

THE BROADAXE

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



Volume 27, Number 12

December, 2009

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING November 24, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Vice-President **Tom McGowan** at 7:40 PM with 16 members in attendance. We had 1 visitor this evening, **Stephen Sudia**, attending his third meeting. A motion was made to accept Stephen as a regular member of our Club, seconded and heartily approved. Welcome to the club, Stephen!

Al Geigel presented his Treasurer's Report to the members. There being no discussion or comments on the report, the Treasurer's Report was accepted into the minutes.

Tom McGowan updated the members on the successful completion of the model display at the Ocean County Library. He also said that **Henry Schaefer** had received a call from the library and was told that it was the best display that they have had at the library. The members then gave Henry a "Well Done!" and applauded him for all of the work he had done putting the show together.

Ed Hegstetter mentioned that although the library had said that they would prepare posters announcing the display in the library, they failed to do so. He suggested that we have someone with artistic abilities create a few large posters for the club to be displayed along with the Club flag at future shows. All present thought that this was a good idea. However, no specific action was taken at this meeting.

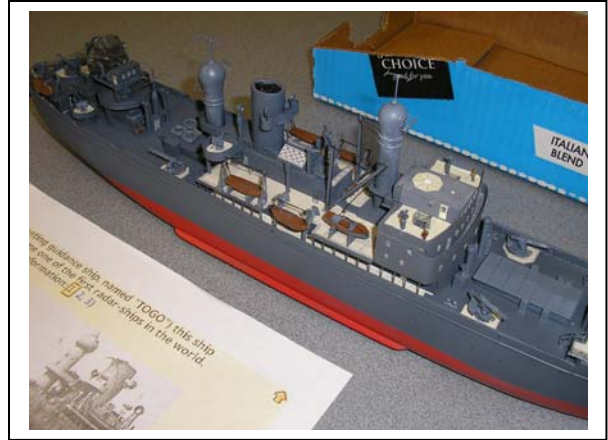
Tom McGowan brought up a topic that had been discussed some time ago. Tom would like to have an area in the Millburn Library set up specifically for modeling books. Since most of us have a library of modeling reference material, it was further suggested that we consider having a codicil added to our wills donating our books to the Club for use in this reference library. All were in agreement with this idea and asked Tom to pursue this arrangement with the library. Tom stated that he will follow up with the library director in the next few months.

Stephen Sudia asked if it was possible for the Club to have available online ratings of model kits and manufacturers. He felt that this would help people new to ship modeling avoid buying models that are poor in design and/or materials or beyond their capabilities, generally resulting in frustration and cause the person to give up on modeling. The general consensus was that it would not be practical for a club of our size to try to do it on our website. The selection of data would be small. It was suggested that such information could be better obtained through one of the online modeling communities and posting specific questions about an intended model purchase.



SHOW AND TELL

Henry Schaefer is almost finished with his German radar guidance ship, *Togo*. Henry thought he had a about a week of work left before it is finished. He used the paper decks included in the kit because they looked quite good. He also corrected an error I made in a previous issue in the naming of the ship. It was not named for Japanese Admiral Togo but for Germany's Protectorate in Africa – Togo, which Germany obtained by treaty in 1844 and subsequently lost to the French and British after World War I.

