

The Forecastle Report, June 2010

The 34th Annual Midwestern Model Ships and Boats Contest

By Bob Filipowski

Probably, the most anticipated aspect of this year's competition at Manitowoc concerned the tighter point brackets, and how they would affect the number of awards given out at each level. In 2009, the ratio of gold to silver was approximately 5:1. This year's event saw roughly two gold medals awarded for every silver.

This lower ratio was definitely not due to a lessening of quality. In fact, it might be said that the number of first rate entries presented quite a challenge for the judges, as the quantity of excellent models continued its annual upward spiral.

RC models were well represented this year, and the **Chicago Tri-Club Association Best Novice Award**

went to a very nice USS *Indiana* by David Richey. The level of detail on this very large model was amazing!

Our three clubs were well represented as

Paul Pollowy, Helmut Reiter, Allen Siegel, Robert Jensen and Kurt Van Dahm all received awards. Ken Goetz, although not competing, exhibited his current work in progress, USS *Constitution*.

A recent trend continued as steel warships scored well at this competition. A 1:350 resin kit of the WWII destroyer USS *Van Valkenburg* by Allen McGivern took the



Dana McCalip Best Miniature Award. The 1945 era paint job, and excellent use of photo etched parts on this "tin can" were especially noteworthy.

Speaking of good paint jobs, Steve Kohl's USS PCE-877 took the **Badger Airbrush Best Paint Finish Award** and **Best Great Lakes Award.** Although the model is

portrayed in late WWII guise, the "877" served as a re-



serve training ship out of Chicago in the 70's, thus qualifying it for the Great Lakes award.

It would appear that museum attendees were a little more discerning than usual this year since the **People's Choice Award** went to a very nice diorama depicting the Sheboygan Harbor and Shipyard during the 19th century.



It took Jim Brotz, who specializes in Great Lakes vessels, three years to complete this very educational piece.

As has been the case on eight other occasions, Rocky Mountain Shipwright, Steve Wheeler took home the **Best of Show Award**, but it wasn't a "slam-dunk" this year as models like John McGann's remarkable *Die Kogge von Bremen* offered him stiff competition. Steve's Star Class Racing Sloop also earned him the **Modeler's Choice Award**, which certainly is an appropriate testimonial to just how accomplished a modeler he is. Congratulations, mate!



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