



The Broadaxe



Founded 1981

Volume 34, Number 4

Newsletter of the Ship Model Society of New Jersey

April 2016

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Our next club meeting is
May 24 at 6:45PM

ROSELAND PUBLIC
LIBRARY

APRIL NOTES...

Our best wishes to plankowner Al Geigel, who is recovering nicely from quintuple bypass surgery. Al, we look forward to seeing you at future meetings and functions. We understand you have some projects underway that you're eager to get back into (e.g., a model of *Charles W. Morgan* for your daughter). A modeler's work is never done.

SMSNJ will be hosting the 2017 Northeast Ship Model Conference and Show (Joint Clubs) in New London. We will be putting together committees in the next 3 or 4 months to start planning the logistics. Any member who is interested in joining the overall planning committee or one of the sub-committees is welcome. A deposit has already been left to hold the Port 'N' Starboard Conference Center for Saturday, April 29, 2017.

To date, we have received only two requests for tech sessions. As you know, our club is loaded with talented and experienced craftsmen. If you have something you'd like to see demonstrated, we need to hear from you. If we can't find someone who has successfully done what you're asking for, there are resources on the Internet we can tap into. See the article "A Valuable Find" below for further information on this topic.

A reminder: June is fast approaching. That means that the faces you see at the front of the room each month will soon be facing the other way or in a different chair at the officer's table. To keep our 35-year old club active and moving forward we need to fill all 4 of these soon-to-be-vacant seats.

The next group working session will be held at 10:00AM on Saturday, May 21st, at Chuck Passaro's house.

Roy Goroski thanks all members for their kind thoughts and words on the passing of his Mom earlier this month.

APRIL 26 MEETING

Present were 22 members and 1 guest, Ryland Craze from the [Hampton Roads Ship Model Society](#). Ryland was up for the April 30th Joint Clubs Conference in New London. The meeting opened with a moment of silence in memory of Roy Goroski's Mom. [Click here](#) for photos from the meeting.

The theme of the April meeting was "Bring a Model Night". Barry Rudd announced he wanted to comply, but "she wouldn't come". Good one Barry!



UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY

- 21 - Group Working Session, Chuck Passaro's house
- 24 - Monthly Meeting - 6:45PM, Roseland Public Library, 1st Floor:
"Fun With Flags 2" Tech Session

JUNE

- 4 - Show at Pennsville, NJ
- 11 - Spring luncheon at The Kenilworth Hotel, Kenilworth, NJ
- TBD - Group Working Session
- 28 - Monthly Meeting - 6:45PM, Roseland Public Library, 1st Floor

JULY

- TBD - Group Working Session
- 26 - Monthly Meeting - 6:45PM, Roseland Public Library, 1st Floor

On the Horizon

Exhibit

November and December at the Morris County Library, Whippany, NJ



OLD BUSINESS



Spring Luncheon. Larry Friedlander passed around the menu (buffet style) from our chosen location, the [Kenilworth Hotel](#) in Kenilworth, NJ. Luncheon date is Saturday, June 11th, from Noon to 4:00PM. The club is being charged a flat rate no matter how many people attend, so the larger the number, the less expensive the cost will be per individual. With a partial club subsidy, the cost per person is \$30. A bargain for a superb buffet. If we want a cash bar, the charge will be \$180 extra. Tom R. asked that members email him if they are planning on going, indicating how many will be in their party.

New Jersey Folk Festival at Douglass College, Rutgers New Brunswick campus. Don Otis and Steve Maggipinto volunteered to represent SMSNJ at this event held on April 30th, the same day as the Northeast Ship Model Conference. The plan was for Don and Steve to man a table at the festival, displaying completed models and conducting a working session on projects-in-progress. For more information on the event and photos, see the article below.

