



THE BROADAXE

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



Volume 24, Number 12

December, 2006

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING November 28, 2006

A moment of silence was observed in memory of Dave Sasher who recently passed away.

President **Jeff Fugelstad** called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. We had 25 members attending plus third time visitor **Art Mierisch** who was thereupon voted into membership. Welcome Art!

Ozzie Thalmann provided details of the upcoming exhibition we will hold during January and February at the Parsippany Library. The set up dates which have been agreed upon are Friday, January 5, 2007, Noon to 5 PM and Saturday, January 6, 2007, 9:00 AM to 5 PM. The library cannot provide tables for all the models anticipated so any member who might have folding tables available for two months is urged to bring it (them). Ozzie also needs to know how many models we can put on display. Thirty seems to be about the right number and a canvass at the meeting showed at least 18-20 committed, so we need some more exhibitors. Models must be cased. A flyer and maps will be available at the December meeting.

Speaking of the December Meeting, make sure to mark your calendars that the meeting will be held on **December 19th (the third Tuesday) at 7 PM**. The Meeting marks our ANNUAL WHITE WHALE AUCTION where members can acquire great modeling stuff at bargain basement prices-so be there. Also bring along for sale to others anything you used to think was great stuff and hopefully sell it to someone else. The sale operates with 10% of the selling price going to the club. It is always a fun event.

Eight members attended the workshop tour at **Tom McGowan's** home in November. The day was enjoyable and we hope to do more of this in the future.

For the future, the Joint Club model exposition, hosted this year by the Long Island club will be held Saturday, April 28, 2007. The Philadelphia Club has invited us to participate in a Regatta for RC models they plan to hold on June 10, 2007-more to follow.

Michael Storch, who seems to be becoming our Consumers Reports agent, showed several products he has discovered; a hand held sanding machine, a new style tack cloth made by Norton, the sandpaper people, and a special saw blade for the Byrnes table saw from Tenryu. I apologize that I failed to get the details but Michael has it all.

Members have been traveling;

Dennis Powell visited the National Archives facility located on the campus of the University of Maryland, College Park, Md. They hold a vast amount of maritime material plans, photos and documents which are available. Check their website, www.archives.gov. Dennis also recently visited the Mariners Museum in Newport News which is undergoing extensive renovation in way of the Monitor exhibit.

Steve Fletcher was at the *Hunley* exhibit which he says is using a new method of removing salt from artifacts found in the sea which greatly speeds up the restoration of the artifact.

Finally, to end our travelogue, **Ernest Connor** visited the Museum at Savannah, Ga. which he said has an excellent model collection.

We had discussed the creation of a cap with logo at a past meeting. **John Pignatello** did some research and reported that a baseball cap with logo embroidered on it would cost about \$15.00. There was some discussion about a logo and the length of the club's full name and **Tom Ruggiero** undertook to create a new logo.



SHOW AND TELL

DON OTIS (not only does he work quickly but now he is building two models at the same time!) showed his work on the German *Grossherzog Friedrich August* and the USGC *Eagle*, both of which were built in Germany early in the 20th century. The models are being scratch built in 1/8th scale from Harold Underhill plans using plank on bulkhead construction.

BOB FIVEHOUSE showed his continuing work on his scratch built *Lusitania* in a scale of 1/32" to the foot. The model will be featured in an exhibit of his work at Mystic Seaport.



FROM THE EDITOR

I would like to thank Tom McGowan for filling in for me as secretary at the last meeting. My stuffy head turned into a nasty sinus infection, but, thanks to modern medicine and antibiotics, I'm finally getting better. I would, however, like to ask any members who take photos of the models brought in to take a moment and email me some of the pictures, particularly if I'm not at the meeting as happened in November. Show & Tell without pictures makes the newsletter much less interesting. In addition, I find that after I transfer the pictures to my PC, my hand wasn't as steady as I thought and some of the photos are blurry so additional shots from steadier hands would be greatly appreciated!

