



Forecastle Report

Newsletter of the Midwest Model Shipwrights ♦ www.midwestmodelshipwrights.com ♦ October 2014

● Scuttlebutt ●

COMMODORE, Bob Filipowski, opened the October 2014 meeting promptly at 7:15 and mustered in a crew of 23. No visitors or guests were on hand to introduce.

Members who had not signed up for the Tri-Club Symposium on the 20th were urged to do so. A number of door prizes, including several "Shop Notes II" manuals, were promised, as well as a great raffle.

Kurt Van Dahm updated us on the NRG Conference coming in October. The spouse's tours have now been closed and the hotel rate special has a September 23rd cut off, so it looks like you will need to have taken action by the time you read this newsletter. Best wishes to all those attending for a really great meeting.

Kurt also gave us the following list of coming events here in Chicago:

- **iHobby Expo**, Schaumburg Convention Center, Schaumburg, IL. The public will be invited to view the show on Friday, 10/3 from 2:00 - 5:00 PM; Saturday, 10/4 from 9:30 AM - 5:00 PM, Sunday, 10/5 from 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM.
- **Military Miniature Society of IL Show**, Hyatt Regency Hotel, 1800 E. Golf Rd., Schaumburg, IL. Saturday, October 11 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.
- **32nd Annual IPMS Butch O'Hare Chapter Show**, Lakeview Jr. H.S., 701 Plainfield Rd., Downers Grove, IL Sat., Nov. 8th, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM. Viewer entry fee \$5. Contest entry fee \$7 Adult for first 3 models, \$3 for each additional model. Show features 50+ vendor tables.
- **Chicago Maritime Museum**, 1200 W. 35th St., Ste 0E-5010, Chicago, IL. The Museum will open its doors to the public at its new Bridgeport location in 2015. Check out Museum events on their web site at www.chicagomaritimemuseum.org/events/month/. The Public is invited to come and visit the work in progress on the shores of "Bubbly Creek". Please call (773) 376-1982 and let them know when you will be visiting.



2013 OFFICERS & STAFF

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October Meeting Notice

Round Table

Tools that suck & kits you won't ever build

It's time to share all your modeling experiences, both good and bad, and help your mates avoid some of the pitfalls you've fallen into.

Bring those mistakes as well as your current project and let everyone have a good look.

If we all participate, we'll have a great time. So come prepared to join in the fun.

Our next meeting will be at 7:15 p.m.
Wednesday, October 15, 2014
At the Community Presbyterian Church
407 Main Street in Mount Prospect

● Building Boards ●

By Kurt Van Dahm

Review by: John Mitchell

We see our mate, Kurt, fortified by his large green cooler, launching a thorough PowerPoint review of all the main points in creating and using a "building board".

The basics are to create a flat surface on which you can secure your model. The features of a building board consist of a base, a keel piece, vertical stops fore and aft and station lines marked on the base for alignment of the bulkheads.

Over the years, we have seen many building boards during our Ships-on-Deck presentations, as most of our builders keep their models attached to them ongoing.

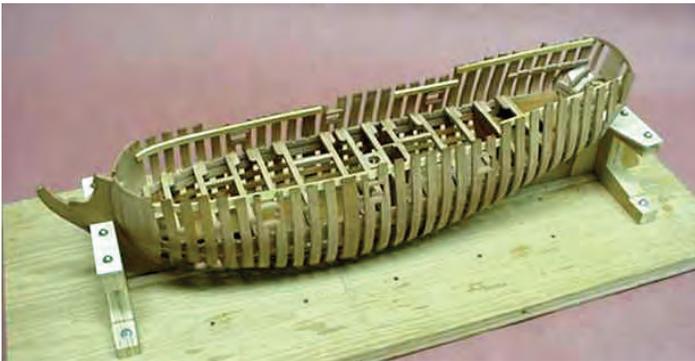


See "Boards", Page 2

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"Boards", continued from Page 1

At tonight's meeting there were several models shown, which were attached to their building boards. Variations were mainly in the type of end supports used.



