



Volume 38, Number 8

Newsletter of the Ship Model Society of New Jersey

September 2020

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The September Meeting of SMSNJ will be a virtual meeting. The meeting will be;

September 22, 2020 at 7:00 PM (1900).

The Tech Session for September is "History of the Fireboat John J Harvey" presented by Huntley Gill.

Tech Session for October is, "Discovery of the Spitfire in Lake Champlain by "Susan McClure

SATURDAY WORKSHOPS

Future workshops are on hold due to the pandemic.

Please watch your email for updates as they become available.

A message from SMSNJ President Bill Brown

We will not be able to meet in person for some time. We continue with "virtual" meetings. Although virtual meetings are far from ideal, they have provided our club with the mechanism to continue functioning which is vital to its life. I wanted to thank the membership for their active participation during these meetings while also pointing out some of the advantages to a virtual gathering.

The biggest advantage to me personally is having participation from some of our remote members. Whether you live in Florida, Colorado, Virginia, or anywhere else for that matter, you can join the meeting by simply clicking the invite link. It has been wonderful to see folks that we normally don't see due to geography. In fact, for this point alone, I think we will be strongly considering keeping the virtual meeting ability active even after we get back to the library. We can always bring a smart device with us to the diner afterwards for the remote folks ;)

For those members, who for whatever reason, have not been able to make a virtual meeting, we miss you! We really miss you!!! Remember that you don't need a PC with a camera to participate. A smart phone or tablet can work just fine. For those folks that have neither, there are dial in numbers that you can call in to participate. You won't see the presentations, but you can certainly listen in and provide feedback over the phone. For folks that have security concerns with the tool, please know that we use a meeting specific password and have a waiting room in place. The host has to allow each participant into the meeting. If you have a more specific issue, please don't hesitate to contact one of the bridge members so that we have an opportunity to address it. I suspect we will be in this mode of operation for the foreseeable future so whatever we need to do to provide an acceptable virtual environment for "all" is certainly well worth considering.

I look forward to seeing you all at Tuesdays meeting. Until then, stay safe and be well.

Bill

Important Request

Virtual meetings are a big success. All of the meetings are recorded, and I will do my best to accurately transcribe as much as possible in the Broadaxe. I do have a very important request. The recording is not always that clear. So, when you are referring to something, please say what it is. "Take a look at this", doesn't tell me what "this" is.

One of the big advantages to a virtual meeting is that you do not need to truck in your models to the library. The downside is that the views of the models need to be taken from the Zoom video. The video is great, but moving the model around distorts the image and the various lighting situations, band width etc. make pulling the images from the meeting recording very spotty. So, we ask that if you plan to do a Show and Tell, or Books and Publications, or Cool Tool, that you send the relevant information to me so that I can accurately put it in the Broadaxe. There are Show and Tell forms available from the web site or simply send me an email with the pertinent information. Send two or three of photographs to me so that they can be put into the Broadaxe. If there are web addresses, product names, and the like, please send them to me as well to ensure that it is accurately transcribed.

Thank you for your cooperation,

Tom Ruggiero (trugs@comcast.net)

Meeting Report: The virtual meeting was called to order by President Bill Brown at 1900 on Tuesday, August 25, 2020. There were twenty one members and three guests. Todd Wardwell who has been with us quite a few times. He is from the Philadelphia Ship Model Society. John Brown is the owner of Brownies Hobbies in Staten Island. He presented the Tech Session. The third guest is David Kim. David is in possession of a "Pond Boat". More about it in New Business.

As has become a standard for our virtual meetings, President Bill has us touring the members workshops to check on their current project. Here are a few of the current projects.

Len Schwalm finished up a 1:700 Japanese Mogami Class Light Cruiser. It is a waterline model. He is now working on a Japanese Fighter plane that he plans to camouflage.

Josh Fichmann came into possession of a model of a tanker that is in pretty bad shape. Josh is planning to use the model in a diorama of a ship wreck. He plans to encase the model in resin. It will be his first project in resin.

John Brown, in 2015, was approached by the producers of a TV program called the family. The pilot episode had a ship in a bottle. They asked John to build one. Unfortunately, it wasn't the same ship as the one in the pilot episode. So, they found the original, but it was significantly damaged. John was able to extract it from the bottle, repair it, and reinstall it in the bottle.

The meeting adjourned at 2030. Unfortunately, there isn't a virtual Caldwell Diner.

