



The Broadaxe



★ OF NEW JERSEY ★

Founded 1981

Volume 37, Number 9

Newsletter of the Ship Model Society of New Jersey

September 2019

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Our next club meeting is
September 24th at 6:45PM

ROSELAND PUBLIC
LIBRARY

AUGUST NOTES...

Meeting. The meeting was opened at 1840 by our new President, Bill Brown. Present were 21 members and one guest, Bob Fineman, who is on Model Ship World (MSW) and is visiting from Florida. Thanks for coming, Bob. The meeting was adjourned at 2020 whereupon several members went to the Cloverleaf Inn. [Meeting photos.](#)

Correction. At the June meeting, Tom presented the Jim Roberts Award plaque to Jeff Fuglestad, the 2019 winner for his model of SS *Pendleton*. Tom also mentioned the names of other club members who have won this award, and those names were listed in the July issue of *The Broadaxe*. Unfortunately, missing from that list was Nick Starace, the 2016 winner for his model of USS *New Jersey*. Our apologies to Nick for the oversight.

Treasurer's report. Tom Ruggiero presented the report showing a good balance in the Club account. Dues are now past due. We are pleased to report that most members at the meeting have paid and we ask that the other members continue this trend.

Next Month's Meeting. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, September 24th. The Tech Session at the meeting will be "Planking a Frigate" presented by Chuck Passaro.

Saturday Workshop. Due to the Barbecue, there will not be a workshop in September.

OLD BUSINESS



SMSNJ Apparel. As reported in *The Broadaxe*, Bill Brown has purchased a "one size fits all" hat in Navy Blue. An order was placed the day after the August meeting. Hats were available at our Barbecue on September 14th. The remainder of the hats can be picked up at the September meeting.



SMSNJ Barbecue 2019. The Barbecue on September 14 was held at Tom's house. There will be a report in the next *Broadaxe* along with photos.

Speedwell Museum. As mentioned in last month's newsletter, we are planning a show and exhibit at historic Speedwell in Morristown. We proposed two weekends in the spring of 2020 to the Speedwell staff and are awaiting their response.

Philadelphia ModelCon. The Philadelphia ModelCon event is scheduled September 28th. Your Secretary plans to be

there and it would be a good thing for SMSNJ to support this event. If you are planning to attend, contact Joshua Fichman of the Philadelphia Ship Model Society (PSMS). His contact information is on the flyer below.

The Philadelphia club partnered with the Independence Seaport Museum (ISM) to host this first ever ModelCon in order to bring the hobby closer to the public. They are requesting that local clubs do their best to participate in the event as they are hoping for strong public foot traffic at the show. ModelCon will take place in the newly renovated rotunda area on the ground floor of the museum.

NEW BUSINESS



National Lighthouse Museum Exhibit 2019. As we have done for several years, we will be returning to the National Lighthouse Museum to do a one day show and demonstration at their request. This is a fun event, a good time to talk with the public and get work accomplished on your current project.

Our recently joined member, Carmine Bianco, first met us at one of the exhibits. This year we will be there on November 9th.

Video Recording Tech Sessions. Steve Maggipinto discussed the issue of prerecording tech sessions prior to the meeting and then showing the recording at the meeting and having the presenter there to address questions. Ideally, this would be done in a controlled "studio" setting so that it could be edited, with the actual work more clearly displayed. Chuck has a suitable camera and will be testing it out. Bill has learned how to edit with Chuck's camera. He suggested that Chuck video some of the planking that he is doing on *Winchelsea* and offered to edit the raw footage. From there we could build it into a Tech Session. This will require a bit more discussion but, in general, it could work well. More to follow.

