



Volume 32, Number 12

## Newsletter of the Ship Model Society of New Jersey

December 2014

### In This Issue

- [Upcoming Events](#)
- [December Meeting](#)
- [Setting the Record Straight](#)
- [Bahrs Event](#)
- [White Elephant Auction](#)
- [Did You Know?](#)
- [Broadaxe Planning](#)
- [Useful Links](#)
- [Echo Group Build Photos](#)
- [Club Information](#)

Our next club meeting is  
**January 27 at 6:45.**

MILLBURN PUBLIC  
LIBRARY

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".



### December Notes...

Best wishes to all for a Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Following tradition, our December meeting focuses on the annual White Elephant Auction. The Aardvark Quilt Shop gathering this month is scheduled for December 20th and the Echo Group Build will take place at Tom R.'s house on December 27th. As always, we appreciate the generosity of Tony and Sally Alworth in making quilt shop space available to us. At the risk of being repetitive, the quilt shop gathering offers a great opportunity to work, share, learn and catch up on what is happening in our respective lives in a relaxed, casual setting.

Tom McGowan attended a David Antscherl workshop last month on making sails. Tom's advice after sitting through the session: "DON'T!" The process is very tedious. If you decide to try this, expect to spend months on the project.

Farewell and best wishes to Bob Fivehouse who is moving with Jean to Colorado in order to be closer to family members. We will greatly miss your skills, advice, wit and leadership. We hope that over the 30 years you spent with the club, you were able to collect referral fees from local optometrists for driving us to them with your famous miniatures.

If you still owe dues, please pay Ken Schuetz. **A reminder – payment for purchases made at the White Elephant Auction are due at the January meeting (1/27/15).**

Further reminders:

- Please fill out "Books and Pubs" and "Show and Tell" forms in advance of the monthly general session. If you are not able to do this, forms will be available at the meeting.
- Wherever you see text highlighted in blue, click the text for more info. Clicking a topic ("In This Issue") will take you directly to the page on which the topic appears.
- If you want hot chocolate, empty the K-cup into a styrofoam cup and *then* dispense hot water instead of placing the cartridge in the machine and hitting the brew button. Keeps the nozzle clean and free flowing.

Our condolences and deepest sympathy to Ozzie Thalmann on the loss of Joan. Our thoughts and prayers are with you, Ozzie. May Joan rest in peace.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### JANUARY

- 10 - Aardvark Workshop - 10:00AM, 748 Speedwell Ave., Morris Plains
- 27 - Monthly Meeting - 6:45PM, Millburn Library, 2nd Floor
- TBD - Echo Group Build

### FEBRUARY

- 21 - Aardvark Workshop - 10:00AM, 748 Speedwell Ave., Morris Plains
- 24 - Monthly Meeting - 6:45PM, Millburn Library, 2nd Floor
- TBD - Echo Group Build

### MARCH

- 21 - Aardvark Workshop - 10:00AM, 748 Speedwell Ave., Morris Plains
- 24 - Monthly Meeting - 6:45PM, Millburn Library, 2nd Floor
- TBD - Echo Group Build

## On the Horizon

Staten Island Show - Tentative  
May 2015 (Fleet Week)

Joint Clubs Conference  
April 2015 (Annapolis?)

Mid-Atlantic Conference - Tentative  
June 2015

## Tech Sessions

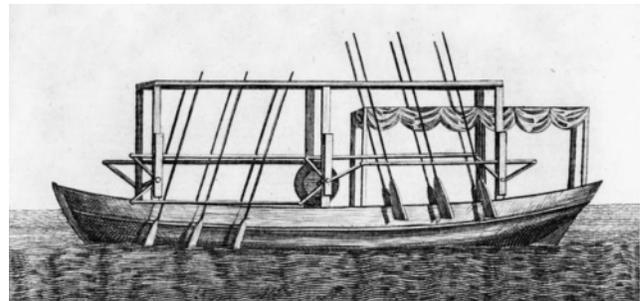
January 2015 - Seizing (Rich LaRue)

## DECEMBER 16 MEETING

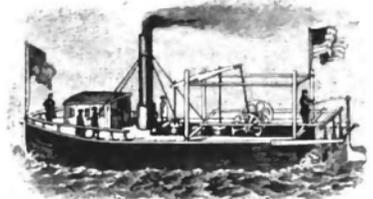
In attendance: 25 members, 1 guest: Frank Summers from Basking Ridge. This is Frank's first visit. John Maughan attended his third meeting as a guest and was unanimously voted in as a new member. Welcome John!

## SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

I realize this is a major stretch for many of us, but think back to 5th grade history, to what Mr./Mrs./Miss/ Sister \_\_\_\_ taught us about the first steamboat. Robert Fulton and *Clermont*, right? Actually, no. That honor belongs to John Fitch (1743-1798), an American inventor and engineer. Fitch dabbled in a variety of careers as a gunsmith, clockmaker, surveyor and supplier to the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. He is best known, though, for development of the first commercially viable steamboat. Fitch based his propulsion unit on [James Watt's](#) steam engine, developed in the late 1770's in Scotland. Unable to secure an original Watt engine because Britain forbade export of technology to its former colony, he created his own with the help of [Henry Voigt](#), a Philadelphia clockmaker. When finally placed aboard a specially designed vessel, the Fitch/Voigt engine was located amidships and linked to a bank of oars mounted to



starboard and port. It was a primitive design, but it worked. Fitch and Voigt worked on improvements over the next few years, and in June 1790, launched a 60-foot boat propelled by several stern mounted oars, operating much like a swimming duck's feet. This boat carried up to 30 passengers and traveled between Philadelphia and Burlington, New Jersey. Fitch applied for a patent for his invention and was awarded one on August 26, 1791. Unfortunately, the patent only covered the boat design, not its engine, and the patent office awarded 3 other patents the same day for competitive steam engine designs. The loss of a monopoly on the steam engine caused some of Fitch's investors to back out, and he was left without the financial resources to carry on. And what of Fulton? In all fairness, he was the man who made commercial steamboat travel a reality on a grand scale. Largely due to his efforts, the steamboat was a major factor in the success of the American industrial revolution. It facilitated the rapid transport of raw materials and finished goods, and opened up the country's interior to exploration and settlement.



— Data for this article from [Wikipedia](#)

## BAHRS EVENT



The Bahrs show, held on December 7th, was a big success. The day was clear, windy and cold. Facilities at Bahrs were more than adequate, although the area was a bit dark – good thing we brought our own lighting. Although there were no signs at the restaurant advertising the show, it had been publicized – there was press coverage, and a photographer showed up. Seven members attended and were able to get some work done on builds-in-progress in addition to greeting visitors and discussing details of the club. Although the show started slowly,

traffic picked up around noontime; a good 30 people stopped by once the lunch crowd got there and there was lots of interest and dialogue. Typical questions ranged from “How long have you been doing this?” to “Where do you start?”, “Where do you get supplies?”, “What is the history of this ship?” etc. For the most part, visitors were very impressed. One of the more interesting contacts made was with the [Sea Scouts](#), an organization keen on doing something jointly with our club. Thanks to members who brought models to work on and display: Tom Ruggiero, Ozzie Thalmann, Jim Lavelle, Jeff Fuglestad, Tom McGowan, Roy Goroski and Mason Logie.



[Click here for more photos](#)

## WHITE ELEPHANT AUCTION

Thanks to all members who brought items for this annual year-end event. There was a large selection available in all price ranges and few articles went unsold (aka "Going once...going twice...going HOME!"). Included were some excellent values. There were even some free items: empty Altoids boxes perfect for storing and protecting small pieces and assemblies. Due to thoughtful preparation and record keeping by Jim Lavelle and moderation by Tom Ruggiero, the auction went smoothly. Transport from table to podium was provided by Dan Caramagno. Larry Friedlander "sweetened" the pot by offering a cookie, home baked by Elaine, for each purchase greater than \$5.00! Offerings ran the gamut from kits to a scroll saw, books, a Currier & Ives print, and a beautiful set of wood chisels.

