



Volume 34, Number 10

Newsletter of the Ship Model Society of New Jersey

October 2016

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Our next club meeting is
November 22 at 6:45PM

ROSELAND PUBLIC
LIBRARY

OCTOBER NOTES...

At the October meeting, Ossi Thalmann gave the secretary a few SMSNNJ Newsletters from 1981. One of these was Volume 1, number 6 from December 1981. It was still simply called "Newsletter", long before it was changed to *The Broadaxe* and our club was the Ship Model Society of NORTHERN New Jersey. It was very interesting to see discussions by our late friend Ed Hegstetter. One piece discussed how it would be nice to have a Saturday session outside of the normal Tuesday meeting. Lo and behold, 35 years later we meet on Saturdays for our workshops. Things change, but things remain the same.

Another outstanding job on last month's *Broadaxe* by Steve Maggipinto.

Treasurer's report. Al Geigel presented. The treasury is healthy.

Your Secretary thanks all exhibitors at the monthly meetings for providing "Show and Tell" forms. They ensure accurate descriptions and save quite a bit of work.

Here are the scheduled themes for the next several meetings: November is Bring a Model Night; in December we will view the annual train display at the library; January will be the White Whale Auction; in February Chuck will do a tech session on how to make belaying pins and treenails.

Nautical Research Guild Conference. Jim Lavelle asked Tom Ruggiero for his impressions of the NRG Conference that was recently held in San Diego. Tom reported that the conference venue was terrific as well as the cruise on the reproduction Revenue Cutter [Californian](#) on which they were actually raising and lowering sails. The presentations were very good including one on brass work and a presentation of miniature machining by Sheerline. It is noted that the Sheerline representative is thinking of producing specific fixtures since she now knows the types of work that ship modelers produce. The [San Diego Maritime Museum](#) is terrific and includes a [Russian Foxtrot Class Submarine](#), the replica ship [HMS Surprise](#) (Rose) from the *Master And Commander* movie (Patrick O'Brien series of novels), starring Russell Crowe, as well as the [Star of India](#) (undergoing replacement of her decks). Located in the same area is the aircraft carrier [USS Midway \(CV-41\)](#). The ship is presented very well and is a credit to their organization. Tom spent roughly four hours touring the ship. Tom announced that next year's conference will be in St. Petersburg, Florida and that it will include a guided tour of the Coast Guard Station. Tom passed out several packets of brochures with information about local activities available in St. Petersburg.

Continued on page 2



USS **Midway**

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER

5/6 - Admiralty Workshop: Baltimore
22 - Monthly Meeting - 6:45PM,
Roseland Public Library, 1st Floor

NO Group Working Session in Nov.

DECEMBER

2 - Morris County Library show starts
27 - Monthly Meeting - 6:45PM,
Roseland Public Library, 1st Floor

NO Group Working Session in Dec.

JANUARY

TBD - Group Working Session
24 - Monthly Meeting - 6:45PM,
Roseland Public Library, 1st Floor
24 - Morris County Library show ends

On the Horizon

Joint Clubs Meeting at Annapolis



Upcoming Tech Sessions

November - Bring a Model Night.
December - No tech session.

January - White Whale Auction.
February - Belaying pins and
treenails...how-to: *Chuck*

Due to other activities, holidays, and personal issues, we will not be having Saturday Workshop meetings in November and December. We will resume workshops in January.

OCTOBER MEETING



Jim Lavelle opened our meeting at 1845. Due to automobile problems, Vice President Chuck was not able to attend. Jim welcomed 20 members and one guest. Actually, the one guest is a member from several years ago, Dmitry Afonin. Welcome back Dmitry. [Click here](#) for more meeting photos.

OLD BUSINESS



Naval Academy Visit. Roy Goroski reported that he has not been able to make contact to arrange a group visit. Tom Ruggiero and Jim Lavelle are going to the [Admiralty Workshop](#) in November and they will attempt to make alternate contacts.

White Whale Auction. The accounting for the White Whale Auction takes quite a bit of time. In an effort to manage the work load, Jim passed out preregistration forms. They will also be available on our website. Jim reiterated that filling out the forms before the sale will allow the seller to keep a larger percentage of the sale.

