



Volume 43, Number 7

Newsletter of the Ship Model Society of New Jersey

October 2025

### Meeting Report for June 21, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Tom Ruggiero since sitting in for Bill Brown. There were nineteen members at the meeting. Our regular meeting room was not available, so we met in the study room. This turned out okay because there is a flat screen monitor that we used rather than having to set up the projector. The downside was the room was a bit tight, but we did make it work for us.

### Meeting report for September 27, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Bill Brown. There were seventeen members at the meeting and two guests. Gene McNatt was a docent at Mystic as well as a member of the Mystic Seaport Ship Modelers Club. He has moved to New Jersey and is very near Chuck's new home. He is currently working on a New York Pilot Schooner. The second guest is Richard Sloop. Richard is new to ship modeling, and it was driven by his interest in history and he is working on a Master's Degree in Naval History. He was helping a museum locate some models but that was unsuccessful and he decided that he could build models. We again met in the study room and while a bit tight it is working out well for us. As an aside, if anyone comes across our microphones, please give us a call.

### Dues Waived for 2025

At the June meeting, a motion was put forward to declare a dues holiday for this year. The motion was seconded and approved. Dues to 2025 are waived. Dues for the next year will be due by June 2026.

### Next Meeting and Tech Session

Next Meeting is Saturday, October 25, 2025, at Roseland Free Public Library, 20 Roseland Ave, Roseland, NJ 07068 at 10:30 am.

# The Broadaxe

## OLD BUSINESS



There was no Old Business.

## NEW BUSINESS



## NRG Chapter Renewal, Zoom Renewal, Workshop Expenses

Treasurer Tom Ruggiero reported that there were several expense items that needed to be approved. The first item was to pay the premium for another year of Zoom. Next was to renew our Nautical Research Guild Chapter membership and insurance. The final item was to pay for the materials and lunch for the Speedwell Battle Station group project. All three expenditures were approved.

## SMSNJ Yearly Budget

Over the years, SMSNJ has had several recurring disbursements. As there is currently no budget, each of these items need to be approved separately

by vote of the membership. Treasurer Tom proposed that SMSNJ have a budget such that such recurring items that are in said budget would not need to be approved separately as long as they are within that budget. The motion was brought and unanimously approved. The budget will be prepared so that it can be voted on at the end of the fiscal year.

## The Next Group Build

The Speedwell Battle Station group build was very successful. Most of the projects were started and many were completed. This has been our most successful group build and Chuck is looking towards the next one. Smaller projects and limited scope are the likely key. So, we discussed several options and Chuck will be working out details. IF you have a suggestion, please e-mail him.

## BOOKS AND PUBS



There were no books or publications.

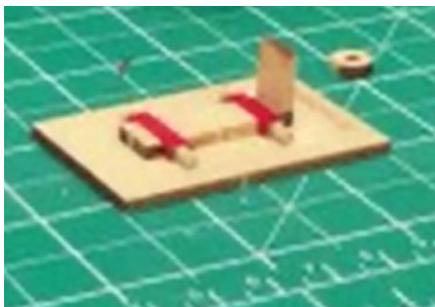
**Technical Session**

**“Assembling a Cannon Carriage” presented  
by Chuck Passaro  
“Figure Painting” Larry Friedlander**

Several SMSNJ members are part of the Speedwell Battle station group build. We are now at the stage where they will be assembling the carriage for the cannon. Today, Chuck described how to assemble the carriage. While this group build will require only one cannon, most builds require many carriages from as few as four up to ninety or more. To simplify this process, Chuck developed and assembly jig.

While a project with a single cannon doesn't need the jig, Chuck is presenting how you would use a jig to make identical carriages. Therefore, there are two sets of parts in the kit. One set is assembled by hand and is then used as a template to assemble the jig.

Chuck had removed the laser cut parts from their carrier sheets, removed char, and pre-painted them before assembly. With the jig assembled the first step is to insert the axles for the trucks noting that they should slide snugly into the recesses on the jig.



The next step is to glue the transoms to either side.

The presentation can be found here;

[video3732819288.mp4](#)

On September 20, the members of the Speedwell group build met at Chuck's house where Larry demonstrated how to paint the figure that would be displayed with the battle station. His instructions were clear as he explained his techniques explaining how the amount of detail that you add is a function of what scale you are in. He demonstrated how to enhance shadowing, folding, and how to give the impression of detail where the item is very tiny (for example, the eye). All those present were able to at least partially complete painting their figure.



