looks outstanding, Field admitted that it was not a fitting he was anxious to build.



It was the ratchet that offered the biggest challenge. After numerous efforts, the finicky piece, which contains twelve teeth, was hand-carved, and mounted on the deck. Gordon wasn't exactly ecstatic with the results, but it sure looks good to us!

Our newest associate member hales from the Lone Star State of Texas. **Ken Sykes**, no relation to Bob and Ralph, thought he'd try his hand at model ship building. Ken opted for a New Bedford Whaleboat, c:1850 –1870, at a scale of 3/4"=1'.



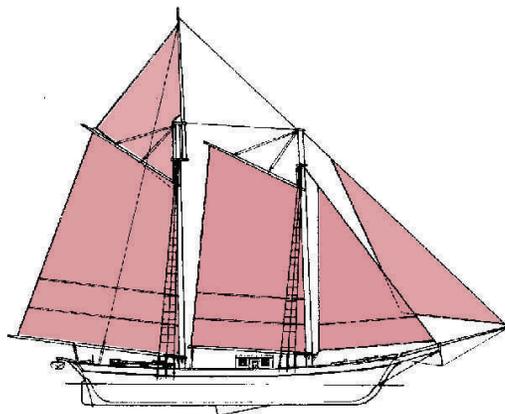
The model possesses some remarkable details such as two sheathed knives, a compass box that can slide under the aft thwart, and a scratch-built lantern that actually contains a candle! This model won the Blue Ribbon at the 2015 Texas State Fair in the Craft category. Ken, welcome aboard, and congratulations on winning the ribbon. It's well deserved!



See "Ships-on-Deck", Page 6



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