



Volume 42, Number 10 *Newsletter of the Ship Model Society of New Jersey*

*October 2024*

**In This Issue**

- Meeting Report
- Old Business
- New Business
- Books and Publications
- Tech Session
- Show and Tell
- Club Information

**Upcoming Events  
& Tech Sessions**

**The next meeting is; Saturday, October 19, 2024 at Roseland Library. Time is 12:30.**

**The November meeting is Saturday, November 9, 2024 at 10:30 at Roseland Library. Note that this earlier day and time.**

**The December Meeting will be virtual only.**

**Meeting Report:** The meeting was opened by our President Bill Brown at 12:30 pm at Roseland Library. Sixteen members attended. Tom presented the status of our finances.

At the meeting we discussed the schedule for future meetings. In general, while meeting on Saturday is doable, meeting in the afternoon is not the best. We have discussed meeting dates and times with the Library Management and we have been able to schedule our 2025 meetings to start at 10:30. The Library will not be open in July and August 2025.

Kevin Kenny has been to Lisbon, Portugal. While there he visited the maritime museum. He made a You tube video of his visit. You can view it at; [www.youtube.com/watch?v=O4eSbkAUeJo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O4eSbkAUeJo)

A question was asked about having an auction for the membership. Some noted that our past auctions had resulted in very little in the way of sales even with bargain basement prices. Tom stated that except for consumables like paint and glue we generally have all that we need in our shops. This year we were approached by several relatives of modelers that have passed asking us to help dispose of there tools, kits, and even completed models. We decided that any member who wishes to sell or give something away can bring it to a meeting and there will be time in the meeting to auction that item. We just ask that you let us know that you are bringing it so that adequate time can be budgeted.

The meeting adjoined at 13:05.

**Next Tech Session**

The October 2024 Tech Session is "Mast Hoop Making" presented by Rich Lane.

# The Broadaxe

## OLD BUSINESS



### Joint Clubs 2025

The Joint Clubs Committee will be meeting virtually to plan the event. Mike Ellison will Chair the committee.

A deceased former member has an upgraded Preac Saw. Bill and Chuck suggested that the SMSNJ procure the saw as a raffle prize at the conference. It was proposed that SMSNJ buy the saw. A motion was made and accepted. All present members approved the funds to buy the saw.

### The Capture of Britania

Bill was contacted by the Middletown Historical Society. They are having an event to celebrate the capture of the Britania, an English Privateer brigantine that was captured by the Colonials in 1779. They were looking for a model of the Brigantine, but need it by October 27, 2024. We don't have one, but Tom will be displaying his Liverpool that day as she was in Sandy Hook Bay at that time. Even though a completely different vessel, it is the same period and location.

## BOOKS AND PUBS



There were no Books or Publications at this meeting.

## NEW BUSINESS



### Tech Sessions

After the August meeting we sent out a request for members to identify subjects that they would like demonstrated in a Tech Session. The goal is to schedule as many in advance as we can. We got back the following list of topics:

1. How to make flags for your model.
2. A demonstration of the several ways to strop a block with hooks and without. How to create a rope splice.
3. How to assemble a typical cannon and carriage and rig it with tackles and breech line.
4. How to make round masts and spars from square stock.
5. How to serve rope for those areas of a ship that need it. What areas of rigging should be served (why is a rope served).
6. How do you make a model from a set of lines drawings.
7. Working with Acrylics to make cases
8. Spiling Planks
9. Painting Ships Name
10. Finishes on model ships, ( wipe on poly or other varnishes) and how best to use them to get a really nice finish on both bare wood and a painted finish
11. Making Chainplates
12. Basic Figurehead Carving
13. Soldering
14. Weathering

We received several volunteers to present. We will contact each and set up a schedule. Thanks to all who volunteered.

