

**THE BROADAXE**  
NEWSLETTER  
of  
THE SHIP MODEL SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY  
*Founded in 1981*



Volume 32, Number 6

June, 2014

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
June 24, 2014**

At 6:45, interim, acting, temporary, leaving the board, secretary **Larry Friedlander** called 20 members and two guests to order. One guest was **David Sprinzen**, from Berkeley Heights, a new modeler who is working on a plastic kit of the Constitution. The other guest was **Jason Clark's** son **Noah**. Those of you paying attention to the photos may have noticed that there was something different at this meeting, instead of the usual, orderly rows of chairs, we tried a little experiment and arranged the chairs in a circle. The point of this was to bring everybody into the conversation and encourage a somewhat less formal style of meeting. The feedback (three comments) was very positive and I hope that this is something we will do again in the future.



**Treasurer's Report**

**Ken Schuetz** was on vacation. If he comes back he will tell us how much money we have in the bank. If he doesn't come back we're going to assume he used that money to go on vacation. Start saving your nickels, dimes and quarters; dues (\$20) will be collected in July.



**OLD BUSINESS**

Elections for the board were held at the June meeting. **Tom Ruggiero**, and **Ken Schuetz** were reelected, **Jim Lavelle** was voted in as vice president and **Steve Maggipinto** was elected to be secretary. We thank



**Chuck Passaro** and **Larry Friedlander** for their service to the club and wish them fair skies and following winds as they trudge off to the back of the room.

Several members of the group attended the Admiralty workshop held at **Tom Ruggiero's** house on June seventh and eighth. Reactions to the workshop were mixed. Before the workshop began all were invited to submit subjects for David Antsherl to discuss. Many members made suggestions and these were forwarded to David for his approval. In the end he selected five and of those five many were subjects that had been covered at previous workshops. In the event, three of those subjects were covered fully. Several of the participants felt that there was not enough discussion of those subjects and too much emphasis placed on practicing the skills demonstrated. Admiralty Workshops is planning on presenting a new subject in the fall; sail making, and this might prove interesting. There is some discussion of attempting to have this workshop presented again up in our neighborhood for our club but if it is, then the agenda would have to be very clearly laid out with a specific understanding of how much of this is demonstration of techniques and how much of it will be practicing of those techniques.

As more and more participants in the group-build finish their model of the pinnace, consideration is turning to the next modeling subject. Every group build is open to all the members of our society. If you have a suggestion of a kit or scratch build subject please offer it at the next meeting. This month's group-build meeting was held at **Barry Rudd's** house on July 12.

**Chuck Passaro** has come into possession of some ships plans that he will bring to the meeting with the hope that some of the plans will find a happy home.

Another of our ongoing discussions concerns the need to increase membership. While some members feel that a weekend meeting interferes with family life and other obligations, other members feel that the weeknight meetings are inconvenient because of the work schedules of those members who are not yet retired. So, a suggestion: would it be possible to vary our meetings, most months on Tuesday evenings and once every two or three months on Saturday afternoons? Maybe we would be able to attract new members by offering this flexible schedule.

We thank **Roy Goroski** for bringing in some clean and empty storage boxes, which he offered to any of the members who wanted them.

We want to thank **Tony and Sally Alworth** for the continuing use of the Aardvark quilt shop (748 Speedwell Ave. Morris Plains, next to the Plaza Restaurant). Club members who have not attended an



Aardvark meeting are missing a very enjoyable experience. On June 21st four club members, **Tom Ruggiero, Roy Goroski, Larry Friedlander and Jim Lavelle** met at the Aardvark Quilt Shop. Even though **Tony Alworth** was away on his vacation, he continued to allow us the use of his wife's shop. While Roy was busy working on the stem of his pinnace and Jim was exploring the frustrations of photo etch additions to his World War II era submarine, Tom was busy helping Larry assemble the Sherline mill purchased from the Bob Brehm estate (more accurately Larry was watching

and occasionally assisting, Tom). Month after month the Aardvark meetings provide an opportunity for the members to profit from each other's experience and knowledge. As we do every month, we encourage all members of the club to join us at the Aardvark to work on their individual projects, to gain from each other's experience and to have a good time.