Morris County Library Show. The Morris County Library show runs from December 2nd thru January 24th. Steve reports that we have 33 committed models. Steve will be meeting with the Library to determine the logistics of siting the models. Steve asked input on whether the model is cased or not. We've exhibited there several times before and the exhibit is always well received.

Farewell Party. The Bon Voyage party for members who are moving South — Tom McGowan, Dennis Powell and Barry Rudd — was a rousing success. There were many members there, several with their significant other. The party was hosted by Larry and Elaine Friedlander. Elaine, an accomplished musician, brought members of her orchestra who entertained the party

OLD BUSINESS



goers with several patriotic and classical pieces. The party took place on October 15th. We thank Larry and Elaine for a very thoughtful and enjoyable time.

An Early Christmas Present. As many of you know, Tom McGowan is moving to Virginia. In so doing, he had to breakdown his very extensive HO train layout. Knowing that this is a Ship Model Club, he gifted a Train Barge gantry kit to Mason Logie, another HO enthusiast.

NEW BUSINESS



Staten Island Drydock Tour. The [Wavertree](#) has returned to South Street after an extensive repair at [Caddell Drydock and Repair](#) in the Richmond Terrace section of Staten Island. The [Peking](#) is now in the drydock where it will be repaired and readied for its voyage to Hamburg, Germany. Mason Logie reports that SMSNJ has been invited to tour the facility. He will be working out the details.

Also, like all of us, Tom has kits that he'll never get to complete. So, Ozzie is the proud recipient of a Bluejacket [Portland](#) kit, and a Tamiya [USS New Jersey](#) kit. Thanks, Tom.

More from Mike Gutsick's Work Shop. Tom Ruggiero brought in a large cache of magazines and several tools for gratuitous distribution to the membership. There were several *Seaways* and *Nautical Research Journals*. Thank you, Mike.

Mason also noted that the [National Lighthouse Museum](#) would like us to reprise the exhibit that we did last year. There is interest although we will need to move quickly. We will be doing an exhibit on Saturday, November 19th. Please contact Mason to get your model information to him.

Northeast Joint Clubs. Yes it is early, but we will need to establish a committee for this year's meeting in April. We will be working with Dan Pariser and the [New York Club](#) to make certain that we have a round table speaker and that all details for the Jim Roberts award are set up quickly and efficiently. Also, SMSNJ will be hosting the meeting in 2018, and we will be taking on that responsibility in April 2017. Chuck P. and Tom Ruggiero will be on the committee, but at least one more member is requested. Note that Al Geigel usually does this, but we are giving him a break this time. Someone else needs to step up.

TECH SESSION

At the October meeting, our President, Jim Lavelle, did a terrific presentation on application of gold leaf. Here are notes from that session...

MATERIALS

1. Gold Leaf

- Gold leaf comes in various qualities. I use 23kt gold. Each sheet is 3-1/8" by 3-1/8".
- 23kt gold is 95.83% pure and is best for most jobs. 24kt gold is incrementally more expensive and MUCH harder to work with. 24kt gold is 99.99% pure.

Continued on page 4





TECH SESSION

- 23k Gold leaf sheets are .12 microns which is equal to .0000047" or 47/ten millionths of an inch. If you touch it, it will stick to your finger and be gone. If you breathe on it, it will most likely disintegrate. If you sneeze on it, well, enjoy the glitter in the air while it lasts.
- The minimum quantify you can buy is 5 sheets. I usually buy a booklet which is 25 sheets and costs about \$40 plus shipping.

2. Burnishing Sealer

- This is a paint like coating that is applied to the item being gilded before the size is applied. It gives the size a good surface to adhere to.
- It comes in a variety of colors.
 - I use red which any sailor will instantly identify with red lead paint that is/was used as a primer on anything in the Navy that (a) didn't move, (b) could not be polished with Brasso. Red burnish sealer gives the gold leaf a rich, deep color.
 - Yellow burnish sealer gives the gold leaf a much brighter color when burnished.
 - Gray is sometimes used, but I've never used it, so I can't tell you the effect on the finished product.
 - Less common are blue and green burnish sealers. But again, I've never used them so I can't say what they do to the final product.
- One half pint will cost you about \$10 plus shipping.