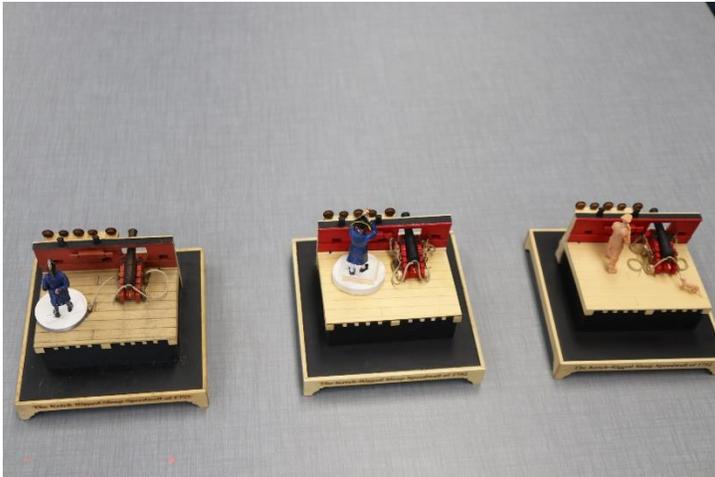
**“Evaluating the Speedwell Group Build**

**Technical Session**

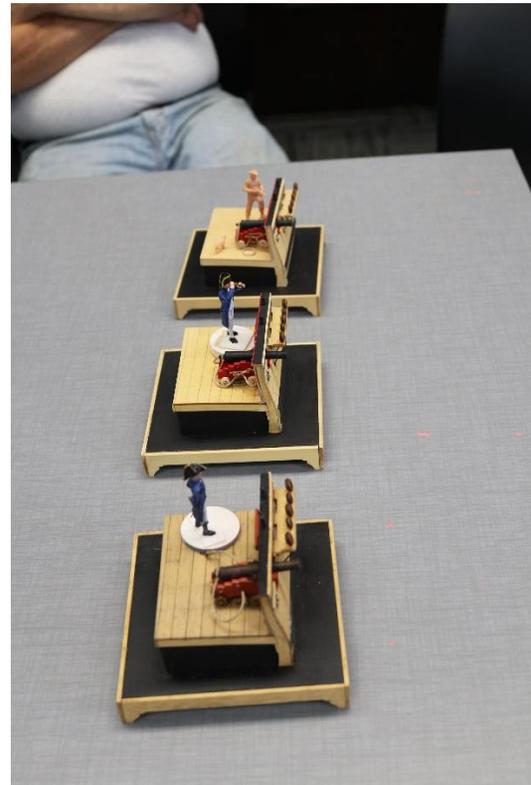
Bill Brown asked for comments from the membership on the group build of the Speedwell Battle Station kit that was designed by Chuck. As part of the group build, we learned a proper method for stropping blocks, assembling a gun carriage, rigging the gun carriage as well as an excellent painting workshop presented by Larry.

Chuck noted that the smaller scope of this project contributed to its success. He suggested that we look at these limited scope projects going forward. One suggestion would be an 18th-century capstan.

Rich found this project very useful for his current project of building a scratch-built model of Constitution and rigging the 44 cannons.



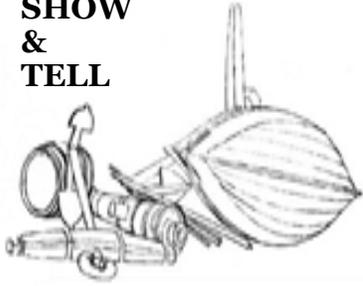
Bil stated that the subject mater and the kit design was well done. The instructions both written and demonstrated allowed builders of all skill levels to produce a beautiful result. The live build presentations were set up with all the materials needed for a learning environment. Breakfast and lunch was provided.



Larry noted that no matter what you do there is something to learn. Doing it in bite size pieces in that you can actually complete it.

