

THE BROADAXE

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



Volume 28, Number 2

February, 2010

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING January 26, 2010

The meeting was called to order by President **Bob Fivehouse** at 7:40 PM with 27 members in attendance. We had no guests this evening.

Comments, questions and or corrections to the January issue of the Broadaxe were requested. There being no corrections, the January 2010 issue of the Broadaxe was accepted into the minutes.

Al Geigel presented his Treasurer's Report to the members. There being no discussion or comments on the report, the Treasurer's Report was accepted into the minutes.

Bob Fivehouse informed us that fellow member **Dr. Steve Fletcher** had volunteered, with a number of other local doctors and nurses, to go to Haiti to help the earthquake victims. Steve is a general surgeon at St. Barnabas Medical Center. Conditions there were horrible and they were doing 20 to 25 operations a day in a hospital without electricity and running low on food and painkillers. It was a very difficult situation and Steve reported that they were all "emotionally and physically burned out." At the suggestion of **Roy Goroski**, the members gave Steve a hearty round of applause in his absence for the great humanitarian work he and his fellow doctors and nurses performed in Haiti. Bob also updated the members on **Olof Eriksen's** medical condition. He needed to have several stents put in due to a worsening heart condition. He will also be requiring additional surgery in February and March. We all wish "**Mr. E.**" well and that he has a speedy recovery.

Roy Goroski inquired about the possible purchase of sweatshirts with the club logo on them. **Tom Ruggiero** reported that he still had a number of hats that have not been sold and while he can order any type of clothing with the logo, it would need to be done with payment in advance. Tom has the product catalog and if members are interested in purchasing shirts or other clothing articles, they should contact Tom and make suitable arrangements.

A question came up about the planned trip to Annapolis in the spring. About 10 members said they would be interested in going. It was also agreed that a Saturday would be the best day for the trip. **Tom McGowan** said he will call the Academy for visitation details and hopefully arrange for a guided tour.

Allan Yedlinski addressed the members and informed him that he is looking for 3 models of schooners that will be in a permanent display on Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines newest ship that will be launched later this year. They are looking for models about 3 feet in length and they must have sails. If you have such a model and are interest in selling it, please contact Allan for additional details at allanyed@yahoo.com or call him at 732-605-0206.

Michael Storch is continuing to seek members who are interested in participating in a group ship model build. If you are interested in meeting with fellow members to work on a specific ship model, please contact Michael at mstorch@stro.com or speak to him at a future meeting.

Jeff Fuglestad mentioned that he had a recent conversation with **Dave Watkins** who currently lives in North Carolina but still likes to maintain his membership in the Club. Dave said there are no ship modeling clubs where he lives and that he misses the meetings and asked Jeff to extend his greetings to all of the guys.

Bob Fivehouse updated the members on the responses received to date from vendors that expressed a desire to attend the Joint Clubs Conference in New London. Bob reminded the members that our Club is responsible for lining up vendors for the show. Columbia Trading and Maiden Voyage Booksellers have confirmed that they will attend. Hobby Mill (custom milled wood products) indicated that he would like to attend the show and Loyalhanna Dockyard also said he might consider attending. Several other vendors were contacted but never responded to our e-mail request.

Tom McGowan made a request for volunteers to lead tech sessions for the coming year. A couple of the members agreed to make a presentation (see the line up later on) but we still need additional tech sessions for the remainder of the year. Please contact Tom and let him know how you would like to help out.



BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS

Dan Pariser brought in a book from Osprey Publishing, generally known for books about military equipment, about Queen Elizabeth 1st Navy. The book is called “Tudor Warships (2)” and has lots of illustrations of that era’s sailing ships. Dan got the book on Amazon.com and you can get additional information on companion books at www.ospreypublishing.com.

Mason Logie, Jr. showed us what he considers to be the most detailed book available for harbor tugs and barges. The book is titled “New York Harbor Railroads in Color, Vol. 2” by Thomas R. Flagg.



TECH SESSION

Tom McGowan presented this evening’s tech session on how to make treenails the old fashioned way by using a draw plate. Tom purchased his draw plate from Model Dockyard many years ago. Good quality draw plates are available from Jim Byrnes and Micro Mark in the \$25 price range. Although any type of wood can be used, Tom prefers bamboo because it is cheap and readily available, The first step in the process is to split the bamboo with a drawknife or chisel to a size that fits the largest hole in the drawplate. You then mount the draw plate in a vise and push the bamboo through the flat side of the plate until you have enough to grab with pliers or your fingers and then pull the strip through the hole. Repeat the process

through each succeeding smaller hole until you have the diameter you want. The smallest Tom has used is the #72 hole (0.025”). To apply the treenail to the plank, drill a hole in the plank 1 size larger than the treenail. Dip the treenail into a thinned white glue solution (50/50) and insert it into the hole and trim close. Once its dry you can then sand it flush with the plank surface.

