



Forecastle Report

Newsletter of the Midwest Model Shipwrights ♦ www.midwestmodelshipwrights.com ♦ June 2017

● Scuttlebutt ●

COMMODORE, Bob Filipowski, opened the May 2017 meeting at 7:30 with a fine crew of 25 aboard. As there were no guests to introduce, Bob moved right into the evening's business.

Tonight's raffle was small but offered some nice tool items donated by our members. Thanks, mates, for helping to make the evening even more rewarding.

Considering the great distance our guest, Kevin, had to travel to be with us in June, members were asked to bring one of their best, finished models to the meeting to give him a good look at the kind of work we all do here in the USA. Let's make it worth his while to visit us, mates.

"And the winners are".... As the May meeting ended, everyone was primed for the upcoming Manitowoc model contest with great expectations for a successful showing. The winners and their special awards are covered on page 6. Thanks to **Bob Filipowski** for providing the excellent photos and to Bob and **Kurt Van Dahm** for their write ups on the winners.

Kurt Van Dahm sent along this very interesting article about the project to raise the gunboat *Spitfire* from the bottom of Lake Champlain.

Articles like this that involve the history of our Great Lakes are always welcome. If you should come across something that you feel would be of interest to the group, please feel free to give us a heads up and send in any information that you might have collected.

REVOLUTIONARY WAR GUNBOAT TO BE RAISED FROM LAKE CHAMPLAIN

More than two decades after it was discovered at the bottom of Lake Champlain, a Revolutionary War gunboat will be raised, preserved and displayed for the public.

The *Spitfire*, a 54-foot boat that's part of a fleet built by Benedict Arnold before he turned traitor, sank a day after the 1776 Battle of Valcour Island, which helped delay a British advance down the lake.

The *Spitfire* was found during a 1997 sonar survey of the lake. Museum divers check on it yearly. Its mast is still erect and the bow cannon still in the firing position. The ammunition and other artifacts from the battle are buried in mud.

For almost 250 years, the *Spitfire* has been protected by the cold water of the lake.

Staff and wire reports

"Scuttlebutt", continued on Page 6

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June Meeting Notice

Modeling in Australia

By Kevin Hudson

Summer begins with an excellent presentation on ship modeling state-of-the-art in Australia by one of our loyal Associate Members from Ruse, New South Wales (suburb of Sydney). Kevin is a scratch builder and he will be covering his workshop setup and some of the models he has built. Be prepared to see some really fine workmanship.

Our next meeting will be at 7:15 p.m.

Wednesday, June 21, 2017

At: **The South Church**

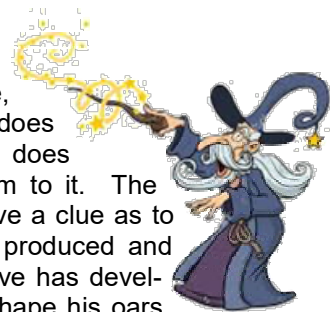
501 S. Emerson Street

Mount Prospect, IL

● Making Oars ●

By Steve Wheeler

We might not go so far as to say that Steve Wheeler is a Wizard, in the mythical sense, but we will say that what he does to produce his very fine oars does have an element of mysticism to it. The results he achieves do not give a clue as to the ease by which they are produced and therein lies his wizardry. Steve has developed a foolproof method to shape his oars and they can be produced repeatedly with minimal effort. It's all in the set up.



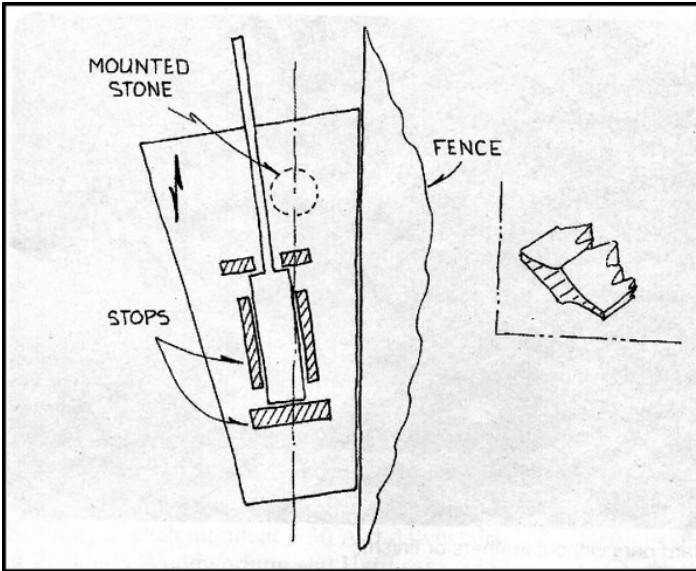
The essentials of his system are: 1) make a jig to hold an oar blank, 2) set up a drill press to run at an angle with a ball shaped grinding disk attached, 3) position the jig against a saw table fence so that it can be moved accurately back and forth across the path of the grinding disk above it.

