



Volume 37, Number 10

## Newsletter of the Ship Model Society of New Jersey

October 2019

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Our next club meeting is  
**October 22nd at 6:45PM**

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### SEPTEMBER NOTES...

**Meeting.** The meeting was opened at 1840 by President Bill Brown. There were 21 members and one returning member – our good friend Ernest Conner came back for a visit. Ernest is a pilot for an airline in the Virgin Islands. We don't get to see him very much, but it is always good when we do. Welcome Ernest! The meeting's Tech Session was "Planking a Frigate" by Chuck Passaro, the practical application of last month's plank bending Tech Session. The meeting adjourned at 2015, whereupon several members went to the Caldwell Diner. [Meeting photos.](#)

**Last Month's *Broadaxe*.** Bill Brown asked everyone if they read their *Broadaxe*. Of particular note was a biography of our friend, Ossi Thalman. Bill said that the piece was excellent. He wanted to thank Steve Maggipinto for producing *The Broadaxe* every month, as well as Tom Ruggiero for supplying the meeting report. As Secretary, I will tell you that Steve does a tremendous job. He takes the meeting report and adds other items of interest. For example, the two part presentation of World War II naval camouflage, as well as the piece on the NS *Savannah*, were entirely researched and presented by Steve. Thank You Steve!

**Treasurer's Report.** Tom Ruggiero presented the report. We have a good balance in the Club account. The hats payments and income have a zero net change and the Barbecue was successful and within budget.

**Next Month's Meeting.** Our next meeting will be Tuesday, October 22nd.

**Saturday Workshop.** There will not be a workshop in October. The next workshop will be in November.

**Tech Session for Next Meeting.** October's Tech Session will be "Brass Blackening Methods" presented by John Marinovich. We thank John for stepping up to do a Tech Session.

**A Quick Note.** We did not forget "New Business" in this issue – there was none brought up at the September meeting.



## OLD BUSINESS



**SMSNJ Apparel.** Hats were delivered to the members who were at the meeting. The remainder will be available at subsequent meetings.

**SMSNJ Barbecue 2019.** We had our Barbecue on September 14th at Tom's house. A great time was had by all. See pictures below and the next page. Bill Brown thanked Tom and Clara Ruggiero for hosting the event. [More pictures.](#)

**Speedwell Museum.** We proposed two weekends in the spring of 2020. We await a response from the museum staff.

**Philadelphia ModelCon.** Philadelphia ModelCon was held on Saturday, September 28th. Your Secretary, Bill Brown, and Chuck and Pat Passaro attended. We were invited to the event by Joshua Fichman of the Philadelphia Ship Model Society (PSMS). The PSMS partnered with the Independence Seaport Museum (ISM) to host its first ever ModelCon in order to bring the hobby closer to the public. The format was similar to what we did in April at the Roseland Library. Also in attendance were member Ryland Craze and his wife Pam. Ryland was showing no favorites, as he wore his Hampton Roads Ship Model Society jersey with an SMSNJ hat! See photos of the event following the Tech Session review below.

**National Lighthouse Museum Exhibit 2019.** As we have done for several years, we have been invited back to the National Lighthouse Museum to do a one day show and demonstration. This is a fun event, a good time to talk with the public, and get work done on your current project. Member Carmine Bianco first met us at one of the exhibits. This year we will be there on Saturday, November 9th.

## Barbecue 2019





## TECH SESSION

# Planking a Frigate

The Tech Session at the September meeting was “Planking a Frigate” presented by Chuck Passaro. Planking is something that can make or break a ship model. Chuck described how he does his planking without resorting to the full size method of spiling. He used his current project, HMS *Winchelsea*, in the demonstration.

In preparation for planking a hull, Chuck could not oversell that the hull needs to be accurately “lined off.” Lining off the hull separates it below the wales into two or three bands. These bands contain the individual planks. The edges of the planks are marked lightly on each frame, bulkhead, or solid hull.