September Tech Session: The Tech Session for September's meeting will be; "History of the Fireboat John J Harvey" presented by Huntley Gill,

OLD BUSINESS



Modelcon on USS New Jersey

The Modelcon that had been previously scheduled for August 1 in the wardroom of USS New Jersey had to be postponed to 2021. However, a small event was requested by the Battleship Curator. On August 8, 2021, four members of the Philadelphia Ship Model Society put on a display of warships. They were able to fill two tables with models. Todd Fichman reports that the event went very well considering that it was not advertised, many people came out specifically to see the model show. Josh estimates that between forty and fifty people went through the display. Modelcon next year should do very well. Stay tuned!

Model Restoration

Last month, Bill presented a model of a four masted clipper that the owner of Bahr's would like restored. Once again, he asks if anyone is interested. If you are interested, please contact Bill.



OLD BUSINESS (cont'd)

Zoom Account

Bill announced that we will have a shared Zoom account with the Hampton Roads Ship Model Society and the Philadelphia Ship Model Society.

Pond Boat

A guest at our meeting, David Kim, has a pond boat. Pond boats are quite large, and David wants to find a new home for the boat. If interested, please give David a call. David's number. 201 320 9082

Tech Session

Hobby Stores

Tonight's Tech Session was a presentation of the hobby shop in today's world. John Brown, the owner of "**Brownies Pro & Sport Hobbies**" in Staten Island discussed the state of hobby shops in the age of online buying and availability of suppliers complicated by the current pandemic. The Hobby Shop was founded by John's parents in 1971. John typically has only one volunteer helper in his shop. During the first two phases of the current pandemic in New York, John ran the shop by himself. In phase 3, he restricts it to two customers in the shop at a time plus himself and his helper all wearing masks. He usually has a small line of people waiting to get into his shop. Before the pandemic, John had typically had six to seven in the shop. John's website is basically an online business card. That is, it isn't a sales site. He prefers dealing in person. He has added more and more to his website. He has a small Ebay store to sell old stock, but he would rather have people come into the shop. He looks at his shop as a little museum. There are planes from the 1920's and other completed models on display. He states that he has a one thousand square foot building with ten thousand square feet of stock.

John noted that in the height of the pandemic, he met more 20 and 30 something people than he has seen in quite some time. Now that they are in phase 4 of the recovery, he is happy to say that about forty to fifty percent of them are still customers.

John noted that kits by the Bandai Company are very popular as they are snap together and don't require any painting. Basically, these are models of transformers (not the electrical type).

John is, a hobbyist himself (built models since he was five) as well as a participant at RC Car Races up and down the Mid-Atlantic. He loves working with metal and making something out of nothing. As was his father, he is skilled with milling machines and lathes.

His contact information is "brownieshobbies@verizon.net". His store phone is (718) 727-2194. The website is:

<https://www.brownieshobbies.com>

From the Web site:

OLD SCHOOL IS STILL COOL

The Brownie's selling point: Radio-controlled cars, boats, planes and helicopters. Vintage reproduction classics — from cartoon themed cars to military ships — line the aisles of the shop. Walking through the store is like walking through a time capsule in the best way possible. "My goal is to keep that old-school flavor and feel, even though my parents are gone," John says.

The Broadaxe

SHOW & TELL



HMS Victory, English 1st Rate, 1806, 1:96 Scale

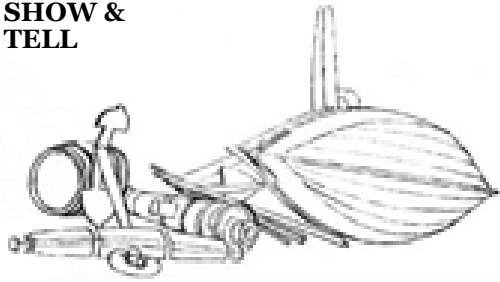
- Mort Stoll

Since last month, Mort has been busy fabricating cannon; many cannon (just 18)! He continues to make good progress. Now on to mounting and rigging each cannon. Looking very good, Mort.



