



Forecastle Report

Newsletter of the Midwest Model Shipwrights ♦ www.midwestmodelshipwrights.com ♦ July 2011

● Scuttlebutt ●

COMMODORE **Gus Agustin** opened our meeting on a “dark and stormy night” with 22 members present. Nice turnout, mates.



Kurt Van Dahm reported that the Lutheran Church of the Ascension, 460 Sunset Ridge Rd., Northfield, IL has again been reserved for this year’s *Tri-Club Symposium* to be held on **October 15, 2011**. Last year’s meeting was a great success and we expect this year’s to be exciting, as well. So, mark your calendar and “Save the Date” for another great modeling event.

NRG news is that registrations are being taken for the annual symposium on their web site. Early birds were able to sign up for the “Kreigstein” tour, which is now booked out.

Gus Agustin is looking for a photo or reproduction of the historical painting of the “Board of Admiralty” meeting. Anyone having one, please contact Gus.

Doc Williams reports that he has a contact looking for someone who would undertake the re-rigging of a large scale model of the *Warrior* by “Romero”. This is a major job, as the model is very large and will require a high level of expertise as well as an ability to transport large loads. Contact Doc direct, if you have an interest.

Bob Filipowski’s motion to have our club sponsor the “People’s Choice Award” at the Manitowoc show next year (\$100 donation) was accepted by the members.

Our deepest sympathies go out to our mate, **Ken Walenberg**, and his family on the loss of his wife Pat.

Manitowoc Show Highlights

By David Botton

Last month’s *Midwestern Model Ships and Boats Contest and Display* held at the Wisconsin Maritime Museum in Manitowoc, WI was a resounding success for members of our three Chicago-area clubs who brought home 4 Silver awards and 5 Gold awards plus the *Modeler’s Choice* award, the *Dana McCalip Best Miniature* award and the *Best of Show* award.

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July Meeting Notice

HMS Leopard

By Gus Agustin

We will enjoy a fascinating PowerPoint presentation on this historic and beautiful ship of the line by our master miniaturist, Gus Agustin.

Gus will let us in on all the steps in making a miniature model of an Admiralty Dockyard Model. For all of you who aspire to build miniatures, this is a must see presentation. See you there.

Our next meeting will be at 7:15 p.m. Wednesday,
July 20, 2011
At the Community Presbyterian Church
407 Main Street in Mount Prospect



Dave Botton showed us photos of all the prize winners and made his presentation more interesting with great descriptions of the work and a fine analysis of their strong and weak points.

Our **Richard Romaniak** was the clear leader in the prize department with three: *Gold, Dana McCalip Best Miniature* and *Best of Show* awards.

Bruce Hoff was right there with two prizes: *Gold* and *Modeler’s Choice* awards.

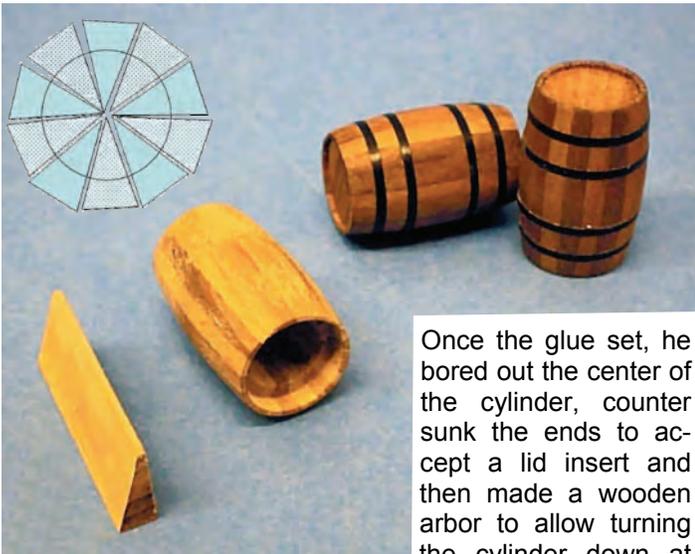
Gus Agustin won *Gold* and *Sliver* was won by **Jim Merritt** and **Tony Sergios**.

All-in-all, this was reported to have been one of the best shows in recent history and expectations are for even better shows in years to come.

Thanks, Dave, for putting together a great presentation.

● Ships on Deck ●

Helmut Reiter directed his efforts toward working out some of the smaller details on his model of the *Tartane Gemma* during the past month. One of the amazing items he made was a pair of fresh water barrels to be mounted on deck. As usual, Helmut has found a unique solution to a project. His barrels were made by cutting 18, 20° wedges out of wood, then gluing them together all at once using carpenter's glue, to form a cylinder.



Once the glue set, he bored out the center of the cylinder, counter sunk the ends to accept a lid insert and then made a wooden arbor to allow turning the cylinder down at

both ends on a lathe to create a barrel shape. Finally, black tape, lightly sanded to give it a natural appearance, created the barrel hoops. A very elegant way to create a very familiar object. Thanks for sharing your methods with us, mate.

