

FORECASTLE REPORT



Newsletter of the Midwest Model Shipwrights ♦

www.midwestmodelshipwrights.com ♦

August 2019

● Ray Oswalt ●

It is with deep sadness, and a profound sense of loss, that we report the passing of Ray Oswalt, long time member of the Midwest Model Shipwrights. Originally a North Shore Dead-eye, Ray joined our organization during its earliest years when the Shipwrights were still striving to become relevant in the Chicago model ship building community. Ray opened the gates, and others soon followed.



His craftsmanship was remarkable, but he never lost sight of the fact that modeling should be fun. Always willing to help, he was a friend to all who knew him.

We bid Ray Oswalt farewell. May his seas be calm, and the wind always at his back ... he will be greatly missed.

● MMS Anti-Piracy Policy ●

Many of you may be aware that there are some kit manufacturers that have been banned from Model Ship World. These are mostly Chinese and Russian companies that have ripped off and duplicated kits, books, and plans from reputable manufacturers. Quite often these disreputable companies offer their products at what appear to be reasonable prices, but these items are often poor in quality. Thus the buyer ends up losing in the long run. This certainly impacts the profitability of the reputable companies, which could eventually cause them to shut down. Again, we lose.



Starting with the August meeting, members will be required to indicate on their Ships on Deck forms who manufactured the kit they are building. If the company is on the "Banned List," the model will not receive recognition in the Forecastle Report or on our website.

Your club officers realize that you may be a victim in all this, but our options are limited, and we want to do our part to curtail this illegal practice. A list of banned companies appears on page 9.

August Meeting Notice Rigging Deadeyes

It's back to rigging for the August meeting. This session will be dedicated to mounting dead-eyes, with a special emphasis on maintaining a consistent gap between the upper and lower parts of the assembly. Although featuring a PowerPoint, members will be encouraged to discuss their own methods if they differ from what is being presented.



Our next meeting will be at 7:15 p.m.
Wednesday, August 21, 2019
The Dasom Community Church
501 S. Emerson Street
Mount Prospect, IL

● The Mississippi River Museum ●

The Mississippi River Museum, which is a part of the Mud Island River Park complex in Memphis, Tennessee, opened in 1982. It presents the history of the lower Mississippi river valley, with great emphasis on the riverboat and Civil War eras. The facility features full-scale replicas of portions of a steamboat and a Civil War gunboat.

Models are also a noteworthy part of the exhibit, and Chicago Tri-Club members made important contributions in this respect. Those agreeing to help were required to research the vessels, create the drawings, and build the models. In some cases, crude contemporary sketches, and minimal specifications were the only references available.

See pages 6, 7 and 8 for scenes and models that are showcased in this remarkable museum.



● **Ships on Deck** ●

Photos by Leon Sirota

Completed! ***San Juan Nepomuceno*** 1765 by Bob Sykes



English Cutter *Hunter* by Dan Pacholski



● **Ships on Deck** ●

Continued

USS *Hancock*—Yankee Station in the Gulf of Tonkin
by Don Purney



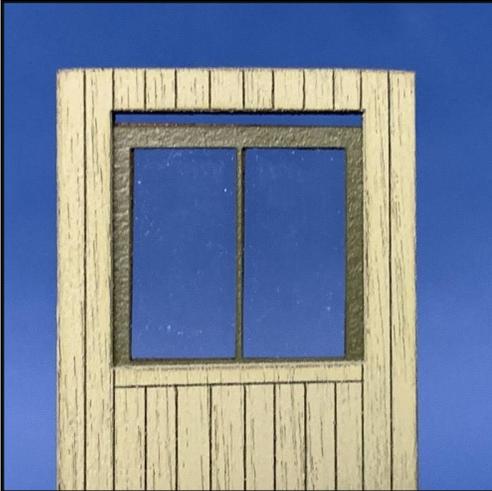
First POF Model **Brigantine Corsair 1765** by Keith Zeilenga



