

THE BROADAXE

NEWSLETTER
of
THE SHIP MODEL SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY
Founded in 1981



Volume 29, Number 1

January, 2011

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING December 21, 2010

The meeting was called to order by **Bob Fivehouse** at 7:05 PM. Because this was our annual White Whale Auction, normal club business was abbreviated. Bob reminded us that a lady sent him a packet of photos of her late husband's models which appear to be mainly from kits. She would like to know of a place to which these models can be donated. Snug Harbor on Staten Island was suggested. Another suggestion was to get in contact with **Stan Sinowitz** who runs Fiddlers Green Model Ships and who might be able to sell them for her.

A retired architect, who lives down the shore, has a batch of tools he wants to dispose of in an appropriate way. **Ed Hegstetter** will get in contact with the man to see if an arrangement can be made to find homes for these deserving tools.

The lady from the Morris County library would like to meet with the committee to coordinate our show at the library scheduled for next fall. Members of the committee are: **Dennis Powell, Ken Schuetz, Al Geigel** and **Bob Fivehouse**.

Al Geigel, our Treasurer, presented his report. There being no questions or comments from the members, the Treasurer's Report was accepted into the minutes. Thank you, Al.

Mike Gutsick was applauded for the 92nd consecutive time for the wonderful job he continues to do every month producing the Broadaxe. The minutes as printed in the Broadaxe were accepted.

Gary Kingzett showed us the hull for his model of the 1/72 scale battleship *Maine* he is making for the Brooklyn Navy Yard. It is constructed from laminated Butterboard that Gary shaped with an angle grinder. Gary was very pleased with the

whole shaping process. The initial shaping with the angle grinder took one hour and 45 minutes. All together, Gary has put in 22 hours to get the hull to an intermediate state where most of the shaping has been done. Some areas, particularly the stern and stem, need further fine tuning. Gary remains very pleased with the Butterboard, which he describes as easier to work with than balsa but much harder than basswood. Rather than covering it in plastic to reproduce the plating of the original ship, Gary will paint the Butterboard a flat gray, which he feels will reproduce the look of the actual ship.

The Butterboard purchased for this model cost over \$1,200. Butterboard is cast urethane with non-abrasive filler. The material is very consistent, with no grain or voids. Gary will use whatever excess remains after the building of the *Maine* for future models.

At the conclusion of regular business the Club held its annual White Whale Auction. Some of the items offered for sale were:

varying lots of wood
pin vices and knife handles
ship kits
glass mixing jars
various books and magazines
works of art
a shop vac
a Microlux planer, sander and power supply
six figures for a PT boat
a collection of small metal ship models mounted on a board
a Hannah timbering set and the Hahn book, "The Colonial Schooner"
medical needle holders
Model Shipways catalogs
blueprints to be used for the linen they are printed on
plastic airplane kits
maritime maps
and other items of varying interest.

The club would like to thank **Mike Gutsick** and **Al Geigel** for their efforts in getting ready for the auction and keeping track of buyers and sellers.

Before we adjourned for the evening, **Mason Logie** told us that he was involved in a ship's tour and a tour of artifacts from the time of Cleopatra, some recovered by underwater archaeology.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 PM.



FROM THE EDITOR

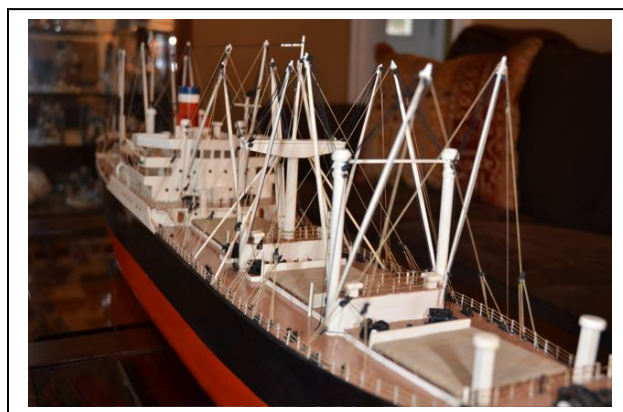
Lacking Show & Tell photos and Tech Session reviews, the January issue of the newsletter is a challenge for me in that it also comes at my busiest time at work and I don't have as much time as I would like to devote the issue. I apologize for its brevity. Be that as it may, I do have some updates on what some of our fellow members have been doing and will take this opportunity to review the Club's activities over the past year.

