



# THE BROADAXE

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



Volume 24, Number 5

May, 2006

## FROM THE QUARTERDECK

I wish to take this opportunity to thank all those members who devoted so much time and effort to make the recent North East Joint Conference such a success. I received a note from Tom Ruggiero that we had a total of 117 models on display. It was truly a great show.

**Jeff Fuglestad**  
President

## MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING April 25, 2005

The meeting opened at 7:30 PM with 28 members in attendance. Visitor **Bob Markovic** was attending his second meeting.

**Jeff Fuglestad** gave a last minute run down of plans for the Joint Meeting at which we expect to have over 100 attendees and some 90 models. The number of our members attending is most heartening.

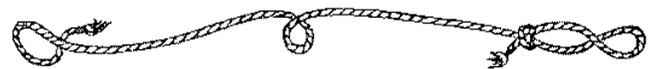
There was some general discussion of the NRG conference which we will host in 2010. This week's event is an excellent primer for the NRG event.

**Mason Logie** reported on the proposed boat ride on the New York fireboat *John J. Harvey*. It appears that a barbeque and boat ride will cost about \$75.00 per person and the dates available were somewhat restricted. Nevertheless, there seemed to be sufficient interest to proceed and Mason will report further.

Election of officers for the next two years will be held at the May meeting. The proposed slate will consist of the present officers with the exception

that I will not retain the post of Secretary, having served four years. **Mike Gutsick** has agreed to take on the position of Secretary as well as editor of the Broadaxe.

**The members present also passed the resolution that club dues be set at \$25.00 for renewing members and \$30.00 for new members effective with the new fiscal year commencing July 1, 2006.**



## BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS

**MIKE GUTSICK** brought in a book, "Thomas McManus and the American Fishing Schooners" by W. M. P. Dunne and published by the Mystic Seaport Museum in 1994. This is a very readable account of the design, construction, employment and racing of these vessels.



## SHOW AND TELL

**AL CASTKA** showed his work in progress on his first model, *HMS Bounty*, from the Caldercraft kit in 1/60th scale. The model is plank on bulkhead and Al plans to make some modifications as he goes.



**DON OTIS** had his work in progress of the English 104 gun ship *Royal William* built in 1719. The vessel had a 93 year career. Don is building the model from the Euro Models kit sold by Model Expo and will present the ship as it looked c.1750.



**TONY ALWORTH** showed us his continuing work on a Cape Cod catboat. These boats worked as fishing and clamming vessels and became a popular day sailer. Tony is working from the Laughing Whale kit in 3/4 inch scale but has made many modifications.

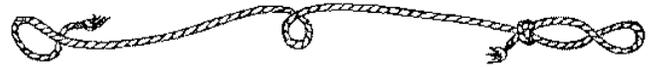


**ED MARRIE** showed his first model, that being the Model Expo kit of the *Elsie* built in 1910.



**STEVE FLETCHER** brought along two completed models- the *Justine Moran*, a harbor tug which began life as the Model Expo tug *Taurus* but which Steve modified to a Moran tug.

Steve also had a scratch built model of an Adirondack skiff built from plans which appeared in *Wooden Boat* magazine. Steve also showed a model of America which he is building from one of the Jim Roberts hull blanks

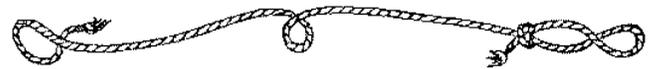


## FROM THE EDITOR

I had the pleasure of attending my first ever North East Joint Clubs conference. The variety and beauty of so many models on display was something to behold. I took several pictures at the show, some of which I've included in this issue of the *Broadaxe*. If anyone else has digital photos of the show they would like to share, please feel free to send them to me for future publication.

A reminder – as noted in the minutes, elections for club officers is coming up shortly. If you would like to run for a particular office, please contact Tom Ruggiero before the May meeting.

*Mike Gutschick*



## “Soundings From D-Deck”

### ***New Product Review –***

Model Expo recently released a new product from Model Shipways, a **ROPE WALK**. For me, it was like Pavlov rigging the bell. I just had to have it! Making a rope walk has been on my “to do” list for about a year. I've been reading articles, obtaining components in a piecemeal fashion and thinking about it, but not getting any further than that. I was never sure I had the right size gears, propeller nose cone and other items described in the articles. This new kit seemed to solve these issues. I bought it, assembled it and have started to make some of my own rope on a trial basis. I will share my experiences with you in a two part series. In this issue I will discuss the kit and its assembly. Making scale rope will be covered in the June issue of the *Broadaxe*. I hope you find it useful.

*Mike Gutschick*

## PART I

### THE ASSEMBLY

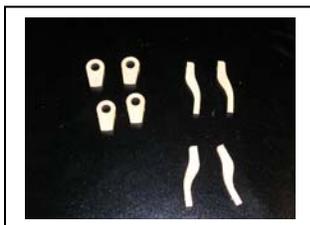
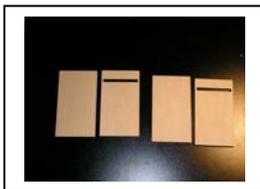
The wooden components of the kit are contained on two sheets of 3/16" basswood, all laser cut, as shown below.



