



Volume 36, Number 1

## *Newsletter of the Ship Model Society of New Jersey*

*January 2018*

### In This Issue

[Upcoming Events](#)  
[Old Business](#)  
[New Business](#)  
[Tribute to Al Geigel](#)  
[Books and Pubs](#)  
[Product Review](#)  
[Club Information](#)

Our next club meeting is  
**January 23rd at 6:45PM**

ROSELAND PUBLIC  
LIBRARY

### JANUARY NOTES...

The December meeting was opened at 1845 by our past President, Tom Ruggiero, as Chuck Passaro and Jim Lavelle were not able to attend. Tom welcomed a light turnout of 12 members. Since the Library hosts a model train display in our normal meeting room, we held our session in the Library itself. Our Treasurer, Al Geigel, was not present as he was in the hospital; we passed around a Get Well card for Al. In Al's absence, Tom Ruggiero presented the financial report. The treasury is very healthy. Once again, Ryland Craze, our member from Virginia, came up for the meeting, and, as always, it was great to see him.

After discussion of a few topics (see below), we all went to our normal meeting room to view a very large "O" Scale Train layout with multiple engines and operating features including digital sound. It was very impressive indeed. [Click here](#) for photos. The meeting adjourned at 1920, whereupon several members proceeded to the Caldwell Diner.

Another outstanding job on *The Broadaxe* by Steve Maggipinto. Tom notes that this *Broadaxe* included a piece submitted by our own Barry Rudd about his visit to the museum at the Washington Navy Yard. Since 9/11, it has become more difficult to get to the museum. Tom mentioned that since the shooting at the Navy Yard a few years back, security has become very tight, requiring screening and a pass that is only available at one gate and only Monday through Friday. He said that there is some talk about moving the museum to a more accessible place. The Navy Memorial in downtown DC has been mentioned, but that venue is a bit small. Another option is moving the museum to Norfolk, Virginia.

Show and Tell. Your Secretary thanks all of the exhibitors for providing "Show and Tell" forms. This ensures accurate descriptions and saves quite a bit of work.

Next month's meeting is Tuesday, January 23rd, our annual White Whale Auction. The date for the next Saturday Workshop is to be determined. There were no tools presented at the December meeting; we expect very many at the Auction.

**Ed Note:** It is with sadness we report that a few days after the meeting, Al Geigel passed away. A tribute to Al appears on Page 3.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### JANUARY

- 20 - Opportunity to purchase model kits at Estate Sale in Staten Island
- 23 - Monthly Meeting - 6:45PM, Roseland Public Library, 1st Floor

### FEBRUARY

- TBD - Group Working Session
- 27 - Monthly Meeting - 6:45PM, Roseland Public Library, 1st Floor

### MARCH

- TBD - Group Working Session
- 27 - Monthly Meeting - 6:45PM, Roseland Public Library, 1st Floor

## On the Horizon

Trip to [Gulliver's Gate](#) (Times Square)

## OLD BUSINESS



### White Whale Auction

The accounting for the White Whale Auction takes quite a bit of time. In an effort to manage the workload, preregistration forms were passed out at the December meeting. The forms have also been forwarded via several emails to all members. Filling out the forms beforehand will allow the seller to keep a larger percentage of the sale price, will assist in accurate reporting, and will save a tremendous amount of work. Please do your best to help us out.

## Northeast Joint Clubs

Preparation for Joint Clubs is moving along. Initial vendor contacts have been made and registration forms will be available soon. The current committee consists of Tom Ruggiero, Chuck Passaro, Jeff Fuglestad, Roy Goroski, and Ken Whitehead. We will need someone to do a roundtable presentation. Several of our members have done Tech Sessions that would work well. We are currently looking for a volunteer. We will also need someone to step up to handle the receipts from the registrations, as Al Geigel did this in the past.

## NEW BUSINESS



Mason Logie's local State Senator, Diane Savino (Staten Island/Southern Brooklyn), has a very large collection of fresh in-the-box model kits and books. Larry Friedlander, Roy Goroski and Mason Logie recently made a trip to view them. The collection of kits is vast. We have arranged for club members to go to Staten Island to see and purchase the kits **this Saturday, January 20th**, at 10:00am. There are literally hundreds of them. The owner is anxious to sell and no reasonable offer will be refused. All sales must be in cash only and no reasonable offer will be turned down. Regarding the books, Larry has them and will make them available to Club members.