TECH SESSION

Plank Shaping Methods and Techniques

The Tech Session at the August meeting was Plank Shaping Methods and Techniques by Larry Friedlander and Chuck Passaro. Larry discussed the reasons why wood can be bent and the theory behind it. He also discussed why wood bends better when it is moistened and hot (about the boiling point of water). Although moistening wood is not required to bend it, it will bend more easily when wet. Larry then discussed and demonstrated the various tools that are available to assist in bending wood for our hobby. Naturally, some work better than others and some are simply gimmicky. For example, there is a tool



that indents the surface of the plank on the inside of the bend. This works without heat or moisture, but it does weaken the wood and is not acceptable when the inside surface of the plank is visible. Larry handed out a transcript of his discussion as well as a listing of what is available and where to obtain it. Here are links to items included in Larry's handout:

[Rx For Bending Wood](#)

[Steam Bending](#)

[Model Shipways Electric Plank Bender](#)

[Mantua Wheel Type Wood Strip Plank Bender](#)

[Plier Type Plank Bender/Wood Bending Tool](#)

[Clamp Type Planking Bending Tool](#)

Chuck discussed how a plank is curved to form a hull. Many of us are familiar with edge bending. Chuck demonstrated this on a bending board with several different pivot points and hold down clamps. He does not moisten the wood and applies heat with a hair dryer at its highest heat setting. Some overbending is required because there will be some spring back. The edge bending is required if planks are not spiled (cut to the curvature to meet the abutting plank). A common misconception for planking a hull is that spiling the planks obviates the need to bend the planks. This is not the case. A plank that is not spiled will need to be curved in three planes. The spiling process takes care of the edge bend. The plank must then be curved and also twisted so that it tends to snug up to the adjoining plank. Chuck noted that this is a little counter intuitive because it appears that the curvature is down, when in fact it needs to be up.



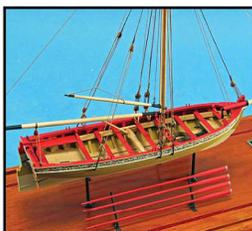
Spiling is a good technique to learn. You are projecting the shape of the plank onto a flat surface to allow you to accurately cut out the plank. Fellow member Barry Rudd uses tape that he presses into the space between two planks. He marks the shape on the tape; removes it; and then transfers it to the wood stock that he is going to cut the plank from. These days you can do the same thing with a CAD program. The alternative is the manual way that the draftsmen of old used.

THE NAUTICAL RESEARCH GUILD

"ADVANCING SHIP MODELING THROUGH RESEARCH"

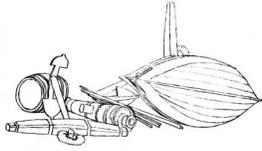
Annual membership includes our world-renowned quarterly magazine, Nautical Research Journal, which features photographs and articles on ship model building, naval architecture, merchant and naval ship construction, maritime trade, nautical and maritime history, nautical archaeology and maritime art.

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

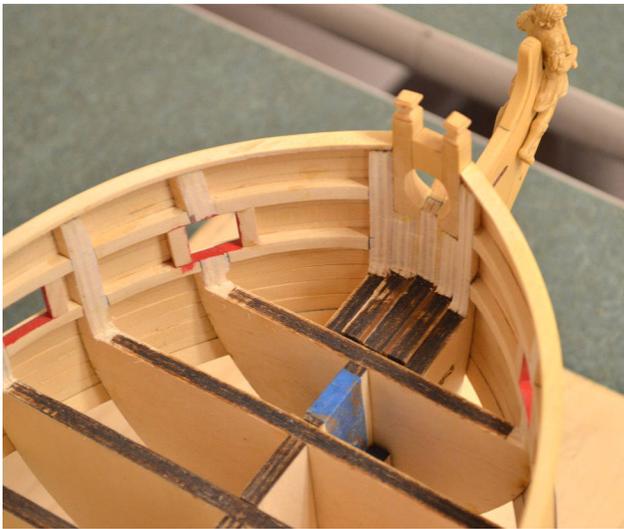
SHOW AND TELL



HMS *Winchelsea*

— Chuck Passaro

The *Winchelsea* was a 36-gun British frigate, one of the largest class of frigates built for the Royal Navy. Chuck's model is 1:48, a scale that produces a hull over three feet long. It is noted that 1:48 was the selected scale for most Admiralty as well as US Navy models. Currently, Chuck is formulating a method for producing the drift rail and moldings. He is using laser cut molding that will meet with the scroll at the end of each rail. He will then proceed to planking. The model is impressive to say the least.



