



Forecastle Report

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

● Scuttlebutt ●

COMMODORE **Bob Filipowski** opened the meeting with 25 hands on board and moved directly into an announcement that **Fred Widmann** was celebrating his 71st birthday with us this night. To add to the occasion, Fred brought in a delicious pound cake made by his wife to share with the company. An evening to remember, with thanks to Mrs. Widmann. Fred was also happy to share the birthday honors with **Bob Sykes**, who just turned 80. Many happy returns, mates



Kurt Van Dahm reminded us of some noteworthy dates:

- Kurt confirmed that there will be a Tri-Club Symposium in the fall of 2014.
- The 2014 NRG conference will be held in St. Louis in October. Never too soon to plan, mates.
- The NRG tour in Charleston is now full and there were some changes to presenters.
- The "I Hobby" show will be 5-6 October at the Schaumburg Convention Center.
- The IPMS show is slated for November 9th.
- The "Military Miniatures Show" takes place on October 12th at the Hilton Hotel in Schaumburg.

Bob advised that we were offered the use of the Church's small elevator for those who have special needs. The elevator is very small and very manual in operation, so its use needs some planning. Let Bob know, if you need a "lift" (pardon the pun), and he will make the arrangements.

Our attention was called to an article written by Bob in this month's issue of *The NRG Journal*, in which he described his methods for creating treenails. The treenail holes were drilled with a #79 bit and we were able to view his working model (with the aid of a magnifying glass!) at the meeting.

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October Meeting Notice

Specialized Tools & Tips Roundtable

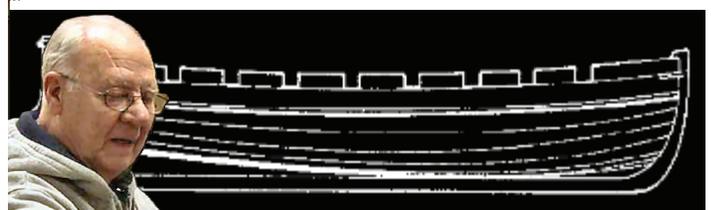
Here's a chance for everyone to get into the act. Bring your most prized tools, the ones that you have built yourself to do that "special" job, and share your "never fail" techniques with your fellow mates. If everyone participates, we'll all come away with something learned and something new. One tip per member is all that's needed to make the evening a success!

Our next meeting will be at 7:15 p.m.
Wednesday, October 16, 2013
At the Community Presbyterian Church
407 Main Street in Mount Prospect

● Plank Bending ●

By Ray Oswalt

As reviewed by John Mitchell



Ray really made it look easy! As with any professional effort, planning and preparation play a big part in doing a job successfully - and Ray had clearly done his homework.

The key element to his success was his concept of bending down into rather than over a form. Much effort had been made to create cut out shapes in a block of wood corresponding to the frame station lines of his long boat. This permitted Ray to press wet strips of wood down into these cut outs using a special heating iron (shown on p.2).

With a little patience and perseverance, even a large strip of wood was made to conform to the desired shape using this technique.

See "Planks", Page 2

The Forecastle Report, Oct. 2013 - P.2

"Planks", continued from Page 1



Two styles of heating irons were demonstrated, the first being a simple soldering iron and the second a special heating iron with a cylindrical end. The latter type was favored due to its ability to more evenly distribute the heat and its ease in helping to shape wood to a curve.

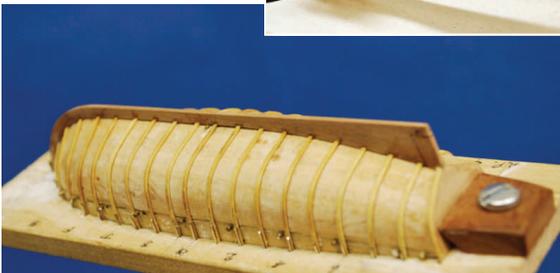
The two tools pictured at left are both available from "Model Expo" as

well as other hobby outlets.

Ray's bending templates were cut from scrap wood in his shop and had enough thickness to help form the curves without twisting.