## 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](http://www.thenrg.org) or call 585 968 8111

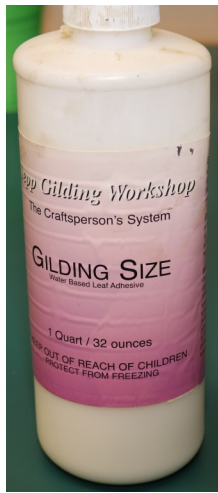
## Technical Session

### "Cooper Plates with Copper Gilding Foil" by Rich Lane

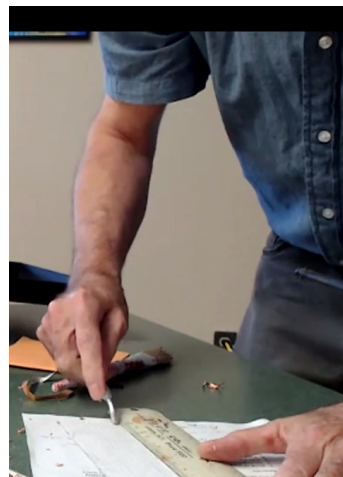
In general, copper plates that are commercially available are usually too thick. Additionally, those that purport to show the nail pattern are usually out of scale. The nails that were used are copper flat head that is not bigger than 1/2—3/4 inch in diameter. They are also nailed just about flat. Copper foil tape is okay, but Rich has found a better way. He copper gilds paper. Here are the steps for this process:

Using 20 lbs computer paper draw a grid to the size of plates you want to make.

On the opposite side of the computer paper apply Gilding Size (glue) using a soft brush. It will set in about 15 minutes and will be tacky like masking tape, should not be sticky or wet. It will stay tacky for about twelve hours so you can take your time.



Apply the copper leaf and smooth out with a soft rag or soft brush.



Turn the paper over and on the grid side of the paper. Use a pounce wheel guided by a ruler to indicate rivets. Make sure the wheels aren't too sharp so not to put holes in the paper. Place a magazine underneath the paper. If the table surface is too hard the pounce wheel will put holes in the paper. A magazine underneath will prevent that.



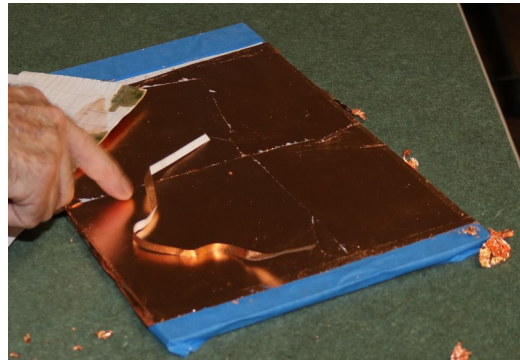
**Technical Session**

**"Cooper Plates with Copper Gilding Foil" by Rich Lane**



Cut out the plates with a x-acto knife or scissors.

The plates can be glued to the model using wood or white glue. I think yellow wood glue is the best. I put the glue in a bottle cap and add a few droops of water to it. When you apply the glue to the back of the plate the glue soaks into the paper and you end up with a epoxy plate with copper on the other side, very durable.



To touch up any outside white edges of the plates after they been glued to the model use Iridescent copper or any brownish color acrylic paint to touch up. Thin the paint out a bit with water and brush on and then gently wipe off immediately with a damp rag. The paint will only soak into the white edges and easily wipes off with a damp rag or paper towel.

Once your model is copper plated it will be bright and shiny like a new penny. If you let it sit for a few weeks the copper will start to age looking more like an old penny. Each plate will age differently which gives it a nice look. If you want a greenish oxidation look there is plenty of info on the internet on how to do. Once your copper plates is aged to your liking give it a spray of satin finish lacquer and that will stop the aging. Mohawk makes excellent spray lacquers.

Materials are;

printer paper (about 20 lbs weight max),

Book of copper leaf

Gilding Size - water based leaf adhesive

Soft artist flat paint brush

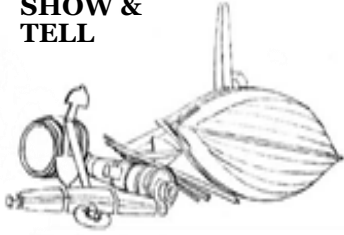
Pounce wheels

Spray lacquer (Mohawk)

Thank you Rich for a great demonstration.

# The Broadaxe

SHOW & TELL



## Fair American Colonial

1776 Scale 1:48, Solid Hull

Model Shipways Kit

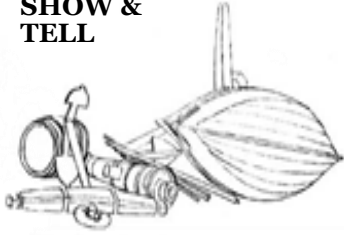
Bill Brown

Bill is working on a model that he started about forty years ago. It is an original yellow box kit of the Fair American. Which of the two or three Fair Americans that were used in the Revolution is unclear. This kit is a model of the model that is in Preble Hall at the Naval Academy. Bill resurrected the kit and has stripped of the original planking. He is working on thinning down the bulwarks and other clean up work. It is coming along nicely.