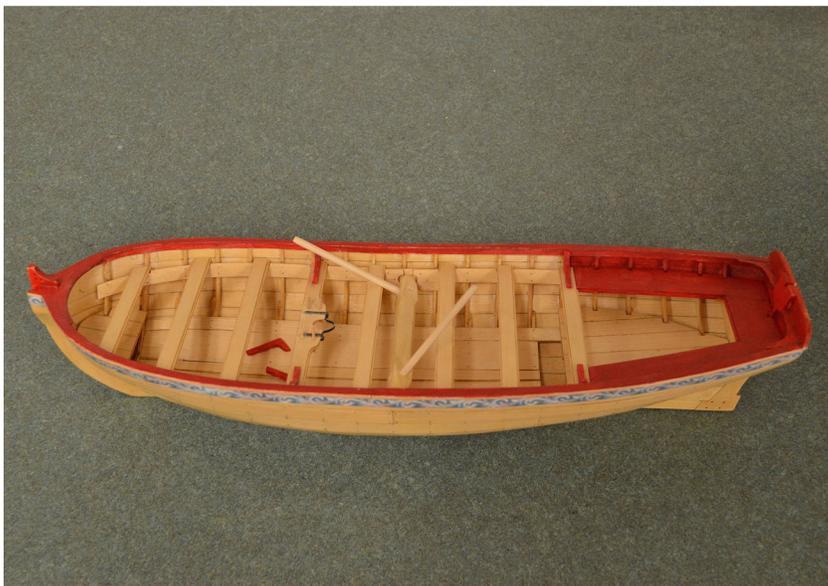
SHOW AND TELL



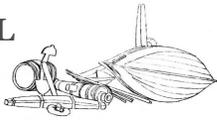
Medway Long Boat

— Steve Fletcher

Steve is making good progress on the interior of his boat. He scratch built the windlass which looks very good. He says that he was impressed that it really wasn't that hard. He noted that the blackening of the brass strips did not produce an even blackened surface. Part of the reason could be that the brass needs to be thoroughly cleaned. He is going to move on to the molding next. Looking good, Steve.



