



Volume 37, Number 1

Newsletter of the Ship Model Society of New Jersey

January 2019

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Our next club meeting is
January 22nd at 6:45PM

ROSELAND PUBLIC
 LIBRARY



JANUARY NOTES...

Meeting. The January 5th meeting was opened at 1000 by Tom Ruggiero, as President Chuck and Vice President Larry were not able to attend. This meeting was a replacement for our December meeting and marks the first time that we have had a regular meeting in a member's shop. Tom welcomed 10 members. There were no guests. The meeting was adjourned at 1230 whereupon Tom led the group on a tour through his workshop and the models displayed in his home. There was a full buffet lunch for the attendees courtesy of SMSNJ and the Ruggiero family. Yum!! [Meeting Photos](#).

Treasurer's Report. Tom Ruggiero presented the report. We have a good balance in the Club account.

Next Month's Meeting. Tuesday, January 22nd at the Roseland Library. This will be our annual auction event. Please provide a form for each item that you intend to auction off. To assist in this, Chuck has placed an electronic form on the home page of the SMSNJ website. No searching needed. Simply provide the information and press submit for each item. All of the submitted forms go to Chuck, who will bring them to the meeting. If there is no form, there is no sale item. So please take a little time to fill out a form for each piece you are selling. Note that the starting bid will be the minimum price that you are asking. As with a regular auction, bids go up not down, so be reasonable with your minimum. In keeping with our traditional practice, 10% of the sale price will go to SMSNJ. Please help us help you!

Saturday Workshop. The next group build session will be held at Chuck's house on Saturday, January 19th.

Tech Session. Because of the auction, there will be no Tech Session at the January 22nd meeting.

Northeast Joint Clubs Conference. The next joint clubs meeting will be hosted by the Connecticut Club; they will have flyers out in January. We will need to have someone from SMSNJ do a round table presentation. Please step up and volunteer.

Grace Geigel. Nick Starace informed the group that he has been in touch with Grace's daughter Mary. Grace is doing very well. She has moved, and the phone has been disconnected. However, the email address remains open. As Grace was active with the club in the past and developed a friendship with several members, Steve continues to email *The Broadaxe* to her each month.

TECH SESSION

Making Volutes in Small Scale

by Bill Brown



Polymer Clay is one more item in a modeler's toolbox that is a good alternative to carved wood for things like quarter badges, trail boards and even figure heads. The clay that Bill demonstrated at the January 5th meeting is called Sculpey, available from Polyform Products Company. There is a broad range of Sculpey types and colors (Super Sculpey, Sculpey III, Premo Sculpey, etc.). Prices range from \$5 to \$15 per pound; you'll find that a pound will last quite some time for model work. Sculpey is easy to find and can be used with both softeners and hardeners supplied by Polyform Products. Once you have created the shape you want with the clay, you bake it for 15 minutes or so at low temperature (200° F if possible).

Sculpey is quite tacky and Bill recommends using wax paper when working with it. For the type of modeling we do, dental type tools work best. Sculpey III comes in many colors and can be painted and sanded.

To demonstrate how to work with Sculpey, Bill rolled out a piece to make a long cylinder. When shaping your piece, it helps to have a little bit of water on hand to keep the clay from sticking to your fingers. Using a rigging tool he had brought (basically a long eye needle with the top cut off), Bill made a volute. He demonstrated how he applied this volute to one side of a sheer rail, filling gaps with Elmer's wood filler. Carefully sanding the piece produces a very good-looking rail. Bill passed around a taffrail carving that he made with Sculpey.

A nice feature of this material is that you can form individual parts separately and then combine them to create an overall carving. This allows things that protrude, like arms and legs, to be added later. Bill says he is able to bake his carvings on wax paper because of the very low temperature involved. One thing to beware of is that, once baked, Sculpey can be brittle.

Sculpey does not produce toxic fumes and you can combine different types. There are two practicums on *Model Ship World* that address using Sculpey.