● **Ships on Deck** ●

Continued

Alligator Tug **Alice** by Kurt Van Dahm
A 1/48 Laser-cut Train Troll Kit



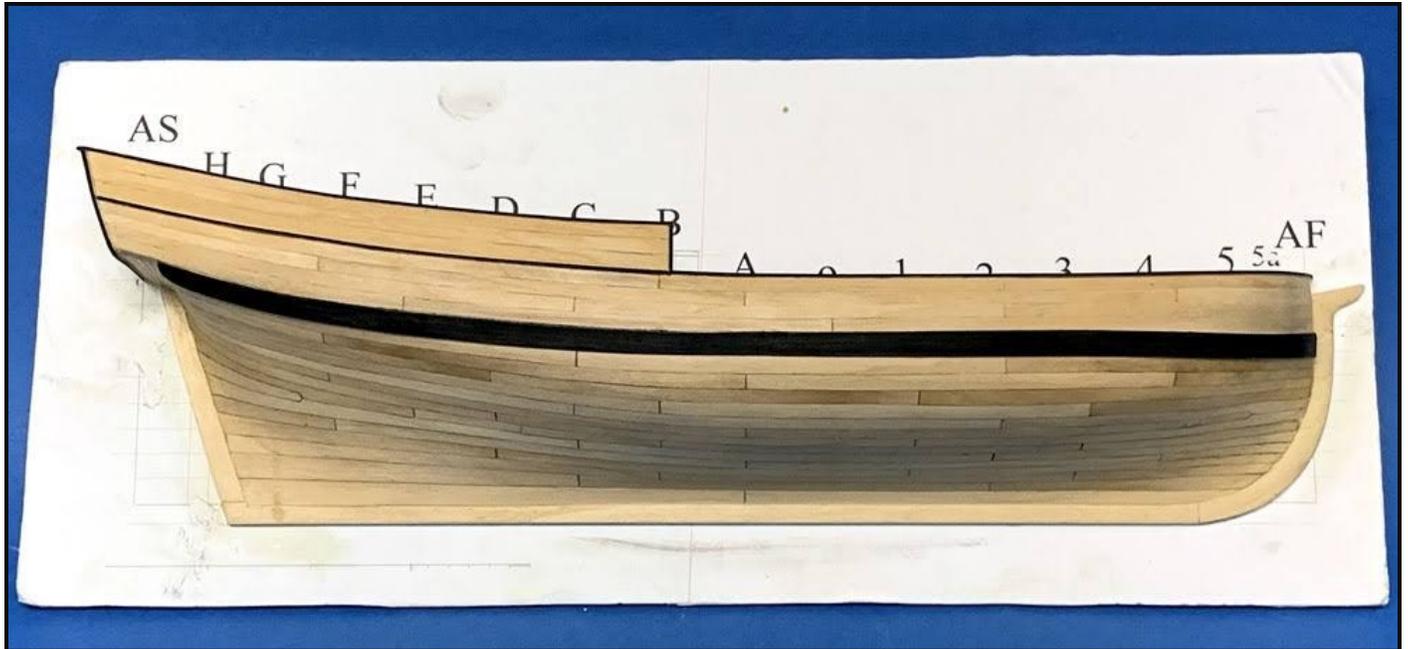
Royal William by Richard "Doc" Williams



● Ships on Deck ●

Continued

The Final of Three NRG Spiling Kit Prototypes by Toni Levine

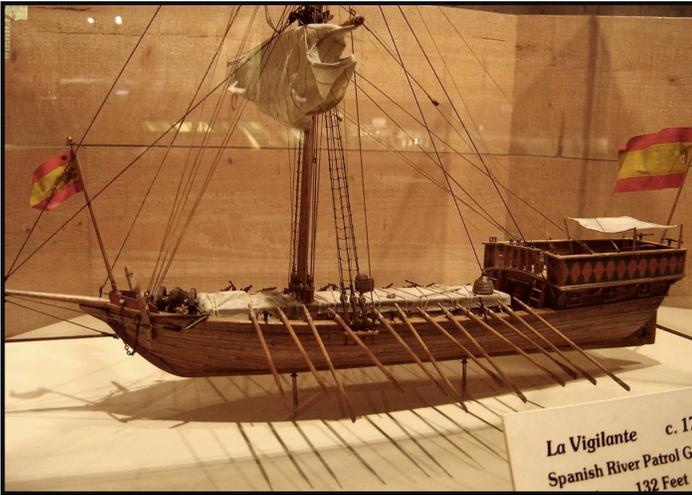


English Cutter *Diligence* by Bob Filipowski



● **The Mississippi River Museum** ●

Memphis, Tennessee