3. Sizing

- This goes on top of the burnish sealer and is what the gold leaf is applied to.
- Sizing comes in two varieties: Quick Dry and Slow Dry. I use Quick Dry.
 - Quick Dry sizing is a little thinner than the slow drying type. Under normal conditions (my shop) it will reach the correct amount of tack in about 90 minutes. It will maintain this tack for 90 minutes. It will dry hard in about 36 hours.
 - Slow Dry sizing will reach the correct amount of tack in 10-12 hours and maintain it for about 24 hours. It will dry hard in about 72 hours. This is good for restoration work on very large jobs but for what we are doing the amount of open time is probably a liability, because all the while it is drying

dust and dirt can get into the size and you might not notice it until it is too late.

- One half pint will cost you about \$13 plus shipping.

I stress the "shipping" part because it is expensive. Plan your current and future work, and purchase as much as you can use all at one time. I placed an order for \$29 worth of material and the shipping was \$12.

PROCESS

1. Sanding

- The surface of the material to be gilded should be sanded as smooth as possible. When carving signs I use 600 grit for the final sanding.
- Try to maintain sharp edges for best effect.
- Surface must be immaculately cleaned. Any dust or roughness WILL show up and WILL detract from the look of the gold. I use a new tack cloth for cleaning and I go over the piece multiple times to make sure it is clean.

2. Sizing

- Make sure no paint brush bristles end up in the size as they will show up in the final product
- Do not let the size pool in recesses because it will still be liquid when non-pooled surfaces are ready to gild and the gold will not adhere to the pooled size.
- If you leave a finger print in the size there is a good chance that you'll see it in the gold when you are done. In larger pieces I burnish the gold when I'm done, and that will get rid of finger prints, but why take a chance. The way to test the tack is to touch the surface with your knuckle. When you remove your finger if the size pulls the skin that is the right amount of tack. What I do is create a test piece of what has been sanded to the same finish as the piece to be gilded and I use the same brush to apply size to the test piece. I then test for tack on this test piece. I can touch it repeatedly until the tack is correct without worrying about leaving marks.

3. Gilding

- Once the sizing has reached the right amount of tackiness it is time to apply the gold leaf.
- Gold leaf is EXTREMELY fragile being only

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TECH SESSION

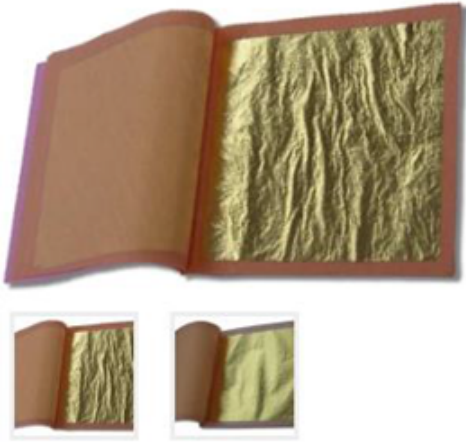
about 50/ten millionths of an inch thick. If you breathe on it you will likely damage the sheet. If you sneeze on it enjoy watching the glitter in the air because that's all you'll have left.

- I use transfer leaf which means each sheet of gold comes on its own sheet of tissue paper.
- Carefully remove the tissue paper backing from the booklet and place it face up on your bench.
- Using a sharp scalpel blade slice through the gold and the tissue paper so that you have a piece that is slightly larger than the section you are going to gild. To save time I usually plan out how many sections I'm going to cover before cutting more gold leaf. I plan the cuts to get maximum coverage with a minimum of waste (gold dust is expensive).
- Using tweezers, take a single piece of gold tissue paper and gently turn it over and place the gold onto the surface of the item you are gilding.
- *With a small brush with short bristles GENTLY tap the back of the tissue paper. The goal is to push the gold down onto the size.*
- *After as much of the gold is transferred as possible, remove the tissue paper.*
- Repeat the two steps immediately above (italics) until the entire surface has been covered. Go back over areas you missed.
- Keep an eye on the clock, using quick dry size; you have about 90 minutes to complete the work.

- Put the piece aside and resist the urge to touch it until well after the dry hard time has passed. With quick dry size this is 36 hours, but I usually wait 48 hours.

