



# THE BROADAXE

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



Volume 25, Number 6

June, 2007

## MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING May 24, 2007

The meeting was called to order by President **Jeff Fuglestad** at 7:35 PM with 27 members in attendance. We had no guests on board this evening.

Treasurer **Ken Schuetz** presented his Treasurer's Report which was accepted by the members present.

The members were asked for any comments or corrections to the May 2007 issue of the Broadaxe; there being none, the Broadaxe was accepted into the minutes as printed.

**Barry Rudd** provided the members with a recap of the recent trip to the US Naval Academy. Their guide on the tour of Preble Hall and the model workshop was Dr. Harmon who was very knowledgeable of the models in the Rogers collection and the workings of the museum workshop, which the members got to see. Barry also noted that the book shop is gone. The books available in the museum store are not nearly as extensive as were previously available in the book store. The museum is scheduled to be closed for renovations in the near future which are anticipated to take about 18 months to complete.

**Al Geigel** informed the members that he has confirmed with the NRG that the club will not be required to expend any of its own funds for the 2009 NRG Conference. Al explained that the club's responsibility will be to find a suitable site for the conference and line up the side trips to be offered in conjunction with the conference. Any members who have any ideas or suggestions regarding the conference site and / or the side trips are asked to contact Al Geigel.

The members were reminded that **Joe Cilino** has graciously volunteered to put together a booklet containing references for modeling tools and supplies that all of us have garnered over time. Please provide Joe with your favorite suppliers for wood, metals, fittings, plans and any other modeling related items so that all of the members can have a ready source for their modeling needs.

The following change to our Constitution regarding the name change of the Organization was read to the members. A vote to adopt the name change will be taken at the June 26<sup>th</sup> meeting:

### Amendment to the Preamble

Be it resolved that as of [date of adoption], the name of **THE SHIP MODEL SOCIETY OF NORTHERN NEW JERSEY** be changed to **THE SHIP MODEL SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY**. Be it further resolved that the *COVER*, *PREAMBLE*, and any other references to the original title within this Constitution reflect this change.

The members were updated on the recent North East Conference model show. Our own **Don Otis** won the People's Choice award for his model of the **The Royal Caroline**. In all there were about 70 models on display. The Conference drew 90 attendees and about 20 guests. Future Conferences will provide a revised format for the Round Table presentations which will allow attendees a better opportunity to take in more than one discussion.

**Don Otis** told the members that his daughter has offered to make a new banner for the Club, which after adoption of the new name and acceptance of a new Club logo, will be greatly appreciated.

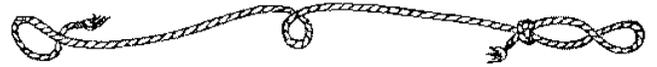
Speaking on behalf of **Tom Ruggiero**, who was unable to attend the meeting, **Al Geigel** pointed out that the Photo Gallery of models on our web site had not been updated in a very long time. All members are encouraged to submit photos of their

models to AI for posting on our web site. You can e-mail them to AI or put them on a CD. In either case, please save the photos in the smallest file size you can before providing to AI.

**Jeff Fuglestad** was contacted by a television producer from Cablevision requesting permission to do a short show of the organization for a neighborhood journal on a local programming channel. Jeff thought it would be nice to have a meeting taped where we had a tech session and a number of models for Show & Tell to present the Club in its best light. **Bob Fivehouse** pointed out that he also produces local programming shows for Cablevision and will contact this producer for further details.

**Ed Hegstetter** told us of a recent trip he made to Philadelphia and what a sad state the *SS United States* ocean liner is in. He also informed us of a "Duck" i.e. DUKW ride available to see the historical sites in Philadelphia. The DUKW is a WW II 6 wheel amphibious truck. The consensus was that this would make an interesting club trip for the future.

Some in attendance might have noticed that the meeting was called to order not by our belaying pin but by a loud ringing bell. **Ed Hegstetter** bought the nice brass bell and **Jeff Fuglestad** made the stand for the bell which needs some additional features that Jeff wants to add before its completed, including a name plate in honor of the Club's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Ed and Jeff will present it to the Club when completed.