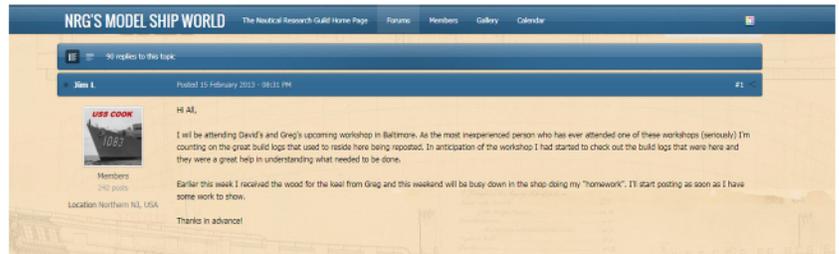


[Click here for more photos](#)



## DID YOU KNOW?

I think most of us are aware that (among others) Jim Lavelle is working on the Echo Group Build project. But did you know that Jim is publishing his progress online? Yep, it's true. At the [NRG Model Ship World](#) site. Click [here](#) and [here](#). To see how others are making out with their Echo cross-sections, select [this link](#).



## BROADAXE PLANNING



2015. It's a new year and a chance to make a fresh start. If you're like me, you gave up on New Year's resolutions a long time ago, but that doesn't mean that planning has to go out the window. So, right after Christmas, I sat down in a quiet place with a blank *sheet of paper* and a *lowly pencil* (don't spread that around!) and just started writing. The topic? Things members might like to see in *The Broadaxe* in 2015. Articles I might write. Articles other members might write. Here goes:

- Life aboard ship in the 18th century
- Care and feeding of the... (Jim Byrnes saw, paintbrushes, chisels, etc.)
- Different types of wood – what each is best suited for, how to best work with them.
- Bending wood planks and frames
- A primer on celestial navigation
- Realistic seascapes for waterline models
- DIY display cases
- "Now where did I see that?" (an index of topics

- covered in old *Broadaxes* – a long term project)
- Videos of Tech and Tool Time sessions for YouTube posting
- Featured member – How I got into modeling and where it has taken me
- Evolution of the naval gun (multi-part)
- Evolution of naval battle tactics
- A history of... (e.g., the America's Cup)
- Q&A – Where a member asks a question and other members offer solutions (a regular column?)
- Airbrushing – equipment, paints, techniques (further documentation from Chuck's presentation a few months ago)
- My favorite tool – why I like it, how I use it

And this is just scratching the surface. This is *your* Broadaxe. What would you like to see in it? Are you willing to write an article on a topic listed above or one of your own choosing? Please let me know: [stevemagg@optonline.net](mailto:stevemagg@optonline.net).

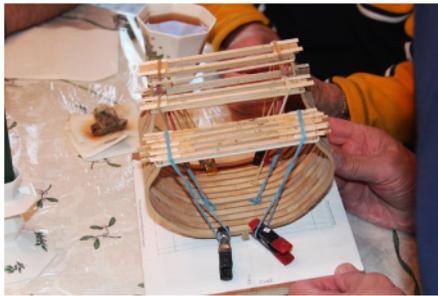
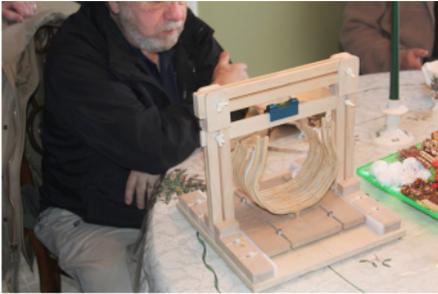


## USEFUL LINKS

- [Ship Model Society of New Jersey website](#)
- [Example of website resources](#)
- [Past issues of The Broadaxe](#)
- [Links to resources and other clubs' newsletters](#)
- [Club lending library](#)
- [Model Ship World](#)

## ECHO GROUP BUILD

December 27, 2014



[Click here for more photos](#)

# The Ship Model Society of New Jersey

*The Broadaxe* is published monthly by The Ship Model Society of New Jersey (SMSNJ), 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 email in PDF format.

Regular meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 6:45 PM, 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 email. Handwritten notes or other materials will be considered depending on the amount of editing and preparation involved.

*The Broadaxe* is written and edited by Steve Maggipinto, and distributed by Chuck Passaro and Ollie Ericksen.

Your ideas and suggestions are always welcome. 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 below. 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 Steve Maggipinto at the address below 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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