



Volume 33, Number 9

Newsletter of the Ship Model Society of New Jersey

September 2015

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Our next club meeting is
October 27 at 6:45PM

ROSELAND PUBLIC
LIBRARY

SEPTEMBER NOTES...

Tom R. reminds all that the blue highlighted links in *The Broadaxe* lead to further information about a particular topic. All it requires is a mouse click. Hopefully, this is not the only physical exercise our members are getting each month. Mouse clicks don't typically raise the heart rate (I suppose that depends, though, on what you are linking to!).

Steve Maggipinto is looking for new ideas for *The Broadaxe*. The newsletter already covers happenings at the various monthly meetings, and the occasional piece on marine history, tools, materials and upcoming events. Is there something else you would like to see? If so, let Steve know. As always, contributions are always welcome. These don't need to be print ready—notes, references, bullet items, links are fine. A couple of suggestions already offered include a history of the 1777 *USS Ranger*, and the 2010 sighting of the frigate *Somerset's* "bones" off the coast of Cape Cod.

Here is a list of meeting topics through the end of the year:

- **October:** Bring a Model Night—no Tech Session
- **November:** White Whale Auction (Our meeting room is not available in December)
- **December:** Meeting in the library proper, as we did in June. Jim Lavelle will verify with library management that this is OK.

Thanks again to Sally and Tony Alworth for use of the Quilt Shoppe, an excellent venue for individual and group working sessions such as September's Figure Painting Workshop. After years of operation, Tony and Sally have decided to retire and to sell the Aardvark. Virtually all those who have attended Saturday sessions at the Quilt Shoppe will miss the camaraderie, snacks, productive work time and a chance to join others who share a love of ship modeling. Tony informs us that the Aardvark will be available for meetings in October and November, possibly even December. Under discussion is an alternative to meet at members' home workshops on a rotating basis. The experience and facilities will be similar to the Quilt Shoppe: light, power, the ability to work on any model of one's choice, sharing of ideas on how to do things, etc. Several members have workshops equipped with all the power tools a modeler might need. Logistics still need to be worked out, not the least of which is discussion of the proposal with "building management" (translate *significant other*). This will be open to all, probably on the same Saturday of each month. The only limitation

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UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER

- 17 - Aardvark Workshop - 10:00AM,
748 Speedwell Ave., Morris Plains
- 22-24 - NRG Conference, New London, CT
- 27 - Monthly Meeting - 6:45PM,
Roseland Public Library, 1st Floor:
Bring a Model Night

NOVEMBER

- 21 - Aardvark Workshop - 10:00AM,
748 Speedwell Ave., Morris Plains
- 20-22 - Show/Demonstration, National
Lighthouse Museum, Staten Island
- 24 - Monthly Meeting - 6:45PM,
Roseland Public Library, 1st Floor:
White Whale Auction

DECEMBER

- 22 - Monthly Meeting - 6:45PM,
Roseland Public Library, 1st Floor
- TBD - Group Build

to attendance at these meetings will be club membership in "good standing" (translate *dues paid*). Another possible venue: Bill Houston's framing shop. More to follow.

SEPTEMBER 22 MEETING

In attendance were 25 members and no guests. Chuck Passaro brought 2 issues of the [Nautical Research Journal](#) and offered them to anyone who might be interested. He asked that the publications be passed on to others when the recipients are finished with them. [Click here](#) for pictures of the meeting.



OLD BUSINESS



Figure Painting Workshop. Tom R. spoke briefly about the day's events, and pointed to the display table where several 1/48 figures completed at the workshop were on view. Tom said the day was both enjoyable and informative, and with patience, proper magnification, and the right paint consistency and placement, the results can be quite professional. He encourages everyone to learn this technique. Roy Goroski commented that Larry obviously enjoyed presenting the workshop and made good use of his background as a former teacher in the NYC school system. Larry's enthusiasm for the project greatly added to the experience and made it all the more helpful and enjoyable for all those present. [Click here](#) for additional pictures from the presentation.