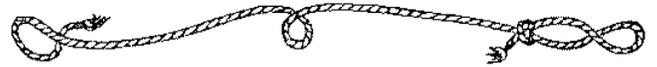
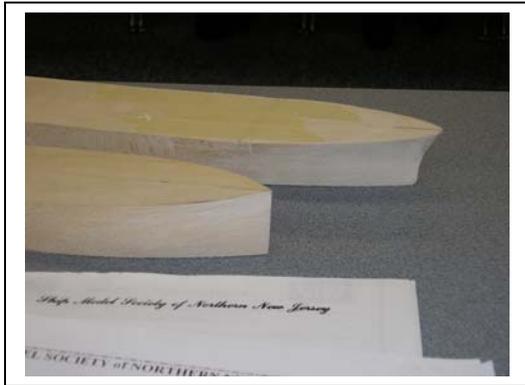


## SHOW & TELL

**Henry Schaeffer** brought back his completed model of the *FeldMarschall*, built in 1903 for the German East Africa Line. Henry purchased a paper model kit of the *FeldMarschall* and used the paper forms for templates to build the model in wood. The model is in 1:250 scale and has a solid carved hull.



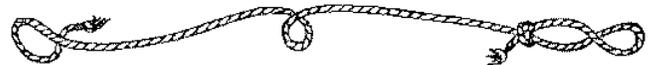
**Bob Fivehouse** showed us three basswood hulls in progress to illustrate the change in hull shapes at the bow and stern. The ships are the *Adriatic*, *Britannic* and *Cape Town Castle*. All were built for the same company. Bob also shared with us his current method for constructing his scale planks for the decking which he will put on the models. Bob will display this technique at a future meeting's Tech Session.



## TECH SESSION

**Mike Gutsick** presented his method for forming lifeboats in 1:600 scale which he needed for the troop transport ship he is currently working on. The technique is called push forming, as you push a mold into heated styrene to form the boat hull. For the benefit of those who were unable to attend the meeting and see the tech session first hand, an explanation of the process is included later in this issue.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 PM.



## JUST A REMINDER OF UPCOMING EVENTS

**June 29 – July 1, 2007** – The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Wooden Boat Show at Mystic Seaport

**August 4 & 5, 2007** - South Street Seaport Museum Model Boat Festival

**September 13-16, 2007** - NRG Conference, Wisconsin Maritime Museum, Manitowoc, WI

## UPCOMING TECH SESSIONS

**June 26, 2007** – **Larry Friedlander** will be demonstrating his method of making treenails for his ship models

**July 24, 2007** – **Bob Fivehouse & Jeff Fuglestad** will present deck planking techniques

**August 28, 2007** – **Barry Rudd & Roy Goroski** will present hull planking techniques

**September 25, 2007** – **Gary Kingzett** will show us his method for making eyes

**October 23, 2007** – **BRING A MODEL NIGHT**

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 \$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 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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## FORMING 1:600 SCALE LIFEBOATS IN STYRENE

Problem: Making a total of 20 lifeboats (ten 35' and ten 30') in 1:600 scale.

Solution: Forming each lifeboat in styrene using a tea candle as a heat source.

Materials:

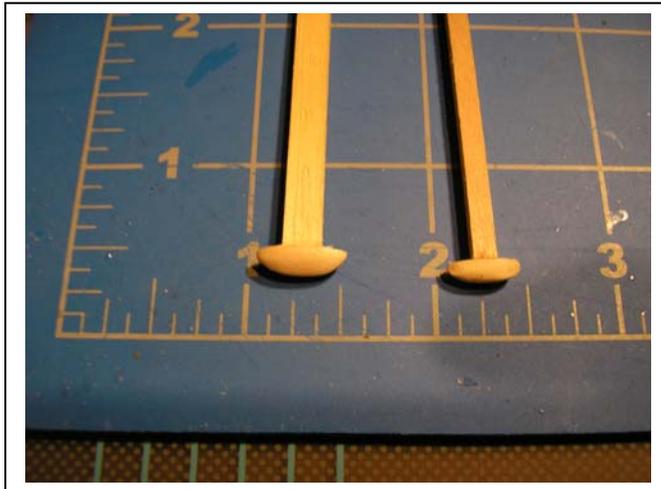
Styrene Sheets - .02" x 6"wide	Scrap Wood
Styrene Strips - .01" x .02" (for seat thwarts)	Tea candle
Styrene Channel - 0.100"	CA & Wood Glue