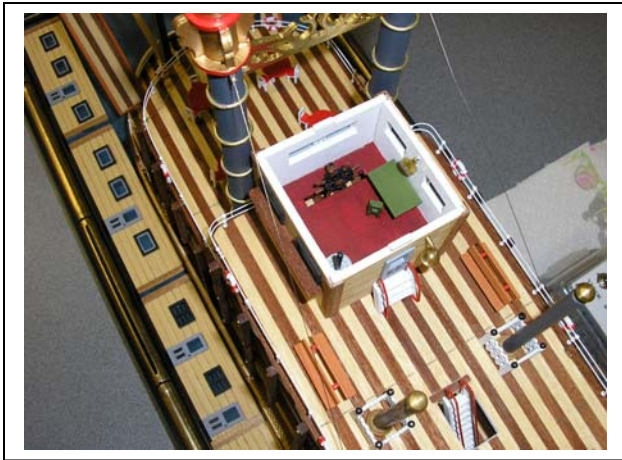
Tom’s handout is included in this issue and the full tech session is also available on DVD.



SHOW AND TELL

First up tonight is **Ossie Thalmann** with his completed Mississippi River Boat, the *Spirit of Mississippi*. This is a plank on frame kit with a lot of interior detail. Ossie has made his exterior wall panels removable so the rooms and furnishings can be seen. The model has a working paddle wheel and rudder and working lamps are fitted throughout the boat.





like paper.



Bob Fivehouse, departing from his usual scale of $1/32" = 1'$, brought in a model of a steamship he started about 15 years ago. The ship is the *Minneapolis* built in 1900 for the Atlantic Transport Line by Harland and Wolff in Belfast, Ireland. The ship was 616' in length with twin screws. The scale is $1/16" = 1'$ and in another departure is a full hull model. Bob made the hull from sugar pine using the lift technique and noted that the 2 middle lifts are hollow. The vessel is known as an "open shelter decker" having the forward and aft areas of the main deck permanently open. This allowed the ship to carry cargo in these areas and avoid being included in the gross tonnage of the vessel subject to tax. Bob will plate the hull with either 100% rag tracing vellum or 1 ply Bristol paper. Bob has found that the tracing vellum can be sanded and won't fray or fuzz

Henry Schaefer purchased a complete wreck of a model at the December auction. All of the masts were off the deck and laying on top of it and it was absolutely filthy. It looked like a piece of junk. The ship was supposed to have been a 4 masted Bark, the *Parma* and plans from Harold Underhill came with it. The model was said to have been built by a crewman while onboard the ship. Henry thought he could rebuild it and what a job he did! Henry found that nothing was glued down on the model. It was either nailed or tied down. He had to replace all of the yard tips because the owner's cat had apparently chewed on all of them. Henry also had to stain all of the running rigging so it wouldn't look out of place on the model due to its age. After stripping everything off the deck, he cleaned it up and re-assembled all of the components. I think you will agree that Henry did a wonderful job of bringing this piece of junk back to life!



Don Otis is moving along nicely on his model of HMS *Fly*, a 3 masted sloop of war, Swan Class, in service from 1776-1802. This is a plank on bulkhead kit from Amati/Euromodels in 3/16"=1' scale. Don says that this kit is a pleasure to build and the parts are well fabricated. There are 12 sheets of plans included in the kit.



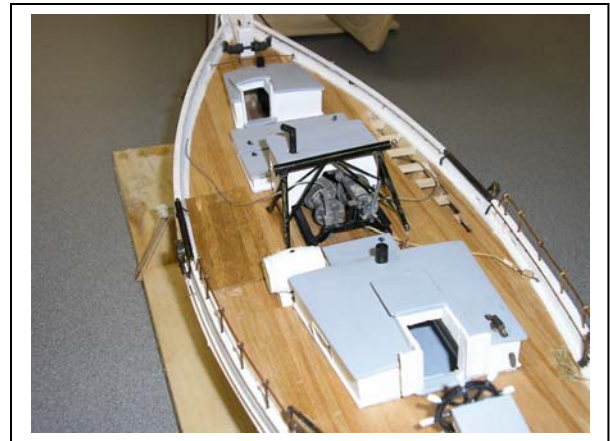
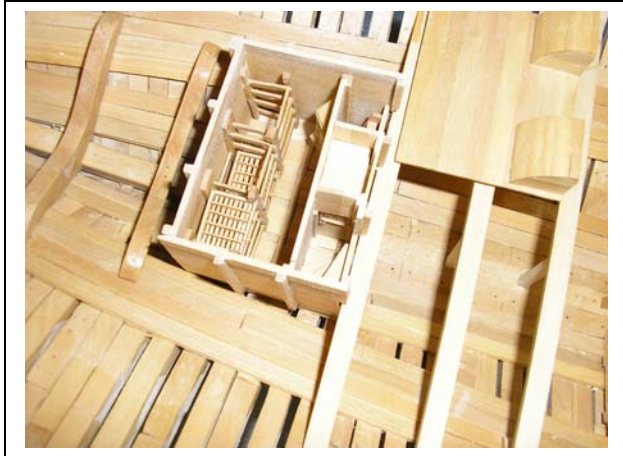


Chuck Passaro continues on his prototype of a new model for Model Expo of the USF *Confederacy* built in 1781. It will be a plank on bulkhead model in 3/16" scale. Chuck explained his ongoing battles with Model Expo regarding quality of components and degree of laser cutting and photo-etch components. As he progresses with the model, he is also writing a very detailed construction manual to be included in the kit. This will be a very impressive kit model when completed and we hope Chuck wins most of his battles with the manufacturer.



