THE BROADAXE

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

Volume 30, Number 1 | January, 2012

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
October 25, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 by club president **Bob Fivehouse.** There were 28 members present and one guest; **Joe Gelsomino** who traveled down from Rhode Island to spend the evening with us. We hope he found the journey worthwhile.

An updated copy of the roster was passed around so that members could be sure that the information appearing on the roster is correct. If you would like an e-mail copy of the roster, or you would like to fix an error or register a change in circumstance, please e-mail a request to **Larry Friedlander**.

The minutes of the last meeting as reported in the Broadaxe were accepted.

Al Geigel presented the treasurer's report. Our annual white elephant auction, held this past December, was successful in raising approximately $200 for the club. Auction transactions amounted to about $900.

OLD BUSINESS

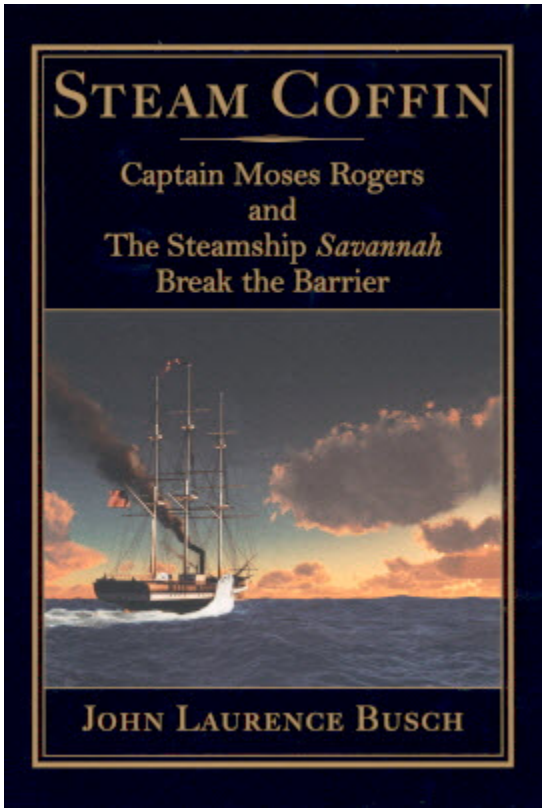
Prior to the general meeting, the Joint Clubs Conference committee met to coordinate and update their efforts in preparation for the upcoming event, which will take place at the end of April. **Al Geigel, Michael Storch, Tom Ruggiero, Ed Hegstetter** and **Bob Fivehouse** are on schedule. They have arranged for our own **Chuck Passaro** to be the speaker but still need a club member volunteer to do a tabletop demonstration. Some other ongoing tasks are outreach to participating clubs and to vendors, and preparation for the judging of the Jim Roberts award.

Tom Ruggiero distributed the new denim shirts with the club logo on them. The original estimate of the price was $36 apiece but because we ordered more shirts than expected, the price fell to $31 each. The shirts are very attractive and we owe a big "thank you" to Tom for his work in ordering and keeping track of the payments. Tom wants us to be aware that the shirts are a hundred percent cotton and we should be careful not to put them in the dryer because they will shrink. Hopefully, this year all the members attending the Joint Club's Conference in April will be wearing our club shirt and hat. Again, our appreciation goes to Tom for making us look so spiffy!

NEW BUSINESS

Bob Fivehouse reminded us that every club participating in the joint club's conference is responsible for putting on a tabletop demonstration. Bob asked if any of the *Hannah* project participants would be willing to do a demonstration but none of the members present volunteered. Therefore the club still needs someone to do that presentation. **Al Geigel** has been in contact with the other participating clubs and has reminded them that they too need to select a tabletop demonstrator. He has also reminded them that they need to provide a door prize and a judge for **The Jim Roberts Award** selection committee.

In February we will have a guest speaker, **John Busch**, who will discuss his well-reviewed book, "Steam Coffin" about the *Savanna*, the first steam powered ship to cross the Atlantic.



Ron Hollander has volunteered to be our presenter for March. He will he will show us pictures he took of the Maritime Museum in Venice.
Tom McGowan has made arrangements with the library to continue our present meeting arrangements, the fourth Tuesday of every month except for the month of December in which our meeting will be held on the third Tuesday.