Morris County Library Exhibit. This will be a 2-month event, most likely in the November/December time frame. Planning and logistics will be handled by Ken Schuetz, Steve Maggipinto and Jeff Fuglestad. We would like to have 35 or 40 models on hand. There should be plenty of room to show these, either in the library's permanent cases or on tables specially set up for the event. Ken, Steve and Jeff will be meeting with the head of library exhibits in early June to work out details. Please start thinking about what models you might want to supply for the show. We have displayed our models in the past at this library; the exhibit was very well received and it's always a good advertisement for the club.

Northeast Ship Model Conference, New London, CT. Last minute details, such as transportation and administration of the Jim Roberts Award, were discussed at the April meeting. For more info on the conference, see the article below.

NEW BUSINESS



There is a museum in Pennsville, a South Jersey community across the river from Delaware, not far from Wilmington. Our club has been invited to participate in Farm Day at the museum on Saturday, June 4th. Tom R. is planning to go and is inviting any other members who are interested to join him. He has been told there's enough going on in the community that an overnight stay would make for a nice weekend getaway. Tom thinks the format will be similar to the weekend following our old South Street Seaport experience when we exhibited at Alice Austen House in Staten Island. Let Tom know if you want to join him at this event.

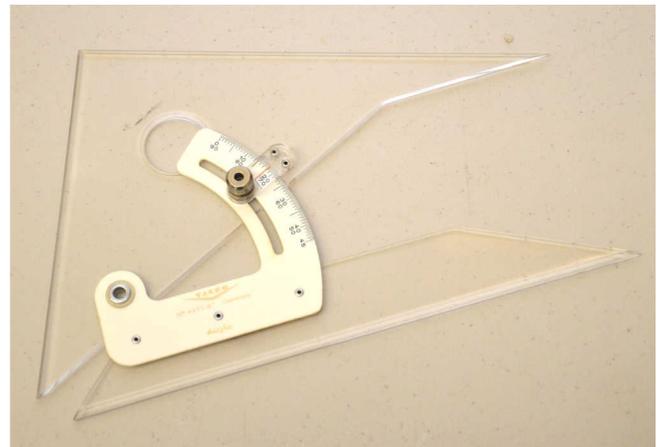
COOL TOOLS



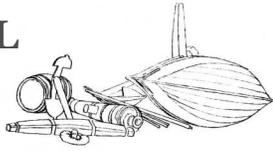
"Mr. Gadget", AKA Larry Friedlander, brought another of what appears to be an endless supply of tools – a variable triangle. This device is useful for transferring precise angles from plan to material or for scaling. Variable triangles are not very common, but Larry found one on eBay (where else?). It was used and discolored, but at \$5 for the device and \$3 for shipping, it was a real bargain.

Larry is not entirely sure how to best use it, but with a club full of engineers, he should have no problem figuring it out. Tom R. announced that he used a variable triangle in college. Larry, with his typical wit and the teacher's knack for quick comebacks, immediately added "...and you can use this when you go back to college". This to a room full of men in their 70's and 80's. Good one, Larry. Another rimshot. You should team up with Barry. The Larry/Barry show? The Barry/Larry show?

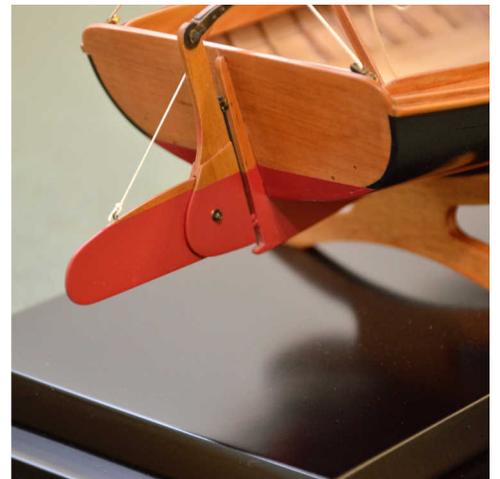
On the same subject, Tom R. said a few words about another great tool for modeling: [ship curves](#). These work much better for our purposes than french-curves, which tend to be too small and restrictive for the scales most of us work in.