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National Lighthouse Show. Mason Logie confirmed that the museum still wants us to do a weekend show and has invited us to a cocktail reception (fund raiser) that will be free to our members. The museum staff would like us to be there Friday night and during the day on Saturday and Sunday, November 20—22. This translates into a Friday setup and a Saturday and Sunday display/working session, such as we did at Bahrs last year (see the [December 2014 Broadaxe](#)). Several members indicated that they would be interested. It's not required that all participating members be present every day, although all models should be on site the entire weekend. Tom asked for a commitment from those wishing to participate: name, number of days the member plans to be present, and number of models the member would like to bring. He asked for a volunteer to work with Mason in setting up logistics with the museum Director. The museum will be arranging press coverage, so we will need to provide photos and background information. This is an excellent opportunity to recruit new members. At the end of the meeting, the following members agreed to participate: Tom Ruggiero, Roy Goroski, Hans Gottschalk, Ken Schuetz, Steve Fletcher, Ozzie Thalmann and Tom McGowan. These volunteers expect to bring a total of 11 to 15 models for display/demonstration.

TECH SESSION

Tom Ruggiero presented a session on creating timber heads and other small parts, using his 1/96 model of *HMS Liverpool*. He called attention to the open construction of the plank sheer and the rails, features the ship had when first built (in later years, the bulwarks were planked all the way up the sides). This was the common configuration to secure rigging lines in the mid-1700's, as belaying pins were not utilized during the period. On the quarterdeck, the configuration was different. The rail was clear and the timberheads were formed into gun ports.

Creating timberheads is a tedious task at best. Using a chisel to do this is very time consuming, especially for those who do not have a lot of time for modeling. Tom decided to try another method. Timberheads are composed of 2 parts. One part sits below the cap rail on top of the plank sheer. The rest of the timberhead sits on top of the cap rail. To create the timberheads, Tom utilizes a special tool he picked up, a thin cutting blade with very fine teeth. He uses this with a miniature miter box to produce the timberheads. Procedure is to set the

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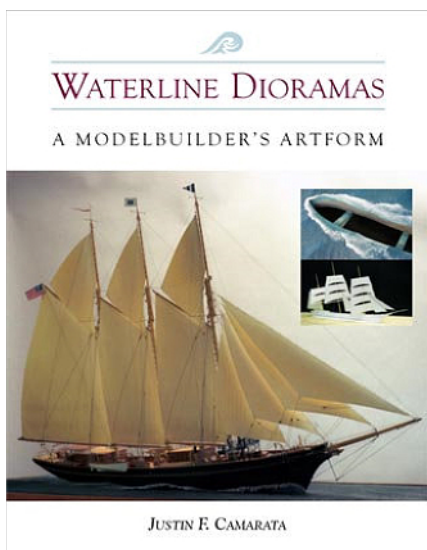
TECH SESSION

overall length, select the stock to be used, take a very light cut (scoring all 4 sides), then mark the cut off point with the saw. Using the cut line as a guide, Tom then uses a Jim Byrnes disc sander (very quiet!) to create the taper and shoulder at the top of the timberhead (see photo). The last step is to cut the shaped piece off from the stock. Tom had to do 38 timberheads for *Liverpool*. The whole process took him about 1/2 hour. He strongly urges wearing safety glasses when using rotating machinery.

Other fittings that Tom creates using this technique include the steps along the hull leading up to the deck opening. These are built to a scale 9"x6" (roughly .009" in 1/8" scale) and angled to present a flat horizontal surface along the profile of the hull. These fittings are essentially inverted trapezoids. To create these, Tom makes several cuts with a small blade and uses a [round cut escapement file](#) (a sharp, fragile, not inexpensive tool that cuts in one direction), size 0. Tom uses this to taper/undercut each rung to follow the tumblehome and to carry the profile of the step around the sides. He uses his miniature miter to make the angle cuts. In working with these small parts, Tom finds it more efficient to create all of them first and then attach them later. In a future tech session, Tom will discuss making ladders. [Click here](#) for a video of his presentation.



BOOKS AND PUBS



Jim Lavelle brought in a copy of [Waterline Dioramas - A Modelbuilders Artform](#), a Sea Watch publication by Justin Camarata. The book covers everything one might need to know about creating a realistic environment for a waterline model. According to Jim it is very complete, and even includes a section on fashioning sail configurations based on wind and sea conditions. Included are instructions for creating wakes, with formulas for proper wave angle and separation. This is an 8½" x 11" hardcover book, 232 pages with dust jacket; it features hundreds of full color illustrations and drawings. There is a special photographic section featuring the work of current diorama masters. Chapter titles include Conception and Planning, Hulls, Rigging, Sails, Water, Figures and Presentation.