The first step is to get the correct taper for the plank. Chuck begins by nipping off the forward part of a plank until it fits nicely into the rabbet. He then uses a sanding stick (similar to an emery board used on fingernails), to file under the nose of the plank until it fits flush into the rabbet. Next, he lays the plank against the hull and marks the required width at several frame locations, referencing the line off marks that were laid on before. He then moves on to his bending board. The board has a radiused stop that he uses to bend the plank. He clamps the plank and very slightly dry bends it. Then he wets the plank lightly with damp fingers. Next step is applying heat using a travel iron set at its highest setting. The one that he uses is a decade old and cost all of \$15. Since the wood is damp, the heat effectively steams it. As he gently edge bends the plank, he clamps it down to the bending board. The next step is waiting until the plank cools. The amount of spring back varies with the type of wood used, harder woods being more difficult to bend. This technique works very well.

Now, he again places the plank back on the hull, pushing it up against the adjacent plank. If there is a gap between the planks, he marks the location with a very light pencil mark. He then brings the plank back to the bending board, and places the part to be bent further at the fulcrum stop on the board. He rewets that location, and once again bends the plank. After the plank cools, he places it back on the hull. If it fits snugly against the adjacent one all is well. If not, he re-bends it as done previously.



The next step is to slightly bevel the edge of the plank so that it butts up against the adjacent plank. At the bow, the bevel slants to the back of the plank. On parts of the hull that are concave, the bevel would be going in the opposite direction.

Once beveling is complete, Chuck simulates caulking by running a soft pencil (#2) over the edge. He only does this on one edge so as not to overdo simulation of the caulked joint. From this step it's on to gluing.

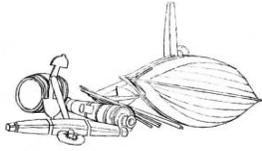
For planking, Chuck uses medium viscosity cyanoacrylate. Others will use only wood glue, but with the extensive planking Chuck has done over the years, he has never had a problem with cyano. He will typically do three or four frames at a time, using a very small drop with a toothpick. As these set, he proceeds to the other frames until he reaches the point where the plank will butt up against the next one. Generally, planks have a “four plank butt” pattern, meaning that butts in adjacent planks are separated by four planks.

Chuck noted that he does not edge glue the planks as some others do. His reasoning is that if he doesn't like the effect of the plank, or its color match, he can remove it with little chance of damaging the adjacent plank. That would not be the case if the planks were edge glued

Philadelphia ModelCon, September 28, 2019



## SHOW AND TELL

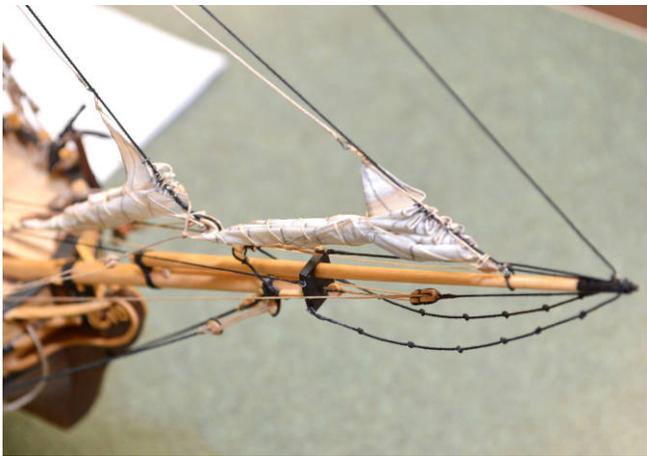


### *Independence*, Sloop of War

— Ken Whitehead

The Artesania Latina kit *Independence 1775* is not based on any known plans or history. The scale of Ken's model is 1:35, which seems to translate to 1 foot = 5/16 inch. To Ken, it appeared the model would look way too big in this scale, so he decided to reduce it to 1 foot = 1/4 inch. As a result, everything – including the stern carvings and quarter badges – had to be created. All the deck furniture needed to be carved.

Since the last showing, the rigging has been completed. The anchors have been created, painted to look like metal and installed. The model is now complete with the raising of the ensign. The flag is the New England Naval Ensign which was flown from 1775 to 1777. Great job, Ken.



