



# Forecastle Report

Newsletter of the Midwest Model Shipwrights ♦ www.midwestmodelshipwrights.com ♦ March 2010

## ● Scuttlebutt ●

Commodore **Tim Riggs**, opened the meeting with 28 hands on board and ran out a hearty welcome to one guest, **Ken Wallenberg** from Elmwood Park. Ken is into scratch building and has acquired a very detailed set of *Flying Cloud* plans that he showed us. His hope is that we may be able to help him navigate some of the more difficult tasks in this project, and to that we say: no problem! Welcome aboard.

We learned that the "Woodcraft" firm would be moving from Palatine (on Dundee Rd.) to the Green Tree Plaza in Libertyville (on Milwaukee Ave.). For those of you who spent a lot of time shopping there, the bad news of the added distance might be offset by the lower sales tax in Lake County.

**Kurt Van Dahm** reminded us that the Manitowoc meeting would be held the third weekend in May. Never too soon to start making your plans and putting the finishing touches on your entries, mates.



**Tim Riggs** has advised us of a ship modeling magazine collection for sale. One of our past members and strong supporters, **Tom Banaszak**, would like to sell his collection and is asking \$125.00 for the lot. The collection consists of: "Fife Rail", Vol.1

#1; Vol.4 #2-4; Vol.5 #2 & 34; Vol.6 #1-4. "NBSP" Vol.7 #1-4; Vol.8 #2-4. "Model Ship Wright" Vol.1 #1-4. "NRG" Spring 1967 to June 1994 (94 issues + 1974 Index & Roster). Contact Tom at 630-963-6207 or email at TOMBK7011@HOTMAIL.COM.



**Ken Goetz**, our Treasurer, says: "Please note - If you have not paid your 2010 dues yet, this will be your last issue of the *Forecastle Report*. If you are unsure about whether you paid or not, contact me at 847-678-4249". **Don't go AWOL mates!**

### 2010 OFFICERS & STAFF

President (Commodore) - Tim Riggs..... (847) 697-9552  
Vice Pres (Flag Captain) - Gus Agustin.....(847) 398-5208  
Treasurer (Ship's Purser) - Ken Goetz .....(847) 678-4249  
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Editor (Signals Officer) - John Mitchell .....(847) 392-2259  
Photographer (M. Chief) - Leon Sirota .....(847) 541-6285

## March Meeting Notice

### Developing a Presentation

By Tim Riggs

One of our Club's goals is to encourage more members to not only suggest ideas for meeting presentations, but come forward and give a presentation on their favorite subject.

To help achieve this goal, Tim will show us how to develop material for a presentation, including working with presentation software such as MS/Powerpoint. Techniques will be discussed and demonstrated on the Club's laptop.

This is one session you won't want to miss; a real chance to expand your computer skills.

Our next meeting will be at 7:15 p.m. Wednesday,  
March 17, 2010  
At the Community Presbyterian Church  
407 Main Street in Mount Prospect

## ● Web Site Navigation ●

By Leon Sirota & John Pocius

Leon got the laptop up and running on the internet and John took us through all the very neat places to "click" on,

in order to navigate through the site. Photo galleries, both on current projects and those already launched, were the real eye openers. Seeing one's own model so well presented on the web really makes one

proud to be a member of this club - very gratifying. The blue field on the left of the home page (above) lists all



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Web Site, continued from Page 1

Welcome
Meetings
News
Upcoming Events
Photo Gallery
On The Ways
Newsletter
Join Us
Resources
Links

of the main topics: *Welcome* (Home Page), *Meetings* (Coming schedule), *News* (from the local/national modeling world), *Upcoming Events* (local/national), *Photo Gallery* (finished models by modeler), *On The Ways* (current projects featured in our "Ships-on-Deck"), *Newsletter* (Sample), *Join Us* (application form), *Resources* (where to buy stuff), *Links* (other nautical web sites of interest to modelers).

The *Welcome* page outlines the goals of our club and always shows a representative photo of a member's or associate member's model (changes frequently) in addition to our club logo and a contact link to our President's or Vice President's email site.

A lot of wizardry is also included in the *Photo Gallery*, allowing you to enlarge a model's photo as well as show the entire modeler's collection in sequence.

*On The Ways* allows you to view an entire sequence in the development of a model. This is a great resource for our members to chronicle the building of their model.

The *Newsletter* tab allows viewers interested in becoming members to download an "Adobe" (.pdf) readable file of an older newsletter.

The *Resources* and *Links* tabs should not be overlooked, especially if you are hunting for parts or technical references on your particular model. John has been adding to these lists and welcomes any suggestions for good web

Links
Ship Model Clubs
Organizations
Maritime Museums
Historical

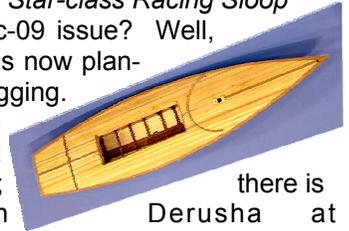


sites to include. It was amazing to see how far afield you could go in finding things like ship plans and ship museums, just to mention a few.