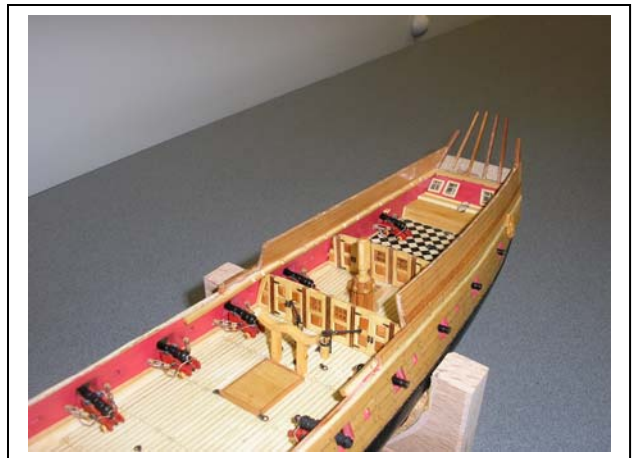
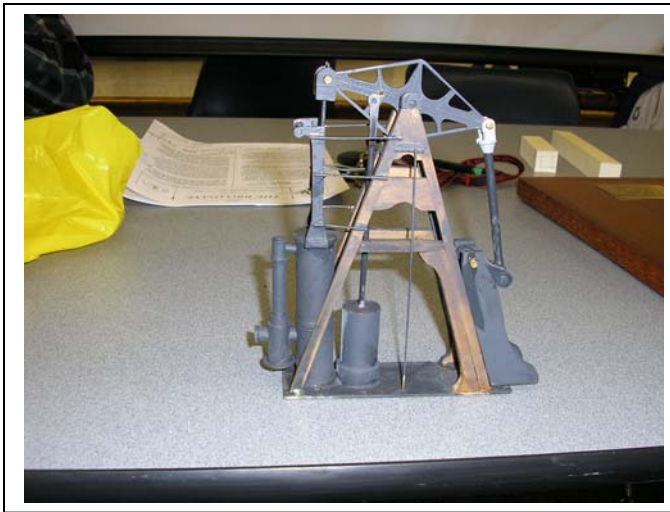


Mason Logie's current project is a Heller plastic kit model of the *Nina*, reported to be Christopher Columbus' favorite ship. He's making this for his mother, who upon finding out that Mason was making barge models (discovered via an online Google search!) asked why he hadn't made anything for her! Mason explained that the hull bottom is painted weathered black to simulate a tarred bottom and has also weathered the deck.



Len Schwalm brought in his completed model of the Russian protected cruiser *Varyag*. The ship was built around 1900 in the United States for the Russian Navy. It is a plastic kit model in 1:350 scale. Len used photo-etch brass for the rails and ladders. The rigging was fashioned from stretched sprue. Len mentioned that he had to use white glue to fasten the rigging. CA or plastic glue would have dissolved the line.

Tom McGowan is currently working on the BlueJacket kit of the sidewheel steamer *Portland* and brought in the walking-beam steam engine he has fabricated. Tom was not pleased with the plans which did not provide sufficient details of the components of the engine, so much so that he called BlueJacket to complain. As everyone has heard “the squeaky wheel gets the grease” and BlueJacket responded to his complaint and provided him with the details he sought. He fabricated many of the components from butter board, including the pistons. This material is exceptional for working as it turns and carves easily.



Larry Friedlander finally got to talk about his model of the Privateer *Rattlesnake*, having had to postpone his talk at least twice in the past as we ran out of time. Thanks for being such a good sport about the delays, Larry! The *Rattlesnake* was built in Plymouth, MA in 1780 and commissioned to be a privateer by the Continental Congress. In design, she was a mini frigate having both a forecabin and a quarterdeck. She was captured by the British and renamed *Commorant* (subsequently renamed *Rattlesnake* in 1784). Her lines were taken off by the British Admiralty. The model is modified scratch built in 1:64 scale.

In lieu of a tech session this evening, a DVD was shown. The movie was "Moving Parts – S.S. John W. Brown", the Liberty Ship now located in Baltimore, MD. The movie showed many of the activities that go onboard the vessel and included footage of the steering gear room, the boilers and the engine room.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 PM.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

DECEMBER 15, 2009 – the Annual White Whale Auction – please note the earlier date! It's a week earlier than our usual meeting date due to the Christmas holiday.

AUGUST 23-29, 2010 – the 37th annual NRG Conference at Annapolis, MD



FROM THE EDITOR

I would like to express my thanks to Ed Hegstetter, who continues to provide me with information to include in the Broadaxe. He most recently provided me with an article from Naval History which was in the April 2008 issue and recounts the history of Annapolis. Since the Club is planning to visit the Naval Academy next year and the NRG will hold its next Conference there, it is a timely article. My problem is that the article is 9 pages long. Try as I might, I can't figure out a way to get it into the Broadaxe without destroying its continuity. I will therefore attempt to replicate the article so that it will be available to the members via e-mail and as a handout at a future meeting. I hope this will suffice, Ed, and thanks again for the material.