Here you can see Ray shaping a wide, thick strip of cherry wood to demonstrate the flexibility achieved after the wood has been soaked in water.



The end result is a really fine looking model, whose ribs conform ex-

actly to the shapes drawn on the plans.

Thanks, Ray, for a really sharp presentation and for helping to make the evening something special for all. ❖

● Ships on Deck ●

Doc Williams has installed a modified windless in his *18th Century British Long-boat* (1:48) following the



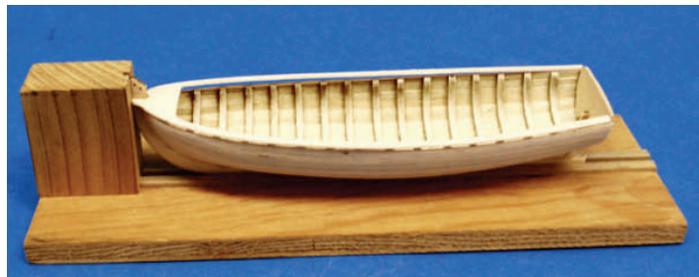
photos supplied by Bob Filipowski of actual 18th Century models.

The boom traveler has also been installed over the tiller arm and the rudder nicely mounted.

Really fine work, mate.



Allen Siegel says he is having great fun building his *British Long Boat* as part of the group-build program. With all the good examples at hand, we're sure another fine result is assured. A really nice building board, mate!



Bob Ivan is working toward adding the decking to his model of a *Martin Hunting Boat* built in Racine, WI about 1903. Bob loves to create beautifully shaped hulls but seldom finishes them with decks or superstructure, so this model will be a real exception for him. We're looking forward to seeing the results, as she's looking great so far.



See "Ships-on-deck", Page 3

The Forecastle Report, Oct. 2013 - P.3

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

Ed Morris brought in his large scale model of the battleship USS *Missouri*, which he has just finished "rehabbing". New rigging, paint, antennas and search planes were added together with an all-around cleaning. This model was originally built to be an R/C model but, after adding necessary ballast, it was so heavy it barley moved in the water. Looks great as a static model mate!



Bob Sykes has completed his 1:60 "Euromodel" kit of the HMS *Mordaunt* ca 1681 and she is a real beauty.



Bob's work far exceeds what you would get if you just built to the kit's spec. He always gets the most out of any kit he builds. Fine details include working blocks with moving pulley wheels! Nice going, mate!



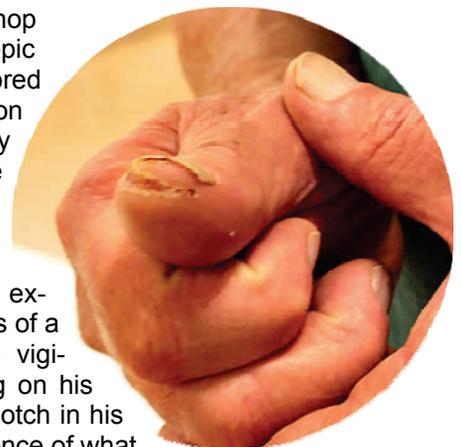
Kurt Van Dahm has finished the interior of his 1/12 scale model of the 1935 Burger built sloop *Splash* and also roofed in the cabin as well as covered the deck. Still on tap are the rudder, prop and painting before rigging is added.



The top photo was taken looking forward through the cabin hatch and shows the instruments mounted to the cabin bulkhead on either side of the forward port hole. Super nice detail, mate.

Modeler's alert: Shop safety is always a topic that can't be ignored and, when working on bench saws of any kind, we have to be extra vigilant.

That being said, **Doc Williams** was gracious enough to exhibit personal results of a temporary lapse in vigilance when working on his circular saw. The notch in his thumb is mute evidence of what can befall the unwary.