All of us should extend our highest praise and greatest thanks to Leon and John for their work on this web site. It really has put our club front and center on the modeling stage.

## Ships on Deck

Remember **Steve Wheeler's** *Star-class Racing Sloop* that we saw back in the Dec-09 issue? Well, he has finished the hull and is now planning the fittings for her rigging.



Steve says: "The blocks on the real boat were made by a company called "Harken"; there is a guy in Michigan (Dean Derusha at [www.scalemodelco.com](http://www.scalemodelco.com)) who is licensed to make, among other things, miniatures of Harken's hardware". Straps and side plates on the model blocks are photo etched stainless steel and they mostly have Delrin sheaves...Steve made wood sheaves and side plates for two blocks to simulate the fiber reinforced phenolic that was used on a couple of them. "These are by far some of the best scale modern blocks I have ever seen and they



are available in several scales": Feast your eyes on some of the photos of the fittings. Thanks, mate, for giving us a heads up on these great model fittings.

**Sid Wotman** brought in a very interesting artifact; a segment of the printing plate for the 1947 3¢ "USS Constitution" postage stamp. This segment was cut from the master sheet printing plate and sold as a souvenir.



An image of that stamp, as displayed in many a stamp collection, is shown at right. Thanks for sharing your treasure with us mate.



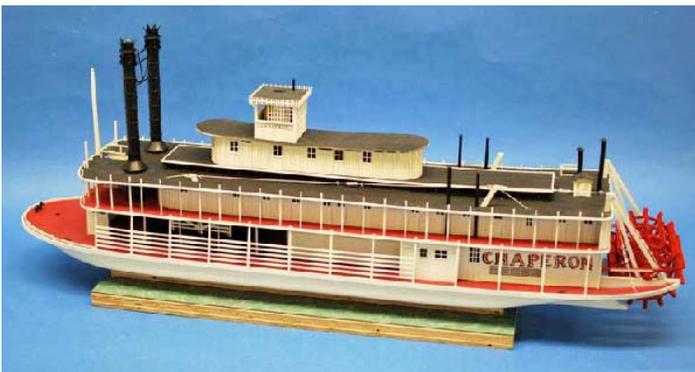
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*Ships-on-Deck, continued from Page 2*

**Kenneth Wallenberg**, our guest tonight (and our newest member), is building the ca 1851 Clipper Ship *Flying Cloud* from scratch and using plans from an old "Popular Mechanics Magazine" as his source. The plans are in a scale of 1" = 1.5' and are of amazing detail. We are all asked to lend a hand with Ken's project, as he has a feeling it was a lot to bite off. No problem, mate!



**Kurt Van Dahm** has a near-finished model of the stern-wheel steamship *Chaperon* (1:48) by "Model Shipways".



Recent additions were the "Hog chains & turnbuckles". These were cables stretched fore and aft to help overcome the tendency of these flat bottom ships to hog, or buckle in such a way that the bow and stern became lower than the middle. Kurt made the cable from wire, rather than use the cord supplied in the kit, and scratch built the turnbuckles rather than use the photo-etched kit parts.



The stern wheel discs were all very accurately laser cut but the kit missed the wheel's outer ring, which Kurt scratch made. Also, a kit instruction error was made in how to mount the wheel crank arms.

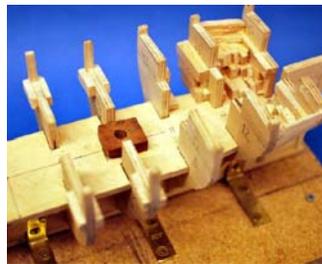
Some historical perspective on these ships from Kurt was that the average life of a river boat was about two years, what with hitting snags, blowing up the boilers or running aground. The hulls were very light with little framing, so they were very vulnerable to accidents.

Thanks, Kurt, for the enjoyable look at this icon of our maritime history.

**Bob George** showed us the initial work he has done on a 1:78 scale model of the Clipper Ship *Cutty Sark* (ca 1870). Bob is scratch building this model using an old set of "Sergal" plans he bought



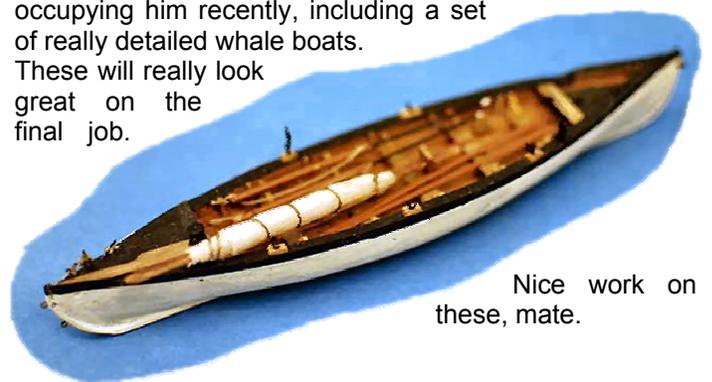
some time ago from "Model Expo" and construction details using the book by N. Longridge, "*Cutty Sark*".



