



Volume 44, Number 1

Newsletter of the Ship Model Society of New Jersey

February 2026

## Meeting Report for January 24, 2026

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Chuck at 1030. There were fifteen members and one guest present. Joe Kanye attended his third meeting. Joe applied for membership. The members unanimously approved his membership. Welcome aboard Joe. Treasurer Tom present the Club finances. The meeting adjourned at 12:15.

OLD BUSINESS



No Old Business at this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS



**NY State and IRS Filings:** As Treasurer, Tom needs to file a State Business report for SMSNJ as well as prepare a form for the IRS. He motioned reimbursement of fees that will be paid to file both items. The motion was made by Chuck and seconded by Roy. The motion was approved by the voting members.

**Model Supplies to a New Home:** As discussed in the November 2025 meeting, we will not have an auction as was done in prior years. However, we will make time at our regular meetings for a member to sell, swap, or distribute modeling items that need a new home. All that is requested is that if you have such items that you inform Tom via email before the meeting of your intention. The reason is so we can budget time. Additionally, if you have

an item that you wish to make available to a member, we can include that in the Broadaxe. This is solely to put a buyer together with a seller. All payment arrangements and delivery are between buyer and seller. Of course, if you plan to place an ad you need to send the information to Tom.

**Jim Roberts Award:** Tom was contacted by Mike Swanson of the USS Constitution Ship Wrights Guild. They are planning the Northeast Joint Clubs meeting in April 2026. He asked about the Jim Roberts award for this year. We have done this competition for about fourteen years. Over the last few competitions, it has been a challenge to get judges, and participation has been lower than earlier competitions. We made several tweaks to improve the process, but interest has waned. After discussion at the meeting and with the SMSNJ officers it was motioned, seconded, and approved that we forgo the Jim Roberts award for this year.

**New Feature on Model Ship World:** As an NRG Chapter we will be testing this new benefit. I sent an email to the SMSNJ membership on January 26 providing details. We are testing this feature out, so it is important that we start using it. If you have problems finding our area or can't post, please let Chuck Passaro know and he will get you going.

## Next Meeting and Tech Session

Next Meeting is Saturday, February 28, 2026, at Roseland Free Public Library, 20 Roseland Ave, Roseland, NJ 07068 at 10:30 am. The Tech Session will be "The Plank on Bulkhead (POB) Method from Museum Plans to Assembly" demonstrated by Rich Lane.

**Technical Session**

**“Belaying in Full Size versus Model Size”**

At this meeting we presented two videos on how to belay a rope to a belaying pin or a cleat. The following photos are from a demonstration by Captain Robbie. The link to his video is;

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1WEfT5w2s10>



AB Barlow describes belaying as well as coiling the remaining rope and hanging it from the pin. Note that the rope coil is simply not laid on the pin. It is hung from the pin. The following photos are from that video.



You can view this video at;

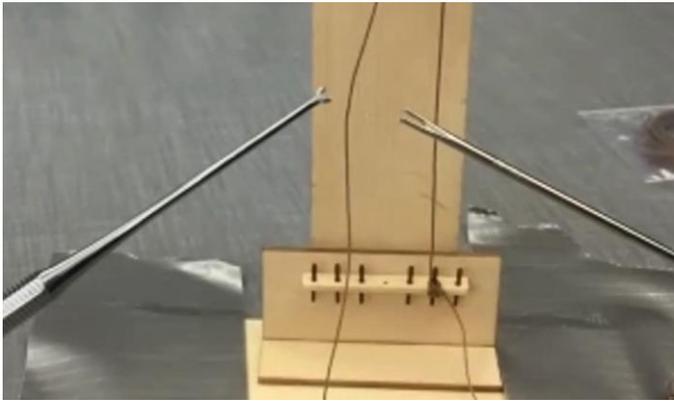
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PGJKL83jwSo>



**Technical Session**

**“Belaying in Full Size versus Model Size”  
cont’d**

The foregoing full size practice is similar to how this would be done on a model. In the following photos, Chuck demonstrates how to belay a line to a belaying pin on a model using a demonstration mockup.

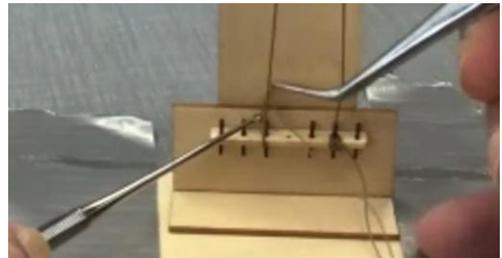


In this photo, we see tools that you can either buy or make. The one on the left is a modified glue applicator where the top of the round eye has been removed and filed smooth. There is another that can be made by cutting off half of the eye on a heavy-duty needle and inserting the sharp end into a dowel or pin vise. The photo below is another type of forked tool that can be purchased on line.



The other tool is a long handle tweezer. Chuck likes the bent nose version for this work.