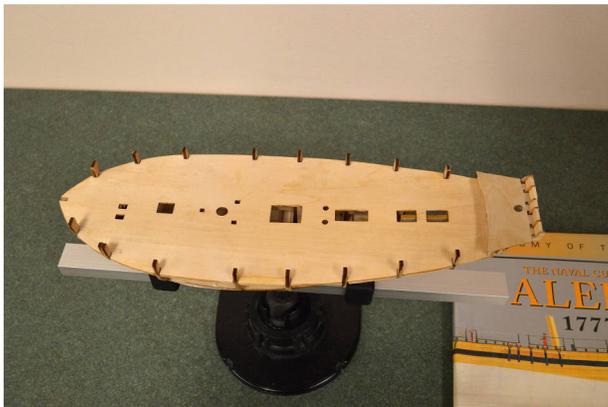
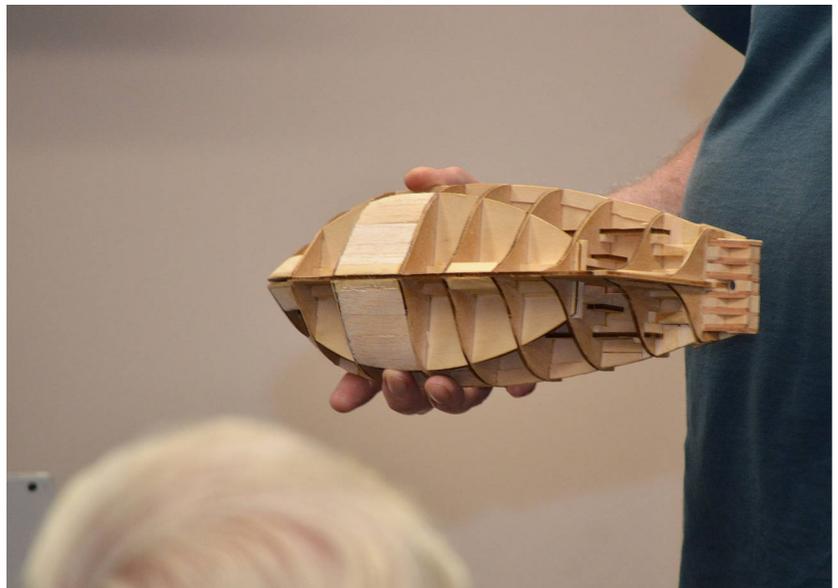
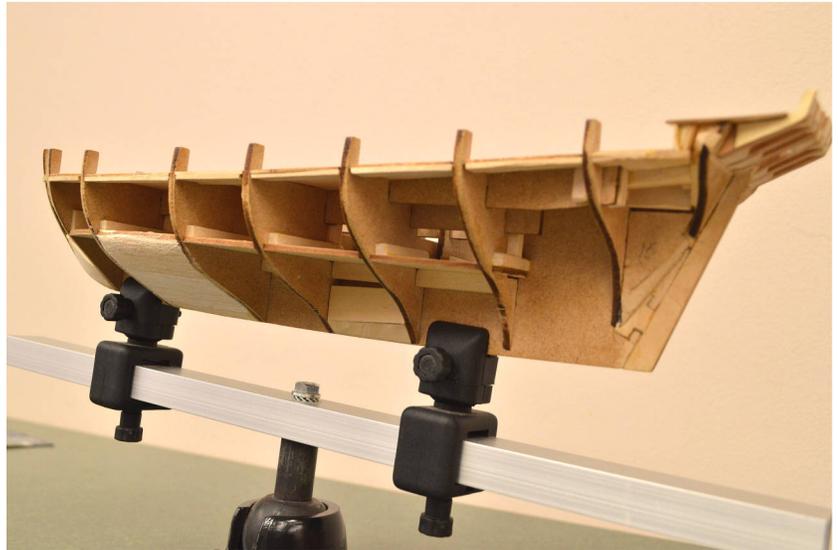
SHOW AND TELL



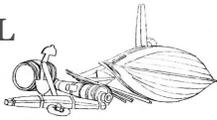
HMS *Alert*

— Kurt Johnson

Kurt brought in another project that he is working on, the 1:64 scale British cutter *Alert* (1777). The model is based on the Vanguard kit. As references, Kurt is extensively using *The Anatomy of the Ship Series "Alert"* by Peter Goodwin as well as several *Nautical Research Journal* articles by the late Roger Cole. The *Alert* was captured by the French *Junon* in the English Channel in 1778 and lost off the American coast in 1779. This is a kit with bulkheads in MDF. This is the first time that Kurt is doing a "double planked" build. The kit came with pear for the outer planking, but Kurt thinks that he will use boxwood. One issue that Kurt needed to resolve is that this kit was an early run, and the stern framing was in poplar rather than MDF. As a result, the frames broke along the grain. Kurt solved this problem by making his own. It was noted that the bulkheads are a bit widely spaced. Kurt remedied this with a few balsa blocks installed between the bulkheads to add more contact area for the somewhat thin first plank layer. Looking great, Kurt.