SHOW AND TELL



Jeff Fuglestad discussed his completed 1/12 scale Catabout, a model we first saw in progress a couple of months ago. Jeff started the build in January; it took him 2½ solid months to complete. Wood used was pear, dogwood, cherry and heartwood mahogany. All the parts were handmade and they all work. The biggest challenge he faced was making the model look just like the full scale version he and Anne own. Jeff mentioned he would be doing a demo at the Joint Clubs Conference on the method he followed to make the parts. The primary material Jeff used was brass rod in ¼", ½" and ¾" diameter – each rod set in a vise and carved with a Dremel. The fittings were darkened in a solution engravers use by dipping each part in the solution and then washing it off. Jeff used a brass brush he purchased from Sears to create the patina shown on the model.



SHOW AND TELL



Barry Rudd brought a [Hannah](#) "bristling with guns". *Hannah* was the first US Navy ship and Barry admits his version of it is not entirely accurate. But, then again, who knows? It's the first model he scratchbuilt. He plans to leave it as it is, including not finishing the planking and placing only stub masts, a partial bowsprit and no rigging. The model was started as a club project several years ago (remember the Hannah Group Build?). Barry experimented with various techniques during construction. For example, he needed to make brass strips for the cannons but could not find a material narrow enough for the purpose. He had read that trying to cut brass strips, even with a Jim Byrnes saw equipped with a fine blade, left jagged edges. So he sandwiched wider strips between 2 pieces of wood, double taped both sides and then ran the assembly through the saw. That did the job – no rough edges. The only assemblies on the model that are not scratchbuilt are the gratings. These he purchased from Chuck Passaro.



SHOW AND TELL



Up next was **John Maughan** with a model of *Independence* purchased from a Lee Valley Holiday catalog. When John first saw a picture of the model he thought it was the coolest thing he had ever seen. His wife bought the kit for him as a Christmas present. He soon found that assembly was a bit more complex than he had first imagined. So he literally shelved the project, until one day he decided to get stubborn about finishing it and picked it up again. That decision was the start of a new career for John in miniature ship building. He was now hooked. In retrospect, there are some things about the model that John now finds "hideous", including the metal transom. But it was his initiation in the hobby and thus will always hold a special place in John's memory. The model has several nice features. One of these is the finish of the sails. John created the look of these by staining the fabric with tea, then crinkling the fabric and laying it flat. He added reefing lines. These were not included in the kit.



SHOW AND TELL



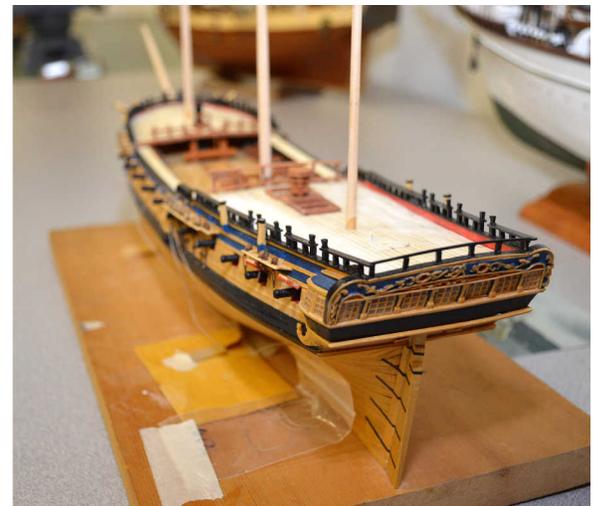
Don Otis continued commentary on his [Gorch Fock II](#), a sail training ship model he brought to the event at Rutgers. He started the [OcCre](#) kit as a fun thing for himself, having previously been occupied for some time filling requests from family members and friends. He decided early on to exclusively use kit parts for the build, even though several are not the best or to scale (e.g., the wide deck planks). The kit is an amalgam of several versions of the vessel, originally launched in 1958. In her latest form, *Gorch Fock II* features air conditioning and modern electronic gear. The ship has also been modified to carry female cadets, who at latest count numbered 19. In building the kit, Don used Chuck P.'s gratings, leftovers from a previous purchase for several models of the *Mayflower*. Don admits he is having a lot of fun with the kit. When it's done, he just might give it away, as his children are not-so-subtly hinting "Dad, we don't have room for any more models". An interesting aside: Don does all his building standing up. He adopted this method by reading about a similar technique used by novelist Nathaniel Hawthorne.