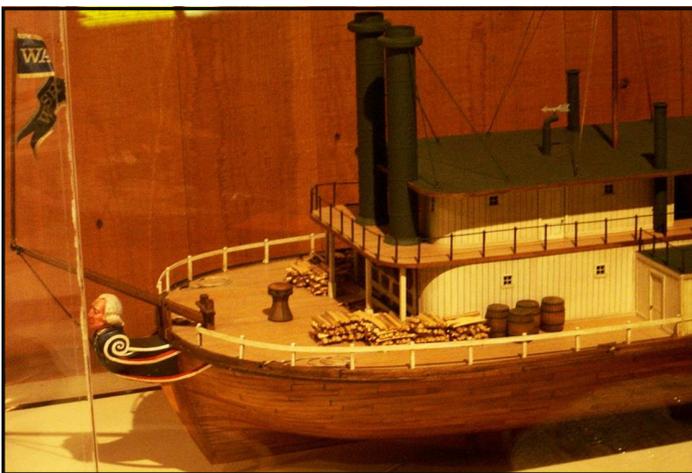


La Vigilante c. 17
Spanish River Patrol Galley
132 Feet

Early Eighteenth Century Spanish River Patrol Galley

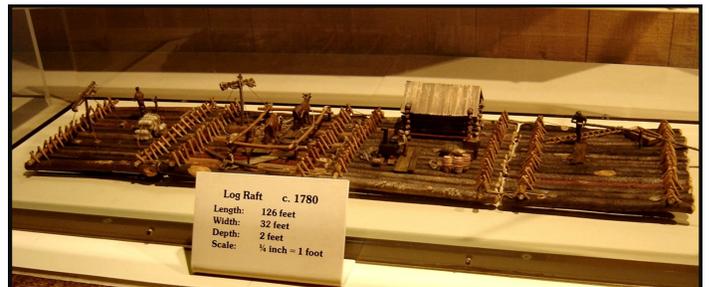
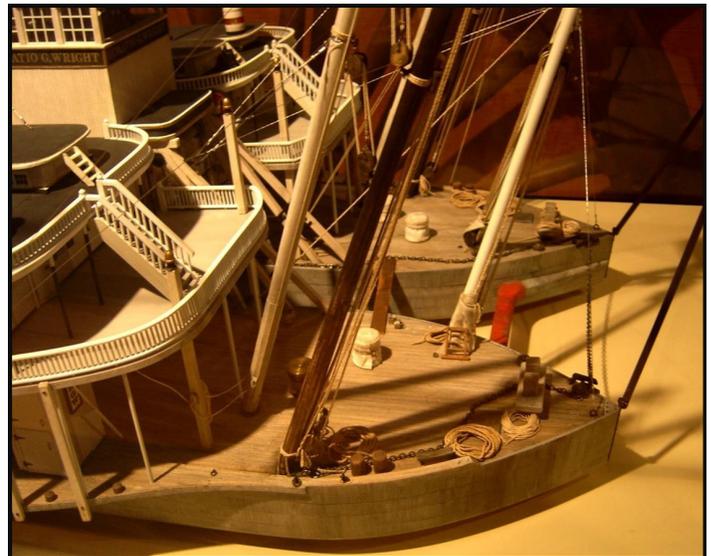


The US Snag Boat Wright



Early Mississippi Riverboat, the *George Washington*

A most impressive *Robert E. Lee*



Log Raft c. 1780
Length: 126 feet
Width: 32 feet
Depth: 2 feet
Scale: 1/4 inch = 1 foot