Kurt Van Dahm has been making his *Tug Lackawanna* (1:96) more and more attractive by adding splash boards up front, a hawser rub rail at the stern, cabin trim, doors and drilled portholes.

The cabin roof and deck were also drilled for

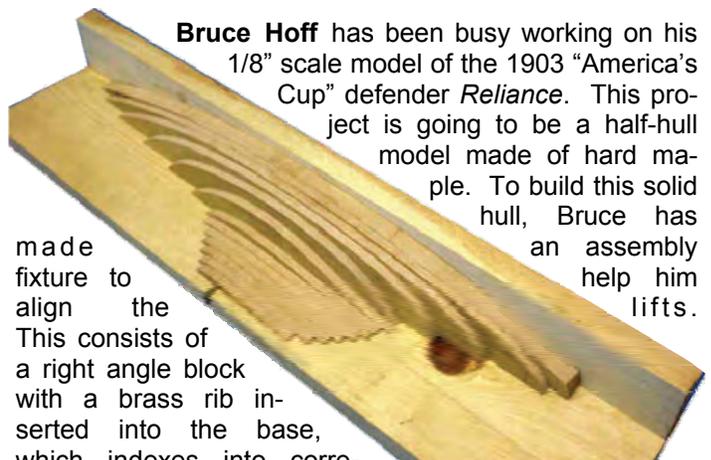


the mast.

Work to follow will be adding the photo-etched wheel house complete with glazing and inside paneling. This model is turning out to be a shining example of a kit done just right. One of the modeling suggestions put out by the kit maker was to fit the bottom trim to the cabin by



placing the cabin block on the deck with a piece of wax paper underneath it, then gluing the trim down to fit the exact contour of the deck. When the glue sets, the cabin can be lifted, wax paper removed and the whole thing glued to the deck with a perfect fit. Nice! You could use this idea when building from scratch, too!



Bruce Hoff has been busy working on his 1/8" scale model of the 1903 "America's Cup" defender *Reliance*. This project is going to be a half-hull model made of hard maple. To build this solid hull, Bruce has made an assembly fixture to help him align the lifts. This consists of a right angle block with a brass rib inserted into the base, which indexes into corresponding grooves cut into each lift on the hull center line. A really great modeling technique, mate. Thanks!



The Forecastle Report, July 2011 - P.3

Ships-on-Deck, continued from Page 2

Ed Cotey's work on his *Viking Ship* continues with the



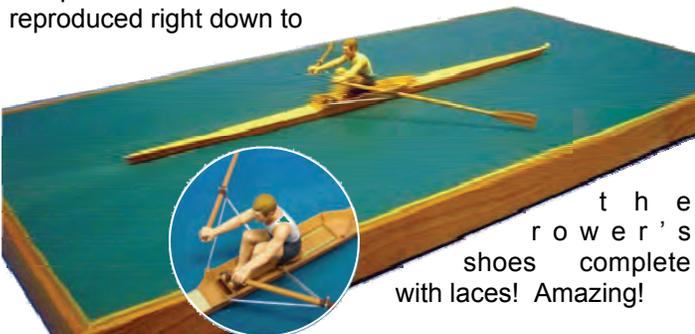
crew figures. These were semi-scratch built using "Historix" figures modified to achieve the desired pose and dressed in "tissue paper" clothes and "wild" plastic hair. A real pair of Vikings for sure, mate.

John Pocius is well along on his 1:64 Catboat *Frances* made from plans published in "Motor Boating Magazine"



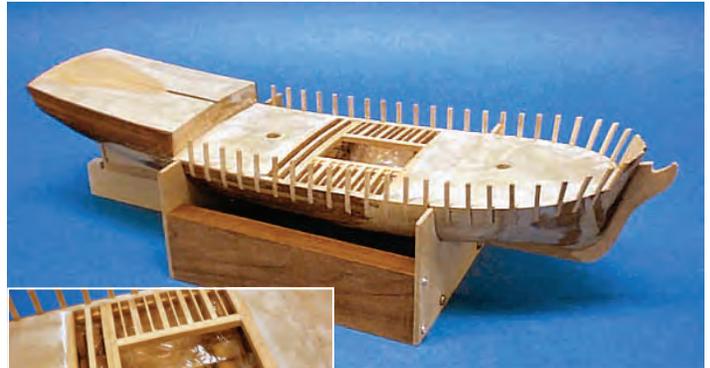
ca 1920. This 18' day sailor is made from pear wood and will be a diorama with figure, when complete.

John also has finished his 1:32 model of a *Single Scull Row Boat*. While the boat has a very sleek and compact hull, the real fascination is with the seated figure that John has painted with artist's oil colors. The finest details were reproduced right down to



the
rower's
shoes complete
with laces! Amazing!

Bob Filipowski's 3/16" model of the schooner *Arrowsic* has now had the cargo hold framed over. The next pro-



ject will be to plank the deck, including adding margin planks and water ways - and there will be some fine "nibbling", so stay tuned. We always learn a lot when Bob does his planking wizardry.