SHOW AND TELL



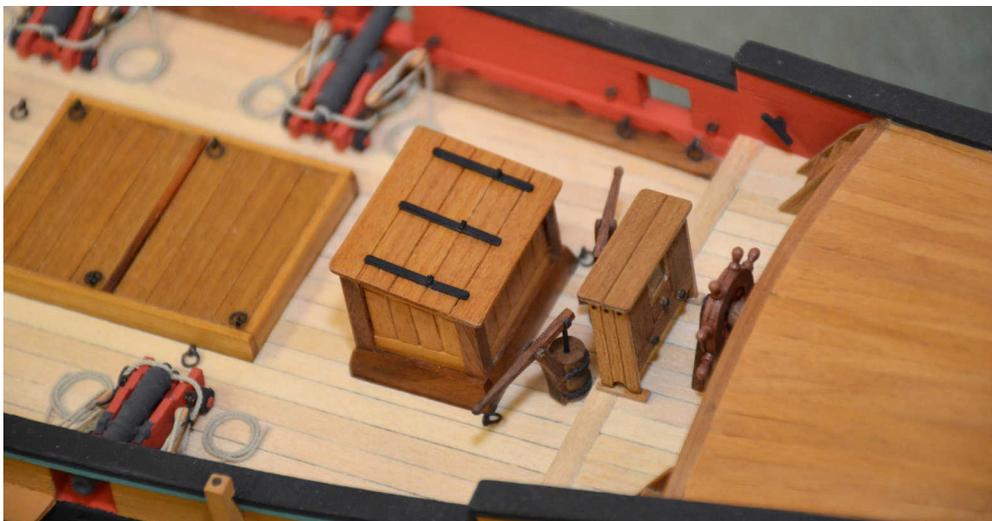
Nearly 21 years in progress, the pace of **Tom Ruggiero's** *Liverpool* build is accelerating. He is currently working on the channels, chains, chainplates, deadeyes and backing links, procedures for which he will cover in a future tech session. Tom knocked 2 cannon barrels into the hull and had to pull up some of the quarterdeck to fish them out. The chains are made using a David Antscherl technique using [cold heat](#) to solder the center links. The making was relatively easy, the mounting something that can drive one stark raving mad. What Tom had done previously is mount the deadeyes and chains on the channels with the channels off the ship. He affixed them, put the covering board over them, then mounted them on the ship. To do this he had to turn the model on its side, drill holes and pull the shrouds through – not straight down but at an angle. A real pain. The new technique Tom tried was working from the bottom up, mounting the bottom part first then swinging it up onto the channel. Much faster and easier. Up next: doing the backing links on the starboard main channel, then completing the 2 mizzen channels, which do not have backing links. Next tasks will be fashioning the helm and starting the rigging, which will begin with the bowsprit.