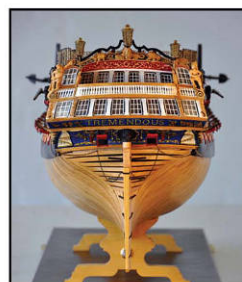


THE NAUTICAL RESEARCH GUILD

"ADVANCING SHIP MODELING THROUGH RESEARCH"

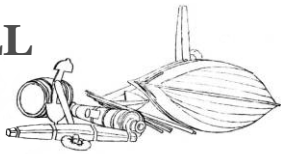
Annual membership includes our world-renowned quarterly magazine, *Nautical Research Journal*, which features photographs and articles on ship model building, naval architecture, merchant and naval ship construction, maritime trade, nautical and maritime history, nautical archaeology and maritime art.

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 or call 585 968 8111

SHOW AND TELL

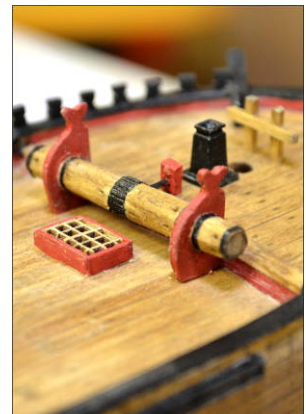


Schooner *Sultana*

— Bill Brown

Bill's *Sultana* is in 1:64 scale measuring 17" x 3" x 15" when the mast is stepped. The model was started several years back by Bill's wife Donna. Bill has decided to complete it.

This is a circa 1985 Model Shipways "Yellow Box" kit modified in accordance with Chuck Passaro's *Sultana* Practicum. The solid hull has its bulwarks removed as well as 1/16" of material shaved above the wales to accept basswood 1/16" x 1/8" hull planking. An additional 1/16" of material has been removed from the deck to allow for 1/16" x 1/8" deck planking. The model also features scratch built pieces that have been substituted for many of the kit's white metal fittings. *Sultana* is being completed as a private vessel prior to her entry into British Navy service, and thus will show the figurehead and absence of swivel guns. Beautiful workmanship, Bill.

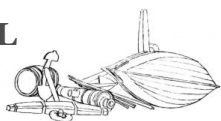


A new *Sultana*, launched in Chestertown, Maryland, in 2001, serves as an educational vessel for schoolchildren as it travels around the Chesapeake Bay.

The replica vessel is not an exact reconstruction. It has a diesel auxiliary engine and otherwise conforms to Coast Guard regulations in order to carry passengers. Within modern safety requirements she was built following traditional methods as much as possible.

—Photo by [Acroterion](#), used under license [Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International](#)