The latest plans for selling the remains of Bob Brehm's estate are as follows; **Tom McGowan** and **Michael Storch** will complete the list of items for sale and that list will be posted on our website. Members who wish to buy items from that list will get in contact with Tom or Michael. The remaining unsold items will be offered at a garage sale to take place at Bob's home some time in the fall.



### NEW BUSINESS

**Mason Logie** was visiting the *USS Cole* and got into a discussion about fleet week. If any of our members are



interested in displaying some of their models during Fleet Week please get in touch with Mason.



### TECH SESSION

Model ships of many eras make use of brass. This may be in the form of cannon, belaying pins, strops, vents, funnels, masts and various other pieces of nautical equipment. One of the ongoing dilemmas is how to give

these pieces of brass an authentic finish. While a few pieces of equipment might remain polished brass, the vast majority were painted or treated in some way that required less maintenance. Modelers have responded to these challenges in a number of ways such as painting, polishing and varnishing, patinating, and blackening. **Jim Lavelle** wanted to blacken some items for one of his projects and has come up with a new, safe and inexpensive way to do it.

Most of us have used the tried-and-true Micro Mark solution called Blacken-It and most of us have found it to be an acceptable but not perfect method. In the process of using Blacken-It, Jim discovered that he got a



better shade of black on copper items than he did on brass. Therefore the question became how do we make brass items into copper items...and quickly the answer appeared: electro-plate them.

This is the procedure that Jim devised. Begin by creating a solution which has copper sulfate suspended in it. Do this by dissolving a teaspoon of "Root Kill", available at Home Depot (2 pounds for \$13), in about a pint of water. The "Root Kill" is powdered copper sulfate, which will dissolve in the water and provide the needed transfer medium. Find a step-down transformer of between 3 and 9 VDC, cut off the plug from the end of the wire and strip the ends of the wire. Attach the positive wire to a piece of heavy copper wire; Jim used a 4" piece of #6 gauge solid wire from Home Depot. To the negative wire fasten the object you desire to copper plate. When everything is in place plug in the transformer. Copper molecules will migrate from the copper wire through the solution to the item you are plating. Gently agitate the solution and periodically turn the object around so that the copper plating is applied evenly. This process should take about five minutes. With the lower voltage transformer it will take a little longer but the results may be a little more even. It is advisable to remove the object from the solution every few minutes and wipe it off to remove the crust of oxidation that forms and allow new copper to be plated on a clean surface. When a thin and even coating of



copper is achieved unplug the transformer and remove the object from the solution. You now have a nice copper colored object but it has not been blackened. That will be accomplished in the next step, which is to suspend the copper plated object in a solution, 1:10 to 1:20 of Liver of Sulfur gel mixed with water. Liver of Sulfur gel can be bought from jewelry and beading supply companies. Liver of Sulfur also comes in solid form but this degrades quickly and should not be used. Liver of sulfur works best when mixed in warm water

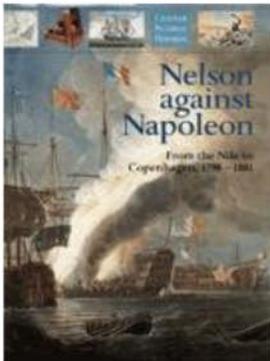
but be careful to never mix it into boiling water, as this will produce noxious fumes. Hot water straight from the tap works best. Move the object every few minutes to be sure that is exposed to fresh solution. When it has achieved the proper color remove it from the solution, gently wipe it off and then stop the chemical process by immersing the object in a third solution of baking soda and water for about 15 minutes. Voila! Thank you Jim for coming up with such a safe, inexpensive and attractive solution to this problem.