Just as described in the video, then line is pushed under the pin rail and wrapped around the lower pin, left to right. Then bring the line to the top of the pin ril and loop it over the pin left to right.

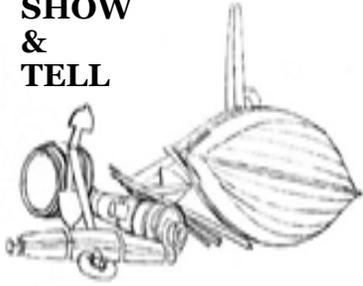


Repeat the process twice. Add another crossing loop to lock the line in place. There is no need to glue this. In fact, it is good to not glue it so that you can undo it to adjust your rigging later. Just pull the pin from the rail, and it will all come loose. Leave the tail loose, so that you can add the hank of rope.



# The Broadaxe

SHOW  
&  
TELL



## Beagle, English

1820, Brig Sloop

Scale 1: 64, Modified Mamoli Kit

Steve Fletcher

Steve started with the Mamoli kit designed by Luigi Volonte in 1977. He modified the kit using the Anatomy of the Ship book by Karl Heinz Marquardt. The history of Beagle is well known as Darwin's ship. In fact, he only joined the ship for its third commission under Commander Fitzroy in late 1831. He was associated with Beagle through mid to late 1830s in the voyages in and around Australia. The ship continued in service into the late 1860s.

Steve notes that the bulwarks of the kit are wrong. The Anatomy book shows all of the different configurations of Beagle and the kit version is not one of them. The only place that shows the kit bulwark version is in a painting seen in a publication of the Darwin Society. Steve decided to use the bulwark configuration for the 1830s.



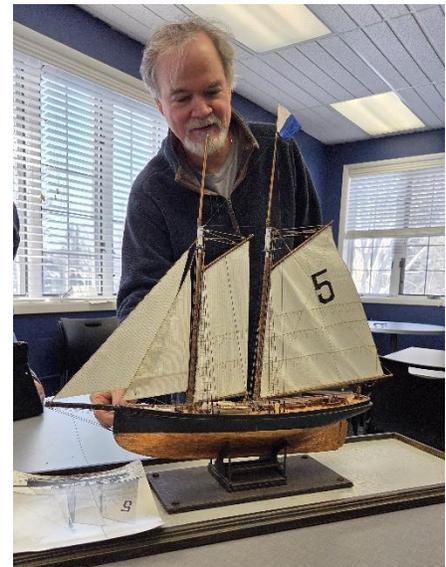
## Hesper, USA

1884, Boston Pilot Boat

Scale 1: 64, Scratch, POB

Rich Lane

Hesper was a Boston pilot schooner built in 1884. For the model he used Eric Ronnberg Jr's plans, old photos and Howard Chapelles book "The American Fishing Schooners". The model is 3/16" = 1' scale. It is a scratch-built model except for the blocks which is from the Syren Ship Model Co. Thanks Chuck. The copper plates are made using copper leaf gilded onto paper, cut up and glued on. And lastly the wood for the mast, spars and planking is maple that he milled from an old maple bed headboard. Rich has completed the Hesper with a full set of sails and flags. The sails were made from Silk span paper using the Tom Lauria method. Rich said that this involved a lot more rigging and such but he is pleased with how it turned out.



# The Broadaxe

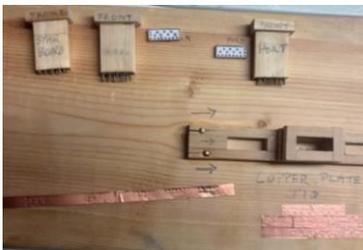
## Syren, US

1803, Brig

Scale 1:64, Model Shipways Kit

Paddy O'Hare

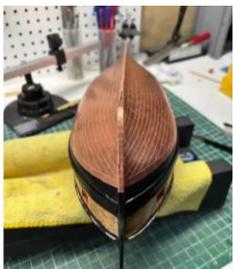
Paddy presented the coppering of the hull. The kit had two drawings showing the run of the copper including the goring bands at the waterline. He used the hit supplied copper tape. Using the jig that he made using the instructions provided with the kit, he was able to emboss the nailing pattern for the plates. He said that when he does this again, he will condiser using a different material for the base as he needed to replace because it became dimpled by the stamp. Maybe a harder wood. He made and installed about 700 individual plates. Paddy stated that a person on MSW used a strip of three or four plates at a time. He noted that the adhesive on the tape was very good. Paddy was a bit concerned about the adhesive drying out and the plates peeling. Tom said that he had used tape on two models with one coppered about thirty years ago, and the copper is still in place. Well done Paddy.