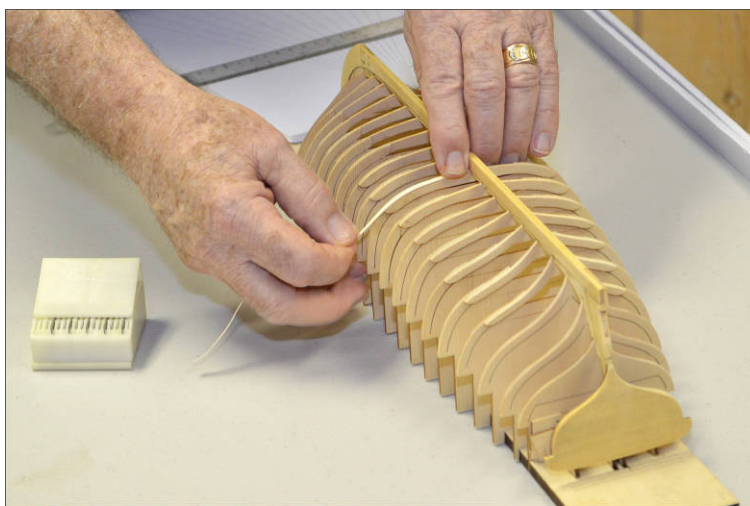
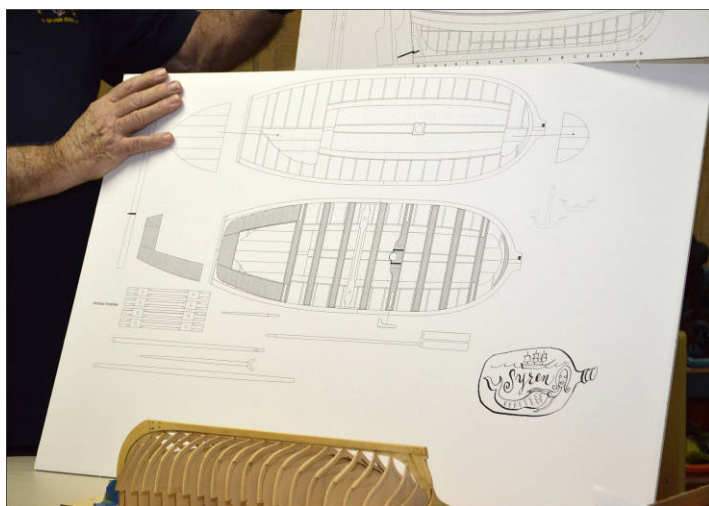
SHOW AND TELL



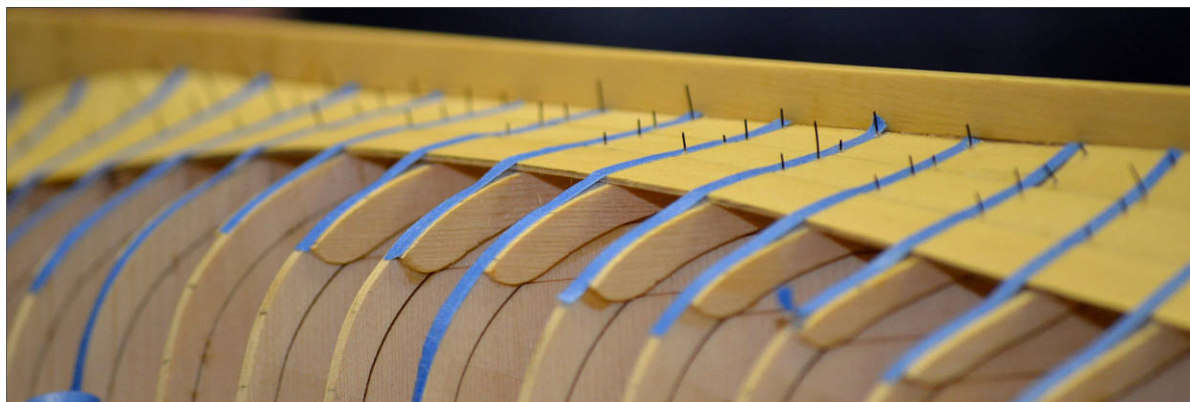
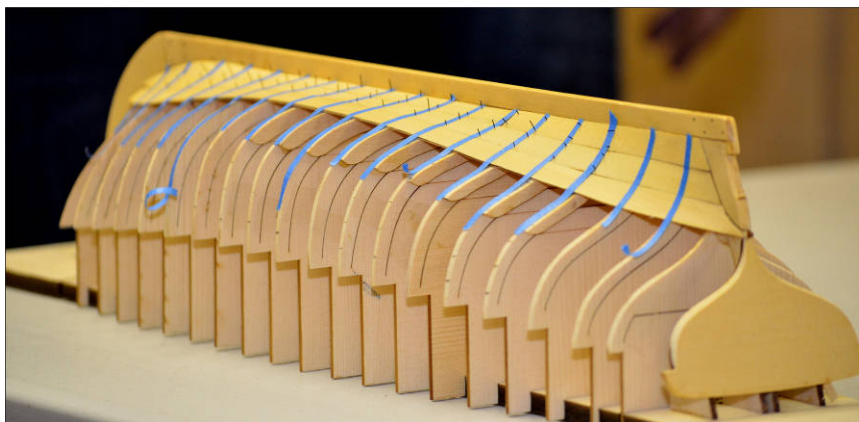
Medway Longboat

— Bill Houston & Tom Ruggiero

Bill brought his continuing project. He has mounted the plans on Bristol Board so that they will lie flat or can be propped up. He has just about finished fairing all of the frames. Planking is next. Keep it going, Bill.