We are hoping for a revived focus on tech sessions. They **do not have to be individual efforts** but can be a collaborative effort between several members who might be approaching some aspect of modeling in different ways. *It would be wonderful if over a two or three year span every member had participated in a tech session.*



## BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS

**Jason Clark** brought in a copy of the book *Nelson Against Napoleon, from the Nile to Copenhagen. 1798 – 1801*, published in 1997 by Caxton editions, in

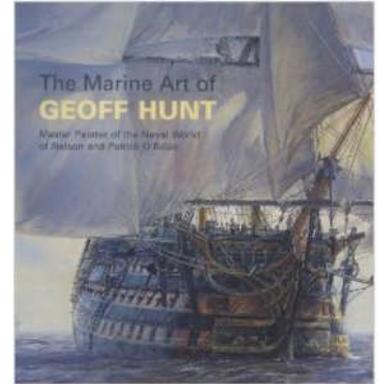


association with the National Maritime Museum. It is out of print but used copies are available on Amazon starting at \$2.70 plus shipping. The book belongs to a series titled the Caxton Pictorial History Series. This series has five titles in total, covering the period of the American War for Independence to the end of the Napoleonic wars, including The War Of 1812.

Jason says; "This series is a great research tool for anyone interested in the period. Each book gives an episodic view of the time period covered, and is richly illustrated with engravings, ships plans, and paintings. Each illustration is numbered, captioned, and lists the NMM reference number for the original work located in the NMM collection. I would recommend the series to anybody who has an interest in the time period."

Many of us are familiar with Geoff Hunt through his illustrations for the covers of the Aubrey novels by

Patrick O'Brian, but Mr. Hunt has done more than paintings of Nelson era ships. **Ken Whitehead** has brought in the book *The Marine Art of Geoff Hunt*, a collection of many of his works illustrating ships from Nelson's time to our own, warships to America's Cup racers, oilrigs, coastal craft and day sailers. Along with the illustrations are chapters discussing Hunt's research and working methods that show his concern for authentic detail and atmosphere. For modelers his illustrations are both an inspiration and a resource. It is interesting to compare this book with the book about dioramas discussed in last month's *Broadaxe*. In both cases there is the search for a balanced, dynamic and realistic point of view. The book costs about \$25 from Amazon and is highly recommended for the excellent illustrations and discussion of the creative process.



## SHOW AND TELL

At recent meetings we have had a wide variety of show and tell items, many of them works in progress rather than finished projects. Some of our members are still working on their first or second model while others have lost count of their show and tell presentations.

**We are highly appreciative of members who take the time and effort to bring their models in and share their successes and frustrations.**

**Hans Gottschalk** brought in his model of the Mantua *Santa Maria*, a Spanish ship built in 1490 in Cantabria, Spain. Financed by seven noble Genovese bankers, she was the slowest of Columbus's three vessels. After reaching the Americas she headed south and ran aground on the coast of Haiti on December 25, 1492. Unable to free her, the crew of the *Santa Maria* broke her up and used the wood from the ship to build a fort that was named *La Navidad* (Christmas).



a Spanish treasure ship that sank during a storm in the vicinity of Key West Florida. Don is using illustrations from the Seafarers series volume "*The Spanish Main*", published by Time Life books as inspiration. He is making his own sails and is using the rigging plans from a book called "*The Galleon*" by Don Kirsch, translated from the German, as a guide. Don has used this project as something on which he could use lots of stuff left over from earlier ship model projects. Don's objective in building this model was to get rid of the "someday" pieces left over from other models. From the lion on the beak to the lantern in the stern, many pieces from his spares box have found a home. Nice job Don, now, how about a Russian treasure ship designed by a Pole?



Hans has made several improvements to the kit. He made a new keel and bulkheads, double planked the hull and deck, and replaced the kit wood with wood left over from the many other models he has built. This is his first build where he has made his own rigging lines and sails. Hans made the rope on a model Expo ropewalk following the methods that **Chuck Passaro** has laid out. About 20 years ago Hans took an 18-month antique upholstery course and bought an industrial sewing machine. Using those skills and fine cloth made by Johnson and Johnson intended for plaster casts, Hans has sewn all his own sails. Painting the Red Cross on the sails made them a little heavy and he will do it differently next time. The sailors on the decks are modified HO scale figures.

**Jason Clark** brought in his model of the *Syren*, the Model Expo kit designed by **Chuck Passaro**. He has been working on it for about a year. It has been a big learning experience because it is only his second wood ship, and his first plank on bulkhead kit. The copper plating is all individual plates, cut from copper tape and

**Don Otis** brought in his final version of his model of the generic Spanish treasure ship of the 1600s, which he is calling the *Atocha*. The model is a modified version of the Model Expo *Mayflower* kit. Don is not trying to be historically accurate; he is building a personal version of



stamped with nail-head simulations in a home made jig. Because he made a slight error in the height of the port sills, Jason had to lower the deck, which he did by making it out of 1/32nd inch planking. Rather than apply some kind of treatment to the copper plates, Jason is going to allow time to create an authentic looking patina.