The Broadaxe

SHOW & TELL

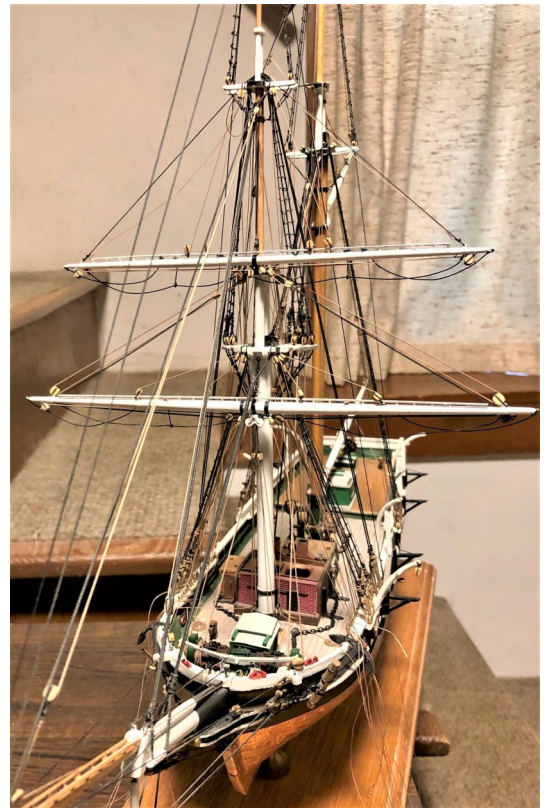


Kate Cory, Whaler, 1806, 1:64 Scale

- Rich Verost

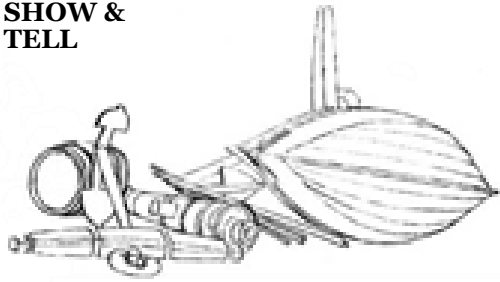
Since June when Rich showed the boom and Gaff and completed whaleboats, he has started work on the yards. He decided to rig as many lines as he could, even though he is not adding sails. He will be including reef tackles, sheets, and clew, leech, and bunt lines. The sheets will attach to the clews, and the bunt, leech and reef knotted at the blocks on each yard. On the lower yard, he has left off the sheet, clew garnet, and fore tack for now to help me maintain better access to the belaying points on the rail. For the same reason, the braces will be last as they also will hinder getting at the rails. While the yards are being installed bottom to top, the braces will be installed top to bottom. Two yards to go, and that should wrap up the majority of the rigging. Then it will be on to making hardware for the whaleboats and tools used at the tryworks. On the whaleboats, he will include oars, harpoons, line tubs, and masts with sail cloth tied to them. The tryworks tools will include the strainer, the bucket used for pouring the oil into barrels, and perhaps a few other odds and ends.

Looking excellent, Rich.



The Broadaxe

SHOW & TELL



Kyak in a Cruet, Alaska, 1950?, Small Scale

- Steve Fletcher

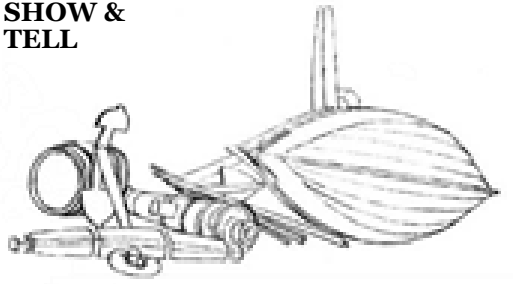
Steve Fletcher is back to ships in a bottle. He has an olive oil cruet and he has already installed a sea in the cruet. Since it is pretty small, Steve will be inserting a kayak that he has partially built. The kayak will have a rower and oar. In addition to this Steve is carving a whale's tail to be placed in a diving position as part of the scene. The bottle is an olive oil container which needs some more work. The Turks head knot is already in position. Hopefully a neat little "ship in a bottle" in between ship models I plan to do next.

Steve is also restoring a Chinese Junk that his father had brought home. He is trying to figure out the rigging.