Tom is in the process of planking and has installed the first three strakes. He has paused to install copper nails simulated with monofilament. The reason he did it this way is because being still attached to the jig the hull is more stable. Also, he can make certain that the "nails" are on the centerline of the frame. He keeps his line with blue painter's tape.



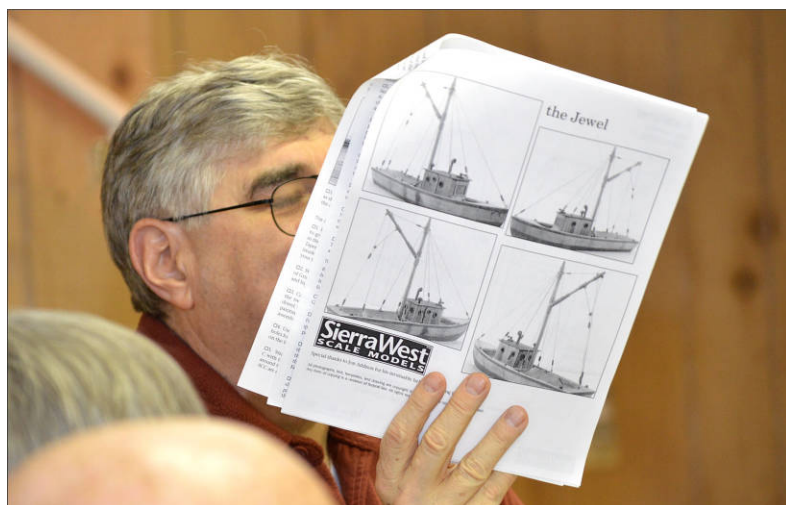
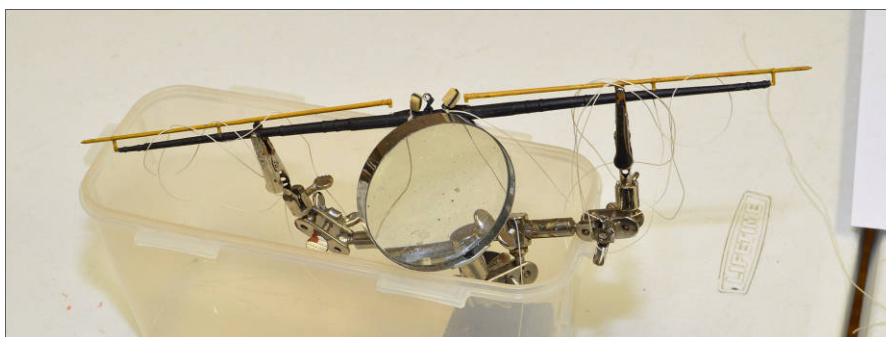
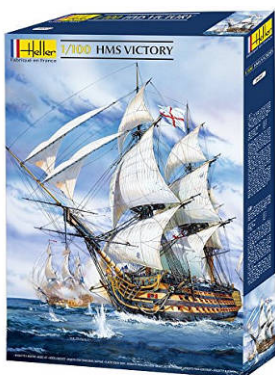
SHOW AND TELL



HMS *Victory*: Ship's Fore Yard

— Dan Caramagno

Dan has been building the HMS *Victory* kit by Heller (2,107 parts!) and brought the fore yard of his model to the January 5th meeting. He is adding the truss pendants, sling jeer blocks and other items that are needed prior to crossing the yard to the mast. Although he has done the foot ropes using wire, he is considering redoing them with stiffened rope. Dan uses clear matte medium by Liquitex to hold all of the various rigging and seizing elements together. Liquitex is a bit pricey, but it works well and dries clear. One bottle will last for years. Looking good, Dan.



