



Forecastle Report

Newsletter of the Midwest Model Shipwrights ♦ www.midwestmodelshipwrights.com ♦ June 2013

● Scuttlebutt ●

COMMODORE Bob Filipowski opened the meeting with a record crew of 33 hands on board. This equaled our all time high, which was only reached at one of our "pizza" parties. We are glad to see such enthusiasm being driven by a love of ship modeling alone and hope the current spirit will carry through for the entire year. Thanks, again, to all our new and seasoned members for their support and attendance.

Members were encouraged to visit our web site on a regular basis, as it is getting an increase in visits. It contains many valuable links to other ship modeling web sites and some really fine photos of member's models both past and present, among other things. Our thanks to the fine work being done on this site by our Web Master, John Pocius.

For members who are thinking about becoming a member of the **NRG**, a special offer has been made of one free issue of their Journal when you respond to their ad running in *Ships in Scale* magazine.

Our Purser, **Ken Goetz**, has finalized a hard copy of our membership list for those of you who are not on the internet. If you would like to receive one, let Ken know and he will either mail it to you or have it at the next meeting.

Leon Sirota reviewed the "Model Shipways" kit of the U.S. Gunboat *Philadelphia* ca. 1776. The scale on this model is 1:24 and finishes to a length of 26 in. This model is large and the plans are highly detailed. The wood parts are all basswood and the metal castings supplied are of very high quality. Rigging thread is, as usual, just average. The real boat has been preserved and is on display at the Smithsonian Museum.



See "Scuttlebutt", Page 2

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June Meeting Notice

Anchors By Doc Williams



Ahoy, mates, if you're ready to lay your bower, cast your grapnel or drop your kedge, you will learn from Doc all the details on how to build your hook the right way and how to rig it to your ship, as well. Don't miss this fun and informative evening dealing with all things anchor.

Look for another review of a new "Model Shipways" kit by Leon Sirota.

Our next meeting will be at 7:15 p.m.
Wednesday, June 19, 2013
At the Community Presbyterian Church
407 Main Street in Mount Prospect

● Using a Lathe ●

By Paul Bein

Quoting Bob Filipowski: "Last night, Paul Bein opened his presentation by stating that we shouldn't expect to know how to use a lathe by the end of his talk, which was very true. However, ...we all went away with a better appreciation for how good a machinist he is, and what it takes to make a component as complex as a camshaft. A special thanks to Paul for a fascinating talk".

Being there made Paul's skills truly fascinating to see but to describe them in print is really not a task for the amateur. We'll leave it to this image of one of Paul's miniature mechanical models to help make our point....and it's the lathe that led off his presentation!

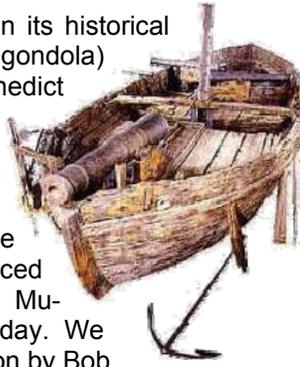


The Forecastle Report, June 2013 - P.2

"Scuttlebutt", continued from Page 1

The real interest in this kit is in its historical significance. The gunboat (gondola) *Philadelphia* was part of Benedict Arnold's fleet on Lake Champlain during the battle against the British at Valcour Island and was sunk on October 11, 1776. In 1935 she was raised off the lake bottom, conserved and placed on display at the Smithsonian Museum, where she can be seen today. We were given a detailed presentation by Bob Filipowski on this naval engagement back in November 2004 (see *Scuttlebutt*, Dec 2004).

Leon praised the kit highly for its quality and ease of assembly. It is rated as "Intermediate" in difficulty.



Results of the 37th Annual Midwestern Model Ships & Boats Contest and Display held at the Wisconsin Maritime Museum, Manitowoc, WI were supplied by Kurt Van Dahm and many of our members were proud recipients of prizes. Congratulations to our winners:

Silver Awards

Category III Operational Models

Novice

Tony Sergios—Brooklyn Harbor Tug



Gold Awards

Category I Scratch-Built

Advanced, Class B:

Stephen Wheeler—Class A Inland Lake Scow



Helmut Reiter—Gemma



Category II Kit Models

Novice, Class A:

Allen Siegel—Fair American



Intermediate, Class A:

Ken Goetz—USS Constitution



See "Scuttlebutt", Page 3

The Forecastle Report, June 2013 - P.3

"Scuttlebutt", continued from Page 2

Advanced, Class A:

Kurt Van Dahm—Picket Boat #1



Special Awards

Modeler's Choice Award
(Sponsored by Rocky Mt. Shipwrights):

Ken Goetz—
USS Constitution



Best Paint Finish Award
(Badger Airbrush):

Tony Sergios—
Brooklyn Harbor Tug



Best of Show (F.K. Bemis):