Are you with us, so far? No? How about a picture to help visualize this action? We'll try to guide you through this process on the following page with photos from Steve and a few rough drawings, so please be patient.

"Oars", continued on Page 2

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"Oars", continued from Page 1



Here is Steve's drawing that shows all the necessary details. As you can see, the jig that holds the oar blank is cut as a trapeziod, which will allow the grinding stone to traverse the oar blank at a fixed angle. The jig is moved forward and backward along the fence to grind the oar surface into the desired taper. To do both halves and both sides, the jig is reversed and the oar blank is flipped to do all four tapered surfaces of the oar blade.



Here is the jig and an oar blank (blade painted black for illustration only).

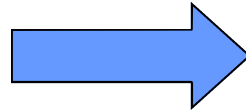
The jig will be positioned on a table with a board clamped to it to act as a fence against which to move the jig while the grinding process takes place.



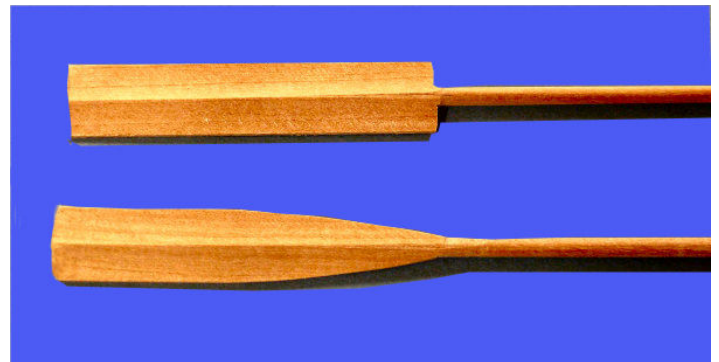
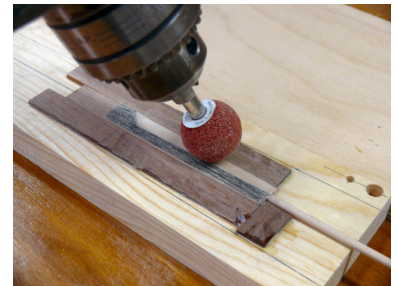
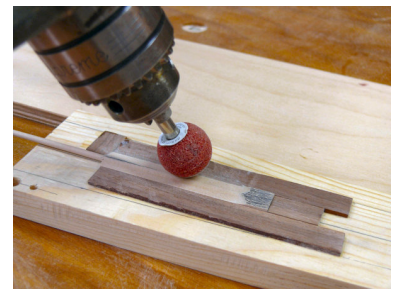
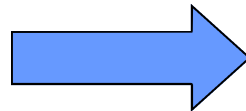
Here are all the elements in position to begin. The blank will be inserted into the jig.



Grinding on the left face of the oar.



Grinding on the right face of the oar with the jig reversed in direction.



The top oar has the concave contour applied to the blade and the bottom oar shows how the upper blade has been tapered down to the shaft size and the tip has been rounded off.

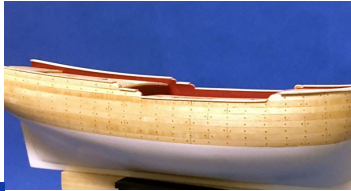


The oar above has the end of the shaft shaped to form a proper hand grip. The brown wrapping simulates, in paper, what would have been a leather covering to protect the oar from the oar locks (thole pins).

Our hearty thanks, Steve, for giving us a great learning experience. You made the evening a season's highlight.