Jewel and Addison

— Mason Logie

Mason showed a kit of the HO scale fishing boat *Jewel*. It's one he had purchased from an individual who had started but never finished it. Research showed that this popular kit was selling for \$250 on eBay. Mason contacted the manufacturer, Sierra West, and found out their list price was \$67.50. Mason was able to buy the kit and a sister boat, the *Addison*, for \$50 from the seller, complete with all parts and instructions.

The kits feature a combination of resin and wood pieces, with some carving required. The pieces include rigging, something with which Mason said he would need help. Although they will be sitting on the shelf until the pirate ship "Hex Marks the Spot" is finished, the target date for completion of the first fishing boat is September.

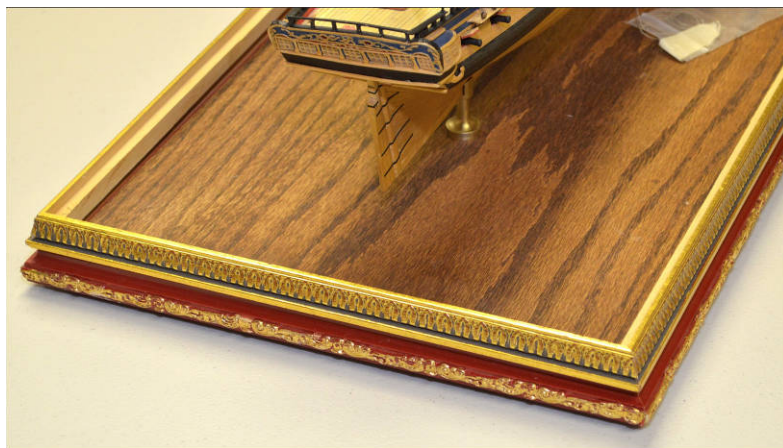
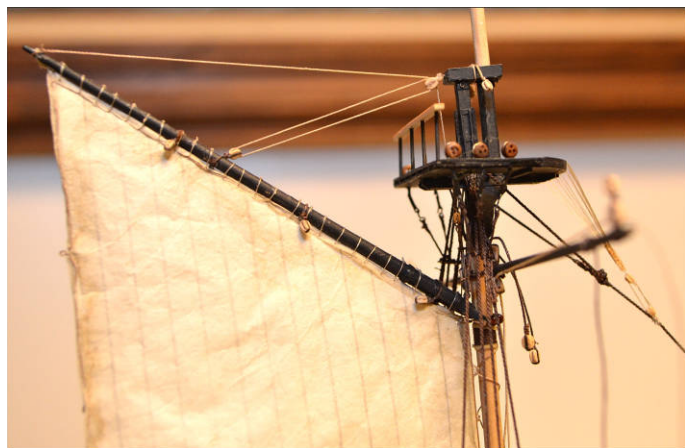
Nice buy, Mason.