# The Broadaxe

SHOW  
&  
TELL



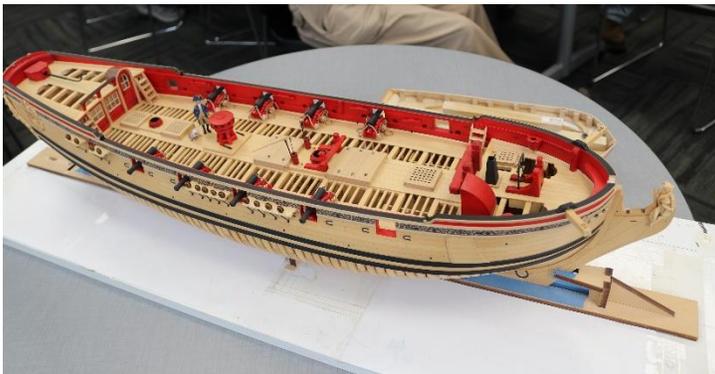
## Speedwell, England

1757, Ketch Rigged Sloop

Scale 1:32, Scratch Build

Chuck Passaro

Chuck showed us the section of the Speedwell that he reproduced for the group build. He is finishing up deck furniture and other details. He added a figure of a Royal Navy captain for scale. He didn't think that he would like painting figures, but after doing this one and Larry's workshop, he did have fun with it and will be adding another figure. He is currently working on the channels and deadeyes. These are the same that we used for the battle station project. Chuck hasn't rigged a full-size ship in many years so he looks at this as a challenge. Speedwell will be masted, spared and completely rigged.



## Argus US

1803, Brig

Scale 1:96, Scratch Build

Tom Ruggiero

Tom has completed all of the hull planking from the wale down to the keel. He only used one stealer at the stern, but needed to add another one near the garboard. The lower hull will be coppered so you won't see it. All of the planking

at the bow needed to be spiled. As most of the planking is 1/32", sawing out the shape was not possible. Although more expensive, if you are using a #11 blade, buy the 'Z' blades. They are extremely sharp. Injuries happen when you force a dull tool. Tom began cutting the first planks using a #11 blade, but he found that the blade, even with very light cuts and the new 'Z' blade, wandered. He had success switching to a larger handle and a #2 blade. This is the first full hull that he has planked since his model on Liverpool. That was about twenty years ago!



## USS New Jersey

US

Scale 1:700,

Joe Cali-Poutre

Joe is building a composite of all of the ships other than Battleship New Jersey.

The first is the gundalow that was one of Benedict Arnold's boats in the Battle of Valcour Island in the Revolutionary war. It is scratch built.

There are two versions of BB 16. The first is the as-built 1906 version Cumbre kit resin and photo-etch. The second version as she was at the end of World War I. BB 16 was bombed by Billy Mitchel in his demonstration of air power on ships. Joe modified the USS Rhode Island the Niko kit with three d printed cage masts.

The submarine is the recently commissioned SSN 796. It is a 3D printed model with hull markings from a Los Angeles class sub.

Joe is currently working on a diorama of BB 62.

# The Broadaxe



## Moran Tugboat

US, Paper kit

Scale 1:700,

Joe Cali-Poutre

Joe also built a Moran tugboat. He found the plans on line. Joe's wife was at our meeting. She notes that her uncle was in the Navy in World War II. After the war he went to work at Moran working his way up to captain of one of their boats. Roy noted that Doc Fletcher's late wife is a member of the Moran family.



## Sherbourne Cutter

English, Vanguard kit

Scale 1:64

Paddy O'Hare

Paddy has completed his model of the Sherbourne. The kit was well designed and he was happy with the results.



## Syren, US,

Brig 1803, Model Shipways kit

Scale 1:64

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.



## Monitor and Merrimac, US, CS

Ironclads, 1862, Life-Like kit

Scale 1:96

Mason Loggie

Yet another hobby store, Ridgefield Hobbies, is, sadly, going out of business. They had many ship model kits at very low prices and Mason picked up several kits. He came across a kit of both the Monitor and the CSS Virginia.

# The Broadaxe



He also picked up a medieval rowboat kit that has instructions in Russian.



## HMS Thorn, England

Swan Class Sloop of War, Scale 1:48

Kevin Kenny

Kevin's beautiful model is coming along nicely. He is now working on placing deck beams and planking the quarterdeck. He says that that will be completed in the next week or so and then he will be moving on to the carvings on the hull. Kevin's progress is documented in his well-done videos in his build log on MSW.



## Sovereign of the Seas

Clipper, UK, Scale 1:96

Mark Peckham

Mark has completed a restoration of a circa 1925 model designed by E Armitage McCan. McCan

popularized the art and hobby of ship modeling by simplifying the process. This model was completely crushed. It was rigged entirely with black thread. As it is a restoration, Mark also stuck with all black thread.



## Annie C. Ross

Schooner, US, 1917

Scale 1:96, scratch built

Mark Peckham

This is a four masted schooner that was prominent in the life of John A. Nobel, an artist from Staten Island who recorded the demise of merchant sailing ships in paintings, books and lithographs. The model is a 'bread and butter' made with pine lifts. There are no plans of this particular ship but using plans of other ships and the highly detailed art work from John Nobel, Mark will have a good idea of what she needs to look like.



# 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](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.

## Club Officers

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