# The Broadaxe

SHOW & TELL



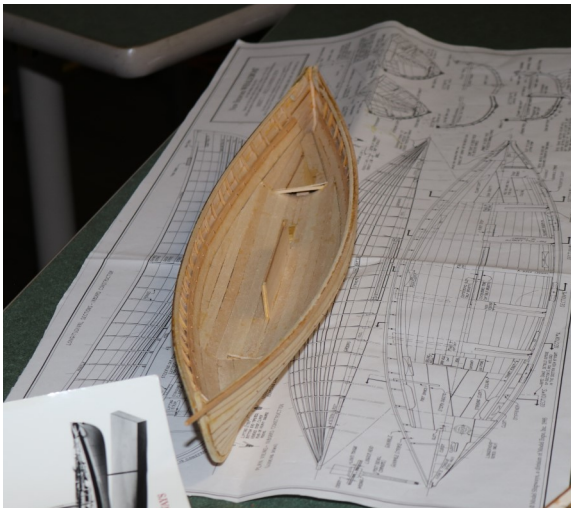
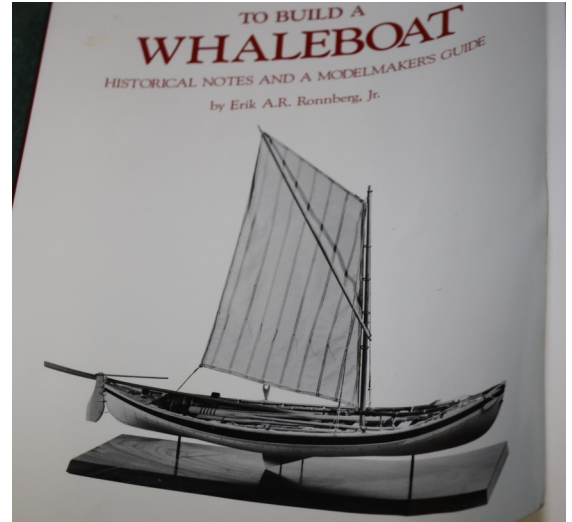
## Whale Boat, US

19th Century, Scale 1:24

Model Shipways Kit

Steve Fletcher

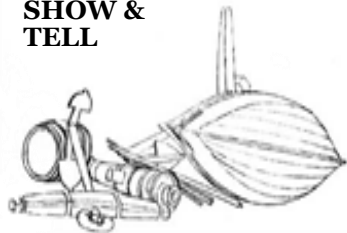
Steve is working on a kit that he got at an auction. It came in a box that didn't match the contents, but he determined that it is a Whaleboat and has the plans sheet as well as the book by Erik Ronnberg, Jr. This may have started as a redo by the current Model Expo of the original Model Shipways kit that SMSNJ Plank Owner, the late Jim Roberts may have designed. All of that said, this is not a novice or even apprentice kit having all of the clenched rivets for attaching the planking. The start looks very good Steve.