Mike Gutsick

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Visit our Web Site at: <http://www.nshipmodelsociety.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 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.

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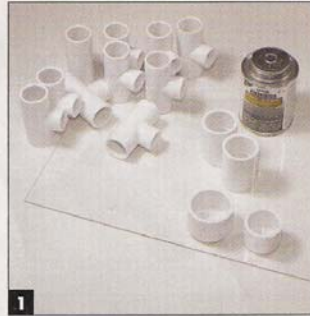
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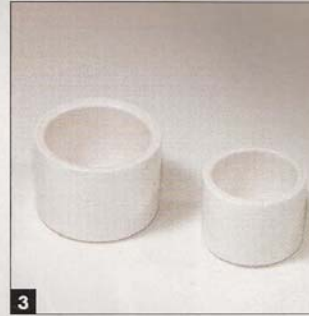
Another useful shop tip – our thanks to Ed Hegstetter!



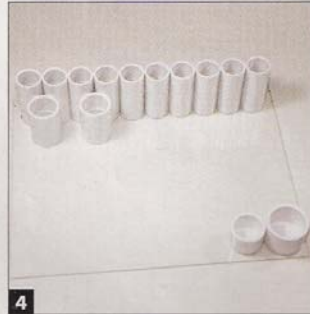
1 Shopping basket contents: precut sheet of clear acrylic, assortment of 3/4" and 1" PVC pipe connectors, and a tin of PVC glue.



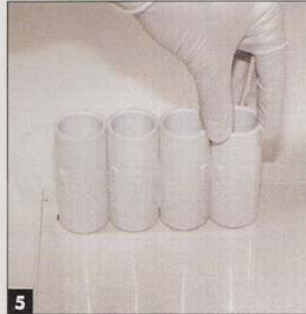
2 Pipe connectors come in various lengths and diameters appropriate for different modeling tools and accessories.



3 Pipe end caps make excellent paint- or glue-bottle holders, preventing tips and spills.



4 First, I dry-fitted the components to the clear acrylic sheet, reworking the layout until I was happy.



5 I attached the PVC pipe components to the base. Pipe glue is very aggressive and sets rapidly, so I positioned the parts quickly. Always wear gloves and eye protection and work in a well-ventilated place when using PVC cement.



6 After about 30 minutes, I loaded up the caddy with tools. A piece of rubber or cork in the bottom of each tube protects the tool points.



7 End caps at the front edge of the caddy are a great way to prevent knocking over expensive paint bottles.



8 A small, snap-lid box glued to the base provides storage for spare hobby-knife blades.



9 I finished my caddy with a tray from a discarded knick-knack box, a nifty place to stash model parts during construction. **FSM**

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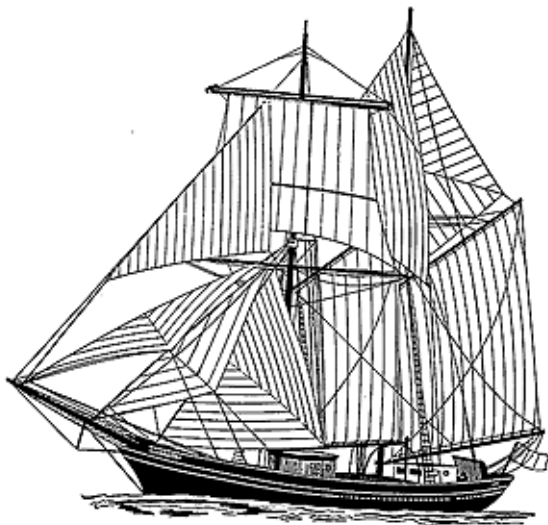
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NEXT MEETING:

December 15, 2009

7:00 PM

MILLBURN PUBLIC
LIBRARY

**White Whale
Auction**