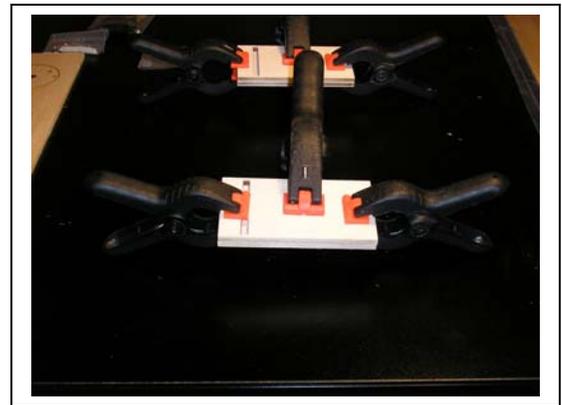
All parts were easily removed from the sheets by hand. I did not need to use cutting tools at all. I did have a problem with the geared end upright piece, however. The laser did not cut through the wood entirely on one of the gear axel holes.



I thought I might be able to pop the partially cut hole out, but, alas, I ended up splitting off a piece of the back. After gluing the piece back on, I drilled out the axel hole. I had no problems with any of the other wood components.



I then dry fit the base and end upright components together. They fit together well and no additional sanding was required. I did sand off most of the laser burn marks on the edges of the components. This is a matter of personal preference, however, for the photos in the instruction sheet clearly show that the edges of the wood components had not been sanded. The assembly of the units and hand cranks presented no difficulties and required only spring clamps as the glue (I used Titebond carpenter's glue) dried.



The instruction sheet is clearly written and, for the most part, sufficiently detailed to avoid any confusion in the assembly process. I think they could have provided a bit more detail on the assembly of the tail end component. The instructions refer you to the photos which don't provide a clear enough view of the unit, in my opinion. Based on my experience, I recommend gluing the handle axel to the rotating platen (the round disk with only one hole in it) first and then attaching the handle to the axel. CA glue is used to attach the handles and gear plate and rotating platen to the 1/4" brass tube axel. The completed assembly is shown below.



The instructions indicate that the end units can be clamped on any surface. I chose to make use of a base having a T-Slot rail and 5/16" T-bolts with handles that I use as a construction base for small models. The hardware is available from Rockler Woodworking Supply. A couple of additional tips and enhancements I've incorporated in my Rope Walk are drilling a 7/64" hole in the base of the Tail End to store the 3/32" brass rod included in the kit which acts as the stop rod and attaching a screw in the handle which goes into the axel. I found that the glue bond gave way while I was using the Rope Walk, allowing the handle to turn but not the gears.



I happened to have #2 – 1/2" brass screws on hand so that is what I used, drilling a pilot hole into the handle and axel.

I will continue this product review in the June issue of the Broadaxe as I conclude in Part 2 – *Let's Make Rope!*



**UPCOMING TECH SESSIONS**

**May 23, 2006** – Capt. Earl Warren will present a video of New York Harbor pilot activities. Earl will also bring along harbor charts and other items of interest.

***JUST A REMINDER OF  
UPCOMING EVENTS***

**Summer 2006** – New York Harbor cruise aboard the restored NY Fire Boat *John Harvey*. Date and time will be announced in the near future.

**July 2006** – Model exhibition at the South Amboy, NJ Public Library. More details will be forthcoming.

**October 12-15, 2006** – San Diego, CA, NRG Conference

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 (increasing to \$30.00 and \$25.00 respectively, July1, 2006).

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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24<sup>th</sup> Northeast Ship Model Conference





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# *THE BROADAXE*

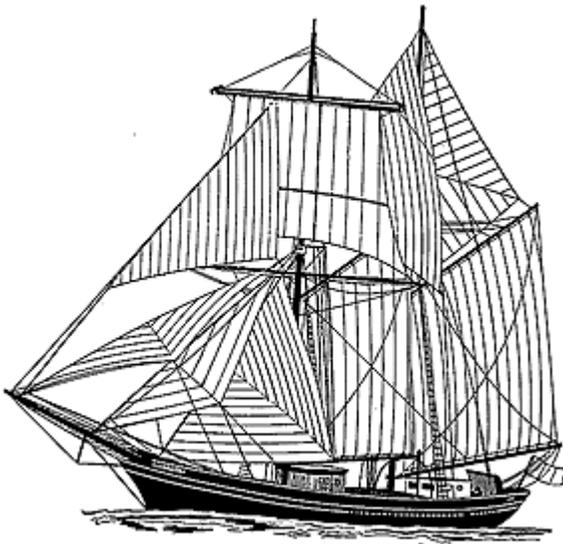
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## **NEXT MEETING:**

**May 23, 2006**

**7:30 PM**

**MILLBURN PUBLIC  
LIBRARY**

*NY Harbor Pilot  
Capt. Earl Young*