Mike Gutnick



"Soundings From D-Deck"

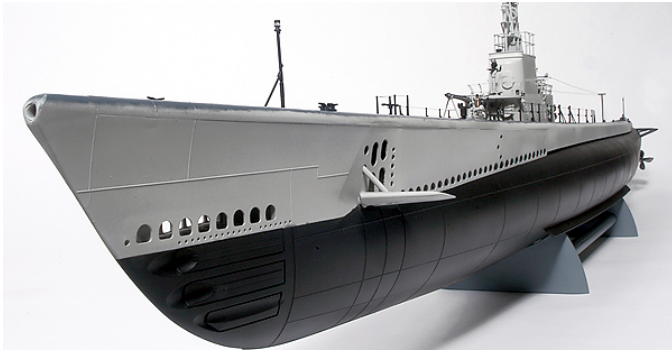
Many of our newer members never had the opportunity to meet and talk with Dave Sasher who, due to his illness, had been unable to attend any meetings for the last several months. Dave was one of the quiet ones, always in good humor, always supportive and willing to volunteer to help at our meetings and provide models for the Club's public shows and exhibits. I will always remember him telling me of his model of *Sohar*, Sinbad's ship. I was thrilled when he finally brought it to one of the shows, complete with carved figures. *We will miss you, Dave.* Dave's family is considering a memorial service to be held in this area for his friends who were unable to attend the service in South Jersey.

One of the interesting aspects of the White Whale Auction is that we generally have no idea of what will be brought in for sale, increasing our anticipation of what we might be able to get our hands on that evening. We have an unusual exception this year, however. Several items have been donated to the Club by Bob Johnson of Whippany, NJ. Bob, a ship modeler for many years, reads the Broadaxe online. Having read about our auction in the last issue and wanting to help the club out, Bob has donated the kit model Kon-Tiki, manufactured by Mantua, a Dremel power tool along with two mini tools from Bohler (a jig saw and drill) and assorted small hand tools. The most recent catalog from Model Expo offers the Kon-Tiki kit for \$169.99. On behalf of the club, thank you for your very generous donation, Bob, and hopefully we may get to thank you in person at a future meeting when your schedule permits.

Will you be in Palmetto, Florida in early February? On February 3rd & 4th, the Florida Maritime Museum will present an exhibition of model ships and boats at the Manatee Conference Center. Additional information may be obtained from Irwin Schuster at irwin.schuster@verizon.net. The 2006 event attracted over 150 models.

Allen Hamilton passed along the following article he read in the New York Times regarding the new Revell-Monogram model of a Gato class submarine.

A Nautical Tribute, Framed in Plastic



Revell

The Gato-class submarine model, from Revell-Monogram, measures 52 inches and has nearly 300 parts.

ACCURACY is everything to die-hard builders of plastic models. After a hobbyist spends hours fiddling with teeny plastic bits and globs of noxious glue, his heart can break upon discovering that his miniature car's doors weren't made precisely to scale, or that his footlong frigate has fewer guns than its real-life inspiration from the War of 1812. The model manufacturer Revell-Monogram thus designs its products with exceeding care. The company said its new model of a Gato-class submarine, a mainstay of the United States Navy during World War II, took two years to develop, as designers sweated over details that sound arcane to all but aficionados.

"The shape of the propeller, that was one issue," said Larry Lyse, senior director of engineering for Revell-Monogram, a division of the **Revell Group** of Northbrook, Ill. "We had to make sure the arc and the curvature of the blades are correct." Miss

the exact curvature by a measly few degrees, and fussy customers might flood the Internet with complaints.

Revell-Monogram's take on the Gato-class submarine is notable not only for its fidelity to the real thing, but also for its gargantuan size. The model measures 52 inches from bow to stern and has nearly 300 individual parts. It is intended for the expert builder, the sort who might attend the annual convention of the International Plastic Modelers' Society.