Tools Used:

Microlux Table Saw	Model Machines Thickness Sander
Clamp	Single Edge Razor Blade
X-Acto Hobby Knife	X-Acto Sanding Block
Dial Caliper	Tweezers
Duplicator II by NWSL	"The Chopper" by NWSL
Dremel Rotary Tool w Sanding Drum	Scissors

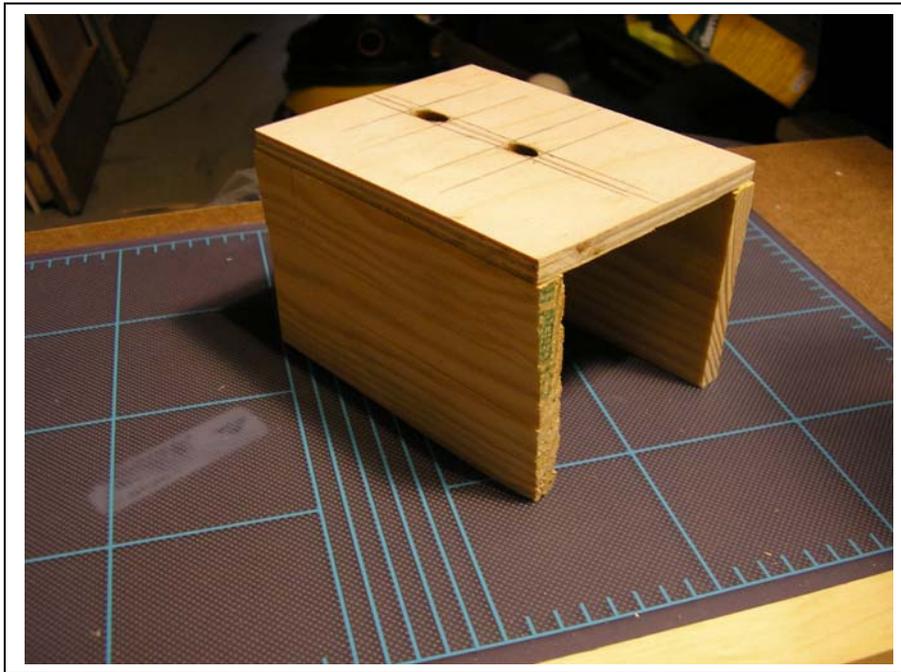
Procedure:

Using available plans, determine the overall size of each lifeboat (length, width & depth) in 1:600 scale and cut basswood strip stock to size. In this case the dimensions of the 35' boat were 1/4" wide by 45/64" long by 1/8" deep and the 30' boat was 13/64" wide by 39/64" long by 7/64" deep. Attach a wood strip to the top of each rough form to act as a handle and shape the life boat forms using sandpaper; I shaped the lifeboats by eye. The finished molds are below.



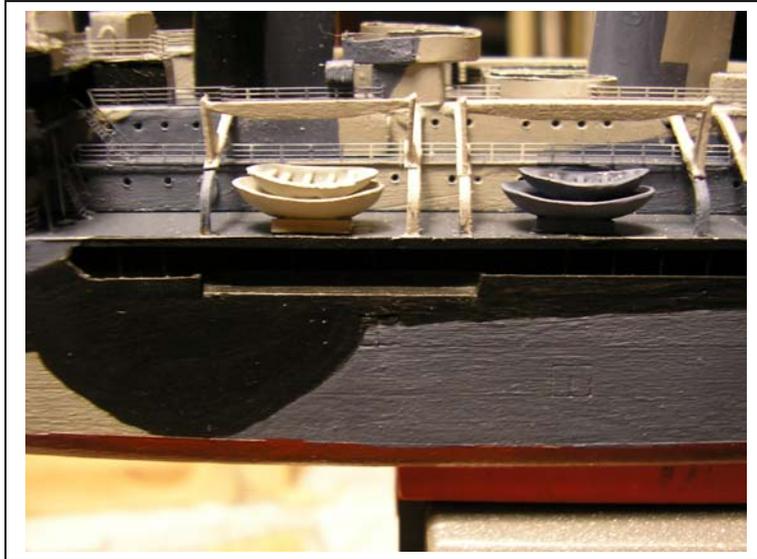
I then made up the forming base using pieces of scrap pine and plywood I had lying around the workshop. In this instance, the pine was 5/16" thick and the plywood top was 1/4" thick which worked out quite nicely. Layout the top view of the lifeboats on the forming base and cut out the