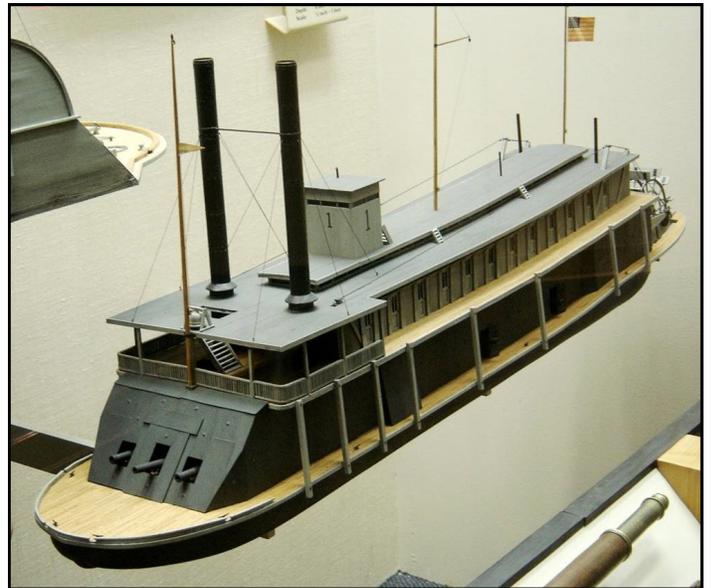


● **The Mississippi River Museum** ●

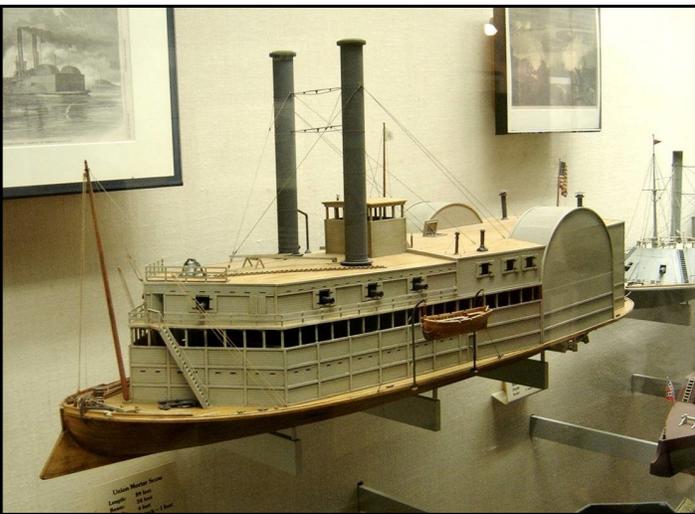
Continued from Page 6



US Ironclad, USS *Choctaw*.



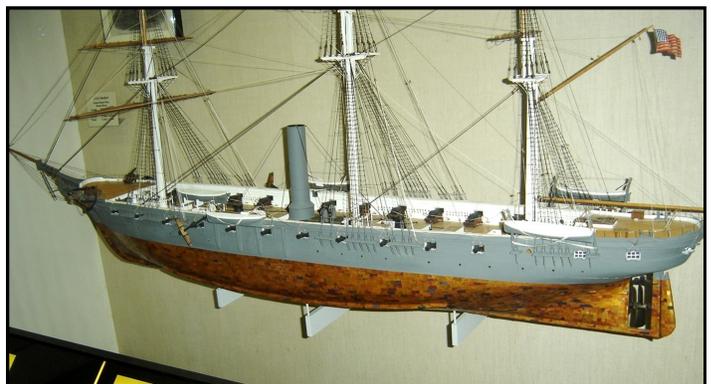
US Tinclad No. 1, USS *Rattler*
(See *Historic Ship Profile*, Page 9)



US Ram *Switzerland*.



Confederate Ironclad, CSS *Arkansas*

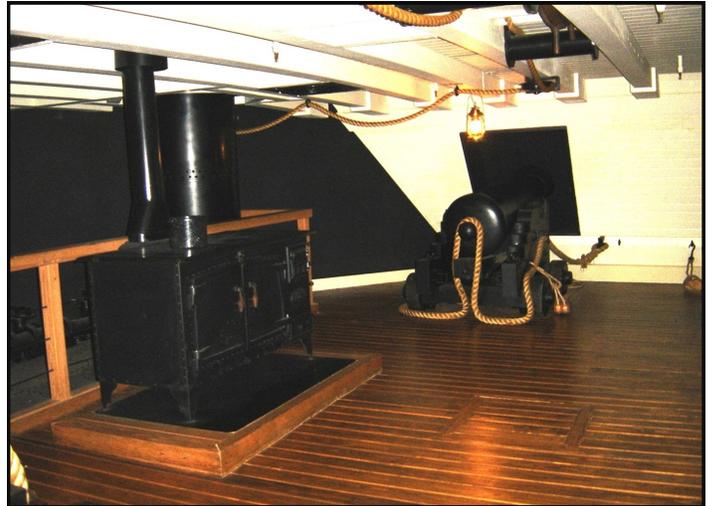


USS *Hartford*, Admiral Farragut's flagship at Mobile Bay.

● **The Mississippi River Museum** ●

Continued from Page 7

Full size mockup of a City-class Gunboat



Full size mockups of a Mississippi Riverboat



● **Banned Companies** ●

Below, is the list of banned companies. Many of them do not have websites. They market their illegal products via the Internet on sites such as eBay.