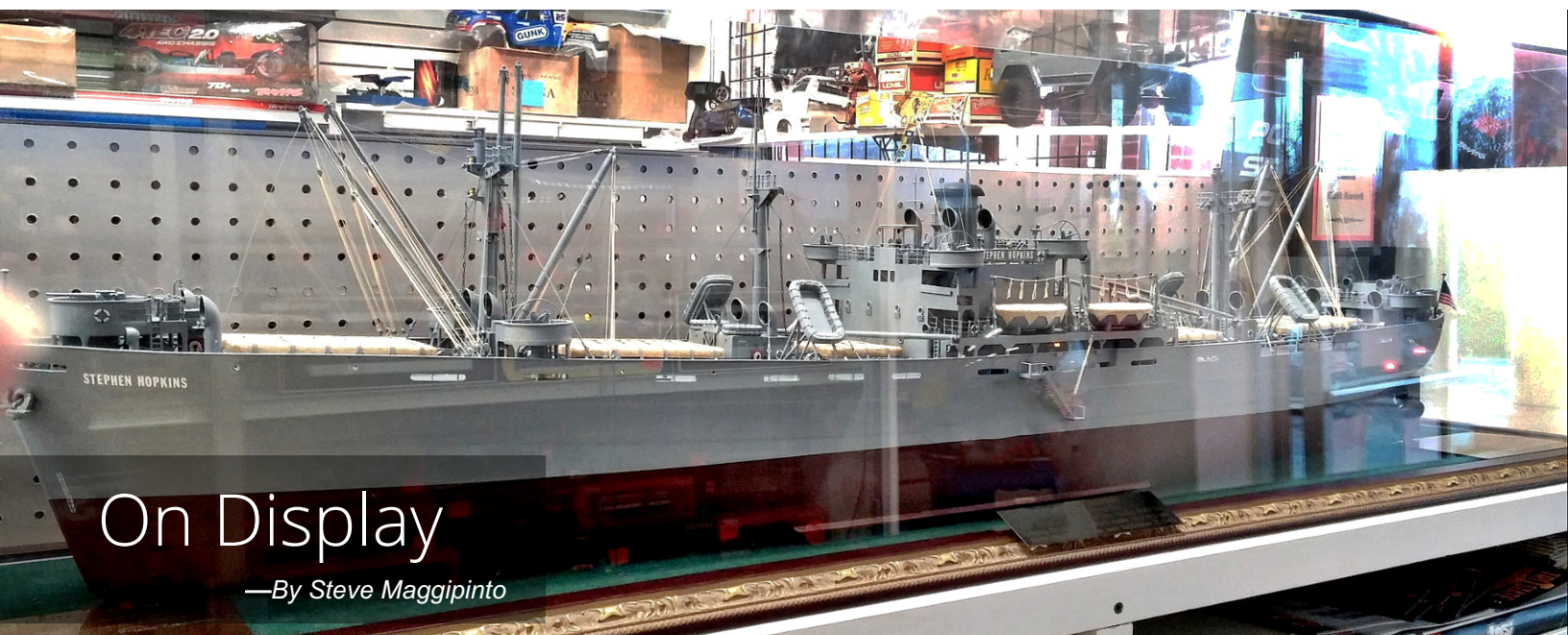
SHOW AND TELL



HMS Liverpool: 1757 RN Frigate — Tom Ruggiero

Since the meeting was at Tom's shop, he brought out Liverpool for a quick look. At this point, the lower mizzen is complete as well as the fighting top. The main mast is stepped and the main yard crossed and rigged. Both masts have the shrouds installed but the ratlines will have to wait so that most of the rigging inboard of the shrouds can be completed. Basically, rigging bottom to top and centerline out. Tom started at the mizzen mast as suggested by David Antscherl. He did this to make it easier to set up the stays. He also completed the crowsfoot on the mizzen. Crowsfeet were designed to prevent the foot of the fore and main topsails from getting trapped under the fighting top when the topmast was lowered.





On Display

—By Steve Maggipinto

Not long ago, I stopped by the local hobby shop, F&M Hobbies, to buy some paint. The store has a narrow entryway of 6-8 feet, then makes a sharp right bend into a central corridor lined on both sides with everything you could imagine a hobbyist might need—or want. When I opened the door, I noticed a cased model of a Liberty ship just inside on the right. It was nearly 5 feet long. A closer look identified the modeler as our own Ossi Thalmann. The piece displayed was the SS *Stephen Hopkins*, the only US merchant vessel to sink a German surface combatant during WWII.

Stephen Hopkins was built at the Permanente Metals Corporation (Kaiser) shipyards in Richmond, CA. Her namesake was a Rhode Island signer of the Declaration of Independence.