4. Burnishing

- This is the final step and is used to bring out the maximum shine.
- This should not be attempted until you are 100% positive that the size has dried hard. When in doubt, wait some more. Waiting will not hurt anything but rushing will.
- When using quick dry size I usually wait at least 2 days after applying the gold leaf before I attempt to burnish it.
- Two days after the gold has been applied the piece can be burnished. I do this in two steps:
 - With a very soft bristle brush with long bristles I very gently brush the surface. I'm moving any loose gold around. This will turn any loose flakes to dust which may or may not adhere to the gold that is well attached by the size.
 - The second step is to very gently rub the gold with a very clean, very soft COTTON rag. Not sure why, but cotton works best and is recommended by the company that produces the burnish sealer and size.



23K Genuine Gold Leaf

★★★★★ (39 customer reviews)

\$9.42-\$624.43

Package and Type

\$9.42

1 Add to cart

♥ Add to Wish

SKU: GEN2300-BKSL Category: Genuine Gold & Silver Leaf

Choose an option

5 Sheets of Loose Leaf \$9.42

5 Sheets of Transfer Leaf \$10.18

Booklet (25) of Loose Leaf \$39.25

Booklet (25) of Transfer Leaf \$42.41

4 Booklets (100) of Loose Leaf \$137.97

4 Booklets (100) of Transfer Leaf \$154.71

10 Booklets (250) of Loose Leaf \$330.97

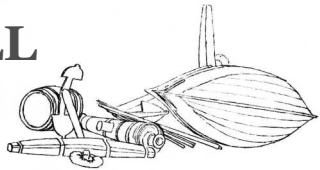
10 Booklets (250) of Transfer Leaf \$355.64

Pack (500) of Loose Leaf \$567.37

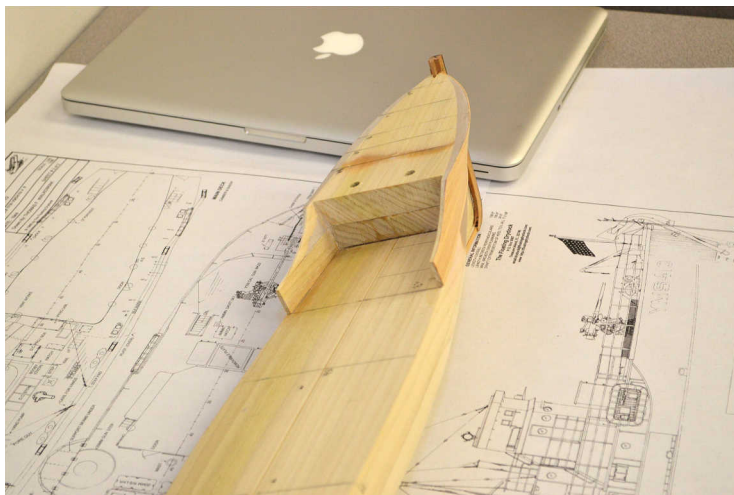
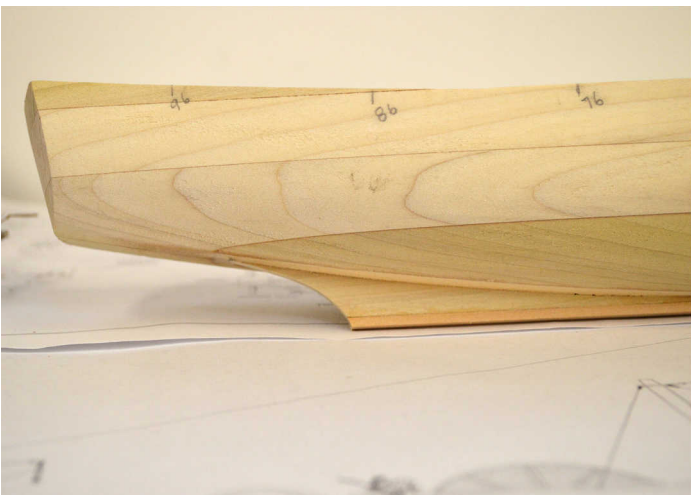
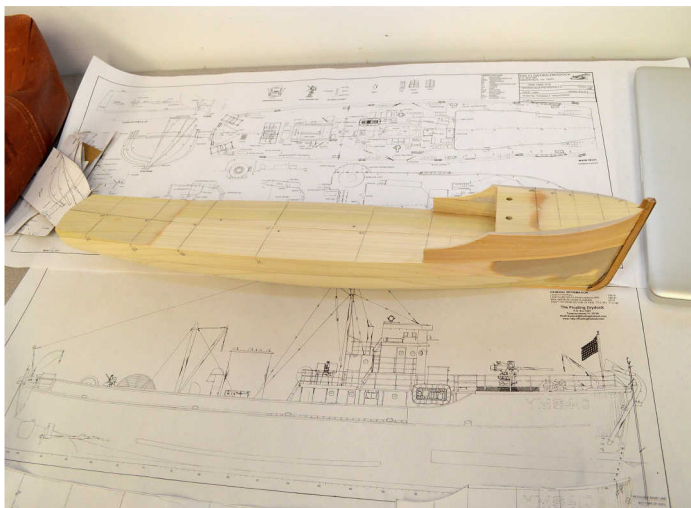
Pack (500) of Transfer Leaf \$624.43