Recently, I got the following email (Thanks, Barry!):

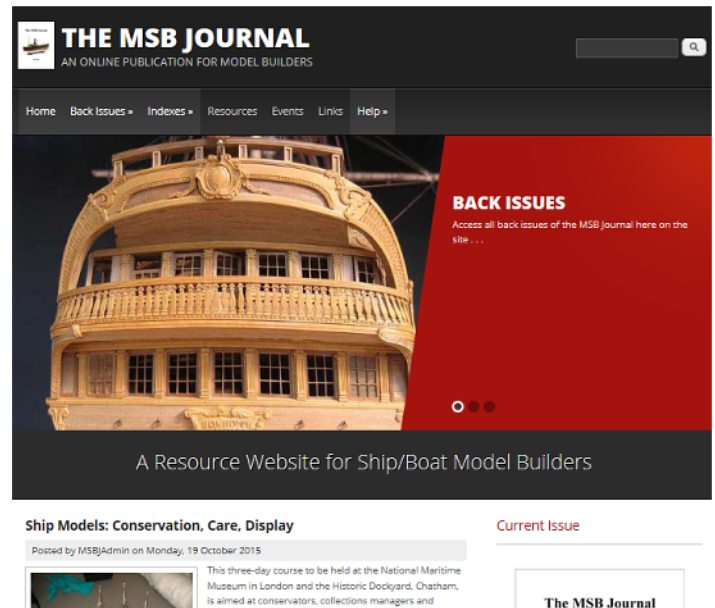
Hi Steve,

Here's a tidbit of info you might want to include in the Broadaxe.

For our members who may not be aware of it, there's a free online magazine written and published by MSB (Model Ship Builder). It's available at: <http://www.msbjournal.com/>.

It's published quarterly, but until this year it was published monthly. All back issues are available to download for free. It is well written, with many photos and is an informative e-magazine. Check it out.

Regards,
Barry Rudd



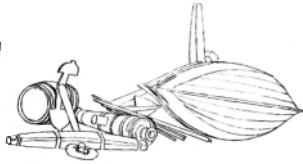
TOOL TIME



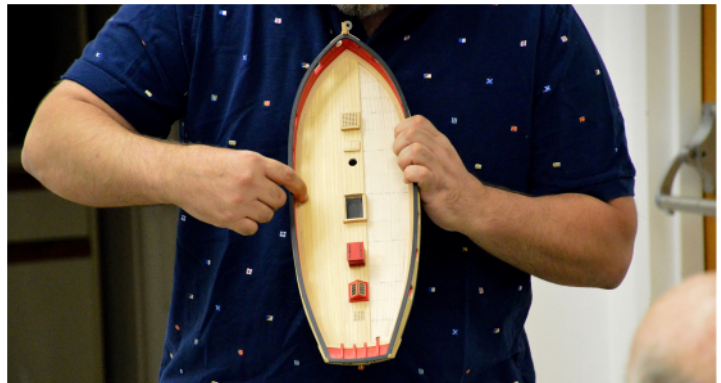
Tom McGowan showed a tool he purchased from [Lee Valley](#), a Canadian business specializing in tools and gifts for woodworking and gardening. Tom explained that when sharpening thin chisels, it's nearly impossible to prevent the blade from skewing. The tool he showed prevents this by locking the chisel in a flat and true horizontal plane. [Click here](#) for more information on the "Veritas® Mk.II Honing Guide System".



SHOW AND TELL



Chuck Passaro discussed the latest progress on his *HMS Cheerful*. Since the last meeting, he has planked half the deck. Looking at the deck straight on, the subtle curve of the planks flush against the waterway is evident (vs. faired into the waterway). Three of the planks end in a [hook scarf](#). This is a sturdy construction and easier to fashion than a nib into the waterway. Nibbing is a challenging operation, because with the waterway in place one chiseling mistake will ruin the whole section. Chuck was able to plank the deck in about 5 hours using the flush method. Nibbing would have taken days. He cuts the outboard planks straight and edge bends them in, as the curve is slight. Chuck uses medium CA for all his planking. He glues about 4 inches at a time and lets it set before moving on to the next section.



Ozzie Thalmann brought a stagecoach and covered wagon, AKA Prairie Schooner. (Tom R: "Where's the torpedo?"). These were built "just to keep my hands in it", according to Ozzie. Mr. T. does not like to remain idle for long. He is currently waiting for the 1/200 *USS Enterprise (CV-6)* by Trumpeter, a kit that was supposed to be available in August but hasn't arrived yet. As always, there are moving parts to Ozzie's models, e.g., stagecoach doors and brakes. No battery operated horses, though. Ozzie cut the wheel rims from aluminum tubing (no rust!). Leather coverings, with adhesive backing already in place, were purchased at Michaels and lightly sprayed with lacquer. Ozzie is anxious to get his *Enterprise*, as he plans to enter it in the next spring show in Minnetonka, the Wisconsin competition's 40th anniversary.