The Broadaxe

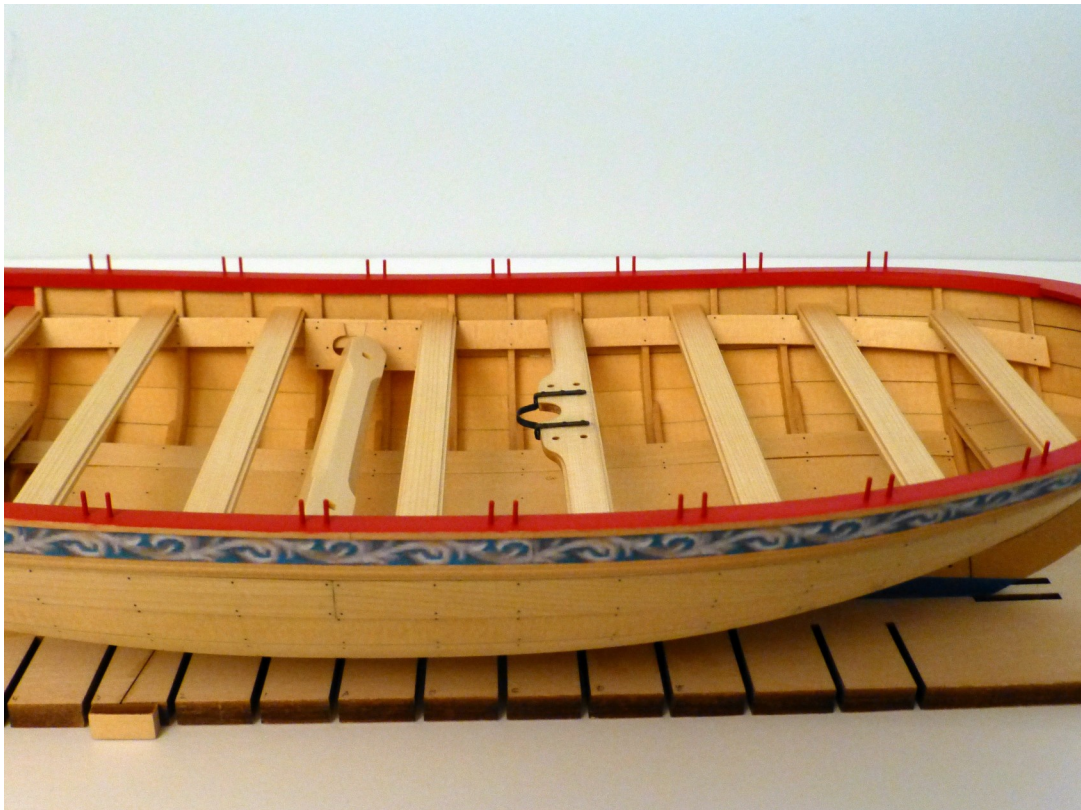
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Medway Longboat, English,
1742, 1:24

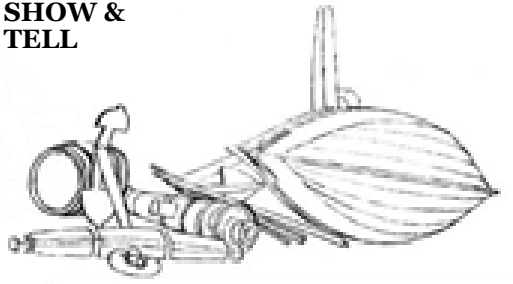
- Ryland Craze

Work continues on the Medway Longboat,
a Syren Ship Model kit designed by Chuck
Passaro.



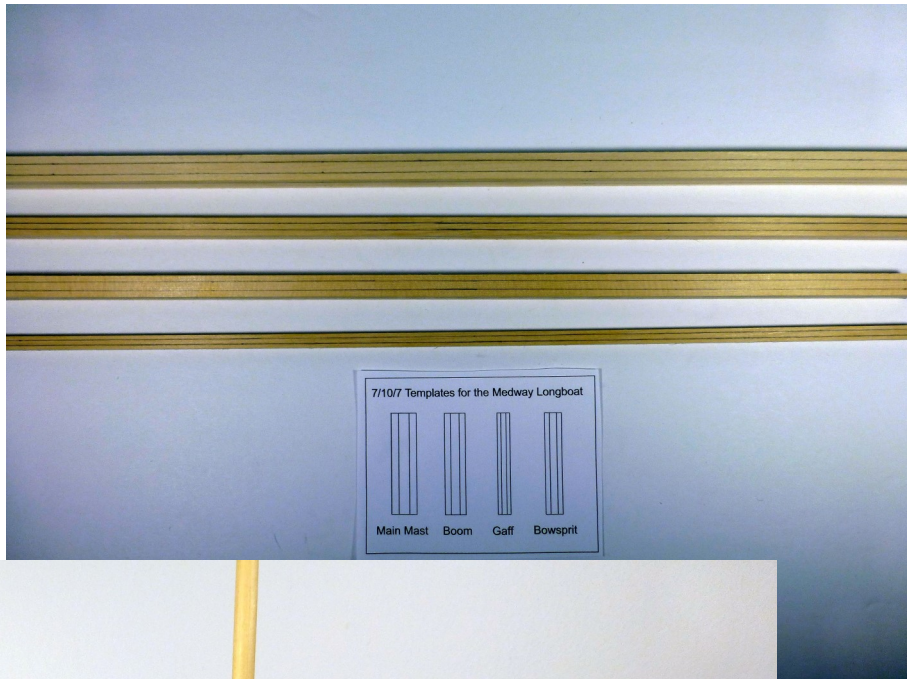
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SHOW & TELL



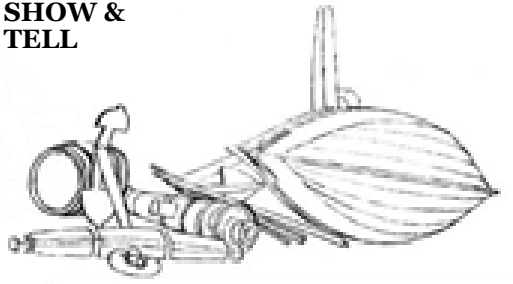
The mast, boom, gaff and bow sprit were made out of square stock and rounded using the 7-10-7 templates included with the instructions. They were shaped using a miniature block plane, scraping with a hobby knife and turned in an electric drill with sandpaper. The mast was stepped and the model is ready for rigging.

