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Newsletter of the Ship Model Society of New Jersey

June 2026

Meeting Report for May 23, 2026

The meeting was called to order by President Bill at 1030. There were fifteen members and one guest present. Bill Sheehan made a few models about fifty years ago who decided to make a model again. One of those was a scratch-built model of the Black Prince. He has found plans of a small 18th century ship rigged privateer. The model that he is planning is the Neptune from plans in Chapman's "Architectura Navalis Mercatoria". He will be doing a plank on bulkhead in 1:64 scale. He is looking for some advice on materials to use for construction. Welcome Bill, you have come to the right place.

Treasurer Tom presented the Club finances. The Club members approved spending for the renewal of the SMSNJ Zoom subscription as well as renewal of the NRG Chapter Club renewal including insurance. The meeting adjourned at 12:15.



Model Ship World is Back

We are happy to announce that Model Ship World, that has hacked and data erased, is back with a more secure platform. While all data and forums were erased, we are happy to say that many have returned (about 1400 as of the meeting) and many of the forums have been reloaded with several new ones. We note that the site has changed a bit and some of the original functions are now in different places, the new site is going well. If you had a forum that was erased, we ask that you put it back up. As always, it is a good idea to reacquaint yourself with the rules and processes. This is the MSW return really good news.

Club Hats: Bill sold out the hats at the meeting. If there is interest, he can order more realizing that price varies with quantity. If there is enough new demand, we will consider ordering more.

June is the end of our fiscal year and when dues are payable. Dues are \$20. Please send your check, payable to SMSNJ, to Tom Ruggiero. If you joined after February 2025, your initial fee covers you until June 2027

Next Meeting and Tech Session

Next Meeting is Saturday, June 27, 2026, at Roseland Free Public Library, 20 Roseland Ave, Roseland, NJ 07068 at 10:30 am. The Tech Session will be "Bring a Model" completed or building.



Flying Cloud Restoration

Ethan Feinsod has been restoring a large-scale model of the Clipper Flying Cloud with sails. He has done quite a bit on the restoration but there is still more required. He contacted Bill and told him that he would not be continuing with the restoration. He is offering it to anyone interested in completing the restoration. If anyone is interested in completing the restoration, please contact Bill Brown.

Model Con 8

The Philadelphia Ship Model Society (PSMS) hosts Model Con in the Wardroom of Battleship New Jersey each August. This year it is on Saturday, August 1, 2026. I have been there every year and it is a wonderful day to meet with fellow model builders, show your work to others touring the ship, and being able to tour the ship yourself. I have been there every year, and it is a wonderful day. You need to register your models by July 19, 2026 at the following:

www.philadelphia_ship_model_society.com/modelcon/

Tech Session

“Making Gratings” by Kevin Kenny

Kevin records videos as he researches and builds his models. He records his journey and his videos include demonstrations of processes that have yielded great results as well as describing pitfalls that he has successfully resolved. At this meeting, Kevin presented a video that he made on his method for making gratings. The following photos show the sliding table that Kevin made so that the blank can be indexed as he is making subsequent cuts so that all the cuts are parallel to each other and the same width. The blade needs to be a slotting blade that is the thickness of spacing of the holes in the grating. In full scale that is 1 ½” to 2”. Also, the blade must have as many teeth as you find (Teeth per inch). This process requires hard wood with almost no grain. Boxwood works best.

The cut direction is with the grain of the wood, and the depth of the cut should be at least as deep as the finished thickness of the grating. Note that some gratings are cambered across. Some gratings are cambered side to side. For those you will need to make the cut deeper. Hand sanding would be how you get the camber.

These two photographs show the slide table arrangement that Kevin built. He has a video on his YouTube channel describing how he fabricated it. The photo on the right shows two lath pieces that he glued to the table to use to index each cut. Make sure that you cut with the grain keep the blank flat on the slide (no wobble).



The Broadaxe

Using the sliding table he will be slotting the stock with the interval between the cuts being the width of the battens of the grating. The next two photos show the setup. Kevin glues one batten to the table and that gives the spacing for subsequent cuts. Between cuts, blow off sawdust so that there is no interference with the slide.

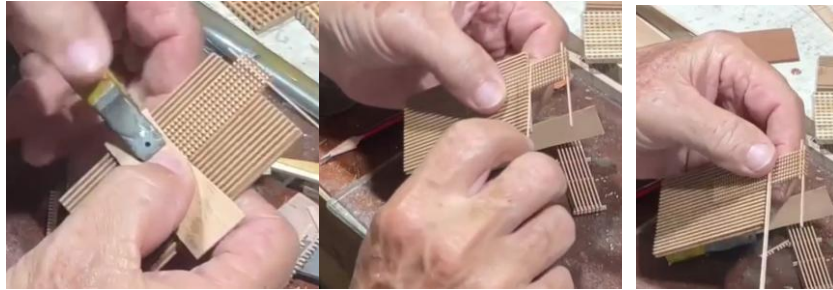


Make the first cut with the blank against the lath stop on the blade side (photo lower left). Make the second and the remainder of the cuts by placing the slide table batton into the previous cut (photo lower right). Make two or three cuts more for spares. Also, you will need to make an additional slotted blank to use as an assemble jig.