SHOW AND TELL



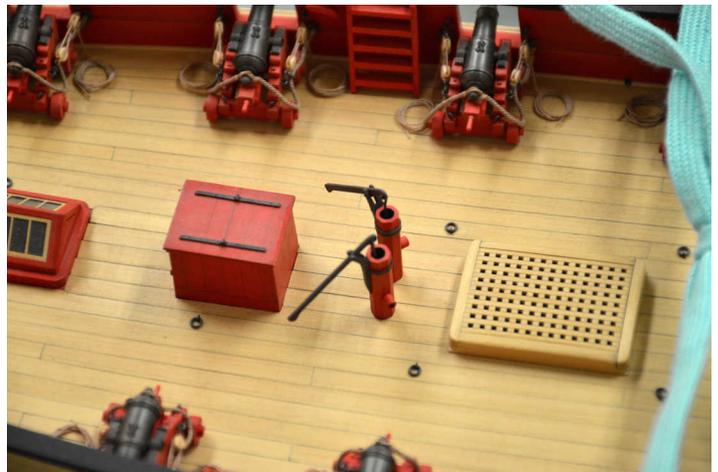
Guest **Ryland Craze** was the next presenter. Ryland brought 2 models: an [Armed Virginia Sloop](#), a Model Shipways kit, and a longboat. He started the sloop back in 2003 and used the kit parts almost exclusively with a few exceptions. Ryland substituted Warner West blocks for the ones provided by Model Shipways, used [Morope](#) for the rigging and purchased a [Lauck Street](#) practicum to guide him through the build. Back then, there was no [Model Ship World](#) for reference. The mast and bowsprit are complete but still need to be attached. Ryland's longboat is well underway. He wanted to finish the interior before tackling the outside. He started planking with basswood but found that the fit wasn't quite right. So he pulled the planking off, and since he was starting over, substituted [Hobby Mill](#) boxwood for the basswood.



SHOW AND TELL



Chuck Passaro provided a monthly update on his *Cheerful* build. He has not made a lot of progress since the last time he showed it. He did finish and rig all the guns, never a pleasant task, but is now into the fun part, building the galley stack, turning the mast coat and working on the pumps. It's finally the home stretch as far as the deck fittings and details are concerned. All that's left of these is a winch just aft of the mainmast and the rudder. From there it's on to the rigging, something he has not done in 6 or 8 years. Chuck didn't get too fancy with the mast coat. He basically took a washer sized piece of boxwood and started filing it by hand, ignoring the details like nails, canvas boot and wedges that don't look quite right in small scale. A ["kit"](#) of Chuck's *Cheerful* in 1/4" scale is now available. It can be purchased a la carte, with plans and piece parts sold separately.



34th NORTHEAST SHIP MODEL CONFERENCE – By Capt. Nick Starace II



This year's venue for the Conference was again the Port 'N' Starboard Banquet Center in New London, CT. The host club was the Philadelphia Ship Model Society, and they deserve our compliments for a job well done!

There were 73 club members and 18 guests in attendance. Final model count was 52. Notwithstanding the excellent food, service, and weather, the general consensus was that the attendance was lower than last year coincident with fewer models than last year. Nevertheless, there was an abundance of fine models, vendor presence, presentations, workshops and best of all, camaraderie.

All but 3 attendees registered their models to be judged for the Peoples' Choice Award. Similarly, all but 3 attendees elected to enter the Jim Roberts Award competition. The 6 core clubs, Philadelphia Ship Model Society (PSMS), Connecticut Marine Model Society (CMMS), SMSNJ, USS Constitution Model Shipwright Guild (USSCMSG), Shipcraft Guild of New York (SGNY), and the Long Island Ship Model Society (LISMS) were in attendance although the latter was token with just 3 of its members present. Then too, it was encouraging to see 2 "offshore" clubs in attendance, Washington Ship Model Society (WSMS) with 1 member and Hampton Roads Ship Model Society (HRSMS) with 2.

Vendor participation, including Chuck Passaro's [Syren Ship Model Company](#), offered a wonderful potpourri of hardware to satisfy the hungriest "must have" appetite. Our thanks go out to all of them.

Table top demonstrators offered a nice cross-section of interesting subjects:

- [Building the QM2](#) by Rick Abramson
- [Making Brass Fittings](#) by Jeff Fuglestad
- [Building a Lapstrake Hull](#) by Dan Pariser
- [Building Glass Cases](#) by Mike Zimmerman

Guest speaker, Chief Warrant Officer Todd Wardwell, a 22-year USCG veteran, discussed the major challenges with researching and building the 1797 US Revenue Cutter, [General Greene](#).