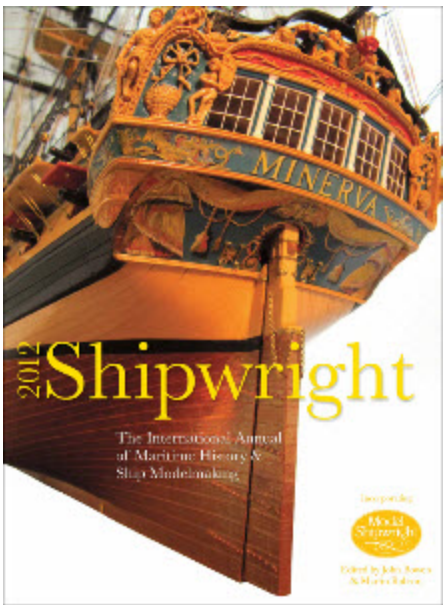
Tom also informed us that the South Amboy Library will be presenting a talk about the *Titanic* on March 19th; the speaker will be Charlie Haas, who dove down to the *Titanic*. The librarian asked Tom if he knew anyone who could supply a model of the *Titanic* to be shown during the presentation. If you have such a model, please bring it to the meeting on February 28 and Tom will bring it to the South Amboy Library and will return it shortly after the presentation has been given. **Bob Fivehouse** would like to know if anyone is interested in lending some models to the Bridgewater library for a show in June.

WEBSITE & LENDING LIBRARY

Website: http://www.shipmodelsocietyofnewjersey.org/
Lending Library:
http://www.shipmodelsocietyofnewjersey.org/club-library.php

BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS

Tom Ruggiero has received this year's edition of Shipwright, published by Conway Books in England. This collection of 18 articles about ship modeling replaces the quarterly magazine of the same name. Articles in the book cover ships such as *Palmarin*, *HMS Minerva*, *HMS Swallow*, and *Preussen*, building techniques, and other matters of interest to modelers. One article in particular has elicited a great deal of discussion. That one is "The practice and power of firing broadsides in British men of war". The book is available from Amazon for about $25.



http://www.conwaypublishing.com/?page_id=2928

Tony Alworth is a subscriber to the magazine "Ships in Scale" and the latest edition has an article about the schooner *Smuggler*, a model that Tony has built. The model in the magazine is plank over solid hull and is highly detailed.
http://www.seaways.com/

SHOW AND TELL

PT 596, built in 1945, was the last boat of its class to leave the dockyards in Bayonne New Jersey. She went on to the South Pacific but got there too late to participate in the war. She is an 85-foot Elco boat whose armament has been modified to include a 37 mm gun upfront, a 40 mm Bofor, rocket launchers and torpedoes among other munitions. These PT boats were designed to interdict Japanese supply convoys sailing close inshore among the Pacific islands. Three Packard engines power her. She is not made of plywood but is made of mahogany planking. **Ed Hegstetter's** plastic kit is manufactured by Alitalia and includes a nice selection of photo-etched detail. Ed purchased an aftermarket camouflage painting kit to help him get a realistic depiction of the wartime paint job. Ed painted it by hand because he can't use an airbrush. After the war the U.S. Navy decided that it had no further use for the 60 or so remaining PT boats and so they were burned. As a result there are very few remaining examples.

Dennis Powell brought in his model of a spritsail skiff, constructed using instructions found in a book he bought several years ago. The plank on frame model was built using basswood strips laid over a preformed jig. It is built to scale of 1 inch to 1 foot. The original was 27 feet long and 5 feet wide. Dennis still has the rudder and sails to complete.

A member of the *Hannah* group build, **Barry Rudd**, brought in his model of the ship to show the club his progress. The prototype was originally built as a fishing boat. It was purchased by Congress at the request of George Washington and was converted into the U.S. Navy's first warship. The model is being built upside down using the Harold Hahn method and the lumbering kit from Dave Stevens Model Lumberyard. Barry is not very happy about building the model on its jig upside down but he feels that he is learning a lot though the learning curve is steep. For example: Barry found that the best way to achieve symmetry was to cut the fore and aft half frames as pairs. Barry used a lamination of pear and African Blackwood to form the wale. He soaked the wood and then used a hot iron to form the curve.

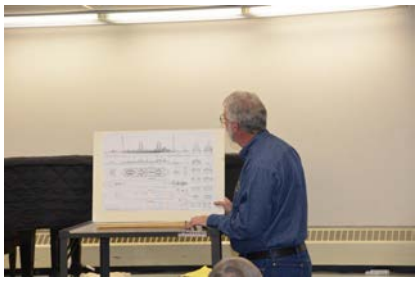
Would you like to know what kind of stove was used on an early 20th century Erie barge? Well, **John Marinovich** can tell you. John is building a model of the early 20th century barge that his mother grew up on and intends to detail the interior. One of the features was an iron stove and by contacting stove manufacturers John found out that the stove was a "Shipmate Stove number 32". John has built his replica out of wood and aluminum sheet. He has also included a coalscuttle and a frying pan.

John also brought in a in a ship-in-bottle model of a fishing boat. John is giving the model to his friend, John Kline, who took John's son and a friend on a fishing trip during which they caught three big stripers.