Our guest, **David Sprinzen**, showed us his model of the *Constitution*. He is building it from the Revell kit. The hull is plastic but David is planking it with wood from Midwest. He is also making a wooden gun deck. David is contemplating replacing the plastic shrouds and ratlines with real model rope. The bottom of the hull is painted with copper spray paint and the rest of the hull is painted with acrylics. We hope to see David at many more meetings.



### GROUP BUILD

On Saturday six members of our group met at **Barry Rudd's** house for our monthly group build meeting. In addition to Barry, **Ken Pomplun**, **Chuck Passaro**, **Jim Lavelle**, **Roy Goroski** and **Larry Friedlander** attended. We had a chance to admire Barry's sawdust extraction fitting on his new Hegner scroll saw, pore through dozens of ship model plans brought over by Chuck, learn the intricacies of setting a coaming on top of the deck beams and fitting a grating into that coaming, make plans for a raffle to be held at the end of every meeting and discuss the subject of our next group build. The leading contenders are the Echo cross-section from

Admiralty Workshops and the Speedy, a cutter, plans designed by **Chuck Passaro**. As usual, we had an opportunity to catch up with each other's lives: minor



car crashes, wrist pins, stalkers of several types and other subjects too inconsequential to mention. The next group build meeting will be held in the middle of August and at that time we will probably decide on the subject of our new build. If you want to have input, please attend the meeting.

We encourage members and guests to attend our meetings. If you are at all interested in model shipbuilding you will receive a warm and tolerant welcome. We were all beginners once and remember the difficulties of our first efforts. Our members range in experience from those making their first model to old salts who will be happy to share their expertise if asked. Our meetings consist of a short business session followed by "show and tell" which is an opportunity for members to present and discuss their latest efforts, a "books and publications" session for presentation of new and interesting ship related literature, a time for refreshments so that attendees can mingle and enjoy each other's company, and a "tech session" where one or more members give a demonstration of a ship modeling technique. Ship modeling is an exercise in creative problem solving. Few people who have not put their hand to this or something similar can appreciate the skill needed and the beauty of the results. Come join a group where you can develop those skills and your efforts will be understood and appreciated.

## CANDIDS



Yup, *it has* been a long day...



Just Brilliant! But how did he do that?



Never too young to start, Dad...



What do you suppose these two are plotting?



Now just hold on a minute!!



We continue to look for a new site to hold our monthly meetings. Every alternate site so far proposed comes with its own problems such as expense and location. While we continue to explore other options we may be forced to accept that our present situation is the "least-bad" solution. We welcome suggestions from the membership.

Remember that you can now fill out and print your *Show and Tell*, *Books and Publications* and *Tool Talk* forms on your computer before you come to the meetings. The forms can be found on the website under the heading "resources" On the "resources" page you will see

“downloads” at the lower left. Keep clicking and you will be able to add your information directly onto the form and then print it. This is intended to help you fill out the forms more completely and to give you more time to interact with your friends at the meeting rather than scribble out your notes as fast as you can. <http://www.shipmodelsocietyofnewjersey.org/downloads.php>

*If you are bringing a model to a monthly meeting, please download the Show & Tell form and fill it out in advance. Download the Books and Pubs form and the December White Whale Auction form at the above link also...*



#### WEBSITE & LENDING LIBRARY

**Website:** <http://www.shipmodelsocietyofnewjersey.org/>

Ed. Note: For those of our membership who have yet to check out the club website, here is an example of the kind of resources that are available on the site:

[http://www.shipmodelsocietyofnewjersey.org/resources/Downloads\\_page/RESIN\\_CASTING\\_MADE\\_EASY.pdf](http://www.shipmodelsocietyofnewjersey.org/resources/Downloads_page/RESIN_CASTING_MADE_EASY.pdf).

Missed one of the past issues of the *Broadaxe* or need to look up a previous article...? Did you know that back issues of the *Broadaxe* dating from 2002 to the present are available online at the club's website?