The cutoff strips need to be slightly thinner than the cuts so that they insert easily into the assembly jig. Kevin has two table saws so he can use one to make the slots and the other to slice off strips. If you don't have another saw, remove the slide table and then set the fence the thickness of one batten (slightly less than the width of the slots). Make several spare strips to account for breakage. You will need many battens to make up your gratings. The battens are to be slightly thinner than the slot, but not so thin that the glue will adhere. The goal is that the battens go into the slot with no force so that there is no breakage of the tabs.

To assemble the strips into the assembly jig. Make certain that all the strips are inserted so that the tabs align. Insert the first batten. Slide the strips so that the inserted batten is off the jig (this is so you don't glue the grating to the jig). No, fix each joint with a tiny drop of cyanoacrylate (very thin white glue works but takes much longer to set up). Continue as shown in the next photos.



When the glue has set up, you can remove the grating from the assembly jig. Finish the rest of the battens and clean up the finished grating by sanding. Now is also the time to sand to achieve the camber if your model calls for that. A hint from the editor is that you make coamings to fit the grating. It is more straight forward and looks better (ask me how I know). If you want to see Kevin’s video, use this link.

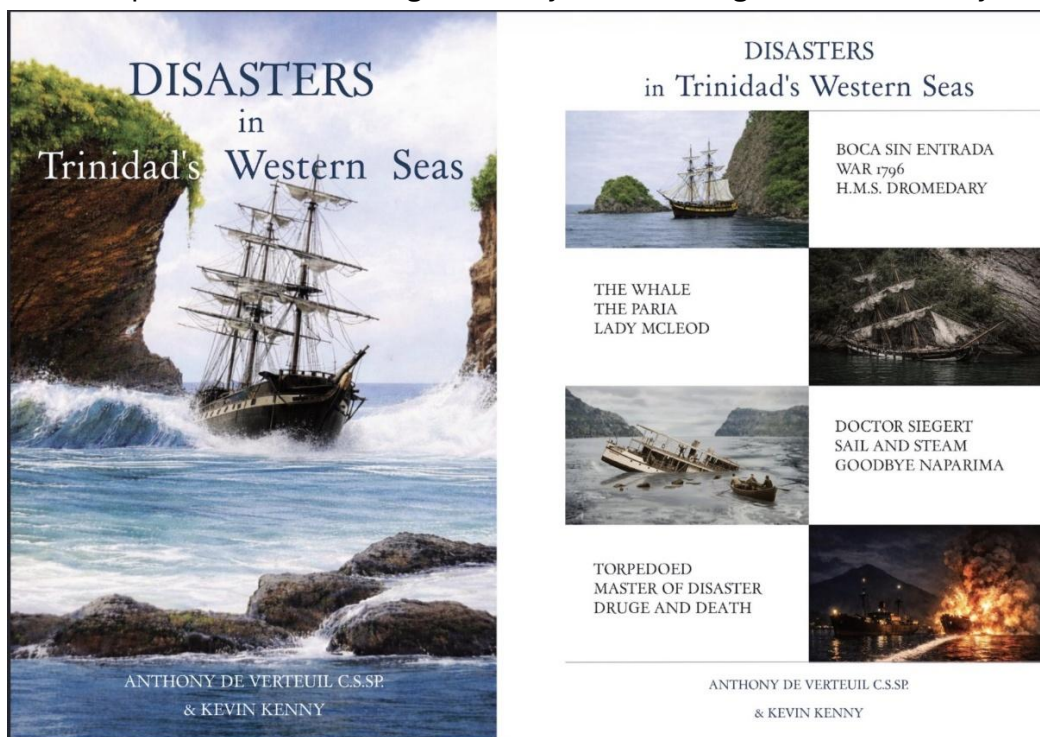
[video2491127329.mp4](#) Thank you very much, Kevin.

Disasters in Trinidad’s Western Seas “Making Gratings” by Kevin Kenny

At the meeting, we spoke about Kevin’s models all having a connection to his ancestors immigrating there. To illustrate that, I received the following from Kevin:

I have just completed my first collaboration with a cousin of mine, Father Anthony deVerteuil who has published over 30 books on the history of Trinidad & Tobago. I had shared some of my research with him and he very kindly included my name as co-author but it is his book and some of my research.

Perhaps a book on building one of my models will get written one day.”



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Early 18th Century, Scale 1:33 (approx.)