Building from a plank-on-bulkhead plan was supposed to save him some time, but Bob isn't so sure it has, as the book detail is for a solid hull. Spaces between bulkheads will be filled in with some scrap balsa or other wood to make final planking easier.

Since the *Cutty Sark's* lower masts were iron, Bob is planning on using brass tubing to duplicate this. Great looking start, mate.

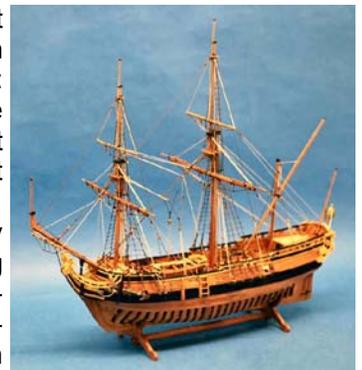
**Bob Sykes** is now well into his next model, the whaler *Charles W. Morgan*. Some of the fine details have been occupying him recently, including a set of really detailed whale boats. These will really look great on the final job.



Nice work on these, mate.

**Helmut Reiter** says he sort of thinks he is finished with his 1:36 model of *La Belle*: "everything I want to have done, is now done". That does not mean that he won't improve on it in the future.

He decided to show only the standing and running rigging and not the sail handling tackle due to the relatively small scale. His main interest was in the carving and wood work and not the rigging - and that is a feast for the eyes we'll be enjoying in these photos for many years to come, mate.



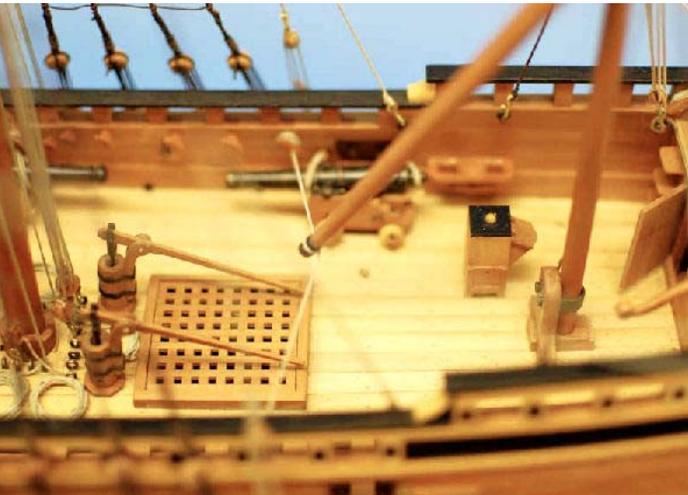
*See Ships-on-Deck, Page 4*

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



Stern detail showing fine carving and elegant brass work on the stern lantern.



Main deck details showing the finely done pumps, compass box, grates, mast step and cannon.



The ship's boat was a great achievement in itself, as were the functional gun port lids. Everywhere you look, there is something to fascinate you completely. A museum piece!

**Bob Filipowski's** 3/16" = 1' model of the *Arrowsic* has, to quote him, "Turned out to be more of a project than I thought".



The solid hull has become quite a challenge, since it was so unsymmetrical. This has require Bob to do a lot of filling to achieve the proper hull contour - a real job of marquetry.

The *Arrowsic* is a two-masted coastal schooner built in Maine that sank in the 1840's. A model of this ship is on display at the Maine Maritime Museum in Bath - thus Bob's interest in building his own example.

Templates of the shear line, camber and profile were used to check the hull dimensions, having first mounted the hull into his building jig (pictured in November 09).



**Jim Merritt** says he has all the standing rigging completed on his 1:54 model of the *Yacht Mary* by "Mamoli". (This was the yacht of King Charles II of England, ca



1660, and was based on similar vessels built by the Dutch. It was named after his sister Mary).

Work is progressing on the running rigging, which he is doing off the model; less chance of "collateral damage" that way.

Sails are also being done up with appropriate images traced from a copied plan onto the velum sail material and then painted in. The gaff sail was loose footed.

Jim hopes to finish up before the weather gets too nice to be working in his shop - cut off is April. Let's hope! Nice work, Mate.