Above, the *La Belle* by **Helmut Reiter** from June 2004 had a keel strip and end supports held in place by metal angle brackets, while in February 2014 (r) he used wood supports for the stem and stern on his model of the *HMS Pegasus*.



Allen Siegel set up a building board with a frame to support the stem when building his *English Long Boat* model in September 2013.



Gordon Field's take on this is part end stops, part cradle but the end result is the same - the model is held in a firm, fixed position.



Ray Oswald's ship's boat was built over a plug that was mounted on a building board with station lines drawn on it and removable blocks to hold the plug firmly in place.

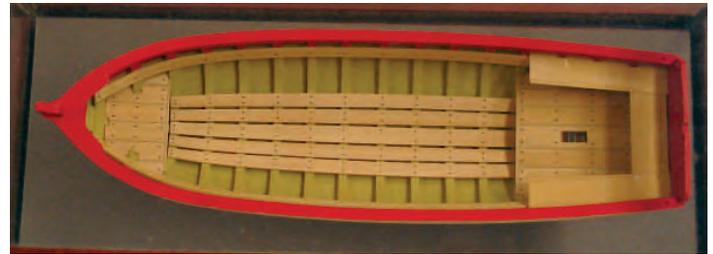


So, all the evidence is in and it shows how well our mates have done in creating this most important model building element.

Thanks, Kurt, for highlighting this subject for us so well. As ever, we'll all be better modelers by following your advice.

● Ships on Deck ●

Bob Filipowski's *English Longboat* (1:48) has had its floor boards and fore & aft platforms installed and Bob is now working on the thwarts. Of particular interest were the small nail heads he created by



inserting black paint brush bristles into drilled holes and then sheering them off flush. Very authentic look, mate, and an interesting variation on tree nails. The opening in the aft floor board is to accommodate a stern winch for lifting ship's anchors. The case, by the way, is only temporary, as he will eventually finish off this model with a mast.

Kurt Van Dahm's 1:24 "Model Shipways" US Gunboat *Philadelphia* ca. 1776 now has its guns in place and its mast readied for rigging. Looking very authentic, mate.



On left is a photo of the replica on display at the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum. On the right is a photo of the real thing on display at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History.



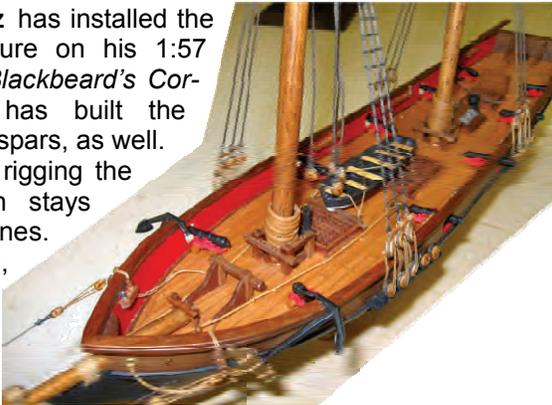
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"Ships-on-Deck", continued from Page 2



Ken Goetz has installed the deck furniture on his 1:57 model of *Blackbeard's Corsair* and has built the masts and spars, as well. He is now rigging the masts with stays and ratlines. Nice detail, mate.