● Ships on Deck ●

Patrick Sand has finished the deck on his 1:46 model of the Colonial Schooner *Sultana* and it looks very fine. The only problem



Patrick had with it was trying to decide how to build a very small scupper board located against the outward bulkheads. The advice from the members was to disregard adding the item, if

it was going to prove too difficult, because no one viewing the model would likely miss it anyway. Sometimes, trying to do too much can negatively affect the overall appearance of a model.

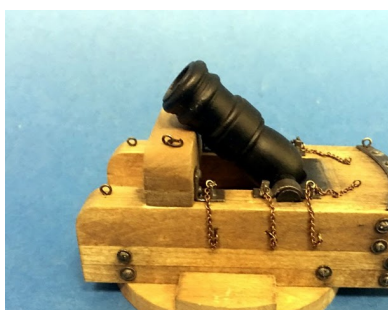
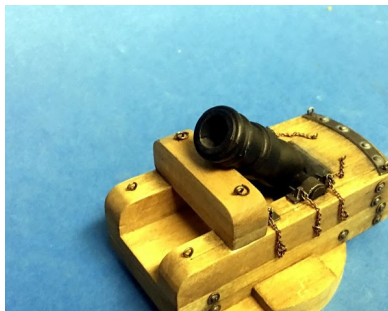
Glenn Estrý is building a model he hates to build, a solid hull, but he is determined to forge ahead regardless. The



model in question is the 1:96 Pilot Boat *Phantom* and is a 1960's era kit with no laser cut parts and no real instructions. To make his job a little easier, Glenn downloaded the 39-page *Passario* practicum and moved the project forward. The hull below the waterline has been covered in copper tape, which he repurposed from another source. All-in-all, she looks really great, mate. Just hang in there.

Glenn Estrý also built a very fine *Sea Mortar* that had been on the shelf for some time. The project looked easy until he had to deal with the tiny chain detail. The outcome did not reveal the level of difficulty, however. As usual with Glenn's work, many of the wood parts were scratch-built rather than using the kit's supply.

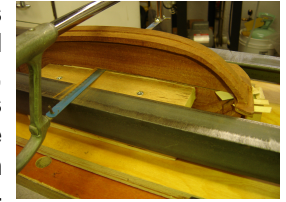
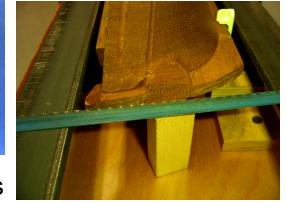
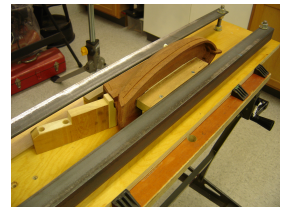
A very fine and authentic-looking model, mate.



Bob Filipowski gave us a mini-practicum on how to saw a solid hull in half (and wind up with two equal parts). The hull started out as the King's Cutter HMS *Diligence* in solid mahogany. This



was an older kit, as the use of this wood is not currently seen. Bob's goal is to make a half-hull model complete with planking, rudder, deck, etc. and it looks like he is well on the way. The method he used to accurately cut the hull in two was fairly elaborate and involved making a cutting bed with metal side rails to guide a long hacksaw blade. Yes, this was hand sawn and was a very time consuming project - but the results were spot on. After living through his PowerPoint presentation on this cutting technique, we are hooked on seeing the final outcome. Great drama, great art, mate.



Doc Williams' 1:72 model of the HMS *Royal William* is



really starting to look like a ship of the line. Planking continues and Doc has marked the centers of the gun ports by drilling small holes in the planks. Following this, he will outline each gun port using a template which has been fitted with a small peg in its direct center for insertion into each of the drilled gun port locations. Very neat solution.

Basswood fillers have been placed between bulkheads below the lower gun deck for a better planking substrate.

It's great to see the woodworking on this model coming together in such a fine and efficient style, mate.



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"Ships-on-Deck", continued from Page 3

Allen Siegel has finished his 1:50 model of Henry Hudson's ship *Half Moon* and she's a beauty. Every phase of



building this model has been a learning experience for Allen, and that's the way they all turn out. We learn by doing, both correctly and otherwise, and the lessons are cumulative, as we tend not to make the same mistakes twice. Consequently, our models keep getting better. Now it's on to Manitowoc and we wish him every success.



Ken Goetz's 1:128 model of the fishing schooner *Blue-nose* is really taking shape. Deck and deck furniture are now complete, including belaying pins. Ken is now starting to build the fore and main masts. Very trim,



mate.