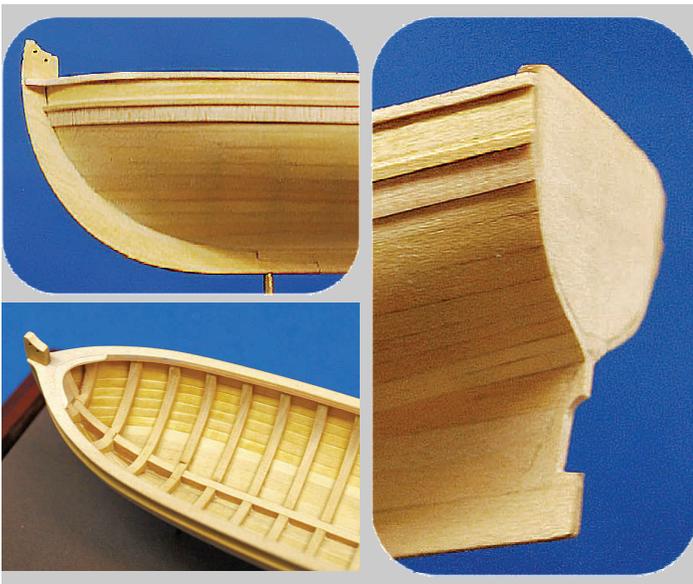


Thanks, Doc, for helping to make a very important point!

The Forecastle Report, Oct. 2013 - P.4

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

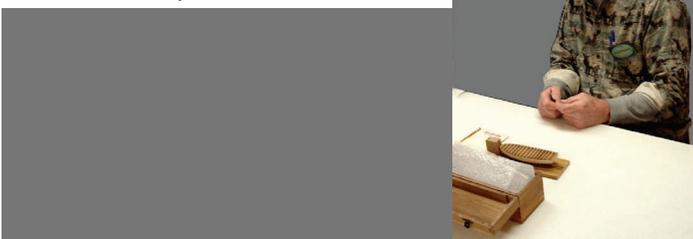
Bob Filipowski is now working on gudgeons, pintels and the rudder for his 1:48 model of the *English Longboat*. This is the master model for the ongoing group build project and Bob's leadership is having great results among the participants, as evidenced by the many fine examples being shown every month.



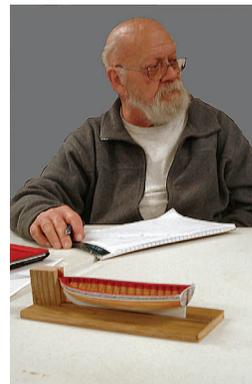
What we see here is the absolute best spiling work you are likely to see anywhere. Bob's model is a class on modeling all its own and we're all very lucky to be the students.

Here are a few of Bob's students:

Fred Widmann was off to a good start back in April, 2013. →



Tim Riggs' work from 01/13 was already nearing completion when we saw it last. He's likely completed his model by now. How about that, Tim?



Doc Williams has come a long way since he showed us his work back in April, 2013 (left).



Allan Siegel has made rapid progress in a short time with his work. At left is his model back in

August, 2013 and at right is where he is today. Looks like Bob's students will graduate with honors when the course is completed.



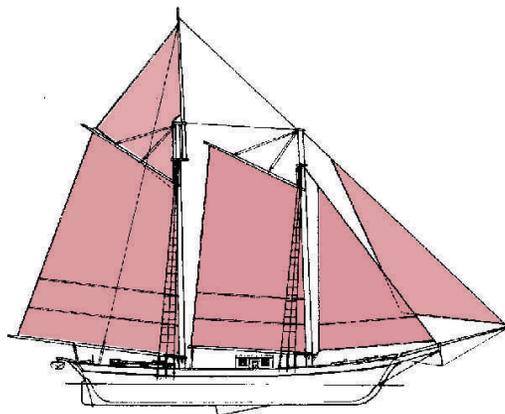
John Mitchell has finished planking his second effort at a *ship's tender* and the experience was worth the effort.

Planks were tapered fore and aft and three drop planks were added at the turn of the bilge for everything to fit. Elmer's Carpenter's glue (yellow) was used, as it had a thicker consistency than the white variety and set up faster, as well. This allowed gluing the strakes to each individual rib without run off and without edge gluing the strakes. Glue was applied using the tip of a round toothpick and the strakes were bent by first soaking in warm water then forming over a hot curling iron. Trim and paint to follow.





John R. Mitchell, Editor
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