Launched in May, 1942, the Liberty ship completed her first cargo run, but never made it home. On September 27, 1942, en route from Cape Town to Surinam, she encountered the heavily armed German commerce raider *Stier* and her tender *Tannenfels*. Because of fog, the ships were only 2 miles apart when they sighted each other. Ordered to stop, *Stephen Hopkins* refused to surrender, and *Stier* opened fire. Although greatly outgunned, the crew of *Stephen Hopkins* fought back, replacing the Armed Guard crew of the ship's lone 4"/50 with volunteers as they fell. The fight was fierce and short, and by its end both ships were wrecks. *Stephen Hopkins* sank at 1000. *Stier*, too heavily damaged to continue its voyage, was scuttled by its crew less than two hours later. 42 members of *Stephen Hopkins*' crew died, including captain Paul Buck. The survivors drifted on a lifeboat for a month before reaching shore in Brazil.

Captain Buck was posthumously awarded the Merchant Marine Distinguished Service Medal for his actions. So was US Merchant Marine Academy cadet Edwin Joseph O'Hara, who single-handedly fired the last shots from the ship's 4-inch gun. O'Hara was the second cadet to receive this award, and the first to receive it posthumously. Navy reservist Lt (jg)

Kenneth Willett, gun boss of the 4-inch, was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross. For the action, SS *Stephen Hopkins* was awarded the Merchant Marine Gallant Ship Citation by the United States Maritime Administration. O'Hara Hall, the gym facility at the US Merchant Marine Academy is named in honor of Midshipman O'Hara and his act of defiance in the face of hopeless odds.

Ossi's model measures 54" in length by 7" abeam in 1/8" scale. As you can see from the photo, it is nicely fitted out and detailed, an Ossi trademark. As of January 12, 2019, it is still on display. F&M Hobbies is located at 240 Route 206S in Flanders, NJ, just under 4 miles south of Route 80's Exit 27A. [More pictures.](#)



BOOKS AND PUBS

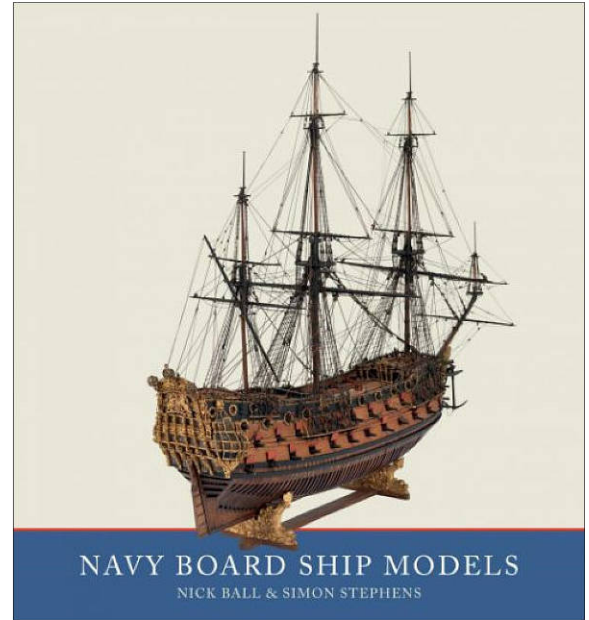


NAVY BOARD SHIP MODELS

— Nick Ball & Simon Stephens; brought in by Dan Caramagno

At the November meeting, Chuck brought in Volume 2 of Grant Walker's multi-volume coverage of the Rogers Collection at the Naval Academy. Dan arrived at the January 5th meeting with a similar publication, an overview of models included in the collection of the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich, England, most of which are currently in storage in Chatham. Dan is very pleased with the publication because it is not simply a picture book of the collection; it provides a full description and history of each model. According to Dan, although similar books by Franklin are superior (and nearly impossible to find), *Navy Board Ship Models* is better than some other NMM publications.