Bob Sykes is very near to launching his 1:48 model of the HMS *Bounty* by "Artesania Latina". Everything is on the model except for the yards, and they are not far be-



hind. Despite the large number of ratlines he had to tie, he doesn't seem to have been bothered by the task, as he has developed such good techniques. All the metal parts have been very skillfully incorporated into the model and look very authentic - one of Bob's hallmarks. Another gem!



John Hirsch moved right along with his 1:16 scale model of the HMS *Bounty Launch* and has painted the interior with Badger's "shipyard rust" color. The exterior



of the hull is now been fully prepped for painting. John's color choice for the interior works very well and gives a nicely toned down appearance. Fine detail and a fine finish on this beauty, mate.

"Ships-on-Deck", continued on Page 5

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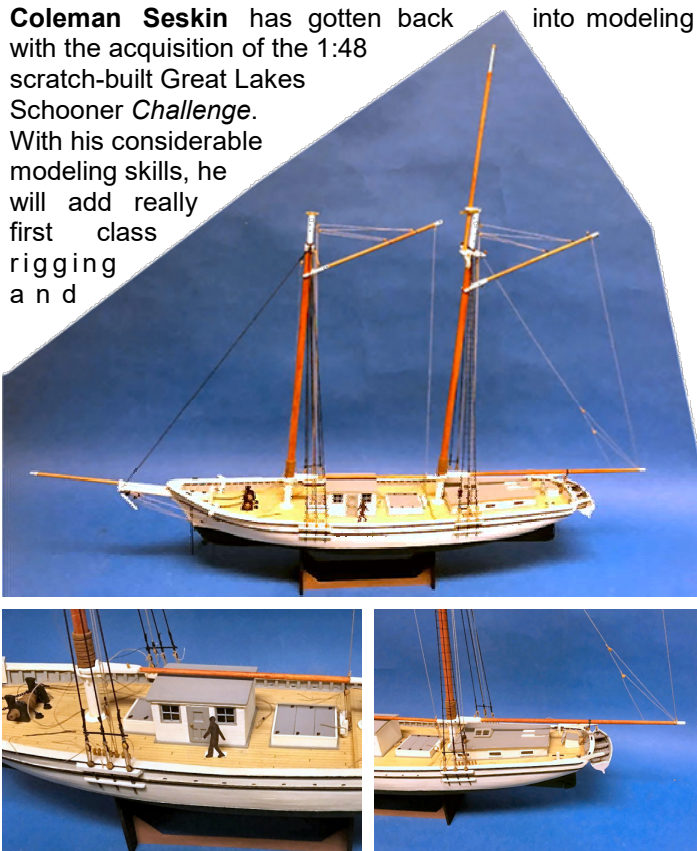
"Ships-on-Deck", continued from Page 4

Gus Agustin has added to his *Book Model Library* with



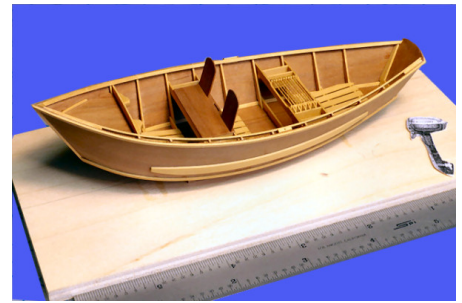
two new volumes, a *Sailboat* and a *Figurehead*. Gus has found a really great way to fill his time between major building projects by honing his skills on these remarkable miniature studies. It's hard to separate the skills for making the part with the book-making skills. The books look absolutely like ancient volumes from a very scholarly library collection. Great interest in such a small package.

Coleman Seskin has gotten back into modeling with the acquisition of the 1:48 scratch-built Great Lakes Schooner *Challenge*. With his considerable modeling skills, he will add really first class rigging and



other elements to properly finish an otherwise fine beginning. A graceful lady in the good hands of a proud and skilled new owner.

John Pocius has sent us photos of his latest work on his *McKenzie River drift boat*. The seats are now completed. Of special note is the rope seat, which



allows the rain to run off and keeps the oarsman's seat dry. What will these Oregonians think of next! John says the rope seat is surprisingly comfortable. Next up will be oars, oarlocks and the

outboard engine. Always a joy to see your work, mate.