Starboard side

Start

Finish



## USS Camden, AOE-2

US, 1964, Fast Combat Support Ship

Scale 1:700, Trumpeter Kit

Joe Cali-Poutre

Adding to his fleet of ships named after New Jersey or cities within the state, USS Camden (AOE-2) was a Sacramento-class fast combat support ship, the second ship of the United States Navy named after the city of Camden, New Jersey.] It combined the functions of three logistic support ships in one hull - fleet oiler (AO), ammunition ship (AE), and refrigerated stores ship (AF). Joe's model is moving along nicely. He scratch built the fuel transfer hoses and added a good amount of details making the CH 46 helicopter fly as well as adding extra details to the flight deck. He made the hoses from copper wire that he pickled with vinegar and then painted. He is building it as a waterline model, so it is a long narrow piece of styrene. Over time, the hull bowed in the center. The question is how to correct it or hide the bow. He glued it to the base with a mixture of white glue and cyano. Might that be the problem? Maybe adding a rolling sea? He could simply press down the model and reglue it to the base, but that might cause stress to the deck so he may use a bit of heat to get it to lay down. Of course, being styrene that we need to be very carefully done.

Joe built it because of the name and because it was built with the engines that were intended for the canceled USS Kentucky that would have been a sister of battleship USS New Jersey.

Joe will let us know what solution he arrives at.



# The Broadaxe

## Translating Kit Plans and Instructions

Barry Rudd is building a Victory by Italian kit maker Mamoli. I received the following email for a new solution to an Italian/English dictionary. I have ChatGPT on my iPhone. The basic app is free. I realized that it can be very useful in translating foreign instructions into English. The following is an example of what I was able to do. All the text below the image was generated by Chat PT. I have the Mamoli Kit of the HMS Victory. And of course the instructions are in Italian. Now that AI ChatGPT is available, foreign instruction are no longer problem. I took a photo on my iPhone copied and pasted into ChatGPT and asked it to translate it into English.

This is the results. Of course the translation isn't perfect English, but at least it's easier than learning a foreign language. I even tried it with some Chinese text. It worked great. Sometimes life does get a little easier.

Below is a careful English translation of the text as written (keeping the meaning and technical flavor of the original Italian). I've kept the numbering and structure the same.

Table (Plate) No. 9

Prepare all the shafts and accessories according to the dimensions shown on the table.

Pay particular attention to the following details:

317 – BOWSPRIT (BOMPRESSO):

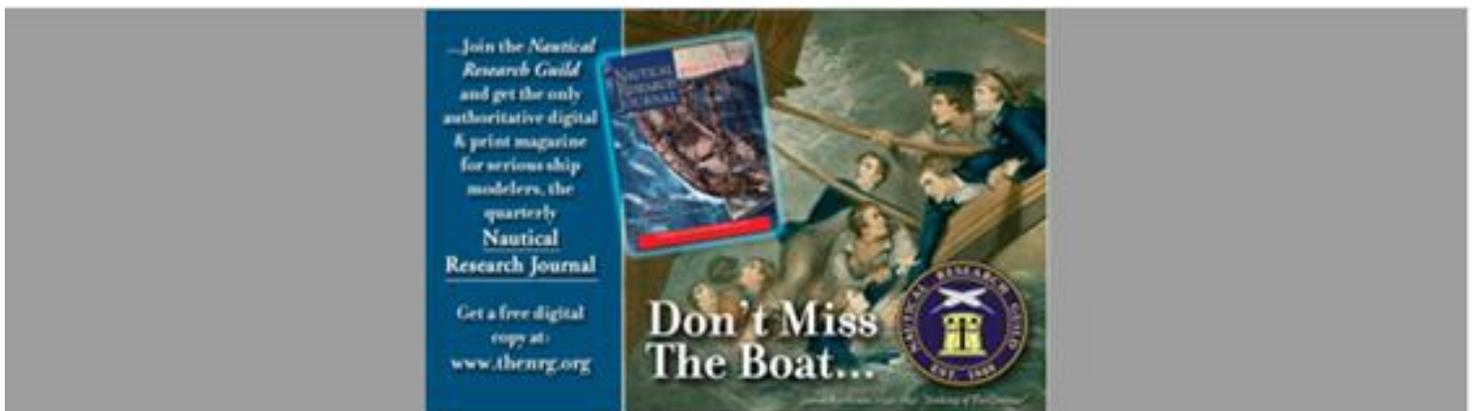
Make at the forward end first the inclined 6×6 square at 30°, then with a file and sandpaper shape the first 60 mm section into a cylindrical form. Glue the two fairleads (passacavi) made from strip wood onto the sides of the bowsprit. Glue the stays for the rigging formed from small pieces of strip wood glued around the shaft, also tapered at 30°, since the bowsprit is mounted at the bow with this inclination. In the figure, the dashed-and-dotted line indicates the end of the part from which to obtain the forward square.

318 – JIB BOOM (ASTA DEL FIOCCO):

Lightly chamfer a section of the rear part.

It is made from a 4 mm dowel and has the central part covered with 1×2 walnut strip. All larger pennants are built in the same way; only the measurements vary. In the figures they are shown cut slightly beyond the cylindrical part.

If you'd like, I can also: make this more “model-builder friendly,” simplify it into step-by-step instructions, or match specific parts to a particular kit or plan.



# 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.

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