Peter Pennigsdorf has made good progress on his R/C "Footy" schooner *Elba*. She's one foot long, per requirement to be a true "Footy", and has R/C controls installed to make her sailable. Peter has had a real balancing act

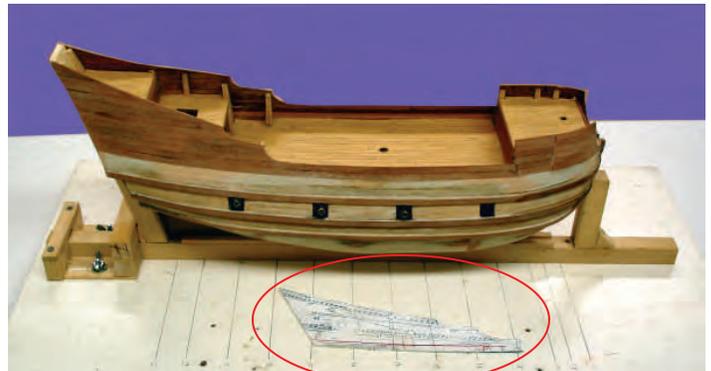


to contend with trying to position the R/C controls in such a way that the boat floats on an even keel. A drop center board will be added to give the necessary stability to the mast and sail and will replace the display pylon shown in clear plastic.

Glenn Estry has now completed his model of the "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea" *Nautilus*, which is complete with an interior light for Capt. Nemo's cabin. Model is plastic with a vinyl base and "squid". This model came with many photo etched parts. Great looking job, mate.

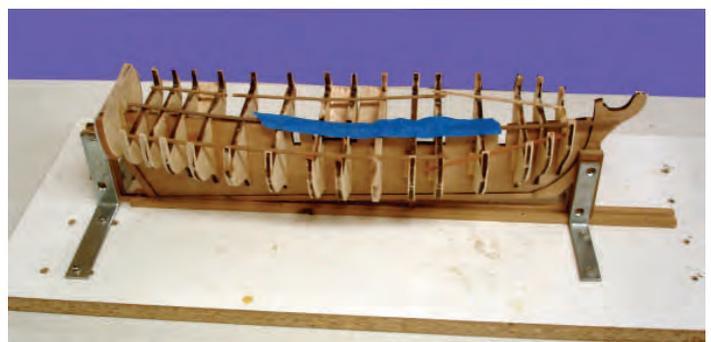


Allen Siegel has his 1:50 kit of Henry Hudson's *Half Moon* just where he wants it - at last! The many trials and



tribulations he has gone through to arrive at this point will be the subject of his presentation at the Tri-Club Symposium, but suffice it to say that his efforts paid off. Planking looks very fine as do the wales and the template he made up from the plans to allow him to cut the correct stern bulwarks shape really worked out well. Great job, mate, and a really nice building board, too!

Sid Wotman says he really loves working on his "Model Shipways" kit of the 14-Gun Privateer *Fair American*



(1:48) because all the parts fit and he can easily follow the instructions. The progress which he has achieved in building it so far seem to bear out his assessment.

Sid was very careful in setting up his model on a proper building board complete with keel strip and fore/aft supports made of metal angle brackets. This helped him get all the bulkheads aligned both vertically and horizontally. Now he is in the process of fairing up the bulkheads (not all laser cuts are symmetrical). She's looking fine, mate.

See "Ships-on-Deck", Page 4

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"Ships-on-Deck", continued from Page 3

Gordon Field has finished the mast hoops on his 1:48 model of the pilot boat *Katy of Norfolk* and is now working on the sails. This is one of the last "Model Shipways" kits of this model, which they converted to plank-on-bulkhead from its original solid hull form. Nice hoops, mate.



Richard Romaniak has been doing some kit bashing by converting a slaver into a *Baltimore Clipper Brig* with an armed merchantman or privateer configuration. Scale on this beauty is 1:64. This was originally a "Marine Models" solid hull kit of the *Dos Amigos* sold 40 years ago.



Gala Launch

Doc Williams says "LAUNCH TIME" on his model of the whaling bark *Charles W. Morgan*. "She's all done" and what a sight she is. All your hard work and good planning have resulted in the quintessential *Morgan* and we were happy to have witnessed her creation. Hearty congratulations from us all, mate.



Bill Maxwell, associate member from Brighton, MI, has sent an update on the work he is doing on his model of the *HMS Fly*. We showed earlier views in our November



2013 issue. Despite saying that "carving is not my specialty", his results on the quarter badges are outstanding. As an added bonus, Bill also carved the ship's name for the transom. She's shaping up as a masterpiece, mate.