Looking great, Ryland.



The Broadaxe

SHOW & TELL



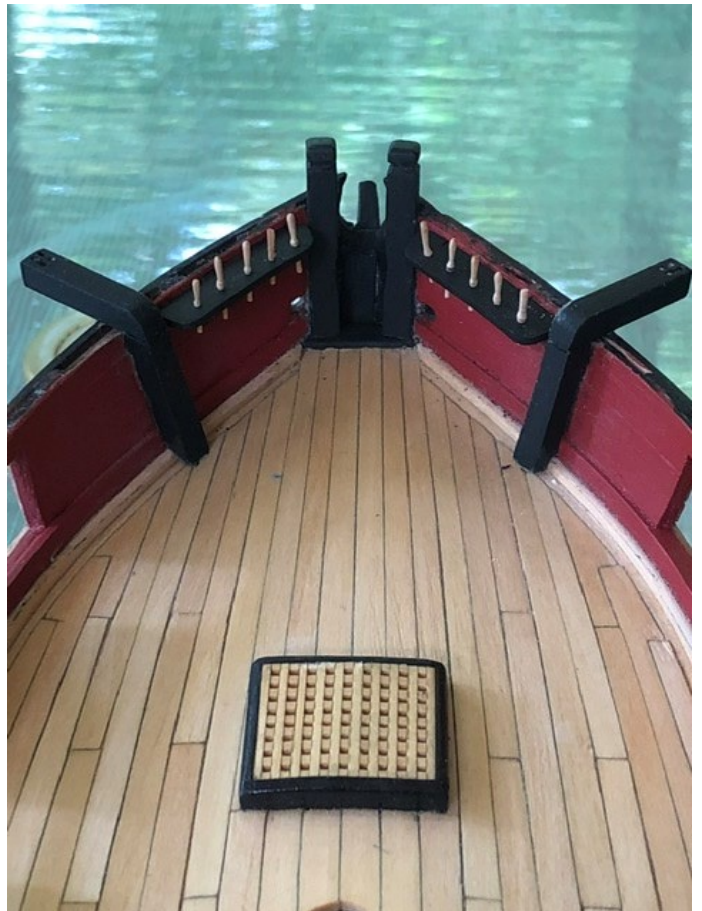
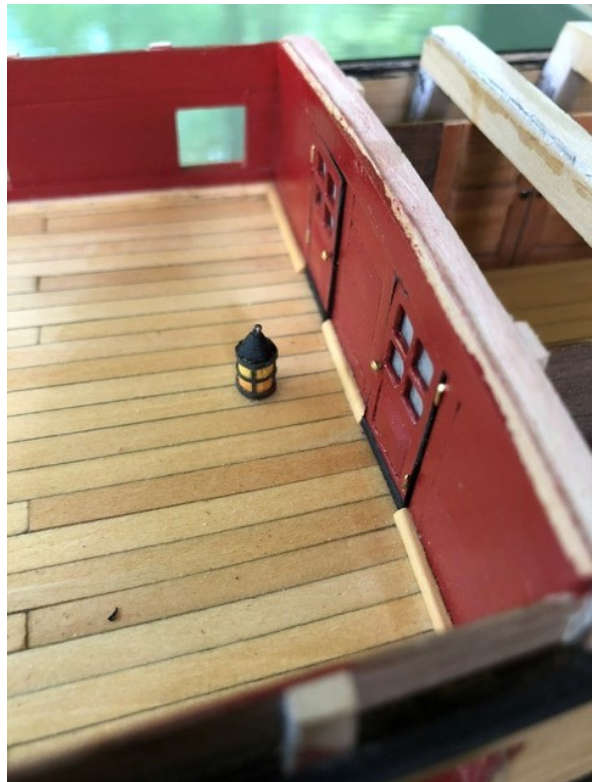
Providence, Colonial Schooner, 1776, 1:48 Scale

- Ken Whitehead

This is a scratch built model based on plans of the replica in Virginia.