The Gato model was conceived at the modelers' society meeting in Phoenix in 2004. The German unit of the Revell Group had just released a model U-boat, at 1:72 scale. Several Revell-Monogram customers told Edward F. Sexton, the company's vice president for new business development, that they would appreciate an American counterpart. The celebrated Gato-class submarine was a natural choice, though mimicking the U-boat's 1:72 scale would produce a model the size of a 9-year-old child. (Revell's model of the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Enterprise, by contrast, is scaled at 1:400 and is just 33 inches long.)

The first phase of the Gato model's development consisted of homework. Mr. Lyse and his engineering team pored over submarine photographs, and one researcher was dispatched to the Wisconsin Maritime Museum in Manitowoc, where the U.S.S. Cobia, a Gato-class submarine, is moored on Lake Michigan. Members of the modelers' society sent in vintage pictures of subs in dry dock, to help in the design of the underside. Despite the designers' diligence, compromises were inevitable. "The ships kept changing from mission to mission," Mr. Lyse said. The most

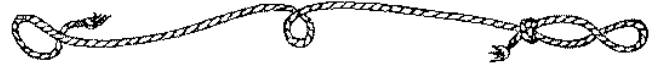
troublesome issue was where to place the guns, because they were often moved from one part of the deck to another. A definitive answer was impossible — and Revell-Monogram hopes its more demanding customers will appreciate the problem.

After completing a so-called exploded drawing, which illustrates every model part, the designers sent their specifications to Revell-Monogram's Chinese factory. Steel molds were created, and occasionally refined when the company's testers found the resulting plastic parts too flimsy or prone to leave microscopic gaps in the submarine's huge hull.

A final version was sent to a professional model builder, who gave his approval before an assembled Gato was shown to the public at a hobby show last month.

The Gato model kit, at \$99.95, is to go on sale this month. Mr. Sexton said that Revell-Monogram products were available in about 3,000 stores nationwide, but that the Gato would initially be carried by only a third of those — mainly at retailers, such as the Hobby Lobby chain, that cater to serious builders.

Because these consumers tend to be sticklers for historical accuracy, Revell-Monogram is also selling surplus Navy chambray shirts for \$12.95 — “the perfect modeler's shirt when building your Gato-class submarine,” the company's Web site says. The most devoted builders, however, will still have to supply their own white hats and bell-bottoms.



UPCOMING TECH SESSIONS

December 19, 2006 – White Whale Auction

JUST A REMINDER OF UPCOMING EVENTS

January 5 & 6, 2007 – Parsippany Library model drop off

April 28, 2007 – North East Joint Clubs model exposition – New London, CT

June 10, 2007 – Philadelphia Ship Model Society RC Model Regatta

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 \$30.00 for the first year and \$25.00 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 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.

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In Memory of our friend, Dave Sasher

THE BROADAXE

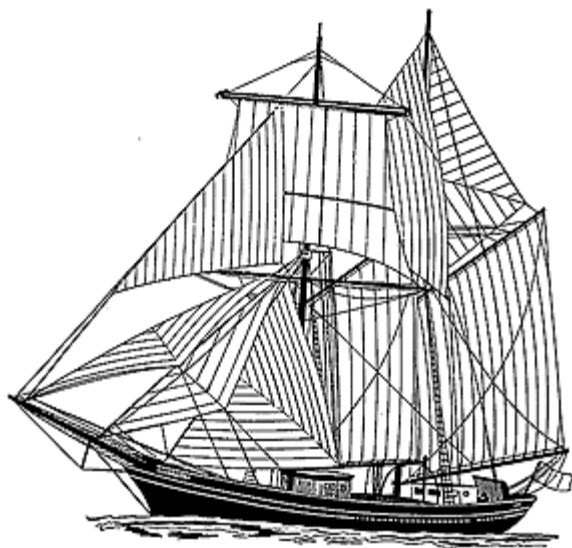
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NEXT MEETING:

December 19, 2006

7:00 PM

**MILLBURN PUBLIC
LIBRARY**

**WHITE
WHALE
AUCTION**