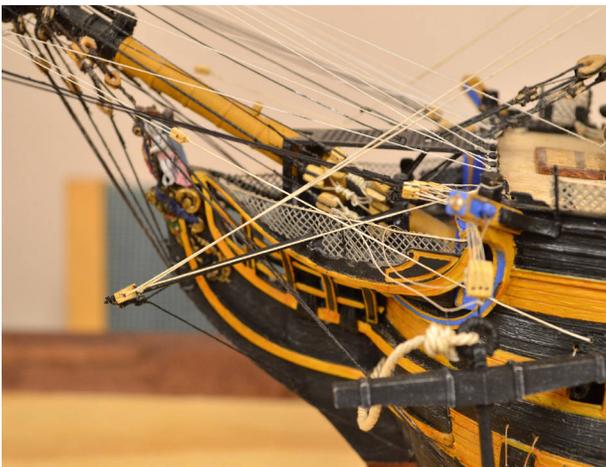
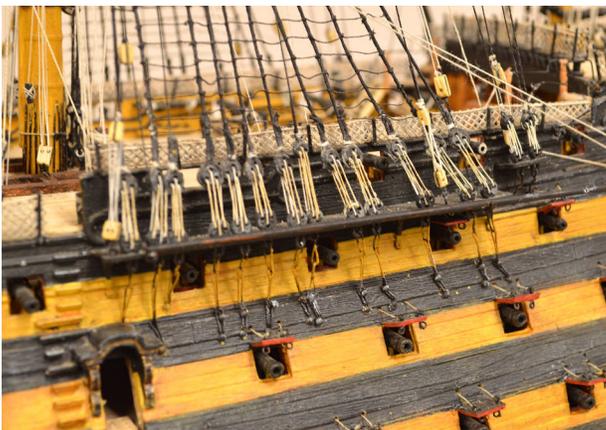
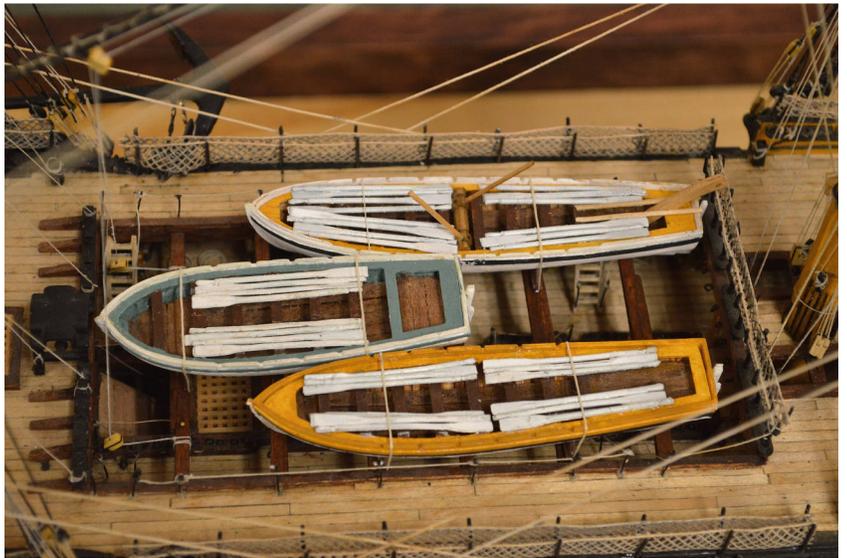
SHOW AND TELL



HMS *Victory*

— Dan Caramagno

Dan has been working lately on his 1:70 Heller kit of HMS *Victory*, a 100-gun British 1st Rate of 1765. Over the years, we have seen the various stages of its construction. At the August meeting we got to see a completed model. Dan's fully rigged *Victory* is 38" long, 18" high, and about 8" in breadth. The kit has been modified to show the ship as she was in 1805 prior to the Battle of Trafalgar. Although a plastic kit, Dan fashioned his modifications out of wood and brass, using N. Longridge's book *Anatomy of Nelson's Ship* as a primary reference. He supplemented the book with additional sources, both period and modern. Dan found that Longridge's specifications may be dated based on what we now know of HMS *Victory*. There are also several points of detail still in dispute, hence the claim "circa 1805 appearance" versus a more definitive claim. In any case, the model looks fantastic. Congratulations, Dan!