Allan Yedlinski has invested over 1,400 hours so far in the research and construction of HMS *Euralis* and we've been fortunate to see it develop from a keel and some frames into a very impressive model. Allan is currently working on the powder magazines which are quite detailed and which will be all but unseen as he continues to frame in and build each subsequent deck!





Tony Alworth is moving along nicely on his kit model of the Skipjack *Willie L. Bennett*. Like Allan, Tony has made sure all of the below deck details are complete and accurate, even though most of it can't be seen. Tony's affection for small sailing craft and schooners is evident in his attention to the small details on his models.



The meeting adjourned at 9:55 PM.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

AUGUST 23-29, 2010 - the 37th annual NRG Conference at Annapolis, MD

Future Tech Sessions Future Tech Sessions

FEBRUARY 23, 2010 – A video presentation on the ocean liner *United States* (I believe Nick Starace is in it!)

MARCH 23, 2010 – Ed Hegstetter will bring several of his modeling tools for a review of their capabilities

APRIL 27, 2010 – BRING A MODEL NIGHT

MAY 25, 2010 – Allan Yedlinski will demonstrate the method he used to construct the frames on his current model HMS *Euralis*

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.njshipmodelsociety.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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Making Treenails

Fabricating treenails (trunnels to the initiated) is a relatively simple and straight forward procedure that will give you all the fastening material you will be likely to use on a model. I suppose treenails do add some strength to a planking job by securing the plank more firmly to a frame and they look good (very professional).

All that is needed is a drawplate, a vise and a pair of needle nosed pliers. The drawplate I have is from the Model Dockyard Co. I purchased it many years ago and suspect they are gone now. Micro Mark sells one for \$24.35 and Jim Byrnes has one for \$25.00. I had a Micro Mark version but found it was not as sharp as the tool from Dockyard Model. I suspect the one from Byrnes is a good tool. After many uses a drawplate will need sharpening and I think this is done by grinding a new surface on the flat side using a sharpening stone, but I have never tried. Michael Storch can tell you how to do this.

Any type of wood can be used but I tend to go for bamboo. It is readily available, cheap and makes a sturdy flexible treenail. I have used boxwood and even ebony with success. I suppose any wood with no or a lineal grain will work. The wood I use for this demo is bamboo. One must split the wood mechanically down to a size that will fit the largest hole in the drawplate. I use a drawknife or an old chisel with the bamboo mounted in a vise. Once you get it down to the right size, mount the drawplate in the vise and push the bamboo through the flat side of the drawplate until enough of the bamboo appears on the other side to get a grip on it with the needle nose pliers or your fingers, then pull. You'll see the shavings peel off the wood. Next, go to the next smaller hole and repeat the process and then again and again until you reach the diameter desired. I don't think I have ever gone smaller than a # 72 hole. Beyond that the wood gets too thin and will pull apart.

To use the treenail, drill a hole through the plank and into the frame, that is one step larger than the size of the treenail (e.g. for a #71 treenail use a #70 hole). Dip the treenail into white glue thinned 50/50 with water and stick it into the opening. The idea is that the glue/water mix will swell the treenail and it will hold tight. Once inserted you simply nip the protruding bamboo and go on to the next hole. Once the glue has dried the stub can be chiseled off and sanded.

I have found that after an hour or so of making treenails, my fingers hurt from the pulling action, so it's time to stop.

Tom McGowan

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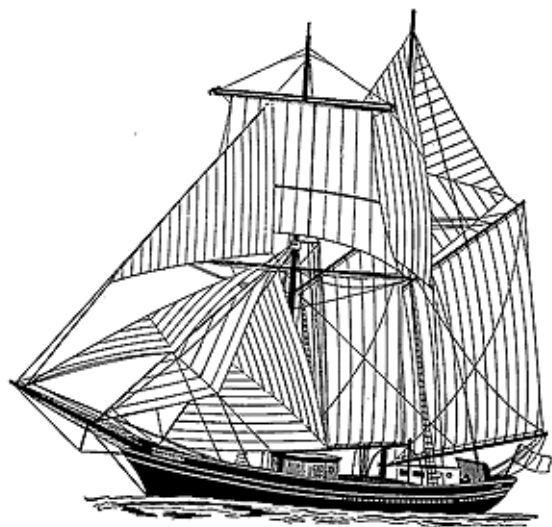
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NEXT MEETING:

**February 23, 2010
7:30 PM**

MILLBURN PUBLIC
LIBRARY

**Video on the
*S.S. United States***

Henry Schaefer