

THE BROADAXE

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



Volume 26, Number 10

October, 2008

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING September 23, 2008

The meeting was called to order by former President **Ed Hegstetter** at 7:35 PM with 23 regular members. We had no guests this evening. Thank you, Ed, for stepping in to run the meeting as both Bob Fivehouse and Tom McGowan were unable to attend this evening. For those members who do not have e-mail and were not at this meeting we would like to update you on a health scare that Bob Fivehouse recently experienced. He had to go to the ER as he was having what seemed to be stroke symptoms. After a thorough exam, it was determined not to be a stroke but very high blood pressure. Bob's now on medication and we hope to see him at the next meeting.

Comments, questions and or corrections to the August issue of the Broadaxe were requested from the members. There being no comments or discussion by the members, the August 2008 issue of the Broadaxe was then accepted into the minutes.

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

Tom Ruggiero informed the members that he will be contacting the South Amboy library shortly to obtain more details on a model display the library would like to host. The only information available at this time is that only World War II vessels are to be displayed which include warships, auxiliaries and merchant ships (Liberty and Victory ships, T2 Tankers,

etc.) The library would like to time the display around a major WW II battle, as yet to be determined. Further information will be provided as it becomes available.

Tom also noted that he has not done any further work on the Club Hat order but hope's to have it completed by year end.

Ozzie Thalmann met with the Parsippany Library librarian recently and they are thinking of a two month model display for January / February 2009. Approval from the library administrators has yet to be obtained so Ozzie will continue to follow up with the library.



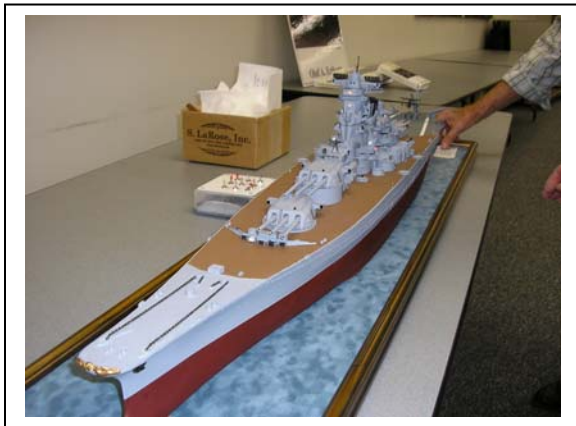
BOOKS and PUBLICATIONS

Don Otis, on behalf of Ollie Eriksen, discussed Ollie's autobiography "Memoirs of an Immigrant" published by Outskirts Press, Inc. which is now available in the bookstores and online at Barnes and Noble and Amazon. Don explained how he got involved with the book after its initial publication at Ollie's request. Don has spent considerable time editing Ollie's manuscript on his research and construction of his model of the *USS Constitution* (the soon to be published "All Sails Flying: the Masting and Rigging of the *USS Constitution*") and Ollie asked Don to edit his book with the same level of detail and professionalism to correct numerous misspellings and grammar issues that had been included in the first release of the book. Don was so struck with the stories and experiences of our own **Olof Eriksen** that he encouraged us all to read Ollie's book.



SHOW AND TELL

Once again, **Ozzie Thalmann** displays his mechanical genius with his newest project, the *IJN Yamato*, the largest battleship ever built. Its great size proved to be no match for determined Navy dive bombers and torpedo planes which attacked and sunk the *Yamato* on her final suicide mission during the battle of Okinawa in April 1945. Of her crew of almost 2,800, only 280 survived. This is a Nichimoco kit in 1:200 scale. Ozzie obtained additional photo-etch components from Gold Medal Models to enhance the detail of the model, particularly the aircraft crane at the stern. Although a “static” model, just about everything on the ship moves. The propellers spin, the rudders turn, the crane turns, the main and secondary guns turn and elevate, the barrels of the main guns have a red light bulb in them so they “flash” when fired, the radars turn and the spotlights, navigation and signal lights work. The control box for all of these motions is a circuit box that Ozzie got out of an old Honda in a junk yard that had the right number of wires for all of his components.