## SHOW AND TELL



### HMS *Liverpool*, British Frigate, built 1757, depicted 1777

— Tom Ruggiero

Tom brought his in-process HMS *Liverpool*. Since the last time we saw it, all the standing rigging on the lower and topmasts has been completed, including the bowsprit rigging. The jib boom has been installed. Tom has also attached the rail and safety net at the head. For the netting, he found dark brown tulle (used for ornate dresses, etc.). The net scales out to squares that in 1:96 are about 4 inches. This is about correct. Tom has a whole roll of the material, so if you need some, let him know. Next come the Bowsprit horses with the net for holding the staysail when not set.



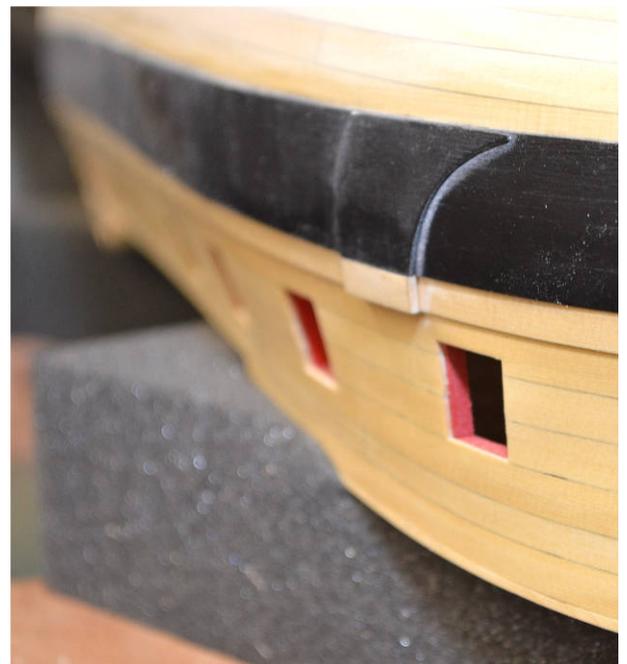
## SHOW AND TELL



### HMS *Winchelsea*, 36-Gun Frigate

— Chuck Passaro

The *Winchelsea* was a 36-gun British Frigate, one of the largest class of frigates in the Royal Navy. Chuck's model is 1:48 scale. He brought it to the September meeting to demonstrate his planking technique. Since last month, he has completed the first planking belt below the wales on both port and starboard sides. A masterful job, Chuck.



## SHOW AND TELL



### Schooner America

— John Marinovich

John brought the trail boards and name plates for the *America* that he had engraved by Sanchez Engraving LLC (formerly Rios Engraving). This will be a real time saver for John. He also brought an engraving that he will use for his 1:24 scale model of a long 32 pounder. All of the work is very well done. The owner of the engraving business is Jose M. Sanchez, email [riosengraving@gmail.com](mailto:riosengraving@gmail.com), website [www.riosengraving.com](http://www.riosengraving.com), (973) 539-5749. Jose's business is located at 92 Elm Street, Morristown, NJ 07960. Jose also does awards and plaques.



### A Bear – Not a Ship

— Mason Logie

Mason arrived at the meeting with an Atlas Black Bear kit. He brought it to show how he was able to highlight the bear's fur with light grey wash by Tamiya.