The Bear Mountain Canoe company in Peterborough Ontario produces a kit of the *Bear Mountain Redbird* canoe. **Don Otis** built it for his sister's nine-year-old granddaughter. Don bought the kit at a white elephant auction proving that not all those kits end up unbuilt in a closet. Don bought it from **Ken Shuetz** who had already started the kit. It is built upside down on a mold. Don covered the mold with clear scotch tape so that the glue would not stick to the mold when Don put on the frames. One of the difficulties Don faced was to cover the model in fiberglass, which Don had never done before.

Along with progress come headaches, at least if you're trying to convert a 1950s era *Lindberg LST* model to current standards. **Mason Logie** is moving ahead with his model of the LST that took his bride-to-be from China to Korea. For example; Mason had to remove the molded on plastic stanchions, and replace them with photo etch stanchions, which were more to scale. Mason will model his ship with the doors open so that you can see his girlfriend and her brother entering the ship. He has primed the deck detail and it is ready for painting. The next part Mason will work on will be the superstructure.

The *Campania*, built in 1893 for the Cunard line, was the largest and fastest ship in the world at that time. For a while she held the blue ribbon, signifying the fastest crossing of the Atlantic. **Bob Fivehouse** is building a 1 inch to 32 foot scale model of her using his usual method of two vertically laminated pieces of wood sculpted to the shape of the hull. Laminating vertically creates a permanent centerline so that Bob can be sure his hull in is symmetrical. Bob also brought in his model of the "*Carpathia*", famous for rescuing passengers from the sinking Titanic. This model is built to a scale of 1 to 600. Both of these models are built using plans drawn by John Bowen, who did plans for Model Shipwright. The *Carpathia* was built in the early 20th century to carry immigrants from southern Europe to the United States. Bob re-creates the iron plating of the ship by using acid-free tracing paper. Bob hopes that since this is the anniversary year of the sinking of the Titanic, he will be able to sell his model of the *Carpathia*.



Chuck Passaro brought in his model of *HMS Winchelsea*, a 32-gun frigate designed by Slade. Chuck has paused the building aspect, to do more research. He is using the builders' contract, which he got from the National Maritime Museum in England, to determine specific construction details. Chuck has established a good working relationship with the people who work at the Museum. He has found them very helpful and cooperative. He is probably the only person who has ever asked for this specific contract and they went to a lot of effort to find and copy it for him. The penmanship

and style that this contract is written in makes reading it a long and arduous process. Chuck is also working on a kit to make a pinnace from 1750. **Tom McGowan** brought in his kit, designed by Chuck, of the *Confederacy*. This is the first time that Chuck is seeing an actual boxed sample of his kit. Usually the manufacturer sends Chuck a sample of the kit but relations between Chuck and Model Expo seem to be strained. Several purchasers of the kit pointed out that there seem to be problems with the figurehead. Chuck took a look at a kit version and found that the figurehead in the kit is not the same as the figurehead he designed. It is only speculation, but perhaps the original was lost and this is a crude reproduction. Chuck is going to re-sculpt the figurehead and offer it to people he knows who are working on the *Confederacy*.

UPCOMING TECH SESSIONS

To Be Announced

Ongoing reminder, that Tom McGowan is asking for **volunteers to give future tech sessions.**
If there is some facet of the hobby that you can tell us about, have an idea for a tech session, or are interested in learning about one of the multitude of tasks that go into the creation of a ship model please contact **Tom McGowan**.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35.

The ***'BROADAXE'*** is published monthly by The Ship Model Society of Northern 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 SMSNNJ 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.

The **Broadaxe** is written by **Larry Friedlander**, edited by **Michael Storch**, and distributed by **Dennis Powell**.

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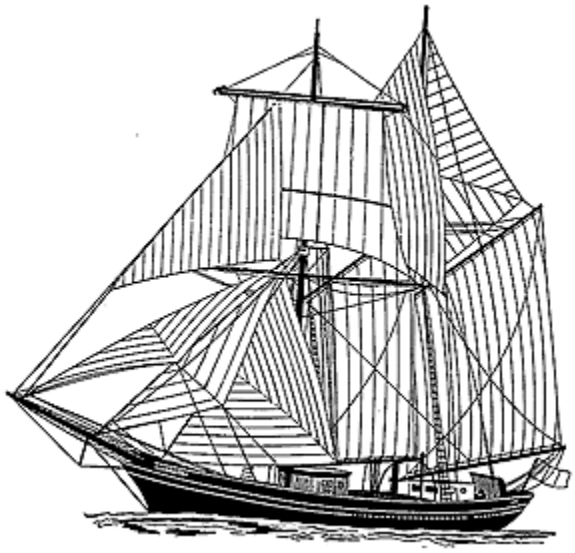

NEXT MEETING:

Feb 28, 2012

7:30 PM

MILLBURN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Bring Your Models
[Finished or Unfinished]