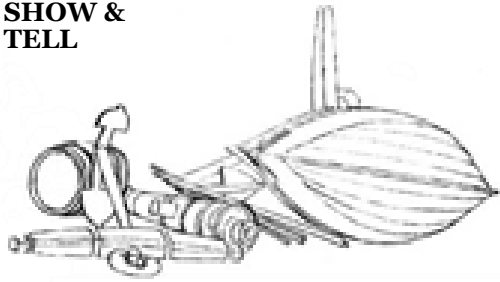
Since last time, Ken mounted the doors to the officer's quarters, two bilge pumps, catheads, knight, fife rail, and belaying pins. He made the belaying pins with his moto-tool using box-wood. Ken has a build log on Model Ship World (MSW). His screen name is KenW.

Looking very good. Ken.



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VOC Retourschip Frame Repair

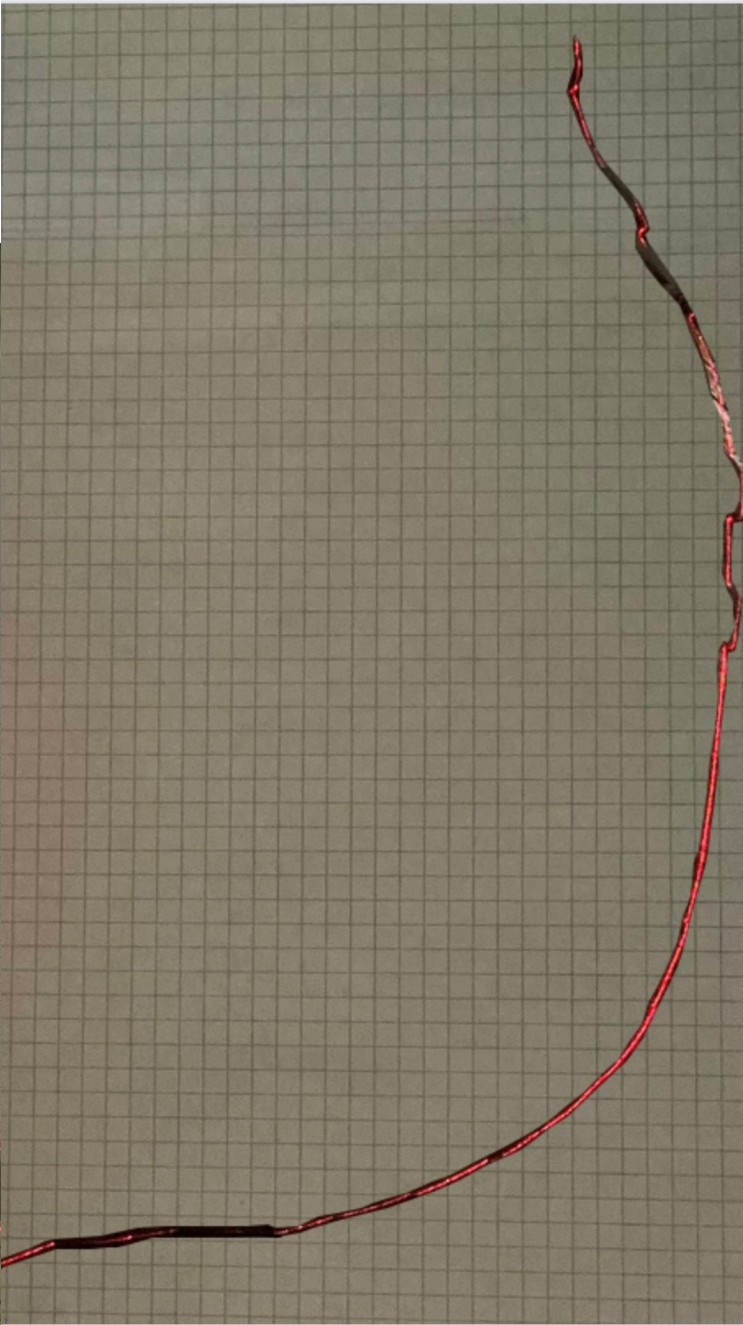
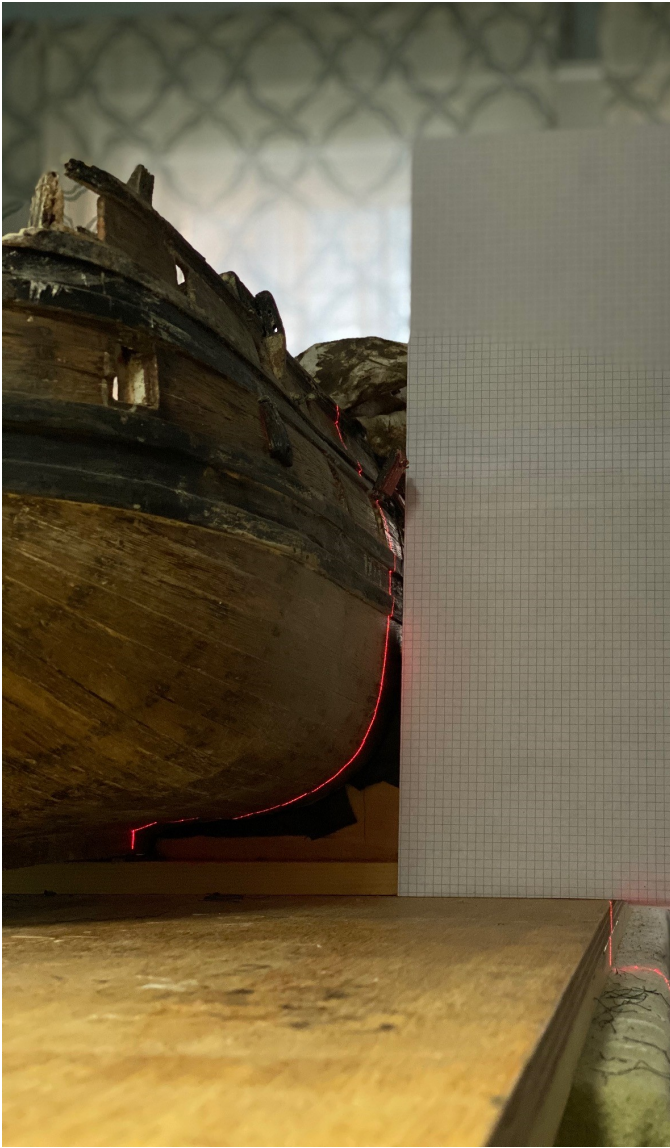
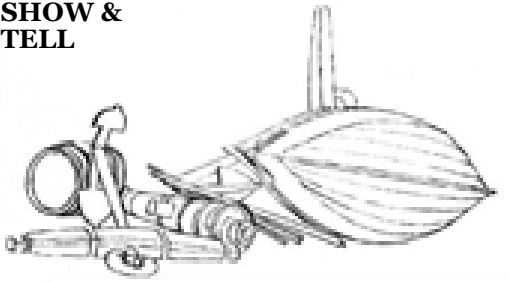
- Dan Caramagno