Winners of the Peoples' Choice awards were:

SAIL – First: Sal Degennaro, CMMS – USS Brig *Syren*; Second: Ron Neilson, CMMS – *Revenge*; Third: Dan Pariser, SGNY – *The Gokstad Ship*
POWER – First: Nick Starace, SMSNJ – *USS New Jersey*; Second: Bob Prezioso, Ship Ahoy Models – *Thunderstruck*; Third: Rick Abramson, CMMS – *Queen Mary 2*.
GENERAL MARITIME – First: Spence Delin, PSMS – *Cockle, Boy's Boat*; Second: Bill Strachan, CMMS – *Chesapeake Bay Spirit*; Third: a tie between Joe Jordan, PSMS – Small Boat Collection, and Bob Siegler, CMMS – *Hannah*

Honorable mention went to 12-year old Nicky Starace IV, SMSNJ, who entered his 10" tugboat.

I felt honored to take home the Jim Roberts Award for my model of *USS New Jersey (BB-62)*. It was a real privilege to accept the award as a tribute to Jim Roberts, a true master of our craft! For more photos of the event, [click here](#).



NEW JERSEY FOLK FESTIVAL April 30, 2016

The NJ Folk Festival exhibit, held on the campus of Rutgers' Douglass College, was a success. Don Otis and Steve Maggipinto had virtually non-stop traffic the whole day. Lots of interesting dialogue, Oooh's and Ah's. Don brought his model of Chuck Passaro's *Confederacy* and a scratchbuilt Soviet cruiser, *Slava*, in 1986 trim. Steve supplied a scratchbuilt model of his Dad's WWII subchaser, *SC431*, and an Academy kit just underway (*USS Indianapolis* in 1/350 scale). The most frequently asked question – no surprise here – was "How long did it take you to complete this?"

Most modelers will tell you they consider our hobby a male-oriented one, but there were nearly as many females as males interested and asking questions. Don and Steve were able to hang the club banner in a prominent spot and

a dozen or so flyers with club info disappeared. Who knows – we just might get a guest or two to attend a future meeting. There were lots of sea stories shared by visitors; one of them had a long conversation with Don about Eastern Europeans and Russians, whom he found to be warm and fun-loving. There wasn't too much small kid touching, but a radar mast on one of Don's models got bent. Don has assured us it is easily fixed.

All around, it was a fun day. The festival organizers provided coffee and bagels in the AM and a box lunch for the exhibitors, a nice touch. Traffic and parking were well handled, a lot better than expected. Although Don and Steve were prepared to do demos, the volume of visitor traffic and non-stop conversation didn't leave any time for this. [Click here](#) for more photos.



A VALUABLE FIND

Barry Rudd recently came across a resource he wanted to share with the club. It's a website from [Ages of Sail](#), a West Coast supplier of fittings, books, tools, supplies and wooden ship model kits from Artesania Latina, Billing Boats, Caldercraft, CCV, Dumas, Dusek, Euromodel, Mantua, Midwest, Panart, Sergal, Nordic Class Boats, Soclaine, Turk Model and others. Ages of Sail sells both retail and wholesale – they are the Amati distributor for the USA. They also write a blog and have a Facebook presence. Of course they have an online catalog, but one of the things that grabbed my attention was a page called "[Wooden Ship Modeling for Dummies](#)", or "Learning by Pictures". The series of guides on this page offers more than 240 video clips and 3,000 files and pictures on how to build classic sailing vessels. It covers both kit building and scratchbuilding. [Click here](#) for an example. Included are many [videos](#) and several practicums (practica?). Subscription to "Wooden Ship Modeling for Dummies" is a one-time/lifetime \$45.00 – a bargain for both novice and seasoned modelers considering what you get in return. Thanks for this, Barry.



WE WERE THERE... New London, CT, April 30, 2016



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 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 written and edited by Steve Maggipinto.

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 in the roster let Steve know and the roster will be amended. Please make sure that your spam filter is not blocking emails from Steve because if it is, you won't get *The Broadaxe* and member bulletins. You can eliminate the filtering by adding Steve's email addresses 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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