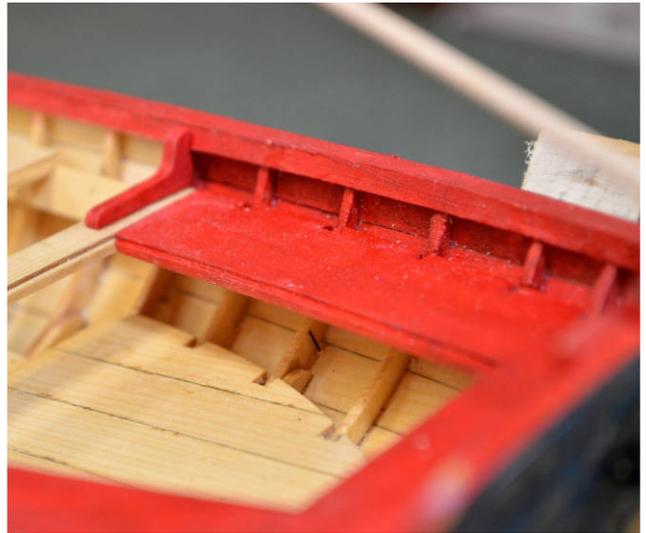
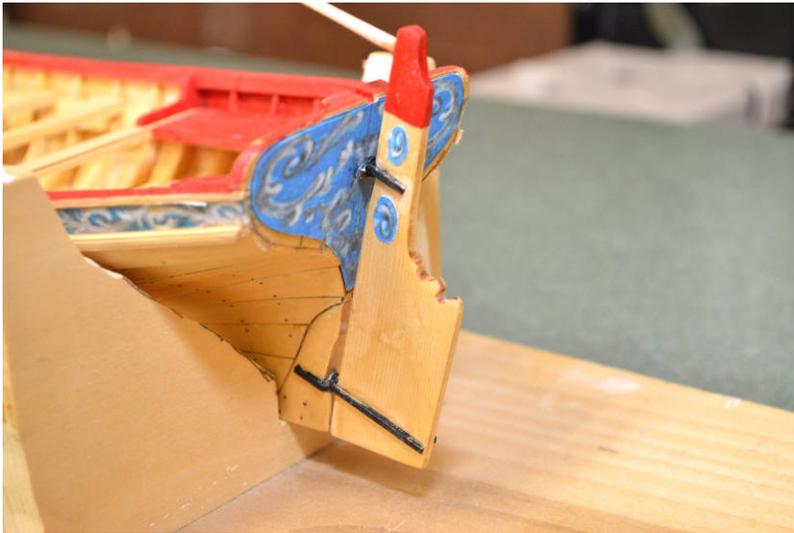
## SHOW AND TELL



### Medway Long Boat

— Steve Fletcher

Since last month, the molding profile has been scratched in and the strip installed. The rudder is now completed and hung. Steve notes that he broke fittings three times in an attempt to have the rudder traverse side to side. He decided that leaving it in a fixed position worked best. He has completed the grapnel and the thole pins on the port side. Once the starboard side thole pins are in place and some of the paint is touched up, the model will be complete. Steve has still not decided whether he will mast and rig the boat. Very impressive, Steve. Chuck noted that it looks like Doc is one of the first to complete the joint build project.





## THE MARKETPLACE →

Beginning next month we will be featuring a new column called The Marketplace. It will be a forum for those wishing to sell or buy equipment, partially or completely built models, parts, supplies, anything associated with our hobby.

As you know, we conduct an annual White Elephant Sale, usually in the early months of the year. We have also announced several times that members are welcome to bring items they would like to sell to any meeting rather than waiting for the yearly event. This somewhat limits the seller's exposure, as only about half our members regularly attend monthly meetings. The new forum is designed to increase that exposure. We would also like to expand this offer to all our readers, that is, those in other clubs to whom we send *The Broadaxe* each month.

I Want to Sell	I Am Looking For

The new column will consist of 1 or 2 sections depending on what is submitted: "I Want to Sell..." and "I am Looking For..." We ask that sellers provide the following:

- Name and contact information
- Photos (preferably more than 1)
- Condition of item (e.g., new, working, needs electrical repair, etc.) and what is included
- Selling price
- Location of item
- Link to web page of item if it is still being sold new

We ask that buyers include:

- Name and contact information
- Detailed description of what is sought
- Any conditions (e.g., must be new)
- Range of what the buyer is willing to pay

Please send all information to Steve Maggipinto at [stevemagg@optonline.net](mailto:stevemagg@optonline.net).

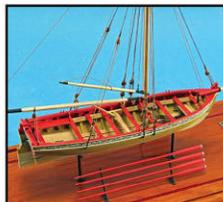
For anyone concerned that this might not be in keeping with our 501(c)(3) status, note that this will strictly be a forum, a service, and all transactions will be taking place directly between buyer and seller without involvement of the club. We will not be collecting a percentage of proceeds from any sales, and will not be charging anything to either buyer or seller.

