

THE BROADAXE

NEWSLETTER

of

THE SHIP MODEL SOCIETY OF NORTHERN NEW JERSEY

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MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING October 28, 2003

Some thirty plus bargain hunters descended on Micro Mark for our October meeting. We welcomed four members from the Shipcrafters Guild in New York and a new attendee, **Devin Poore** who came with **Jeff Herne**. The first hour or so was spent combing through the shop buying necessary (and sometimes unnecessary) tools at bargain prices.

After the shopping spree a short business meeting was conducted.

The fittings from **Marilyn Roberts** were distributed to interested members earlier in October and **Al Giegel** took a lot of the fittings to the NRG meeting in Chicago. There is still some material remaining. Anyone interested should talk to Jeff Herne

Gary Kingzett and **Al Giegel** gave a report on the recent NRG meeting that generally was interesting and well attended.

There was some general discussion about conducting a judged competition among the members using hulls left in **Jim Roberts'** estate. **Tom Piccurillo** even volunteered a \$100.00 Gift certificate as a prize. The executive committee will take this up shortly.

Although no show and tell was scheduled, **Jeff Herne** did have a 1/750 scale new resin kit of the Russian battleship **Potemkin**.

Special thanks are due to **Tom Piccurillo** and his staff for making the Micro Mark facilities available to us. It was another successful event.



FROM THE EDITOR

Jeff Herne was the only one with a "Show and Tell" at the meeting at Micro-Mark. His resin model of the Russian battleship **Potemkin** led **Roy Goroski** and me into a discussion of the historical significance of the **Potemkin**.

I did some research on the World Wide Web and came up with the following information from the website of the Potemkin Restaurant in London.

"POTEMKIN is a powerful word in Russian Culture. Grigory Aleksandrovich Potemkin (1739-1791) was Catherine II's Field Marshal, who subsequently became her lover and held enormous influence over the affairs of the Russian Empire, during the reign of this most powerful of all Russian Monarchs.

"Once embraced by the Czarina, Potemkin was given the title of "Knyaz" (Prince), and led many conquests expanding the Russian empire and influence of his Czarina. "It is a story of love and war on a monumental scale, and one that lives deep in the hearts of all Russians. The name is romanticised to construe courage, passion and deep-seated loyalty. The association is used to



express an aura of exclusivity, luxury, privilege and achievement against the odds.

"In the early Twentieth Century the name was given to the Russian Navy's lead Battleship.

"It was the Mutiny on the Battleship **Potemkin** that marked the start of Russia's first revolution in 1905. The courage shown by the crew of the **Potemkin** in overthrowing the oppressive regime on the vessel sparked a chain of events that led to growth of the Bolshevik movement with the eventual execution of Nicholas II and the start of Lenin's socialist Russia.

"The story was immortalised in a 1925 film "Bronenosets Potemkin" (The Battleship Potemkin). Directed by Sergei Eisenstein, the film was a global cinematic masterpiece pioneering the use of montage. The film gave enormous publicity to the story, which is known by many outside Russia who have taken an interest in her history."

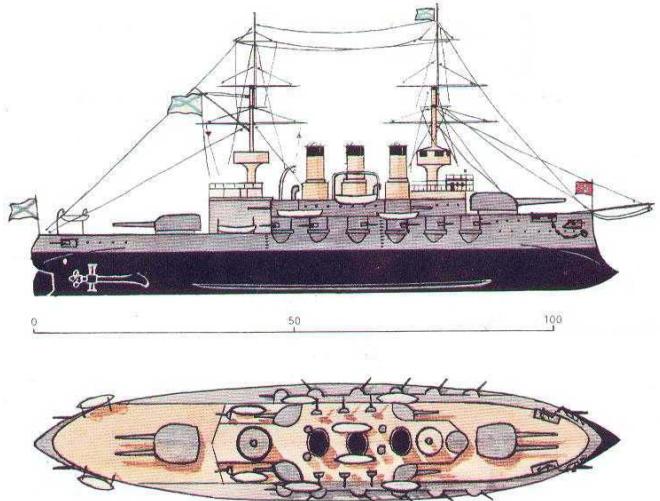
At the time of the 1905 revolution, the **Potemkin** was located at the port of Odessa on the Black Sea. The mutiny was subsequently suppressed. I found the following information concerning the ship's history after the 1905 revolution at:

college.hmco.com/history/readerscomp/lsh_071300_knizapotemki.htm

(This site has histories of hundreds of ships.)

