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Newsletter of the Ship Model Society of New Jersey

November 2025

Meeting Report for October 25, 2025

The meeting was called to order by our president, Bill Brown. There were nineteen members at the meeting and three guests. Gene McNatt and Richard Sloop attended their second meeting. This was the first meeting of Joe Kanye. This is Joe's first meeting. He has built several models, mostly ironclads. Tom reported on the state of our treasury. The meeting was adjourned at 12:15.

build, Chuck will be fabricating a kit and a group of SMSNJ members will build their own version. Any SMSNJ member who is interested in this project is requested to let Chuck know. The current time frame is Spring or Summer 2026.



The Next Group Build

The Speedwell Battle Station group-build was very successful. At the last meeting we discussed what the next project would be. The selection is this very handsome looking double capstan. As with the last

Admiralty Workshops

Chuck attended the Admiralty Workshop on Framing a Hull both authentic framing as well as stylized. The workshop was at Niagara on the Lake. Richard Sloop was also at the workshop. He said that it was great to meet up with David and other ship modelers. He

helped with the kits and set up.

Next Meeting and Tech Session

Next Meeting is Saturday, November 22, 2025, at Roseland Free Public Library, 20 Roseland Ave, Roseland, NJ 07068 at 10:30 am. The Tech Session will be; "Building the USS Syren" presented by Paddy O'Hare.

Technical Session

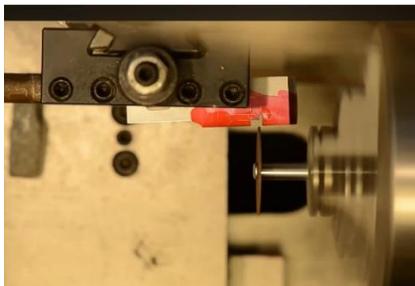
**“Moldings and Scratch Stocks” presented by
Tom Lauria**

The tech session was a viewing of a video by Tom Lauria on making moldings using scratch stocks. The technique is a small-scale version of the methods used in full scale. A scraper is cut to the profile of the molding that is required. The scraper is then dragged across the wood several times to transfer the profile to the wood. That is the simple description, but showing is better than describing.

In the well-made video, Tom Laurie lays out the tools that are needed to make the profile in the scrapper.



He discusses the blades from which he makes the scraper and the several different methods and tools that are needed to cut in the profiles.



He then discusses the types of woods that work best (pearwood, boxwood, pine, basswood, poplar) and compares the several different options. He also notes what woods are generally less suitable.

He then demonstrates how to clamp the wood stock and how he makes the molding.



After the video, Chuck noted that while Tom used power tools to make the scrapers, a roto-tool, or hand tools and files could also be used. For example, fine jewelers saw blades work very well. But the blade in a jeweler's saw frame. Clamp the scraper blank in a vice and then pull the saw blade toward you. Joe Lorenzo made a clamping jig comprised of two lengths of pine with several machine screws and wing nuts to hold his molding stock.

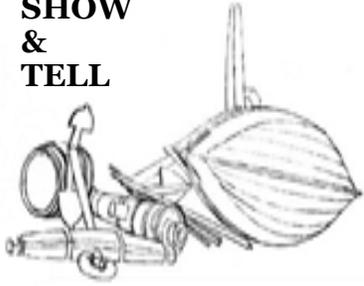


The filming and editing of the video is very good, and his instructions are very easy to follow. You can view the video at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lxziiZaFFMI>

The Broadaxe

SHOW
&
TELL



Syren, US

1803, Brig

Scale 1:64, Model Shipways Kit

Joe Kanye

Joe attended his first meeting. The Syren was a 240-ton brig designed by Benjamin Hutton and built by Nathaniel Hutton in Philadelphia in 1803. She set sail in September 1803 under the command of Lt. Charles Stewart. She served in the Barbary Wars as well as the War of 1812. She was captured by HMS Medway and after a short stint as a hospital and then a prison hulk she was broken up in 1815. Joe says that this was the most ambitious challenge that he has done so far. He got much help from the excellent instructions, parts and descriptions for assembly all prepared and designed by Chuck. Joe added many additional rigging lines that are usually omitted from models that don't have sails. Chuck was very impressed with Joe's work.



Argus US

1803, Brig

Scale 1:96, Scratch Build

Tom Ruggiero

Tom has completed all the hull planking. From the wale to the keel to the wale down to the top of what will be coppered he stained the planking with black leather dye. Above the wale is a band of yellow cedar planking with one black plank above it. The bulwark former pieces were removed and the quick work inboard of the bulworks was added with bass wood. While the plans show a billet head, research indicates that the figurehead is a bust of the Greek mythological Argus. He searched several photos of statues and paintings but he was looking for front and side views of Argus. Using Microsoft Co-pilot and asking for orthographic views of a bust of Argus produced for orthogonal views. Tom sent the views to Chuck who was able to find a program (Meshy) that gave him a 3-D model of the bust suitable for 3-D printing.

Since the stem was cut for a billet head, Tom will be modifying the head to fit the bust. The next steps will be to cut out the ports and produce some fancy work for the trail boards and fashion piece at the stern



The Broadaxe



HMS Thorn, England

Swan Class Sloop of War, Scale 1:48

Kevin Kenny

Kevin continues to progress with his model of Thorn. He has installed all of the quarterdeck beams along with the knees.



Syren, US

1803, Brig

Scale 1:64, Model Shipways Kit

Paddy O'Hare

After completing Sherbourne, Paddy has moved on to the Syren. He has made very good progress and has lined off the hull for planking.



The Broadaxe



Clipper Model Restoration

Joe Lorenzo

Joe has a 100-year-old model in his shop. This model is five feet long. It is going into a local car museum in Rochester, New York. It was de-masted and Joe will be putting it back together. He was budgeting for a two-week project. He is two months into this project.



An advertisement for the Nautical Research Guild. The background is a painting of a ship's deck with crew members. On the left, a blue vertical banner contains the text: "...Join the Nautical Research Guild and get the only authoritative digital & print magazine for serious ship modelers, the quarterly Nautical Research Journal. Get a free digital copy at: www.thenrg.org". In the center, there is a small image of the Nautical Research Journal cover. On the right, the text "Don't Miss The Boat..." is written in a large, stylized font. Below this text is the Nautical Research Guild logo, which is a circular emblem with a ship's mast and the text "NAUTICAL RESEARCH GUILD EST. 1948".

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 Saturday of every month September through June except December at 10:30 AM, 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 Tom Ruggiero 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. 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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