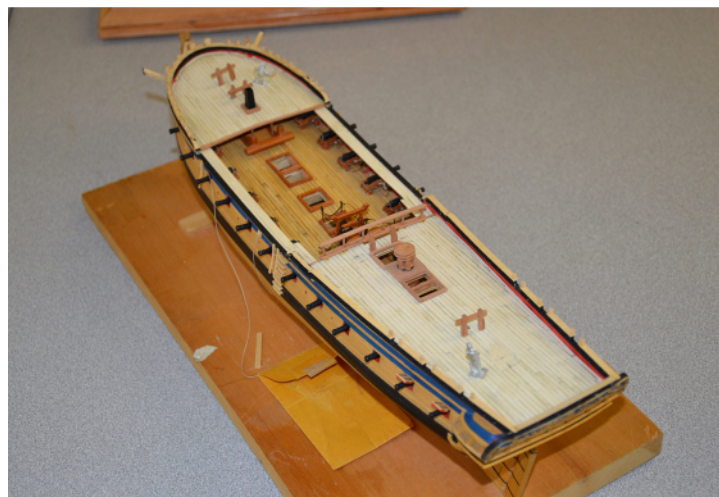


SHOW AND TELL



Next up was **Tom Ruggiero** with *HMS Liverpool*. Since the August meeting, he has completed the companionway for getting on board, the fenders, timberheads, chess-tree, fish davit cleat and thumb block (for the anchor). He is currently in the process of finishing the model. Tom tried Parkers sanding sealer, clear Krylon (which he uses a lot) and wipe-on poly that he applied with a brush because of the small scale. The poly ended up looking the best for all the bright parts of the model. The rails will be black. He is still deciding about putting in a skylight for interior viewing. The bottom 2 steps will be the same color as the wale; the other steps will follow the color scheme of the adjacent area.

Next task will be crafting the channels to take the shrouds. Tom plans to fully rig the vessel. Still under debate is the figurehead—Tom is not sure if he wants to paint this or not. There are no original plans that show a figurehead for *Liverpool*. David Antscherl advised that 6th rate vessels of this period did not carry figureheads. A regal lion with a crown would have been acceptable, but no one knows for sure whether this vessel had one or not. The forecastle is nearly completed. All that remains is building 2 fake companionways, an arrangement used for lifting the topmasts onto the mainmast. This operation was done with block and tackle one deck below, because fo'c'sle construction was not strong enough to support the heavy loads involved. Tom will also be building a [barricade rail](#) at the fo'c'sle.



The Ship Model Society of New Jersey

The Broadaxe is published monthly by The Ship Model Society of New Jersey (SMSNJ), a nonprofit organization dedicated to teaching and promoting ship modeling and maritime history. Membership dues are \$25.00 for the first year and \$20.00 per year thereafter.

Visit our Web Site at:
<http://www.shipmodelsocietyofnewjersey.org> where a web version of *The Broadaxe* can be found. *The Broadaxe* is distributed by both US mail and email in PDF format.

Regular meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 6:45 PM, at the Roseland Free Public Library, 20 Roseland Avenue, Roseland, 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 email. Handwritten notes or other materials will be considered depending on the amount of editing and preparation involved.

The Broadaxe is written and edited by Steve Maggipinto, and distributed by Chuck Passaro and Olie Ericksen.

Your ideas and suggestions are always welcome. Please submit them to Steve Maggipinto.

If any member would like an email copy of the roster, please drop a note to Steve Maggipinto at the email address listed below. If there is an error on the roster let Steve know and the roster will be amended. Please make sure that your spam filter is not blocking emails from Steve or Chuck Passaro because if it is, you won't get *The Broadaxe* and member bulletins. You can eliminate the filtering by adding Steve and Chuck's email addresses to your contact list. Please keep the secretary informed of any changes so that the roster can be kept current. If you would like a printed copy of the roster, please send a SASE to Steve Maggipinto at the address below and one will be mailed to you. Rosters are also available at the monthly meetings.

Please keep your contact information up to date. Your email address is particularly important because that is the main avenue of communication for club announcements. In case of emergencies such as last-minute cancellations due to weather, emails will be sent to the members.

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