Mike Gutsick

What have they been doing?

Living in West Nyack, NY, **Mort Stoll** continues to think of us and wishes he could make some of the meetings. He continues his modeling interest, however, and was hired by a hedge fund manager to restore a model of *American Scout*. Mort worked on it for about 4 months. The model was purchased on E-bay as a decoration for an office. When Mort got it, the model was covered in dust, many of the railing stanchions were broken or missing, much of the boom rigging was broken, the canvas deck and hatch covers were in tatters and the paint was peeling. Mort restored it to its "as built" condition and as you can see in the following photos, did an outstanding job. As a result of his work on

American Scout, Mort has been hired by the same company to restore several other models they own. Well done, Mort!





About half of our members do not have computers and do not receive my e-mail announcements. When I sent out my e-mail regarding **Capt. Nick Starace's** newly published memoir, I had already printed the December Broadaxe and was unable to include it in that issue. For those who have not yet heard, I am pleased to inform you Nick is now a published author. His memoir "White Sails Became Me" is now available from Amazon.com. Nick sent me an information sheet on his book which I am including later in this issue.

THE YEAR IN REVIEW - 2010

The year 2010 was an active year for the Club. Members went on two trips, one to Annapolis to see the models at the Naval Academy and one to the Brooklyn Navy Yard. The Club was also well represented at the Joint Clubs Conference in New London having 14 members attend the show. The Conference also gave us the opportunity to honor

the memory of Jim Roberts with the presentation of the 1st Annual Award for Model Excellence given in his name.

During the year, two of our members had their books published, **Nick Starace**, as previously noted, and **Olof Eriksen's** manuscript on the rigging of the USS *Constitution*. Olie's book will be the guide for the re-rigging of the *Constitution* which is currently underway.

We added one new member in 2010, **Ray Vernon**, who makes the drive all the way from Bethlehem, PA to be with us.

The year saw a newly revamped web site for the Club thanks to the efforts of **Chuck Passaro**. We can now offer reference materials via our lending library online.

Thanks to the efforts of **Michael Storch** and **Larry Friedlander**, several of our members are actively involved in a group build project of the Colonial Schooner *Hannah*, enjoying the camaraderie of the meetings as much as working on their models.

We thank all of the Tech Session presenters who gave of their time to instruct us all.

Finally, we thank **Bob Fivehouse** and **Tom Ruggiero** for their work making the Auction another success and all those members who brought in items for sale.

We now look forward to a busy 2011!



The '**BROADAXE**' is published monthly by The Ship Model Society of New Jersey, 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 by both US mail and e-mail in PDF format.

Regular meetings are held on the **FOURTH Tuesday** of every month at 7:30 P.M, at the Millburn Free Public Library, 200 Glen Avenue, Millburn, 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 e-mail. Handwritten notes or other materials will be considered depending on the amount of editing and preparation involved.