Dan presented his restoration back in May. He came across a problem. He had to replace a broken frame, but no plans exist. Using a laser pointer and the photographs in this presentation, he highlighted the hull at the frame location. Then, using Photoshop, his son was able to move the line on top of the graph paper in the same photograph. Dan was then able to cut a new frame to match. Excellently done Dan, (and your son).



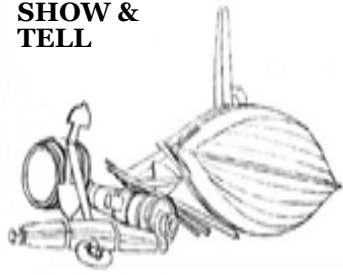
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HMS Cheerful, English Revenue Cutter, 1806, 1:48 Scale

- Bill Brown

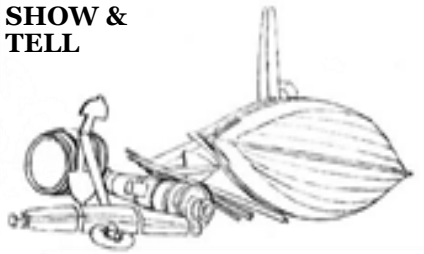
Bill continues to make great progress on Cheerful. Since last month, Bill has completed all of the standing rigging and crossed the lower yard.

Bill used the 7-10-7 method for making the lower yard. He used a #17 blade to form the octagon on the square stock followed by a sand stick. The middle part of the yard retains its octagon shape. All holes were drilled while it was still square. I also used your fixture to aid in rigging. It works great!



The Broadaxe

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He has now started on the running rigging. It is coming along quite well, Bill.



BOOKS AND PUBS



Bill Brown has been pretty busy searching his way around You Tube. There are many videos that will be of interest to the Ship Model Builder. The following table lists a few that Bill found particularly helpful, and interesting. The last column is the number of subscribers to their channel. These aren't strictly books or publications. They are the new wave of communicating. Check them out!