# The Broadaxe

## SHOW & TELL

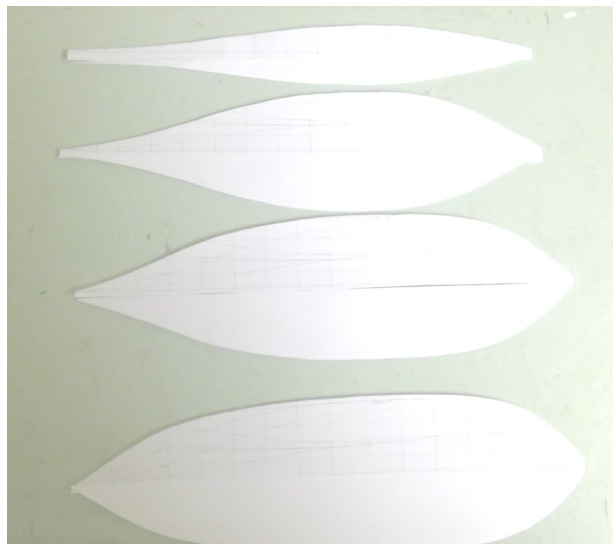


## Argus US

1807, Brig

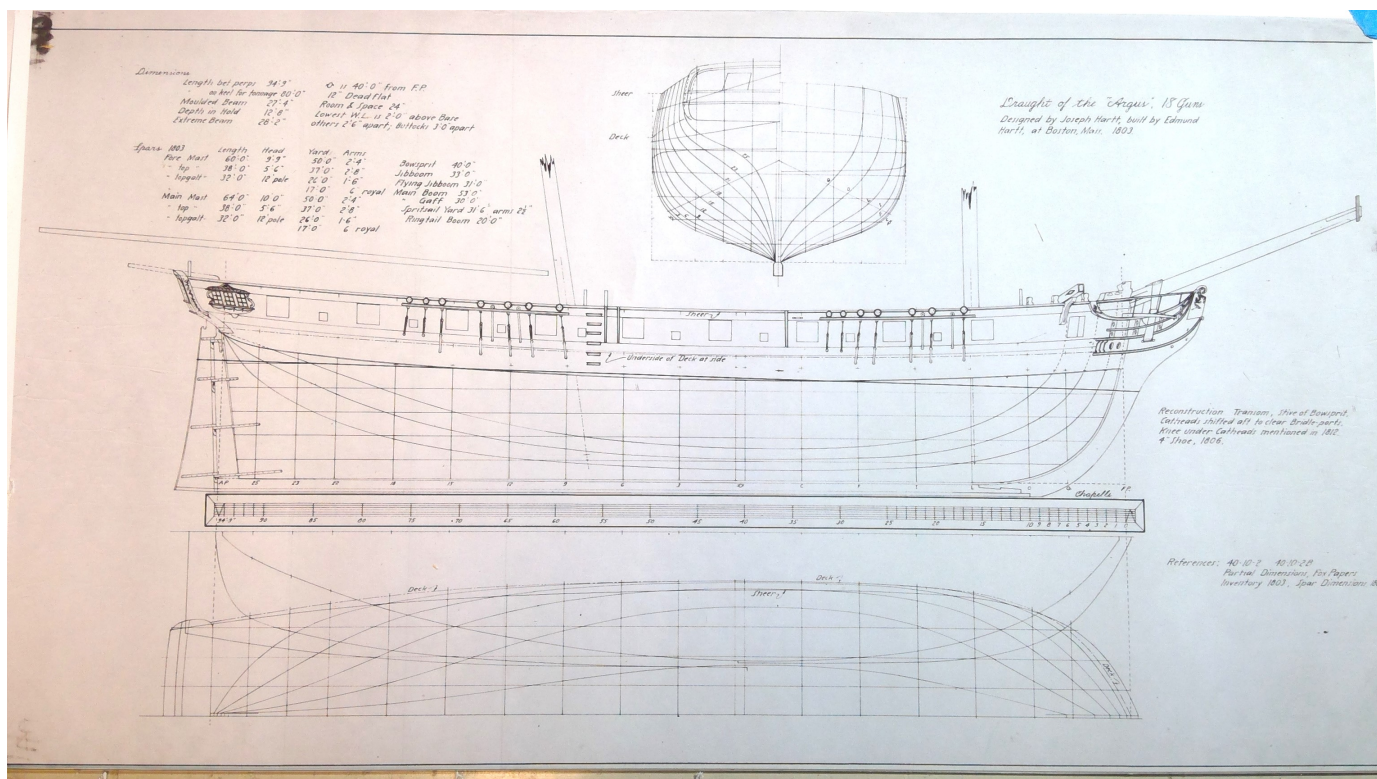
Scale 1:96, Scratch Build

Tom Ruggiero



Tom has begun gathering materials to start on his next project, USS Argus. The United States Congress authorized construction of the brig, originally named USS Merrimack, the second U.S. Navy ship of that name, on 23 February 1803, and on 29 April 1803 the U.S. Navy contracted with the shipyard of Edmund Hartt at Boston, Massachusetts, to construct the ship. Edmund Hartt's brother, Joseph Hartt, drafted the plans for the brig, designed with a flush deck and fine lines to optimize her for sailing conditions in the Mediterranean Sea. Captain Edward Preble was appointed superintendent of her construction, and her keel was laid down at Hartt's yard on 12 May 1803. United States Secretary of the Navy Robert Smith found that U.S. Navy officers disliked the name Merrimack for the new brig, and he directed that she be renamed Argus, the first U.S. Navy ship of that name, on 4 June 1803. Argus participated in the Barbary Wars. During the War of 1812, she was an excellent commerce raider until eventually captured by the British Sloop of War Pelican in 1803.

Tom will be making the hull using the lift method (also called bread and butter). Since, Argus was copper clad below the water line he will be planking the hull from just below the waterline to the sheer of the hull. Here are the plans for Argus as well as the templates for the first four lifts.



# 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 Maggipinto at [trugs@comcast.net](mailto: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. 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.

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