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Newsletter of the Ship Model Society of New Jersey

March 2026

Meeting Report for February 28, 2026

The meeting was called to order by President Bill at 1030. There were fifteen members and one guest present. Leonard Xuereb is an experienced ship model builder. He comes to the meeting from Staten Island and is interested in joining. He has built USS Kearsage, USS Choctaw, USS Hatteras, Hope of Wilmington, and CSS Virginia, all scratch built.

Treasurer Tom presented the Club finances. The meeting adjourned at 12:05.



Northeast Joint Clubs 2026

The conference is Saturday, April 25, 2026 - 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Port 'n' Starboard Ocean Front Banquet Center, Ocean Beach Park, New London, Connecticut. Registration fee is \$60.00 If received by April 15, \$65.00 After April 16 or at the door. Follow this link to the USS Constitution Model Shipwrights Guild website to register online. www.uscmsg.org/nsmc

SMSNJ will need to do a 25-to-35-minute presentation or demonstration. We ask for a member to volunteer by contacted Tom, Bill, or Chuck by March 20, 2026.



Club Hats:

Chuck asked if there is a way for him to obtain a new SMSNJ hat. We voted to have Bill obtain a small quantity of hats. Bill will get details and cost information for the next meeting.

No April Meeting

The scheduled date for our April meeting is the same date as the Northeast Joint Clubs meeting in New London. The logistics of moving the April meeting was discussed and it was decided that the April meeting will be canceled. We encourage you all to come to the Northeast Joint Clubs meeting.

Old Dominion IPMS Show

Today, Ryland was attending the IPMS Show in Virginia. He says that this is the biggest show that he has seen in Richmond. Here are a few photos.



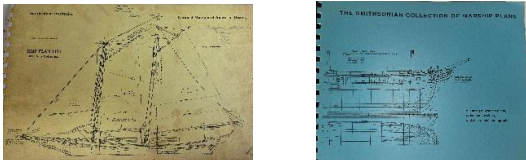
Next Meeting and Tech Session

Next Meeting is Saturday, March 28, 2026, at Roseland Free Public Library, 20 Roseland Ave, Roseland, NJ 07068 at 10:30 am. The Tech Session will be "Making Rope Coils-Another Method" presented by Chuck Passaro.

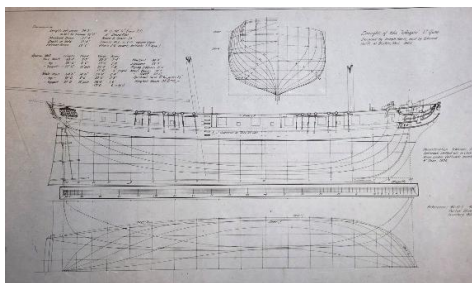
Tech Session

“The Plank on Bulkhead (POB) Method from Museum Plans to Assembly” demonstrated by Rich Lane

Rich Lane has begun a new project. Once again, this will be built from scratch, and he will be using a plank on bulkhead (POB) method to build the hull. Today, he demonstrates how he creates the hull from plans. This presentation is geared toward the kit builder who wants to make the transition to scratch building. To start, you need a set of plans. You can obtain plans from the Smithsonian. There are two catalogs of plans, The Maritime Collection, and Warship Plans. These catalogs have been updated several times so the ordering details may be a bit dated. The most recent edition that I have is the seventh edition 2004. Plans can be ordered by mail to “Naval Ship Plans-Smithsonian Institution NMAH-5004/MRC 628, PO Box 37012, Washington DC 20013-7012. You may need to contact them to get current prices etc. Unfortunately, it operates by snail mail and you need to pay in advance via a paper check or money order payable to the Smithsonian Institution.



They list available plans and photographs in the Smithsonian archives. Most of the entries note the books or publications where these plans are shown. For example, many of the warship plans are in one of books by Chappelle. So, if you have those books, you can view the plans before you buy them. The standard scale is typically 1:48 (1/4” : 1’). Rich’s model will be 1:64 (3/16” : 1’). You can reduce the scale with a proportional divider. However, you can get the plans copied to the scale that you need.



Like a POB kit, you will need a central spine as well as several bulkheads. Generally, the plan will have at least one sheet with three orthographic views of the hull.

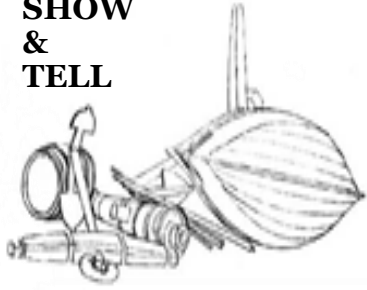
The sheer plan: a side elevation of the ship that shows the profile: stem, stern, keel, deck lines, gunports, sheer line. You will use this to make the center spine of the ship. The half-breadth plan: a bottom-up view that shows the shape of the hull at various waterlines (like a topographic map]. Sometimes the other side will show a deck plan as well. The body plan shows a cross-section view from of the midship frame forward on one side, and from midship aft on the other side. Note that the station lines are numbered (sometimes lettered) so that the station on the sheer plan will match the station on the body plan. The views are at stations (vertical lines in the half breadth and sheer plans, and water lines, shown on the half breadth and sheer plan. To make a bulkhead you will need to cut out a template at each station line. Since the body plan shows half the hull on each side, you will need a mirror image on the other side. You can do that by cutting two templates at each station and one tape the two together at the center line. Rich cut his bulkheads from plywood. In the center of each bulkhead each will be slotted from the bottom to about half way to the deck. The slot will be the thickness of the spine. You want a snug sliding fit to the spine but not so that you need to force it in. Use the sheer plan to cut the spine. Generally, the spine will be from the underside of the deck to the top of the keel. Make the slot from the top to about halfway to the bottom of the bulkheads. The slots should be cut forward of the station line for bulkheads midship forward, and aft of the station for the bulkheads from the midship aft. Make sure that the bulkheads are perpendicular to the spine and that the bottom of the bulkhead is at the top of the keel. The top of the bulkhead should be the bottom of the deck. As the top of the spine is the underside of the deck the top of the bulkhead and top of the spine need to be flush.



Use this link to view Rich’s presentation.
[video2661351442.mp4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2661351442)

The Broadaxe

SHOW & TELL



Speedwell, England

1757, Ketch Rigged Sloop

Scale 1:32, Scratch Build

Chuck Passaro

Chuck is just about finished with Speedwell's hull and is ready to proceed to masts, spars and rigging. The last thing that he made were the head rails. It is a material that he was able to engrave to various depths with a laser to get a profile that is then lightly sanded. The headrails, cover boards, cathead knee, chainplates, boarding ladder rungs etc. are all made from this plastic material. He used the same material for the stern lights (window frame).



His son Sam will be getting this model and now Chuck has plotted out just how large a model this will be and how large and expensive a case will be – on the order of five feet by two and a half feet. So, he will be finishing his model with three launching flags. Chuck will use his typical method for making the flags and mount them on flag poles. It will still be a very large model, but the case will be more manageable and take up less room.



HMS Dianna, Frigate

1794, Scale 1:64

Caldercraft Kit

Mort Soll

Mort continues moving along with his model. This is the second Dianna that he has built. He fully rigged his first one intending to give it to his son. However, seeing how large the rigged model was, his son asked him to remove the rigging masts and spars and finish it with launching flange. He may or may not rig this one based on its eventual home. Mort is working on the top gundeck, and he has built the chain pumps and planked the cisterns for each one. He will also be planking the chain pumps themselves and will do the same for the elm tree pumps



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Don't Miss The Boat...

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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