Navy Board Ship Models is divided into 3 parts: a history of the model style, a description of how the models were built and a catalog with brief notes on each entry. The catalog is a useful and novel feature that allows the reader to call up a model by its catalog number on the NMM website to study it in high definition. As most of the museum's models are no longer on display, these days this is the only way to enjoy them. Dan highly recommends the book to anyone interested in these models.



Tips, Tools and Techniques

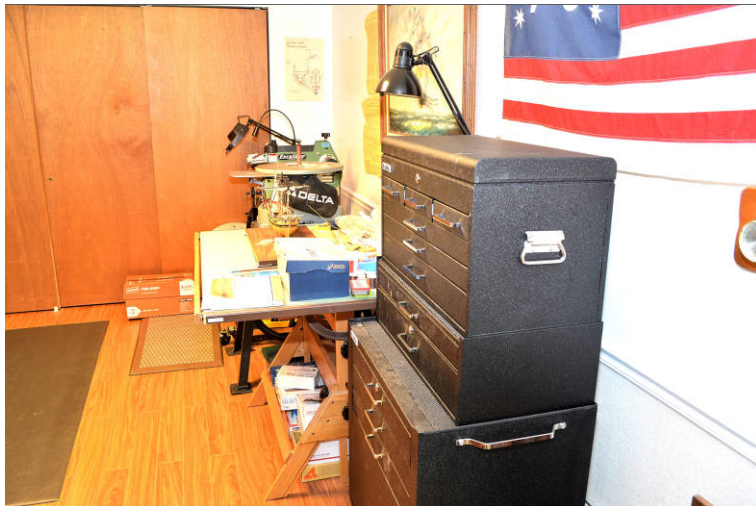
Barry Rudd discovered the [needle file set](#) shown opposite at a Michaels craft store. He uses these files all the time and for the price has found them to be an excellent value.

The files are small, just 4 inches long. Are they top of the line? No. But, according to Barry, for what you pay (\$7.99) they will do a good job when you're working on small metal or wood details. The files come in 6 different shapes.

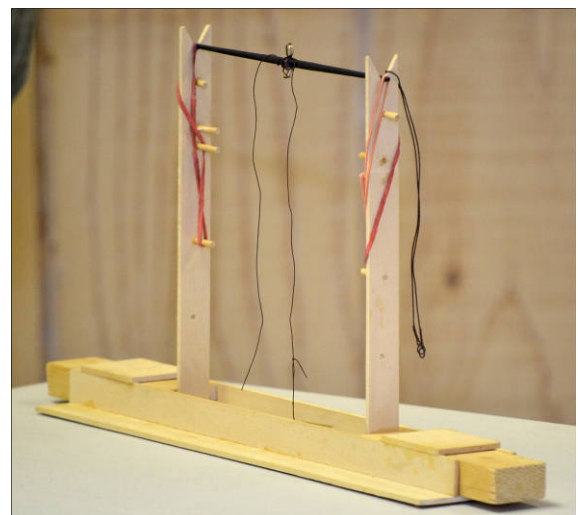
Comment from Michaels:

"These files are essential when making ultra-fine modifications to metal crafts, woodworking, glass, jewelry and wire working applications. They are especially useful in jewelry construction to smooth out rough edges on metal, wire and beads. This set contains the following distinctive shapes: flat, half round, square, triangle, barrette and round. Clean thoroughly before reusing files on polymer clay, metal clay and other crafting materials."

Where It All Happens: The Ruggiero Shop



At the January 5th meeting Tom brought out the rigging jig that he uses for the preliminary attachments to masts and yards. The device is described in the *NRG Journal* (Vol. 62, No 3, Autumn 2017) and [November 2017 Broadaxe](#) (See "Tool Time"). Tom assembled his with basswood. The jig easily adjusts to various spar lengths, and larger or smaller jigs can be made as needed.



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 each month by 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.

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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