<http://www.shipmodelsocietyofnewjersey.org/the-broadaxe.php>

**Links to Resources and Other Clubs' Newsletters:**

<http://www.shipmodelsocietyofnewjersey.org/important-links.php>

**Club Library (Lending Library) - The Ship Model Society of New Jersey**

<http://www.shipmodelsocietyofnewjersey.org/club-resources.php>

**ModelShipWorld.com:**

<http://modelshipworld.com/>

**Barry Rudd** will present the tech session for next month. The subject will be gold leaf.

Since I will no longer be secretary, this is my last edition of the *Broadaxe*. I will not miss the monthly deadline, the pressure to say the same thing in different ways or the discomfort of listening to myself talk as I hear my voice in the recorder, but I will miss the interactions I've had with the members as I struggled to accurately represent their contributions. Many thanks to the gentlemen on the boards I've worked with who have been helpful, supportive and appreciative. Most of all I want to thank Michael Storch who took the rough materials I gave him and converted them into a polished and beautiful publication. His sense of design and attention to detail are unsurpassed. Many thanks Michael for your time and effort. The *Broadaxe* now passes into the good hands of Steve Maggipinto.

*The next club meeting is July 22 at 6:45.*

The '**BROADAXE**' is published monthly by *The Ship Model Society of New Jersey*, a nonprofit organization dedicated to teaching and promoting ship modeling and maritime history. Membership dues are \$25.00 for the first year and \$20.00 per year thereafter.

Visit our Web Site at:

<http://www.shipmodelsocietyofnewjersey.org> where a Web version of the **BROADAXE** can be found. The **BROADAXE** is distributed by both US mail and e-mail in PDF format.

Regular meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 6:45 P.M, at the Millburn Free Public Library, 200 Glen Avenue, Millburn, New Jersey. Guests are always welcome.

Contributions to the **BROADAXE** are always welcome, and SMSNJ members are encouraged to participate. Articles, shop hints and news items may be submitted directly to the Editor as typed manuscript or electronic files, either on discs or by e-mail. Handwritten notes or other materials will be considered depending on the amount of editing and preparation involved.

This issue of the **Broadaxe** was written by Larry Friedlander, edited by Steve Maggipinto, and distributed by Chuck Passaro and Ollie Ericksen.

Your ideas and suggestions are always welcome in the Broadaxe. Please submit them to Steve Maggipinto.

If any member would like an email copy of the roster please drop a note to Steve Maggipinto at the email address listed at the end of the Broadaxe. If there is an error on the roster let Steve know and the roster will be amended. Please make sure that your spam filter is not blocking emails from Chuck Passaro because if it is, you won't get the Broadaxe and member bulletins. You can eliminate the filtering by adding Chuck Passaro's email address to your contact list. Please keep the secretary informed of any changes so that the roster can be kept current. If you would like a printed copy of the roster please send a SASE to the secretary (address at the end of the Broadaxe) and one will be mailed to you. Rosters are also available at the monthly meetings.

Please keep your contact information up to date. Your email address is particularly important because that is the main avenue of communication for club announcements. In case of emergencies such as last-minute cancellations due to weather, emails will be sent to the members.

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**IN MEMORIAM**

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We are sad to report that one of our members, **Ed Marrie**, has passed away. In early April of this year, Ed was watching the Mets on TV and his wife went up to bed to sleep. She found him the next morning. He had evidently died of a massive heart attack. Though he was

in increasingly frail health, Ed was functioning and happy to the very last. He was very proud of his granddaughter's achievements as an equestrian and we will remember him as a very meticulous, well organized and painstaking modeler. We will miss him.

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**Newsletter Editor**

Steve Maggipinto  
328 Sand Shore Rd  
Budd Lake, NJ 07828

The next club meeting is **July 22 at 6:45.**

MILLBURN PUBLIC LIBRARY

**Barry Rudd** will be doing a tech session on gold leaf.



We encourage you to bring in your models [finished or works in progress] and/or any kits [regardless of the stage of construction] that you have questions about or might generate discussion from the membership.

Take advantage of the collective wisdom of the club.

**Please note that the Executive Committee** will start the business meeting at 6:45 “so that we can get to the fun stuff more quickly.”