Channel/Presenter	Description	Subscribers
Tom Lauria	Professional modeler shares his tips on model ship building. Member of the USS Constitution Ship Craft Guild	2.96.K
Kevin Kenny	Hobbyist ship modeler who keeps a video log of his various builds. He is building the HMS Thorn, a Swan class 6th rate based on David Antscherl and Gregg Herbert publications.	585
Tips From a Shipwright	A New England Shipwright who builds skiffs in the traditional manner.	146K
Western Flyer Foundation	A restoration of the 1930s fishing boat that took Steinbeck to the Bahia Peninsula	26.7K
Sampson Boat Company	Follow Leo, an English Ship Builder and Sailor restore the sailing vessel Tallyho a yacht that won the Fastnet race in 1927.	242K
Blondihacks	Watch Quinn Dunki create some unique parts using her hobbyist metal lathe and milling machine. Currently working on a miniature steam engine.	52K

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"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



Olof Eriksen

1936—2020

Long time member of Ship Model Society of New Jersey, and our very good friend, Ollie Ericksen passed away on September 4, 2020. We all know that there is a limit to our time in this world, but having a member pass on is always tragic and will all miss him. Ollie was a self made man who literally came from nothing to found a thriving business. He was also a kind and giving man who always told us how proud and thankful he was to be in the United States and how good the country had been to him.

Olof, Ollie to us, was born on July 10, 1936 in the town of Nesttun, a small town five kilometers south of Bergen, Norway. He grew up in very tough times as described in his book, "Memoirs of an Immigrant, A True Story" that Ollie wrote in 2008. Life during Nazi occupation included a run in that his father and brother had with the Gestapo in 1943 that, thankfully they survived. In 1945, he and one of his brothers were put into a boarding school. After some time in the Swedish Army, Ollie emigrated to the United States. When he first came to the USA, he worked with a brother installing Aluminum siding. All the while, he educated himself in Mechanical Engineering.

Ollie worked for several companies before founding what would become Unique Systems. SMSNJ visited Ollie's factory at least twice. As an Engineer, I was truly impressed by the scope, organization and cleanliness of his factory. Even more impressive though are Ollie's models. Ollie built all types of models, too many to mention here, but some of his more impressive accomplishments are a tiny piano that he played with tooth picks and his ship models built entirely of steel. My first time meeting Ollie was well before he joined SMSNJ.

In the late 1980's a co-worker approached me and told me about a Machine Shop that was doing some heat exchanger work for us. He knew that I built ship models and asked me to come along. That day, I met Ollie. First, he asked me what I did. Then he asked me what materials I used to build my models in. I told him; wood. He said that he built in steel. He then proceeded to show me a Spanish Galleon, HMS Victory, and USS Constitution all in 1:48 scale. The Constitution model had been in Trump Castle in Atlantic City. As I admired the incredible workmanship. He told me that everything was wrong and that he was building another model of Constitution to correct he errors. He then brought me into his factory. There, with trunnions welded to the bow and stern, was a 1:24 scale hull of Constitution resting on the forks of a fork lift. It was planked with stainless steel. He then showed me machining drawings, on mylar, of every mast, spar, fife rail, capstan and fitting on the ship. This detail and exactness Ollie brought into everything.

After that exhibit, Ollie joined SMSNJ where he and Jim Roberts (Jimmy to Ollie) became good friends. When SMSNJ sponsored a Nautical Research Guild Conference, Ollie did all the publicity, included a presentation on a local cable news show. When the SMSNJ had a show or exhibit to do, Ollie did the legwork to get out the word. His factory in Cedar Knolls has a museum containing all of his models, minus that 1:24 scale Constitution. Ollie was recognized by the US Navy, and his Constitution appeared in the United States Naval Academy Yearbook "Lucky Bag" in 1987.. He wanted to donate the Constitution to the Constitution Museum with him picking up the freight costs. The problem was that the building floor could not support the model. So, today, the Constitution under full sail is in its own room in the Liberty Science Center.

We will all miss Ollie, but his legacy remains. Our condolences to Elaine and the family.

Fair winds and following Seas, my friend.

Tom Ruggiero

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 Tom Ruggiero. Your ideas and suggestions are always welcome. Please submit them to Steve Magipinto at trugs@comcast.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.

Direct All Correspondence To:

Tom Ruggiero

54 Peach Orchard Dr, East Brunswick, NJ 08816 (732) 257-6063

Email: trugs@comcast.net

Club Officers

PRESIDENT:

Bill Brown
28 Betsy Ross Drive
Allentown, NJ 08501 (732) 294-8960
E-mail: wldjbrown@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT:

Mason Logie
20 Sylva Lane
Staten Island, NY 10305 (718) 273-1813
E-mail: mlogiejr@aol.com

TREASURER:

Tom Ruggiero
54 Peach Orchard Dr
East Brunswick, NJ 08816 (732) 257-6063
Email: trugs@comcast.net

SECRETARY:

Tom Ruggiero
54 Peach Orchard Dr
East Brunswick, NJ 08816 (732) 257-6063

WEBSITE CONTACT:

Chuck Passaro
E-mail: cpassaro123@gmail.com