Tim Foster sent us a couple of photos of his just completed model of a 1929 *Christ Craft Commuter* launch. She's a beauty and we only hope that we may get the chance to see her first hand, mate.

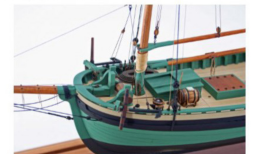


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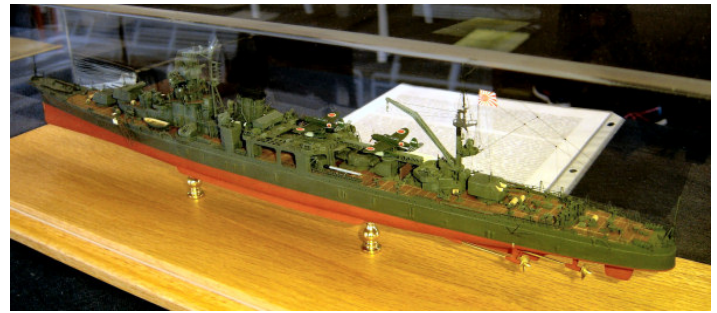
"Scuttlebutt", continued from Page 1



Gus Agustin - HMS Belona
● Gold Medal



Allen Siegel - Half Moon
● Gold Medal



Joe Simon - HIJMS Yahagi
● Gold Medal
Best Paint Finish & Modeler's Choice Awards

Dana McCalip Best Miniatures Award sponsored by the Nautical Research & Model Ship Society of Chicago



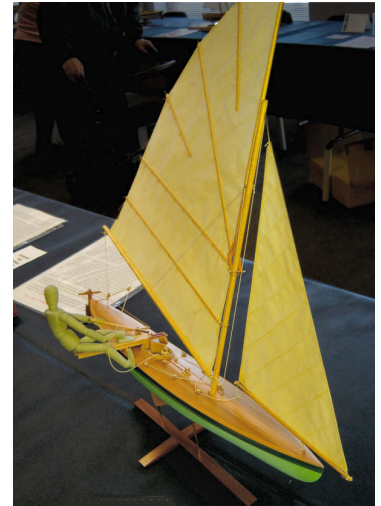
Jeffrey Goldberg - Friedrich Wilhelm zu Pferde
● Gold Medal
People's Choice Award sponsored by Midwest Model Shipwrights.



Bob Filipowski - 18th Century Long Boat
● Gold Medal
F.K. Bemis Best of Show Award

Steve Wheeler - 16' Decked Canoe.
● Gold Medal

Roger Jaekel Best Great Lakes Award sponsored by Wisconsin Scale Boating Assoc.; *Best Racing Class Sailboat* sponsored by Jeff Moses' River Bluffs Maritime Museum.



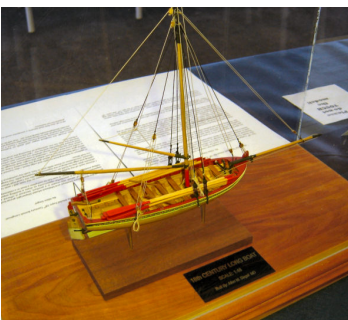
Gus Agustin - Book Model Viking Figurehead
● Gold Medal

Gordon Stiller Best Maritime Carving Award.



Bill Maxwell - HMS Fly
Display only

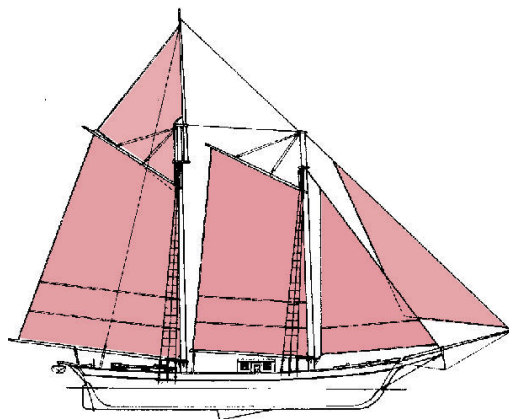
Peter Koch - Confederacy Frigate
● Gold Medal
Best Novice Award



Allan Siegel - 18th Century Long Boat
● Silver Medal

Ken Goetz - Bluenose
Display only





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