"On October 9, Czar Nicholas ordered the ship renamed **Panteleimon** in honor of a Russian Orthodox saint whose feast day is also the anniversary of the Russian victory over the Swedes at the Battle of Gangut (in Swedish, Hangø) on July 27, 1714. The pre-dreadnoughts of the Black Sea Fleet remained in service through World War I, though they were superseded by three *Imperatritsa Maria*-class dreadnoughts commissioned in 1915. In April 1917, the newly installed Provisional Government renamed the ship **Potemkin** and a month later **Boretz zu Svobodu** ("Fighter for Liberty"). The old ship changed hands several times over the next two years as control of Sevastopol passed to the independent Ukraine, the German army, counterrevolutionaries (who scuttled her on April 25, 1919), and Bolsheviks. She was finally broken up in 1923."

I don't have a photograph of **Jeff's model**, but I have found the following pictures of the ship.



The Battleship **Potemkin**

There was some confusion in my mind between the **Potemkin** and the Russian cruiser **Aurora**. I found the following information about the **Aurora** at a St. Petersburg tourism website.

"Travel back in time by stepping on board the memorial ship **Aurora**, which played an important role in the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917. The cruiser **Aurora** was built between 1897 and 1900 by the "New Admiralty" in St. Petersburg and joined Russia's Baltic fleet in 1903. The ship measures 126.8 meters (418 feet 5 inches) in length, 16.8 meters (55 feet 5 inches) in width and weighs a staggering 7,600 tons. Maintaining a speed of 20 knots (23.3 miles per hour) it can travel independently for up to 1,440 sea miles.

"During the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-05 the cruiser took part in the Battle of Tsushima. Amongst the ship's exhibits visitors can see a portrait of the ship's captain, who was killed during the battle. The crew used part of the **Aurora's** penetrated armor to frame Captain Yegoryev's photograph.

"In 1917, as the main training ship of the Baltic fleet, the **Aurora** took an active part in the Revolution. On the night of October 25-26 1917, it fired a blank shot at the Winter Palace (then the residence of the Provisional Government), giving the signal to the rebellious workers, soldiers and sailors of the city to storm the palace. That moment triggered a dramatic episode in Russia's history and was the start of over 70 years of Communist leadership."

The **Aurora** is now docked in the Neva River in St. Petersburg. It is open to the public for free tours.



The Cruiser Aurora in St. Petersburg

The '**BROADAXE**' is published monthly by The Ship Model Society of Northern New Jersey, a nonprofit organization dedicated to teaching and promoting ship modeling and maritime history. Membership dues are \$20.00 for the first year and \$15.00 per year thereafter.

Visit our Web Site at:

<http://www.njshipmodelsociety.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 7:30 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 SMSNNJ 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.

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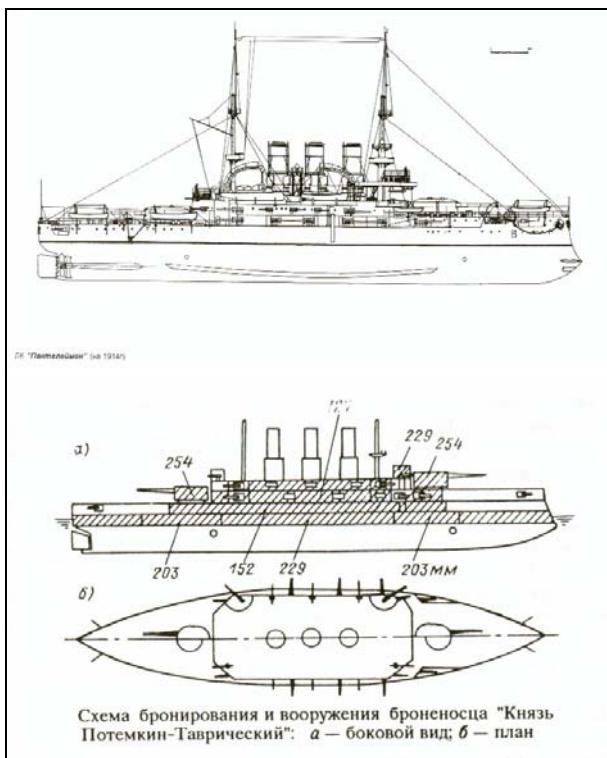
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Russian Battleship Potemkin

NEXT MEETING:

**November 25, 2003
7:30 PM**

**MILLBURN
PUBLIC
LIBRARY**

**Technical Session
To Be Announced**