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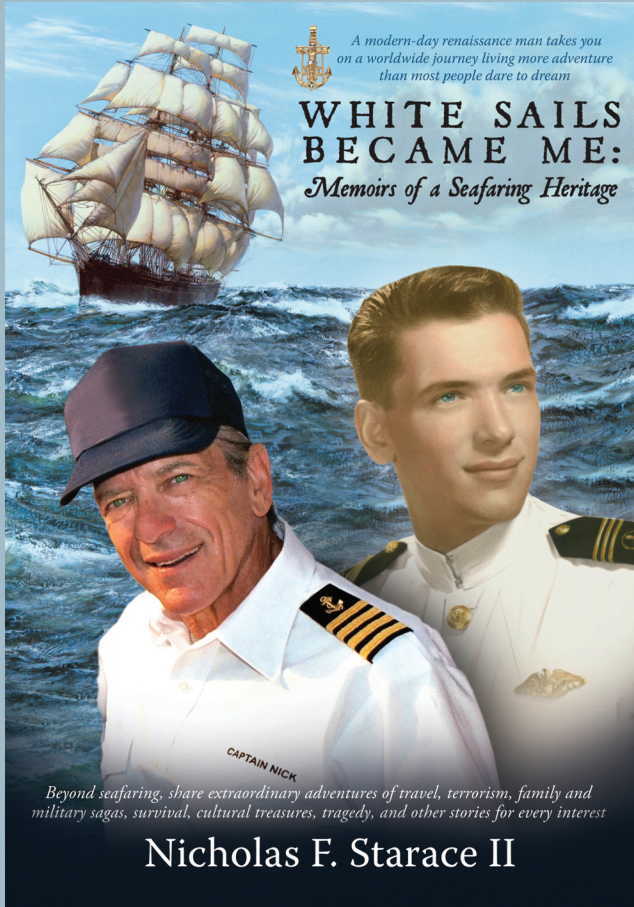
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WHITE SAILS BECAME ME:

Memoirs of a Seafaring Heritage



For more information, please visit:
www.whitesailsbecameme.com

It is said that some people are born with a silver spoon in their mouths. I was born with an anchor in mine.” The quotation is at the core of this book, and speaks volumes about the life and times of its author, Nicholas F. Starace II. With heart-wrenching honesty, he shares the tragedies that befell his family, and how they survived by virtue of a strong determination to fulfill their destiny in America.

Starace saw the world—over eighty countries— from quaysides and ship-decks. But it took the miniature version—model ships—for him to see his family. His grandfather was a boat builder and seaman from Procida, an island near Naples, who immigrated to Brooklyn in the late 1800s. He brought with him an unusual passion that he would pass on to his grandson: model-ship-building. His grandfather’s teachings and a shared passion for all things nautical had a profound effect on Starace’s career path. His grandfather’s old hobby would also help him form a crucial bond with his son Nicky, before his untimely death at twenty-six. Nicky’s death woke the family—and especially Starace—to the chaotic nature of life, and to utter despair.

Starace began to look for his family’s identity as a way to make sense of not only loss, but terrorism, divorce, near-death accidents, earthquakes, cancer, military death in the family, and even the pleasant trauma of retirement. Notwithstanding the many setbacks, you will see the author living life to the fullest with an insatiable thirst for travel, challenge, and adventure. *White Sails Became Me* is a gripping adventure of a life spent around ships, boats, and the sea. And while the central theme is nautical, it truly has something for everyone. It has strong themes of terrorism, survival, family saga, and the military. Starace’s travel experiences offer an abundance of cultural treasures for all to savor, not least of which are his fascinating safari exploits and life while living in Europe and Asia for eleven years.

His enthusiasm in writing this book was not driven by financial gain, but a sincere desire to make a positive difference in the lives of readers. Even if you are a very discriminating reader with little or no interest in seafaring, you owe it to yourself to read this book—you will almost certainly find it enthralling

THE BROADAXE

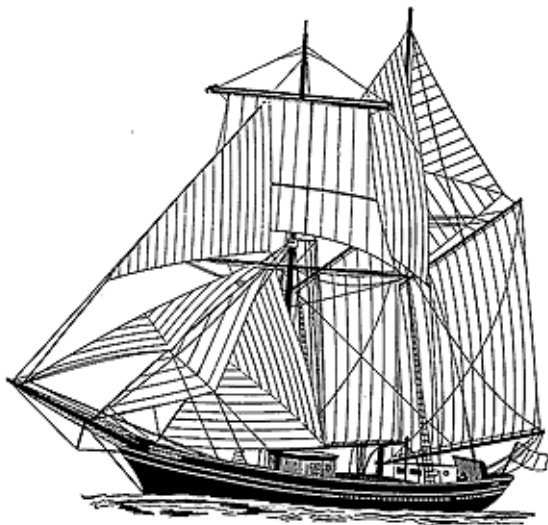
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NEXT MEETING:

January 25, 2011

7:30 PM

MILLBURN PUBLIC
LIBRARY

**To Be
Announced**