## THE NAUTICAL RESEARCH GUILD

"ADVANCING SHIP MODELING THROUGH RESEARCH"

Annual membership includes our world-renowned quarterly magazine, *Nautical Research Journal*, which features photographs and articles on ship model building, naval architecture, merchant and naval ship construction, maritime trade, nautical and maritime history, nautical archaeology and maritime art.

Other benefits include discounts on annual conferences, ship modeling seminars, NRG products and juried model competitions which are offered exclusively to Guild members. We hope you will consider joining our ongoing celebration of model ships and maritime history.



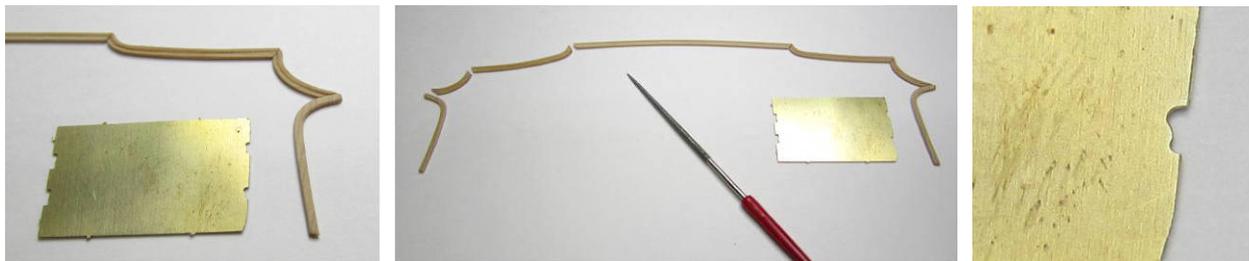
For more information contact us at: [www.thenrg.org](http://www.thenrg.org) or call 585 968 8111

## Scrapers

The Tech Session at the July meeting was a video about making and using scrapers to shape moldings. For those who were not at the meeting and members looking for more information, here are two different approaches to sourcing these tools.

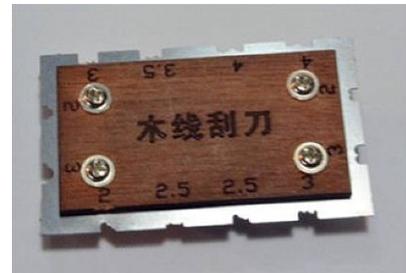
### Chuck Passaro

Chuck makes his own scrapers. He usually uses soft brass like that shown in the photos below. His scrapers don't last as long as a razor blade or a short piece of hacksaw blade (some prefer that as their material), but it's easier to create the profile he wants in soft brass. Chuck uses some thin brass sheet and shapes the profile by hand. He uses a combination of needle files and broaches and even a razor saw to initially cut the shallow slots in the brass edge. Then he carefully rounds off the squared slot with the needle files. He just goes slowly and if he screws up, he throws it away and makes another. Once he is happy with a scraper he test scrapes some molding.



### Larry Friedlander

Larry prefers to buy his scrapers. He has assembled the one opposite and has given it a little test run. It is smaller than the impression you would get from the photograph. But that means that the slots are more appropriate for the scales we use. [Buy one of these.](#)



Here are examples of the results you can get using scrapers:



Steve Fletcher's Long Boat



Chuck Passaro's *Winchelsea*

# 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 each month by email in PDF format.

Regular meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 6:45 PM, at the Roseland Free Public Library, 20 Roseland Avenue, Roseland, 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 edited by Steve Maggipinto. Your ideas and suggestions are always welcome. Please submit them to Steve Maggipinto at [stevemagg@optonline.net](mailto:stevemagg@optonline.net).

If any member would like an email copy of the roster, please drop a note to Tom Ruggiero at the email address listed below. If there is an error in the roster let Tom know and the roster will be amended. Please make sure that your spam filter is not blocking emails from Tom because if it is, you won't get member bulletins. You can eliminate the filtering by adding Tom'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 Tom Ruggiero 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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