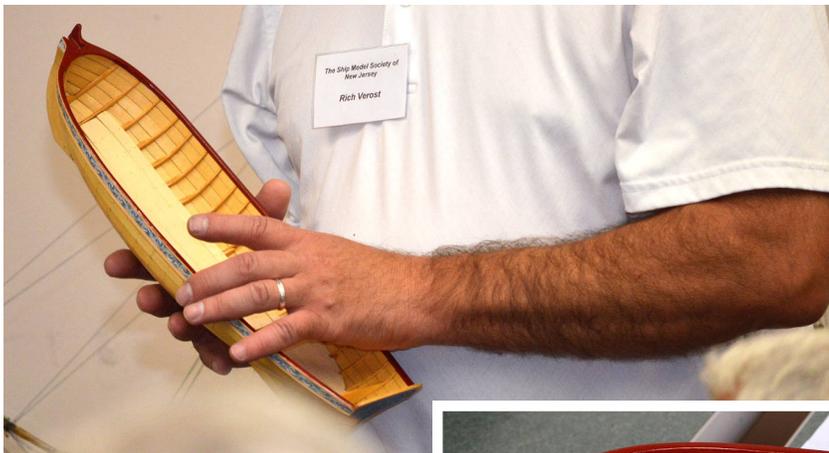
SHOW AND TELL



HMS *Victory* Times 2

— Mason Logie

Mason is working, simultaneously, on two extremely small-scale *Victory* kits. The first is from Lindbergh (1:500); the other is a kit by Pyro (1:600). Mason has found photoetch ratlines for each kit. He intends to enhance the molded in detail that makes the hull look very realistic. Quite a project, Mason. Looking forward to seeing the models when they are complete.



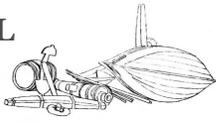
Medway Long Boat

— Rich Verost

Rich's long boat continues to show good progress and craftsmanship. Work continues at a slow but steady pace. Since last month the hull has been finished and floorboards have been installed. Work has begun on the two platforms. Coming along great, Rich.



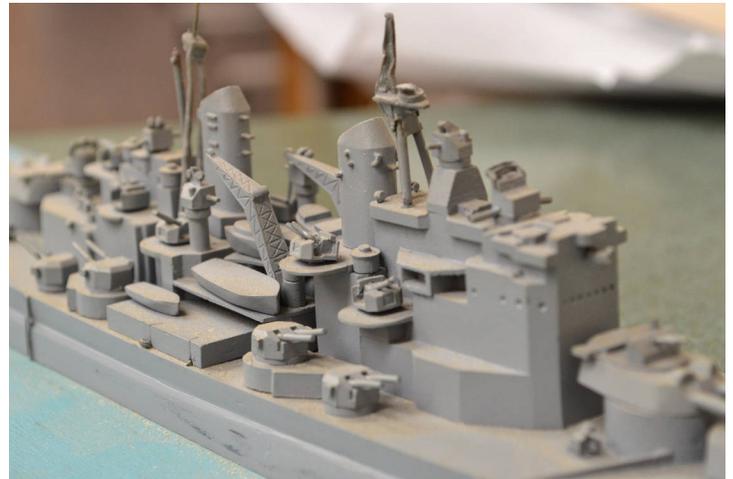
SHOW AND TELL



HMS *Vanguard*

— John Marinovich

John brought in a model of the last British battleship, HMS *Vanguard* (1945). Her final mission was to carry Royal family members on a visit to Africa. As a recognition model, it is small in scale, 1:500, made in cast metal by Comet Metal Products. The model is 20" by 3" by 3." Recognition models were used extensively during both world wars. Many were built in sets of a country's entire fleet. Among other things, they were used by lookouts and pilots to learn what their "friendlies" and targets looked like. A very nice piece of history, John.