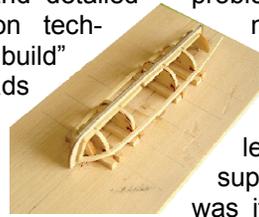
Helmut Reiter—
Gemma



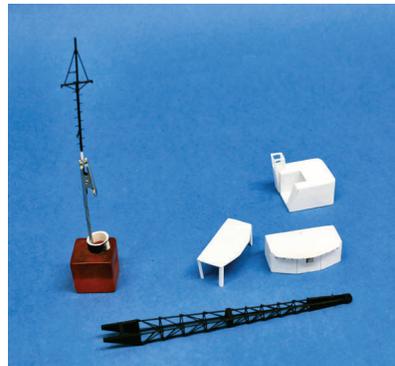
Note: These and other photos of contest models have been posted on our club web site, so please log on to see the full presentation (click on the "News" tab). Thanks to **John Pocius, Dave Botton** and **Bob Filipowski** for putting together this photo spread for us.

● Ships on Deck ●

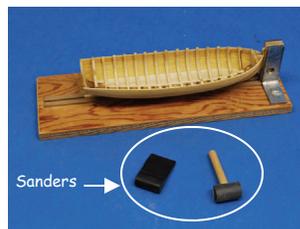
John Mitchell showed us the "Model Shipways" longboat kit he started and detailed problems he had with it. Construction techniques are similar to the "group build" longboat in that it uses bulkheads over which ribs are to be bent prior to planking. The problem was the materials supplied - wood was not to scale nor was it of a quality that allowed it to be bent in the small scale used. With such deficiencies, it was decided to scrap it and build a ship's boat using the "plug" method instead.



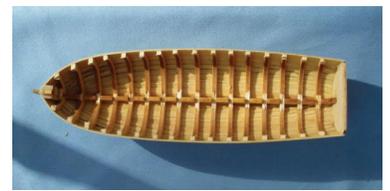
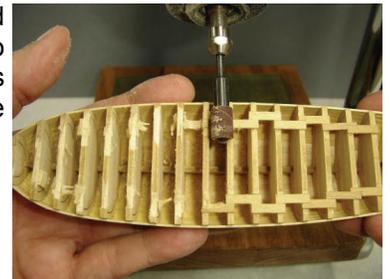
Paul Pollowy has completed the subassembly of the forward pilot house, pilot house mast and 75-ton crane on his 1:192 scale model of the "Roen Steamship" pulpwood barge *Solveig*. The crane body and crane boom were both beautifully done and all made from styrene sheet and rod stock. The *Solveig* is unique for being a conversion from a WWII LST. The hull is being carved from a solid block of basswood some 20" long.



Bob Filipowski created these excellent how-to photos of the techniques he used to remove the



bulkhead supports, cut out the bulkhead fillers and sand down the inside frame surfaces on the 1:48 "group build" Longboat.



The Forecastle Report, June 2013 - P.4

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

Helmut Reiter has declared his 1:48 model of *Gemma* completed and we were lucky to enjoy viewing his work first hand. *Gemma* was a prize winner at Manitowoc and very worthy, for sure. Everywhere you look on this model you see some small example of the high



level of craftsmanship that went into building her. It is a total modeling symposium in one package.

Congratulations, mate, on such a fine result. We can hardly wait to see your next project.

Kurt Van Dahm is nearing completion on the interior details of his 1:12 model of *Splash*, a Burger boat built in Manito-



woc in 1935 (and still sailing!).

Another of Kurt's models was the 1/35th scale

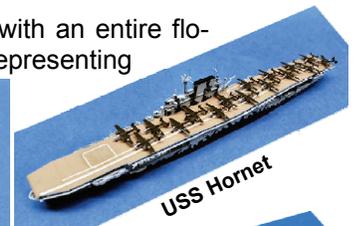


Tamiya kit of a US Navy *Patrol Boat River* (PBR). Kurt was impressed by the detail on this kit (see close up).

Tim Riggs outdid himself with an entire flotilla of 1:700 plastic models representing



IJN Junyo



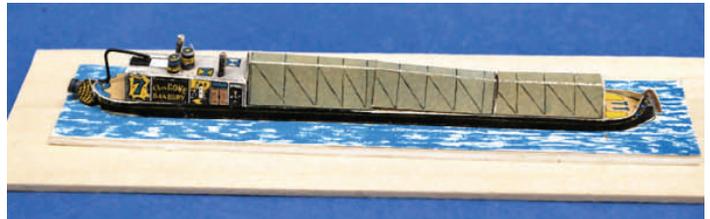
USS Hornet

a variety of WWII warships.

In addition to his finely detailed plastic models, Tim



USS South Dakota



also shared with us two of his famous card models by "Micro Model". One was an English *narrow boat*, of the type used on inland canals; the other a model of "Hampton Court Palace", the former home of King Henry VIII near London, England. Wow!