Scratch Built

Daniel Caramagno

Dan is doing an extensive rebuilding of this contemporary model. This model was originally in the collection of the Seamans Church in downtown New York City. It was in storage, along with much of the collection in Jersey City. The model was significantly damaged by flooding from Sandy. The model made its way to Chuck and Dan took on the rebuild project. At some point, so one attempted to convert the model into an English ship doing significant changes. These changes became to disassemble and that uncovered the Dutch ship underneath the stern gallery modifications. Dan has done extensive research and consulted with many experts in the field including Ab Hoving at the Wasa in Sweden. He has disassembled, cleaned and is now rebuilding many broken and missing pieces. To remove the original finish, he used stripper rather than sanding to avoid lead dust. The red paint in the gunports and the white on the hull contained lead but other finishes did not. Due to the modifications made to the original model, that attempted to change the model to an English ship, Dan needed to remove the erroneous beakhead bulkhead, much of the bow and head timbers. He rebuilt the bow and installed new cant frames.

The model was done with the Dutch foot measurement and the model measures 4 Amsterdam feet. This is indeed an extensive project. Well done!



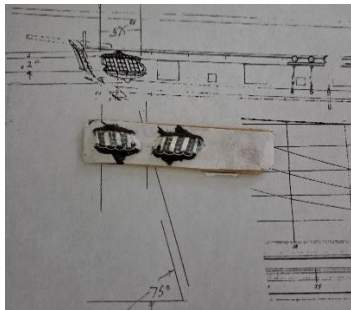
USS Argus, Brig

1794, Scale 1:96

Scratch Build

Tom Ruggiero

Tom has completed the quarter badges for Argus. Most flush decked craft did not have quarter galleries. The galleries were small areas for an officers at sea cabin and toilet. Some ships like Wasp and Hornet had the galleries, but most had simple badges maybe to give the impression of a larger ship while the cabins were below deck. Argus had badges but also had cabins on both sides of the ship so it is likely that the lights (windows) contained glass panes rather than faux. Tom cut out and carved the quarter badges from boxwood. He used photoetch sprue for the mullions and card stock between the lights. Krystal clear is almost a white glue that becomes clear on drying. The glass is Micro Krystal Clear. Here are the finished quarter badges displayed on the plan.



USS New Jersey, US

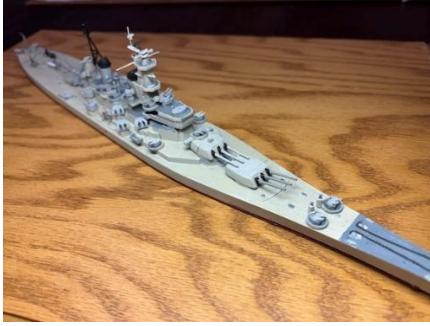
1945, Battleship

Scale 1:700, Fujimi Kit

Joe Cali-Poutre

This is a Fujimi 1/700 USS New Jersey, which depicts her as in late WW2. He modified her to match her appearance in 1953 off Korea, in honor of the 75th anniversary of that war, and finishing his lineup of BB-62 through her career. To convert the model from the kit WW II configuration he needed to remove all of the 20 mm mounts and rebuild the fore and main masts. He added photo etch from Gold Medal Models (now available from Squadron) and Tom's Model works for the rear crane, radars. The main turrets are updated with details, and the secondaries were replaced with resin cast mounts with turned metal barrels. The helicopters are 3D printed with photo etch rotors and landing gear. They are an HO3S, nicknamed the "Jersey Bounce" after the song, and a Piasecki HUP Retriever. Tom says that these models would be well appreciated at Modelcon on the Battleship in August.

Joe's next project is building a model of the gunboat New Jersey. The gunboat was part of Benedict Arnold's Flotilla at the Battle of Valcour Island on Lake Champlain. It was captured by the British and burned.



Skipjack, Chesapeake Bay Oyster Boat

19th / early 20th century Scale 1:48, Scratch

Dennis Powell

Dennis started the model about two years ago. He used a build log from Model Ship World for guidance since the builder used the same box of sticks as he did. Unfortunately, the log was lost in the hack, so he is now on his own.

The deck planked with cutouts for deck houses and hatch covers, etc with the cut water and bowsprit attached (left). rub rails and beginning installation of railings. (right)



Some deck furniture, faired mast and rudder (left). Mast length the length of boat between perpendicular plus the width. The actual length would be about 55' with a 15° rake. Right Photo: The roofs are either holly or coffee-stained basswood. Dennis used lots of scraps, including pine and poplar.



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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.

Club Officers

PRESIDENT:
Bill Brown
28 Betsy Ross Drive
Allentown, NJ 08501
E-mail: wldjbrown@gmail.com

SECRETARY/TREASURER:
Tom Ruggiero
54 Peach Orchard Dr
East Brunswick, NJ 08816
Email: trugs@comcast.net

VICE PRESIDENT:
Chuck Passaro
20 Sylva Lane
Hamberg, NJ
E-mail: cpassaro123@gmail.com

WEBSITE CONTACT:
Chuck Passaro
E-mail: cpassaro123@gmail.com