For further information from this supplier, [click here](#).

SHOW AND TELL



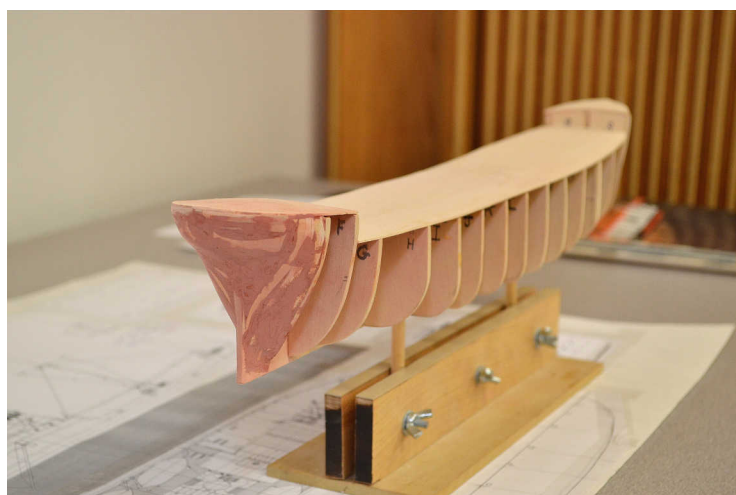
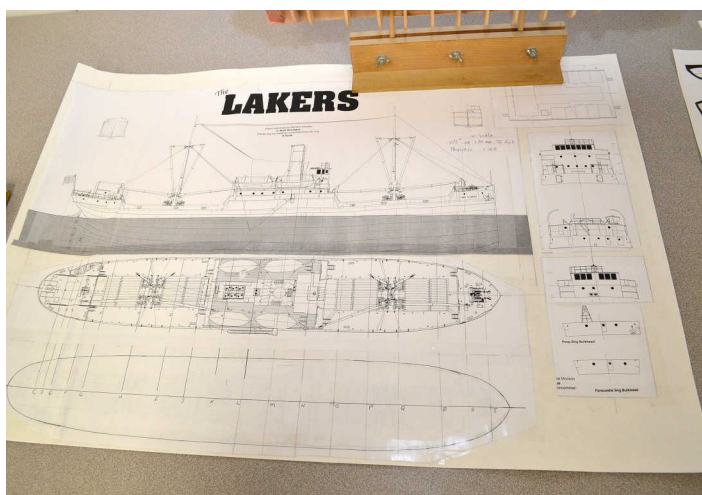
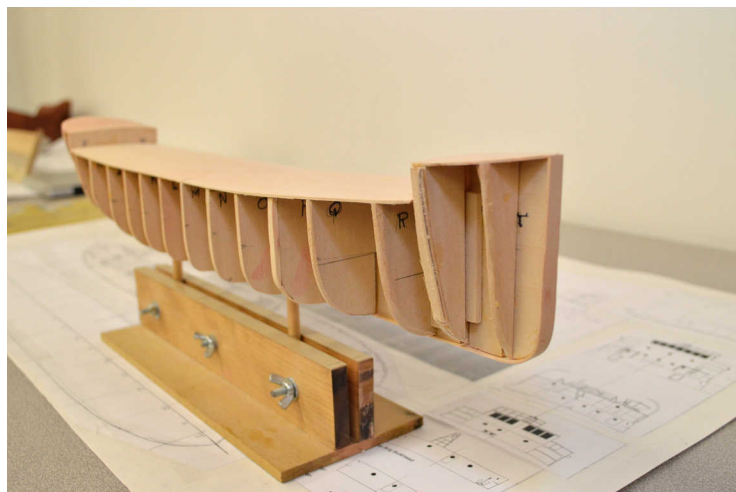
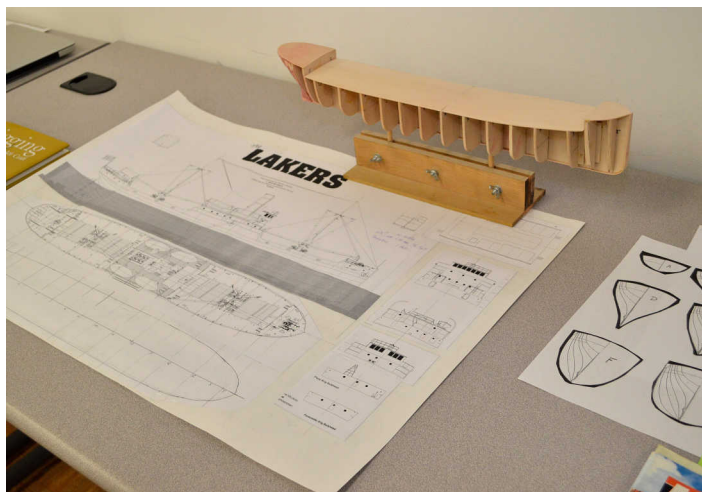
Jeff Fuglestad brought in *USS Y455*, a scratch built USN [Auxiliary Motor Minesweeper](#) model in its early stages. 480 of an original class of 500 were built. This particular minesweeper was 136 feet in length: in 1:64 scale, this translates to a hull 25 ½" long with a 4 ½ " breadth. The hull is made by using the lift or, "bread and butter" construction and then planked. World War II era YMS minesweepers were of wooden construction. This particular vessel subsequently became a private yacht. As is the case with all of Jeff's models, this one looks excellent, even with just the hull.