If you are planning your next project, please check this list. If you are not sure, discuss it with Kurt Van Dahm before you commit to a purchase. For easy reference, this information will appear in all future issues of the *Forecastle Report*. Updates will be made as we become aware of additional companies.

ZHL	Unicorn Model
RealTS	YQ (YaunQing)
Snail Model	Master
XinFeng	CN
JD Model	CF
LHQK	Shi hai
Shi Cheng	4H Model
Woodenkit (Russian MFG)	CAF Model
YengFan	SC
Moxing	DU jiao shou
WN	

● **Scuttlebutt** ●

In spite of the thunderstorms outside, we had a good turnout for the July meeting. Our organization has been on a bit of a roll lately as our roster has been progressively increasing, and attendance has been very good. The press gang produced another new crewmember in July, Dan Pacholski. Dan is currently working on an English cutter. See *Ships on Deck*, page 2, for further details.

Bob Fryszak was our big door prize winner for July. With six items being offered, Bob chose a collection of rigging tools. Congratulations, mate!

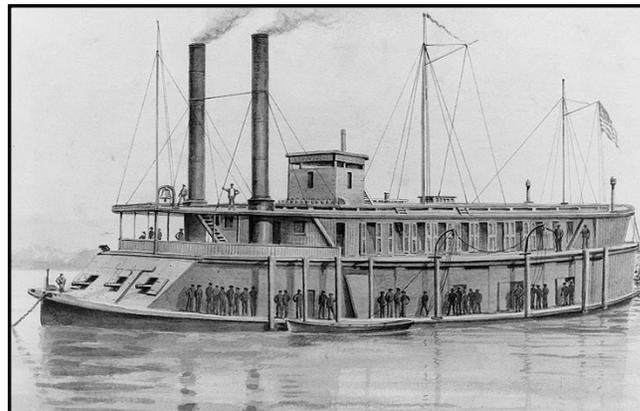


OFFICERS & STAFF

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Web Master - John Pocius.....(630) 957-7298
jpdesign@mindspring.com

● **HISTORIC SHIP PROFILES** ●

● **USS *Rattler* (1862)** ●



Launched at Cincinnati, Ohio as the *Florence Miller* in 1862, this wooden stern-wheel steamer was purchased by the Navy in November of the same year, and renamed *Rattler*. In December, 1862 she was commissioned as a tinclad at Cairo, Illinois, and assigned to the Mississippi Squadron

In January 1863, with *Rattler* in the lead, sounding as she went along, Admiral David Dixon Porter's Mississippi Squadron ascended the White and Arkansas Rivers to attack Fort Hindman at Arkansas Post. This was a joint Army-Navy expedition, and was part of the larger campaign against Vicksburg, Mississippi. While the other gunboats bombarded Fort Hindman, *Rattler* closed within 50 yards of the Confederate guns in an unsuccessful effort to clear away a barrier. The tinclad was forced by heavy fire to return to station.

The next day *Rattler* and USS *Glide* dashed past the fort to enfilade the Confederate position. Their guns drove the Rebel troops out of rifle pits allowing Federal troops under General William T. Sherman to reach the fort unopposed. The gunboat's cannonade forced the Rebel commander to surrender Fort Hindman and some 6,500 Confederate troops.

Rattler next served as flagship of a flotilla of "tinclads" and Army transports carrying 6,000 men of General Sherman's Corps. An abortive attempt was made to bypass and isolate Vicksburg, but the city continued to resist.

On July 4, 1863, Vicksburg finally fell, and Porter's squadron now controlled the entire Mississippi River. From 12 to 20 July, *Rattler* joined in raids up the Red, Black, Tensas, and Ouachita Rivers. During these operations, she teamed up with USS *Manitou* to capture a Rebel steamer.

In late summer, *Rattler* patrolled the Mississippi River near Rodney, Mississippi, above Natchez. Her mission was to help prevent the eastern part of the Confederacy from receiving fresh troops and supplies.

On 13 September 1863, *Rattler's* commanding officer, Acting Master E. H. Fentress, and 16 crewmen were captured by rebel guerrillas while attending church onshore. The *Rattler* then began bombarding the town, and only stopped when the Confederates threatened to execute the prisoners.

In December 1864, during a heavy gale near Grand Gulf, Mississippi, *Rattler's* anchor cable parted, and she was driven ashore, struck a snag, and sank. After her supplies and most of her guns were salvaged she was abandoned. Rebel troops subsequently set fire to *Rattler* and destroyed her.