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2014 Chicago Tri-Club Association Symposium

Sponsored by the Midwest Model Shipwrights, Nautical Research and Model Ship Society and Northshore Boatworks

Date: Saturday, September 20th, 2014
 Time: 8:00am-4:15pm
 Location: Lutheran Church of the Ascension, Willow and Sunset Ridge Roads, Northbrook, IL
 Fee: \$25

The day will include coffee and rolls in the AM, catered lunch and speakers for a full day of learning and fellowship.

All of this is included in your registration fee:

- Three morning speakers
- Five afternoon roundtables
- Model Display (please bring something)
- Flea market. Bring your stuff to sell!
- Raffle Prizes
- Lunch from Panera Bread
- Coffee, tea and rolls

*Please register early to help us plan this event!
 Registration Deadline is September 10th!*

MORNING SPEAKERS	
Speaker	Subject
Richard Young	Carving
Bob Jensen	Photo etching small parts in the home workshop
Allen Siegel	Avoiding Pitfalls of Plank on Bulkhead Construction

AFTERNOON ROUND TABLES	
Speaker	Subject
John Mitchell	Small Boat Construction
Bob	Easy Rabbits
Steve Wheeler	Making Oars
Bob Jensen	Photo Etching Small Parts
Richard Young	Carving Q&A

The flyer for this year's symposium was beautifully done by our Web Master, **John Pocius**, and played a big part in helping to create the fine turnout the Tri-Club Association enjoyed.

The morning speakers did not disappoint and delivered well organized and informative presentations that got our creative juices flowing.

Many thanks to **Richard Young** for coming in from Manitowoc to give us a good look at how he goes about creating his beautiful wood carvings. Techniques, tools and blade sharpening were covered.



Thanks, too, to **Bob Jensen** for coming in from Milwaukee to share techniques he uses photo etched small parts. Commercially available materials and chemicals were detailed.



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Our own **Allen Siegel** rounded out the morning by detailing all the pitfalls and successes he has experienced in building plank-on-bulkhead kits. Allen enjoyed his subject and the audience participation he stimulated.



After having a fine lunch catered by "Panera's", the afternoon roundtables were all very busy with good attendance and a load of learning taking place.

The final activity for the day was to hold the door prize drawing and award the raffle prizes. Here again, many were rewarded and everyone parted on a note of great camaraderie and a desire to do it all over again in the very near future.

Small Boat Construction was covered by **John Mitchell**, who combined self-taught and learned techniques to make rowboats using a minimum of tools.



Bob Filiposki demonstrated making rabbits using these two modified Dremel drill presses. Teaming up with Bob was **Dan Cicero**, who showed his skills at edge bending.



Steve Wheeler demonstrated his unique techniques in making scale oars, which included working jigs. The results were all very uniform and very accurate.



Bob Jensen used his special tools to highlight his demonstration of how to make photo etch parts at home.

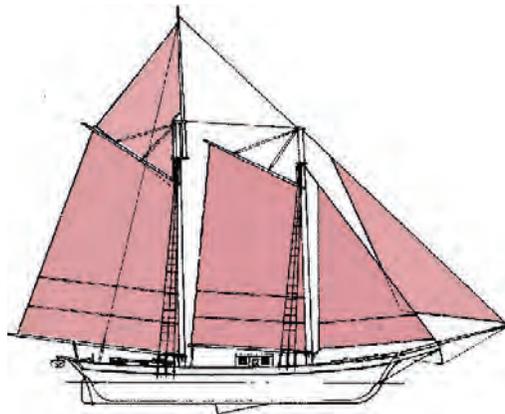


Richard Young showed everyone his fine set of carving tools and demonstrated his techniques for using each. Examples of his past work highlighted his session.





John R. Mitchell, Editor
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