SHOW AND TELL



Rich LaRue brought in a very nice presentation of [Lake Filbert](#), a (Laker) freighter built in 1919. The prototype was 260 feet in length and 43 feet in breadth, creating a model in "N" scale (1:160) that is 19 1/2" long with a 3 1/4" beam. A Laker is a small freighter that was typically built during World War I. 430 of these were constructed in the Midwest; 60 odd copies were built in Canada and on the West Coast. This particular vessel was completed in October 1919 and scrapped in 1954; a fairly long career for such a lightly built craft. The ship fired oil and was of riveted construction. It was built by the Toledo Ship Building Company. The model is a modified scratch build, with plans from [Mainline Modeler Magazine](#). Rich plans to use styrene plastic for the superstructure. Very good looking, Rich.



SHOW AND TELL



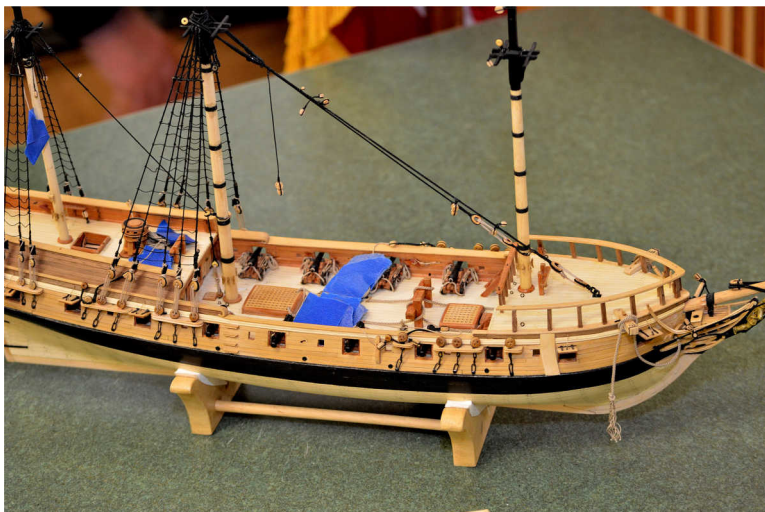
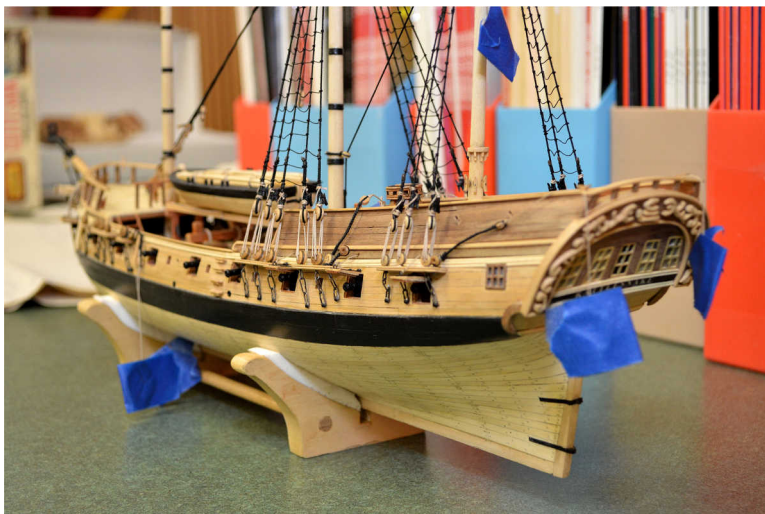
Guest and returning member **Dmitry Afonin** brought in a very interesting kit of the Russian Brigantine *Fenix* of the late 1700's. The model is in 1:72 scale. The hull is just about completed as is much of the deck furniture. A very interesting feature of the kit is that the planking is laser cut and pre-spiled. The spiling is so accurate that planking is a simple a matter of affixing the planks. Further, the laser cut stern galleries are in two layers with a dark background making for a very impressive stern. We welcome Dmitry back and hope to see him more often.