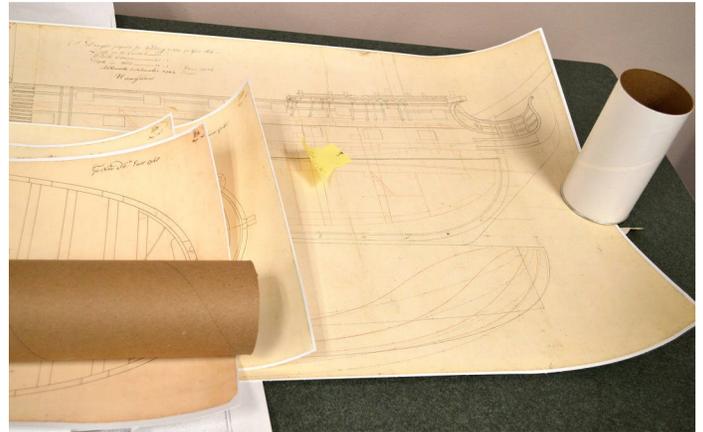
BOOKS AND PUBS



Vanguard and Somerset – Admiralty Plans

— Jeff Fuglestad

Jeff is planning to build a model of the 70-gun third-rate ship of the line HMS *Somerset*. In doing his research, he obtained plans from the Maritime Museum in Greenwich, UK of her sister, HMS *Vanguard* (not the same ship as John M.'s battleship recognition model!). Moored in Boston harbor on April 18, 1775, *Somerset* was the ship that gave the signals Paul Revere announced on his ride.



A Sailor You Be

By Noel Payne

Have you felt the salt spray, upon your face?
Have you seen the porpoise at the bow, keeping pace?
Have you viewed sea birds, above the wake in flight?
Have you fixed on a star, at sunset shining bright?

Has there been a time, to save a shipmate?
Has the roll of the deck, ever kept you awake?
Has the vastness of the sea, left you feeling alone?
Has a foreign port, made you wish you were home?

If you have weighed anchor, from calm shelter.
If you have crossed the equator, at noon time swelter.
If you have stood your watch, on a pitching deck.
If you have made landfall, on the horizon a speck.

When you have secured the decks, for the night to turn in.
When you have mustered at sunrise, seen a new day begin.
When you have dogged down hatches, in a mountainous sea.
When you have known all these things, a sailor you be.



Eight Bells by Winslow Homer (1886)

— With thanks to Barry Rudd

PROFILES

Ossi
Thalmann

Ossi was born in Santiago, Chile. In 1939, his father took Ossi and his older brother to visit their grandparents in Germany. When it came time to return home, the boys were barred from leaving the country and were forced to join the German military. Because he was still quite young, Ossi was conscripted into the *German Youngsters in the Hitler Youth*; his older brother into the *Luftwaffe*. In 1949, under sponsorship of his uncle living in the United States, Ossi was granted a visa and a Permanent Residence Card to travel to the US where he took up residence, married, started a family and began a career as a machinist. He served in the US Army from 1951 to 1953, and recalls that the training he received was not so different from what he had been exposed to in Germany many years before.

Ossi's interest in modeling began at an early age.



In 1970 he traveled to Boston and, while there, visited USS *Constitution*. Her beauty, symmetry and old world craftsmanship made a serious impression on Ossi. He was hooked. His interest led to the creation you see opposite. He obtained 1/8" scale plans of the vessel and enlarged these to 1/4" scale, ending up with a model 7.5' long. With the exception of purchased anchors and cannons, the model was completely scratch built. It took 2 years and 4,000 hours to complete, and is now housed in the home of one of Ossi's grandchildren. Soon after finishing *Constitution*, Ossi built a 5.5' long *Santa Maria*. Since then, he has constructed 17 additional models. He joined SMSNJ at the invitation of Olie Eriksen.