## THE NAUTICAL RESEARCH GUILD

"ADVANCING SHIP MODELING THROUGH RESEARCH"

Annual membership includes our world-renowned magazine, Nautical Research Journal, which features photographs and articles on ship model building, naval architecture, merchant and naval ship construction, maritime trade, nautical and maritime history, nautical archaeology, and maritime art.

Other benefits include discounts on annual conferences, ship modeling seminars, NRG products and juried model competitions which are offered exclusively to Guild members. We hope you will consider joining our ongoing celebration of model ships and maritime history.

For more information contact us at: [www.thenrg.org](http://www.thenrg.org) or call 585 968 8111



# Al Geigel

1934 - 2017

## Rest in Peace...

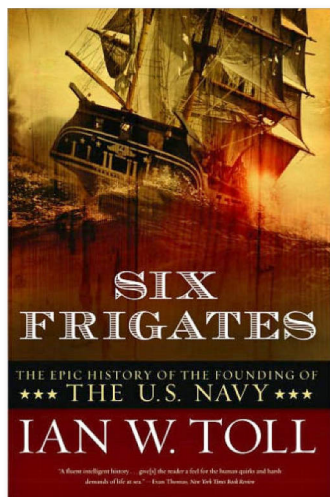
Al Geigel passed away on Christmas Eve 2017, surrounded by his loving family. Al was 83 years old. He was an Electrical Engineer by trade and holder of several patents. He was a founding member of the Ship Model Society of New Jersey in 1981, then called the Ship Model Society of Northern New Jersey, along with Jim Roberts, Ed Hegstetter, Alan Frazer and Stan Sinowitz. Al and his wife Grace were a constant presence at all of the many exhibits, shows and functions that SMSNJ organized or was part of. Al was an officer of the SMSNJ several times and was always there to step up and lend his many organizational talents in putting together many conferences and shows, including the two NRG conferences in which the SMSNJ was involved. Al was a computer whiz from the infancy of the PC and Internet and he established the



first website for SMSNJ. He was a long time member of the Nautical Research Guild, 35 years, and he and Grace attended many of the yearly conferences where he had many friends. He built several models, but gave most of them away to his children and grandchildren. Personally, I know of no kinder and more giving people than Al and Grace. Far winds and following seas my friend. We will miss you and all of your kindness and contributions of your time and talent.

— Tom Ruggiero

## BOOKS AND PUBS



Back when I was in high school, if someone had told me I would have a hard time putting down a history book I'd have said "You're crazy!" Nearly 60 years later, I can honestly say "I had a hard time putting down a history book."

*Six Frigates* by Ian W. Toll is a combination of political and naval history at the turn of the 19th Century, basically an account of the rise of US Navy. All the characters you recall from grammar and high school are here: George Washington,

John Adams, Alexander Hamilton, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison. In addition, there are backgrounds on, and accomplishments of, prominent naval commanders of the day: Isaac Hull, Stephen Decatur, William Bainbridge, James Lawrence ("Don't give up the ship"), Edward Preble. Names known to all Midshipmen at the academy, and associated with several buildings at Annapolis. What's nice about the book is that it doesn't idealize these men. It provides a fair and accurate picture of their strengths and (often significant) weaknesses and failings.

A prominent figure throughout the book is Joshua Humphreys, the clever designer of the US frigates. Early victories of the US forces (*Constitution/Guerriere*, *President/Macedonian*, *Constitution/Java*) against the overwhelming power of the British Navy and its experienced commanders were

—Continued on next page



due in large part to Humphreys design priorities. Humphrey's plans called for heavy ships with keels, frames, and scantlings akin to those of a 74-gun ship of the line. He opted for a compromise with the popular thinking of the time, favoring 44-gun frigates that were a hybrid between contemporary British frigates and battleships. He also specified dense and readily available white oak as the material of choice ("Old Ironsides") and equipped his vessels with 24-pound cannons instead of the 18-pounders common aboard British frigates. More weight, somewhat decreased performance, but more hitting power. The formula worked.