SHOW AND TELL

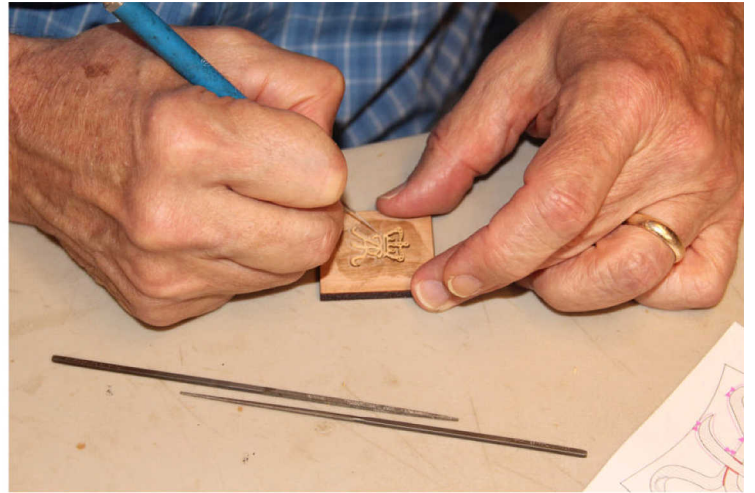


Ken Whitehead brought back his [USS Rattlesnake](#). Rattlesnake was a privateer brig circa 1781. The model is 1:64 scale. The prototype was built in Boston, captured on its first voyage and taken to England. Ken is heavy into rigging. Currently he is rattling down shrouds which, for your secretary, is one of the more tedious parts of rigging. She looks great, Ken.



SATURDAY WORKSHOPS AT CHUCK'S — July, August, September

[Click here](#) for more photos.



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 by both US mail and email in PDF format.

Regular meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 6:45 PM, 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 Steve Maggipinto. Your ideas and suggestions are always welcome. Please submit them to Steve Maggipinto at Stevemagg@optonline.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. You can eliminate the filtering by adding Tom's email address to your contact list. Please keep the secretary informed of any changes so that the roster can be kept current. If you would like a printed copy of the roster, please send a SASE to Tom Ruggiero at the address below and one will be mailed to you. Rosters are also available at the monthly meetings.

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.

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