shapes with a jig saw. The openings need to be slightly larger than the molds to accommodate the thickness of the styrene. Military specs are not required here! Use sandpaper and files to smooth the edges of the opening and test fit the molds into their respective openings. There should be a slight even gap around the entire mold. As with shaping the lifeboat molds, all of this fitting was done by eye. Cut two additional pieces of scrap wood for the legs of the forming base and glue the components together with wood glue. The finished forming base is below. The final dimensions ended up being 4" long, 3" wide and 2 ¾" high.



I cut up a supply of 0.02" styrene pieces that were 2" long by 1" wide using my "Duplicator II" and "The Chopper". Place the forming base over a lighted tea candle, centering the desired lifeboat opening directly over the candle flame. Place a piece of styrene over the opening and hold it down on the forming base with some more small pieces of scrap wood to hold it flat and more importantly, to keep your fingers off the hot base and plastic. For this particular setup, it took a little over a minute to a minute and a half before the styrene was soft enough to properly form the 35' lifeboats. The 30' lifeboats took well over 2 minutes for the styrene to become sufficiently soft, due to the smaller opening hole size, I presume. A watch with a sweep second hand is very useful for this task. After about a minute or so, begin testing the softness of the styrene by lightly pressing the mold into the styrene, being careful to keep the mold centered in the opening. When the styrene can become easily depressed in the opening, slide the forming base assembly away from the candle and press the mold fully into the styrene making sure you are holding the mold perpendicular to the forming base. SHOP TIP – do not push the mold fully into the styrene while it is over the heat source – you will end up with a hole in the bottom of your lifeboat! Hold the mold in the styrene for about 15 or 20 seconds as it cools. Remove the mold from the styrene and then the styrene from the forming base and set it aside and continue forming more lifeboats.

I cut the formed lifeboats from the styrene with a pair of scissors and, holding it with a clamp, sanded the sides to smooth them up and sanded the lifeboat to its maximum height. I then used a Dremel rotary tool with a sanding drum to give the lifeboat its shear. A final light sanding with 320 grit wet/dry sandpaper completes the hull work. The 35' lifeboat is glued to a small piece of 0.100" channel. Another small piece of channel is glued amidships inside the 35' lifeboat and then the 30' lifeboat is glued to this channel. I then marked off spacing lines on the inside of the hull of the 30' lifeboat and glued on the seat thwarts using .01"x .02" styrene strips. The final assembly is then painted and mounted on the boat deck as shown below.



This method is suitable for making life boats and ships boats in larger scale where the molds can be more accurately shaped from body plan sections. At larger scales, however, one can also consider the use of vacuum forming techniques in addition to this method. It is to be expected that a number of unsuitable pieces will result during the learning process of this forming technique but as with all modeling techniques, the more practice you have, the more consistent the results will be.

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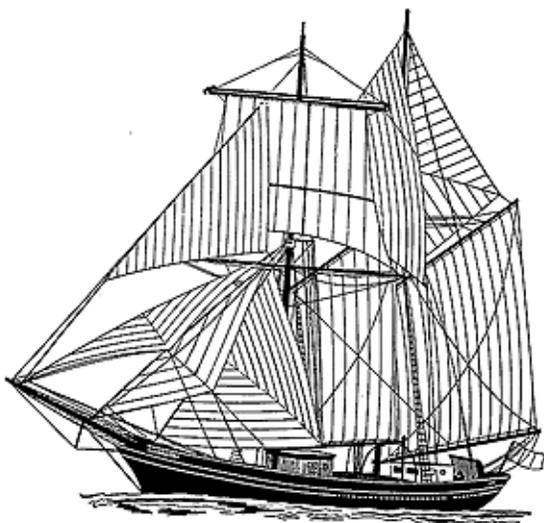
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## **NEXT MEETING:**

**June 26, 2007**

**7:30 PM**

**MILLBURN PUBLIC  
LIBRARY**

**Making Treenails**  
Presented By  
**Larry Friedlander**