In these pages you'll find interesting accounts of the debate between Federalists and Republicans over funding for the Navy, the ineffective Embargo and Non-Intercourse Acts, impressment of seamen, confiscation of US ships and property and the Orders in Council that led to the War of 1812. Also covered are the "Quasi War" with France, and reactions and frustrations over several

years dealing with the Barbary Pirates. Something I did not recall from school history was the fact that the growth of the US Navy was largely tied to the protection of commercial shipping interests and brisk US trade with both of the warring nations of France and Britain – trade which, of course, brought money into the US Treasury. Fascinating stuff, well written by the author. Translation: this is not your boring history book.

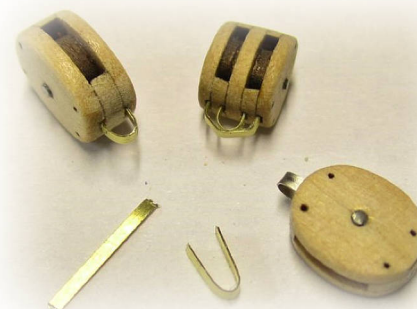
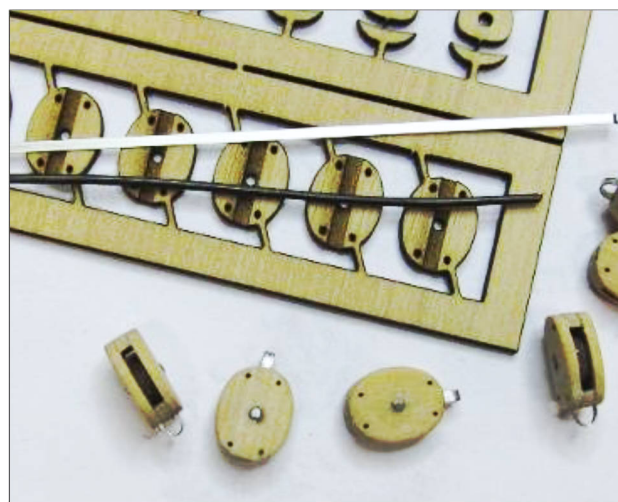
Though limited in the overall narrative, several actions are covered in brutal detail, pulling no punches depicting the horrors of cannon slug fests and hand-to-hand combat.

Overall, this is an ideal, readable account of how the US Navy came to be – its teething pains, fits and starts and eventual recognition by European counterparts as a respectable and significant force to be reckoned with. I highly recommend it.

— Steve Maggipinto

## PRODUCT REVIEW

John Marinovich arrived at the December meeting with several [internally strapped blocks](#) he had purchased from Chuck Passaro's Syren Ship Model Co. You might recall from last month's meeting that John was a little bewildered wondering where he might find blocks for his scale model of the yacht America. John praised Chuck's fittings, calling the blocks "...the sine-qua-non, the ultimate top-of-the-line, in boxwood, laser cut." The blocks John purchased were the assemble-them-yourself variety. These come in packets, layered in several sections. John started out with single blocks which come in 3 layers. The middle layer contains the pulley, with the cheeks on either side. In order to line these up accurately, Chuck has placed a laser mark on the bottom edge of the frame in which the blocks appear. When assembling the blocks John created a jig to line up the pieces, backing everything with wax paper to prevent the parts from sticking to the work surface. In the [instructions](#) that come with the blocks, Chuck suggests using a generous amount of Medium CA to securely assemble the parts. Once the pieces are cut from the frame, Chuck then recommends using a tumbler (John got his from Model Expo: \$6.95 on sale + shipping) to round off the sharp edges. Roy Goroski offered an alternative to a commercial tumbler, a home made device using a coffee can lined with light sandpaper and attached to a drill with speed control. According to Ossie Thalmann, best results using such a device are obtained by running the drill at slow speed.



# 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 edited by Steve Maggipinto. Your ideas and suggestions are always welcome. Please submit them to Steve Maggipinto at [stevemagg@optonline.net](mailto:stevemagg@optonline.net).

If any member would like an email copy of the roster, please drop a note to Tom Ruggiero at the email address listed below. If there is an error in the roster let Tom know and the roster will be amended. Please make sure that your spam filter is not blocking emails from Tom because if it is, you won't get member bulletins. You can eliminate the filtering by adding Tom's email address 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 Tom Ruggiero 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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