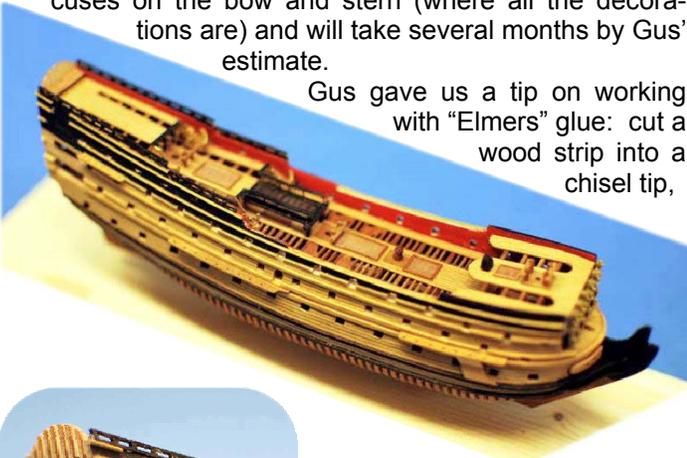
*See Ships-on-Deck, Page 5*

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

**Gus Agustin** has, since last month, glued the two halves of his 1:384 model of *St. George* (ca 1701) together and planked the hull using 1/32 x 1/64 strips. Work now focuses on the bow and stern (where all the decorations are) and will take several months by Gus' estimate.

Gus gave us a tip on working with "Elmers" glue: cut a wood strip into a chisel tip,



soak it in water and scrape it lightly over the glued plank to remove any extra glue off the plank's surface - saves cleanup later.

Now, how did Gus make the hull? He carved it from a solid block, hollowed it out, cut it into 1/32<sup>nd</sup> inch slices, and glued it back together to form the open-frame hull. Any warping of the

slices are eliminated, once they are all glued together. Let's all try that at least once, eh mates? Gus, you are a magician!

**Richard Romaniak** brought in his 1:150 scale model of the French 74 *Le Superbe*, ca 1783. This is another of Richards marvelous composite models based on a plastic kit by "Heller" that has been



bashed beyond recognition. One would be hard pressed to see its origins. After investing 34 months in this job, he is now working on the yards! Plenty of concentration here!

Beautiful job. The results are well worth the effort, mate.

## ● USS Independence (LCS-2) ●

By **John Mitchell** with **Bob Filipowski**

Bob Filipowski sent me some photos he had received a while back that he thought were most remarkable. His footnote to one photo was: "She's turning at 43 knots



here. Note the absence of a bow wave." That description covered the *USS Independence* (LCS 2) and seemed so remarkable to me that I was sure there must have been some mistake. A war ship turning at 43 knots, and with no bow wave? It sounded like walking on water. It begged for more detail.



Sure enough, the *USS Independence* was not a figment of our imagination. [Wikipedia](http://www.wikipedia.org), the free encyclopedia ([www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org)) provided the answers I was looking for. *USS Independence* (LCS-2), the class prototype for the *Independence*-class littoral combat ship, will be the sixth ship of the United States Navy to be named for the

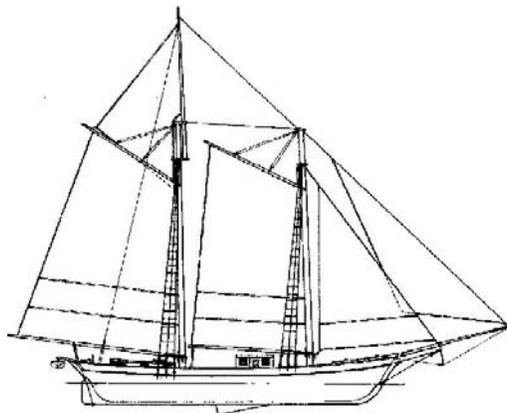
**General Characteristics**  
**Class/type:** Independence-class littoral combat ship.  
**Displacement:** 2,176 tons  
**Length:** 428 ft.  
**Beam:** 104 ft.  
**Draft:** 13 ft.  
**Speed:** 44 knots (51 mph).  
**Range:** 4,300 nm  
**Compliment:** 40 core crew + 35 mission crew  
**Propulsion:** 2x gas turbines, 2x MTU Friedrichshafen 8000 Series diesel engines, 4x water jets, retractable Azimuth thruster, 4x diesel generators.  
**Aircraft:** 2x MH-60R/S Seahawks, MQ-8 Fire Scout  
**Armament:** 5x 57mm gun, 4x 50-cal guns, 11-cell missile launcher.

concept of independence. It is the design competitor produced by the General Dynamics consortium, in competition with the Lockheed Martin-designed *USS Freedom*, the prototype for the *Freedom*-class littoral combat ship. It is intended as a small assault transport with a variety of capabilities depending on the mission module installed. The ship is a trimaran design capable of over 40 knots (46 mph), and was delivered to the US Navy at the end of 2009.

This ship is truly the new vision of the modern Navy. and will have the capability to deter pirates as well as smugglers. ❖



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