Allan Yedlinski brought in his scratch built, plank on frame model of the 1790 26 gun British ship *Boreas*. Allan was very pleased with how the stove, pumps and the hand painted frieze on the bulwarks turned out. Allan noted that he used three colors on the bulwarks, all Liquitex acrylic paint, using the method described by William J. Romero on his model of *HMS Warrior*. Each frame futtock is individually shaped and assembled which differs from the Hahn method. Allan notes that much less wood is wasted with this method compared to the Hahn method.



Don Otis had two models on hand tonight, his completed Chris-Craft Deluxe Barrellback Runabout from the 1940's and his work in progress of the Extreme Clipper Ship of 1851, *Young America*. The Runabout is the Bluejacket kit which Don says is well prepared with ample supplies. His only regret was that the strut for the propeller shaft had not been bored through by the manufacturer. *Young America* is an original Model Shipways kit that Don had picked up at last year's Club auction. She was one of the most successful of all American Clipper Ships and had rounded Cape Horn 55 times. The kit contains a solid machine carved hull and is in 1/16" = 1' scale.





Len Schwalm is working on a T-2 type post-war oil tanker which he is building for a friend. It's a Revelle plastic waterline kit in 1:400 scale to which Len has added photo-etch rails and ladders. He has a bit more work left to do and wants to do some additional weathering on the hull and then mount it on simulated water. He has sprayed Dullcoat over the entire model to give it a flat finish.





Tonight's "Tech Session" turned out to be somewhat of a bust since only your editor and one other person, I think it was Tony Alworth, brought anything in to discuss. On the "suck" side was Model Expo's rope making tool which was a major disappointment for your editor, a horribly inaccurate outside micrometer and a plastic eggbeater hand drill which didn't work. On the plus side, at least one person was saved from making the mistake of getting the rope making tool, another member pointed out that I could use the micrometer for a C clamp and someone else looked at the plastic hand drill, thought he saw what the defect was as said he'd like to try to fix it for me, to which I said "be my guest"!

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM

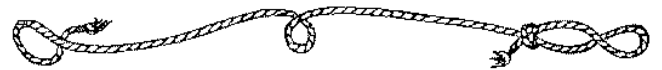
**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
NRG 35TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
NOVEMBER 11-16, 2008
CHATTANOOGA, TN**

Upcoming Meeting Topics

October 28, 2008 – BRING A MODEL NIGHT

November 25, 2008 – Ernest Connor will discuss airbrush equipment, materials and techniques

December 16, 2008 – White Whale Auction



FROM THE EDITOR

It was noted earlier that Ollie Eriksen's autobiography "Memoirs of an Immigrant" is now in the bookstores and online. Ollie had several copies available at the meeting and I took the opportunity to purchase a copy, which Ollie graciously signed for me. I have read the entire book already (in record time, at my pace, I might add) and found it fascinating. Many a time Ollie would stand and address the members and say something to the effect "You know me, you know what I do" and continue on as if everyone there can measure their membership in decades and I would think to myself "sorry Ollie – I don't really know anything about you other than that extraordinary model of the *Constitution* that's on display at Liberty Science Museum". Having read the story of your life and its incredible ups and downs, I can no longer say I don't really know you. Like your company's name, you are one truly unique person. Thanks, Ollie.

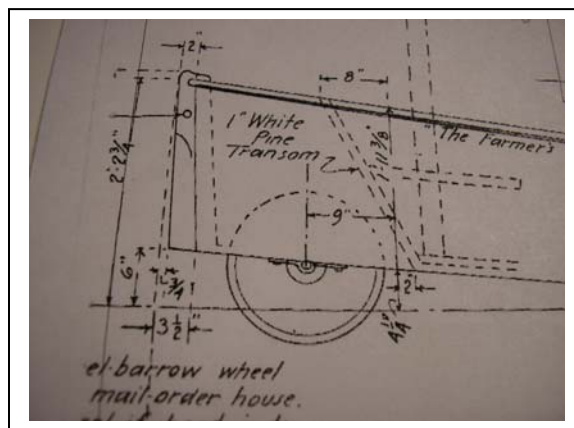
Mike Gutsick

SOME NOTES ON A LOFTING EXERCISE:

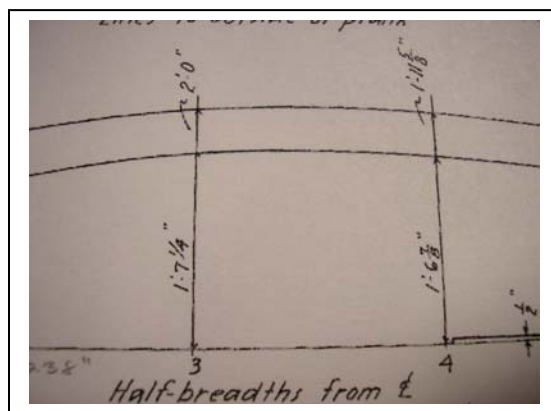
Since becoming a member, I have read several books on modeling and boat building. It undoubtedly will be the closest I get to actually building a full size boat or sailing one. One of the topics that I have come across is the technique of lofting. Howard Chapelle devotes many pages to the subject in his book "Boat Building". I've also read Alan Vaitses' book "Lofting", a WoodenBoat Book, on the subject as well. Looking down the road to that point where I would actually tackle building a plank on frame model from scratch, I wanted to get a better understanding of how wooden boats are actually made and try to relate that to the scale model world. The one thing I did learn from my reading is that it all starts on the lofting room floor. The purpose of lofting is to draw the lines of a boat full size on the lofting floor from which you can make full size patterns of the boat's components. While a CAD program can create the forms and shapes you need for frames, keel, transoms and other components, I thought it might be an interesting exercise to do it the "old fashion" way, not on a lofting room floor of some 20 by 30 feet but at my desk! In place of plywood sheets, awls and 1" x 3" battens, I used a piece of foam board for my floor, straight pins for my awls and a 1/16" x 1/8" strip of pine for my batten. For my little exercise, I chose a simple sailing skiff. Chapelle's book and Wood Boat magazine contain plans of many small boats that can become the subject of a lofting exercise. These plans will generally not include a table of offsets (a numerical table of dimensions to given points marking station points and waterlines from baselines and centerlines) but often include dimensions indicating heights from a baseline and distances between station lines and a centerline. From this rudimentary information you can loft your small boat in any scale you desire. The materials needed are very basic and inexpensive. You will need a T-square, a triangle, an architect's scale, a mechanical pencil and a fine tip felt marker and straight pins with a pearlized head. I used a 21" x 30" foam core illustration board for my "floor. Begin by drawing two horizontal lines which will become a centerline and a baseline. Select a starting point on the baseline and draw a vertical line, extending it up to the centerline above. From this initial station line, measure off the remaining stations and draw vertical lines from each station point. Mark the station lines on your board for easy identification and reference as you begin to replicate the measurements on your subject plan to the board. Working from each station, place a tick mark on your station line corresponding to the measurement indicated on your plan using the architect's scale. After you have marked all of the stations for the specific line you are replicating, stick a pin into the board at each tick mark. Place your batten against one of the pins (I started at a point closest to the center) and then bend the batten to meet the remaining pins. As you go along each point, you may need to adjust the pins slightly in order to maintain a smooth curve formed by the batten. Once the batten has been pinned along the full length of the hull line, carefully look at it from various angles so that you are satisfied that the line is fair. Now run your pencil or marking pen along the batten to draw your line. You're probably asking "Which side of the batten do I draw my line?" It should be the side that is touching the pins placed directly on the tick marks. If you pick the opposite side of the batten you will be adding a few scale inches to your lines. In my example, the battens were