In 1975, Scientific Models (now Micro Mark) contacted Ossi to make models to put in their catalog. From 1974 through 1980, Ossi built three model ship prototypes for Scientific: the clipper ships *Cutty Sark* and *Thermopylae*,



and the Spanish Galleon *San Mateo*. Ossi also made several doll house furniture pieces for Scientific (see the April 2018 *Broadaxe*).

Ossi has displayed his models at shows and competitions for many years. Early on he discovered that interest at the shows he attended was directed more toward mid-20th century vessels than to sailing ships. This led him to redirect his focus from wood to steel and from rigging to superstructure and stacks. In the interest of saving time, he also switched to kit vs. scratch building, settling primarily on plastic kits in 1/200 scale. This scale allowed him reasonable portability while maintaining a size large enough to accommodate extensive modifications, enhancements, and additional detail. Ossi has been



fortunate in the competitions he has entered, earning prizes at virtually every one of them. Many of these have been firsts and seconds, including awards for the Liberty ship *Stephen Hopkins*, Germany's *Bismarck*, HMS *Hood*, HIJMS *Yamato*, USS *Arizona*, USS *Wisconsin* and a paddle wheeler. Several of Ossi's models have also been displayed at F&M Hobbies, formerly of Randolph, now located in Flanders, NJ. The Liberty ship *Stephen Hopkins* is currently on display at the store.

But what Ossi is probably best known for is the mechanization of his models. These run the gamut from rotating and elevating turrets to flashing lights as guns fire, to torpedoes that shoot from tubes in a PT boat and

a submarine, to rotating catapults, radars, propellers and cranes, to moving rudders – all, through gearing, operating at a realistic speed. And his work has not gone without notice. Ossi recalls observers at shows photographing and shooting video of his creations-in-motion. Surprise, surprise – a recent entry in the Military Issue catalog is listing a 1/350 model of *Yamato* for \$500. It offers the same moving parts as Ossi's *Yamato*, missing only the gun barrel lights. Also listed is a U-boat with a mechanized periscope (but without Ossi's firing torpedoes). Is Ossi getting royalties? Don't even ask. We think you know the answer.





Philadelphia ModelCon

September 28th, 2019

Sponsored by the Philadelphia Ship Model Society

PSMS partnered with the Independence Seaport Museum is hosting its first ever ModelCon in order to bring the hobby close to the public.

We are calling modelers to participate in this event as we are hoping for strong public foot traffic for this event! The mission is to bring people closer to the hobby so works in progress are welcomed to display and discuss with patronage. This will take place in the newly renovated rotunda area on the ground floor of the ISM which has glass walls facing out to the river and boardwalk. If successful, this could become an annual event for us!

Other benefits:

- Tours of Coast Guard Cutter – EAGLE
 - An ex-Nazi ship taken into Coast Guard Service after WWII which will be docked on location for tours during the event weekend.



Location:
Independence Seaport Museum
211 S Christopher Columbus Blvd
Philadelphia, PA 19106

RSVP by September 21, 2019
Modelship@yahoo.com
Joshua Fichmann – 609-760-4727

Parking is right next to the Museum

Hilton Hotel Attached to the Museum

- \$10 Reimbursement to Onsite Parking next to the museum for people showing models who RSVP prior to the event.
- Contests for the best model with 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place Prizes
- Fellowship with other modelers and the public
- Easy walking access to Old City Philadelphia
- Brown bag lunch event

Participants should plan on setting up by around 9am for a 10am public opening and plan on staying until around 3pm. Carts will be available to assist with transit into the museum from the parking lot. Any questions, please feel free to reach out to modelship@yahoo.com or you can call Joshua at 609-760-4727.

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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