Narrow boats were originally working boats built in the 18th—20th centuries for carrying goods on the narrow canals (where locks and bridge holes would have a maximum width of at least 7 feet). Modern "narrow boats" are used for recreation or even homes.¹

Gus Agustin has been working almost exclusively on the stern galleries and lanterns for his 1:192 model of the HMS *Royal William* ca. 1792. Gus turned down the balcony stanchions out of 1/32 boxwood (very carefully) then painted his work using acrylic antique gold paint. The detail, at this scale, is truly amazing and highlights the patience and skill being employed. Outstanding job, mate.



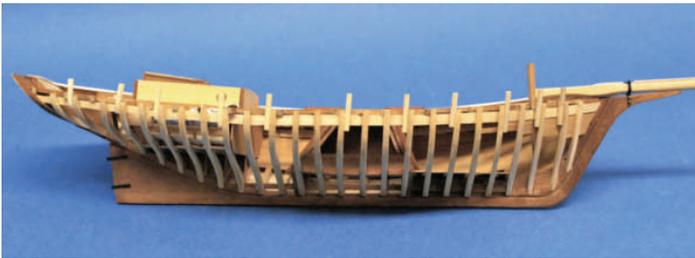
See "Ships-on-Deck", Page 5

¹ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Narrowboat>

The Forecastle Report, June 2013 - P.5

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

Walt Philips has been putting some of the finishing touches on his 1:32 "Model Shipways" kit of the Lobster Smack *Emma C. Berry*.



Little resemblance to the kit remains, however, as Walt has been doing considerable kit bashing to arrive at a truly unique presentation. The hull cutaways and interior detail add significant interest to this model and show Walt's skills beautifully. Great job, mate.



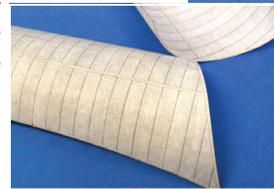
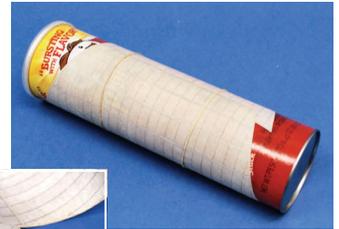
John Pocius is putting the finishing touches on this English cutter yacht *Coquette* (1:64) and will be working on the crew figure as well as a display case. If you didn't see



this model with your eyes but just viewed the photo, you would swear it was a much larger object. You've done a wonderful job with miniature details, mate.

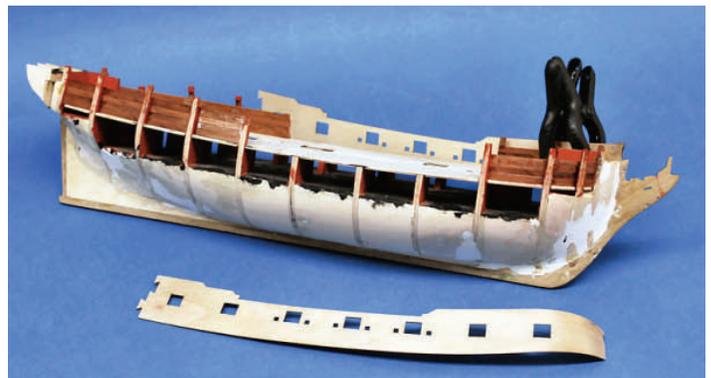


Ray Oswald has developed a great way to provide realism to his 1:64 scale paper sails made from drafting velum. To achieve the proper curvature on wind-driven sails, he moistens the paper and cylinder such as a potato chip can. Once dry, its curve.



curls it around a as a potato chip can. Once dry, the sail will retain its curve.

Sid Wotman has been adding interior planking of bloodwood to his model of the HMS *Fly* with the goal of eliminating the painting of the bulwarks and we'd say he has achieved the desired effect. The wood looks very attractive and will add greatly to the final appearance of the



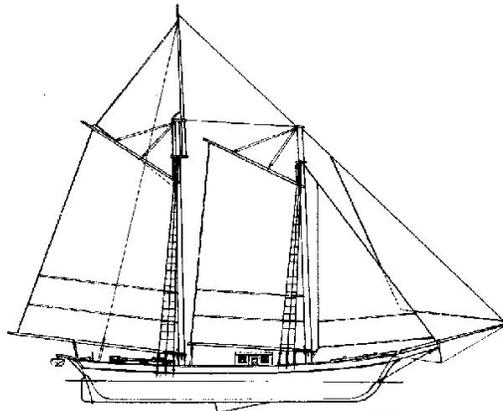
model. Assembly of the bulwarks is progressing and the kit supplied parts eliminate the need to cut gun and sweep ports - a real plus. To aid in planking, Sid has filled in the spaces between bulkheads with bass wood and wood filler. This should improve the strength of the hull planking and eliminate any plank warping and sagging areas. Nice planning, mate.

Rich Kuentler, our resident "Sailor", showed us his scaled down version of a *main sheet pendant*. Rich would be happy to give you more details on this tackle at one of our meetings.





John R. Mitchell, Editor
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