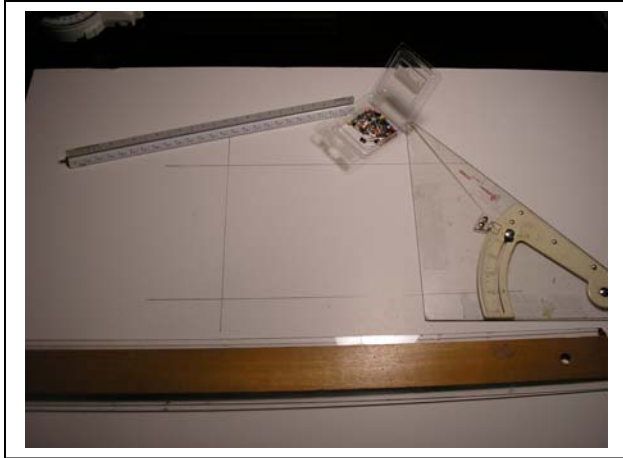
placed on the side of the pins facing me or towards the bottom edge of the foam board. If you have a situation where your measurements are to the outside of the hull rather than to the inside and your batten thickness equals the hull planking, you would place the batten on the side of the pin closest to the top of the board and then run your line along the edge facing the top of the board thus taking into account the planking thickness. The only caution would be that the batten thickness, and thereby the plank thickness, should be sufficient to ensure that the bending of the batten around the station points will produce a fair line along its entire length. Since my exercise is geared to the small boat such as a sailing skiff or sharpie with generally simple lines, such complexities should not arise. I encourage you all to give this little lofting exercise a try.

Mike Gutschick

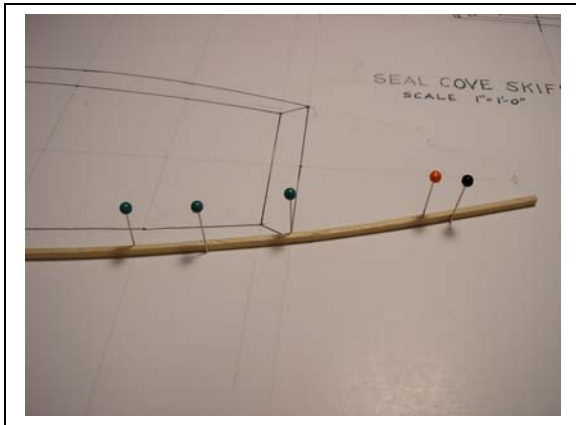


It helps to have a plan with lots of dimensions included on it as shown above and below

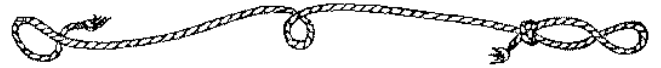
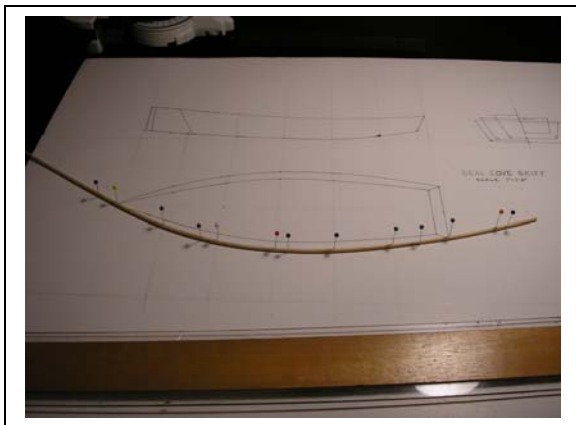




The "floor" and the lofting "tools".



Positioning the Batten



The '**BROADAXE**' is published monthly by The Ship Model Society of New Jersey, a nonprofit organization dedicated to teaching and promoting ship modeling and maritime history. Membership dues are \$30.00 for the first year and \$25.00 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 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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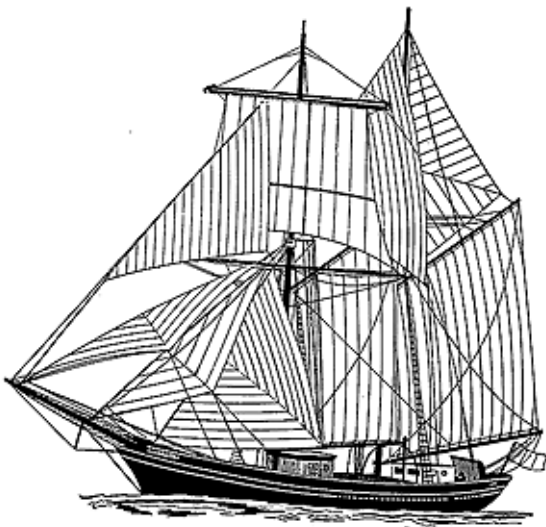
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NEXT MEETING:

October 28, 2008

7:30 PM

MILLBURN PUBLIC
LIBRARY

**Bring a Model
Night**