Doc Williams has roasted and toasted his way to a beautifully coppered lower hull on his "Model Shipways" kit of the whaler *Charles W. Morgan* (1:64).



To achieve the distinctive appearance, Doc cut the copper tape provided in the kit into individual plate pieces then heated them in a stove to create the unique colorations. Since the heat treatment destroyed the adhesive backing on the copper tape, each plate was glued on individually using "Elmers" glue. The end result really adds to the enjoyment of this model.



Other work done was the addition of deck beams to support the deck planks and the various hatch coamings. (This model is planked directly over exposed deck beams, rather than using a "false deck" for plank support).

See Ships-on-Deck, Page 4

The Forecastle Report, July 2011 - P.4

Ships-on-Deck, continued from Page 3

Gus Agustin has completed half the decks on his 1:288 scale model of the HMS *Bellona*—1760. He is also planking the hull out of boxwood and working on the quarter



gallery and stern. This has been a great chance for us to see how Gus goes about constructing his miniatures and his planning makes the job look easy. It looks easy because Gus is a true pro! But we all can aspire to becoming proficient at this work with such great examples.



● A Look Back in Time ●

Compiled by John Mitchell

From time to time it's fun to take a nostalgic look at the building histories of the models we've built. Here, for your enjoyment, are four selected ships taken from their earliest appearance on Ships-on-Deck to their launch.

Helmut Reiter's
La Belle
Laid down: Mar 2004
Launched: Mar 2010



Kurt Van Dahm's
Wm L Bennett
Laid down: Jan 2004
Launched: Aug 2004



Jim Merritt's
Caracca Atlantica
Laid down: Feb 2005
Launched: Apr 2008



Ken Goetz's
HMS Pandora
Laid down: Dec 2004
Launched: May 2006



Can You See Me Now?

On June 10th, the Chicago Nautical Research and Model Ship Society had their monthly meeting, which was arguably a landmark event. Club President, Kurt Van Dahm and Bob Filipowski teamed up to test an application whereby Bob “attended” the meeting via the internet. From the comfort of his home, Bob listened to the various presentations during Ships on Deck, and then discussed the progress that had been made on his own model. Filipowski’s image was projected up on a



screen with a digital projector so the members in attendance could easily view his work. He then viewed and listened to David Botton’s Power Point on the Wisconsin Maritime Museum’s model ships and boats contest.

This was definitely the first time that a Tri-Club organization had ever utilized this type of technology, and may possibly be the first time any model ship club has ever attempted this.

For a first effort, both Kurt and Bob were very optimistic, and felt that it was a success. However, the test was far from flawless. At times, there were sound and video problems, especially near the end of the meeting. Never the less, both individuals feel that there is considerable potential in this application, but these issues need to be worked out.

Kurt stated that, for a modest fee, it is possible to have conference video calls that would involve as many as ten members. With periodic meetings being held via the Internet, this could become the first cyber model ship building club! This application would also allow members that are no longer able to drive, or that are recuperating from an illness to stay involved in club activities. Associate out-of-town members would also be able to participate in meetings!

The use of the Internet application is free. However, your computer needs to be equipped with a web camera and speakers, which can be purchased at a modest price. If you’re in the market for a new computer, be advised that many of the newer systems come with these features, especially laptops. There are many members in the Tri-Club organization that are knowledgeable in these matters, and can advise you if you are intrigued by the possibilities. For those that attended that meeting on June 10th, they were able to see first hand what can be accomplished, and many went away amazed with what the future holds for our hobby!

● Modeling the Tartane ●

By John Mitchell with a salute to Helmut Reiter

According to Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, a **Tartane** was a small ship used both as a fishing ship and for coastal trading in the Mediterranean. They were in use for over 300 years until the late 19th century. A Tartane had a single mast on which was rigged a large lateen sail, and with a bowsprit and fore-sail. When the wind was aft, a square sail was generally hoisted like a cross jack.



A model Tartane has been for sale on the web site www.Finemodelships.com. On that site, the ship was described as a type of vessel that had been developed in the 18th century on the French Mediterranean coast.

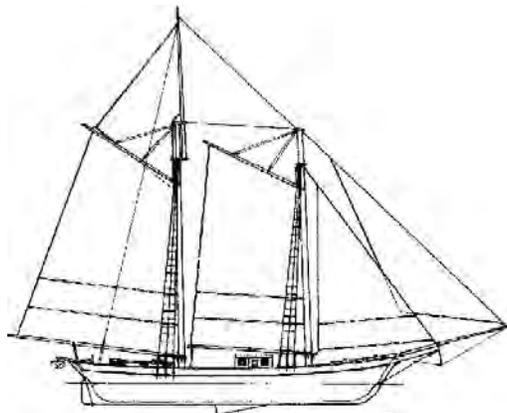
The model shown of a 1810 Tartane with a small square sail and raffee



topsails above the lateen main sail was made according to a drawing by J. J. Baugean. Even though the model shown was already sold, the photos were posted to let model makers get some ideas or some guidance in building such a ship.



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