



Forecastle Report

Newsletter of the Midwest Model Shipwrights ♦ www.midwestmodelshipwrights.com ♦ April 2012

● Scuttlebutt ●

COMMODORE Gus Agustin opened our March meeting at 7:30 sharp with 29 hands aboard.

We welcomed a potential new member, **Glenn Estry**, who learned of our club through a local hobby shop. Glenn said he was glad, after 13 years of modeling, to be able to find a place to associate with other hobbyists.

Ken Walenberg introduced his guest, **Mike Trezek**, who is an avid carver and admirer of wooden model boats. Mike has volunteered to share some of his knowledge of wood working and finishing at a future meeting. Thanks very much, Mike, for your interest and offer.

In news from **Scottie Dayton** we were advised that the Door County Maritime Museum is posting its *2011/2012 Speaker's Series* online. The quality is excellent and the subjects are very much tuned to our area's maritime history. To view these sessions go to <http://sbtv.pegcentral.com>, choose City of Sturgeon Bay Tourism from the drop-down menu and pick your favorite subjects. Titles available are: "Door County Maritime Museum Speaker's Series: Richard Purinton"; "Historically Built Boats in Sturgeon Bay"; "Twelve Things You Didn't Know About Great Lakes Freighters"; "Winter Talk: Ken Westcar". Thanks, Scottie, for your heads up.



In news from the **Tri-Club**, we hear that "*Tri-Club 2012*" has been scheduled for Saturday, October 20, 2012. There will be the usual group of speakers, a swap meet, great lunch and plenty of opportunities for visiting with other modelers you might see only at Tri-Club. Also look for some great raffle items and door prizes. Anyone wishing to donate a kit, tool or other item as a door prize or raffle item should let a committee member know. Also let them know, if you would like to see a specific topic presented or if you would like to be a presenter yourself. More on this later.

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2012 OFFICERS & STAFF

President (Commodore)	- Gus Agustin.....	(847) 398-5208
Vice Pres (Flag Captain)	- Bob Filipowski.....	(847) 394-0757
Treasurer (Ship's Purser)	- Ken Goetz	(847) 678-4249
Secretary (Ship's Clerk)	- Open	
Newsletter Editor	- John Mitchell	(847) 392-2259
Photographer	- Leon Sirota	(847) 541-6285
Web Master	- John Pocius.....	(630) 834-9477
	- johnpociusdesign@att.net	

April Meeting Notice

Workshop Roundtable

Here's your chance to air out all the problems bugging you all year and tap the many skills of the members.



chance to air out that have been year and tap the round table

This session will give everyone a chance to share their experiences with what works and what doesn't.

We'll also discuss the latest tools and sources of building materials, so bring your favorite list to share.

Our next meeting will be at 7:15 p.m. Wednesday, April 18, 2012

At the Community Presbyterian Church
407 Main Street in Mount Prospect

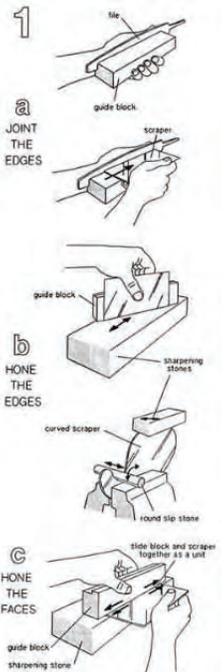
● Scrapers ●

By Richard K. "Doc" Williams

Scrapers, when sharpened well and used properly, can achieve a very smooth and flat finish to wood superior to that created with sandpaper. Scrapers do not raise the wood's grain the way sandpaper does and their uniform edges help assure smooth, even finished surfaces.

Scrapers can be made from a variety of materials including glass as well as metal. Forms can be a small glass square, a single-edge razor blade, a piece of flat metal or a commercial metal scraper.

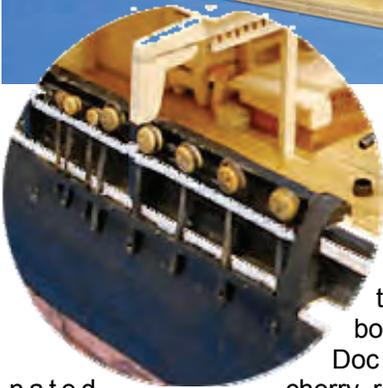
Sharpening a metal scraper involves first creating a new edge by honing it as illustrated here. Step 1a shows how you utilize a guide block and file to first establish a right angle surface (joint the edge) and then a sharpening stone to hone the edges (1b) and the faces (1c) of the scraper.



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● **Ships on Deck** ●

Doc Williams was first up with his 3/16th scale model of the "Model Shipways" kit *Charles W. Morgan*. As with



many kits, parts sometimes need to be redesigned and, in the *Charles W. Morgan's* case, these were the boat davits. Since they had to be able to suspend the whaling boats with some strength, Doc re-made them using lami-cherry rather than the basswood

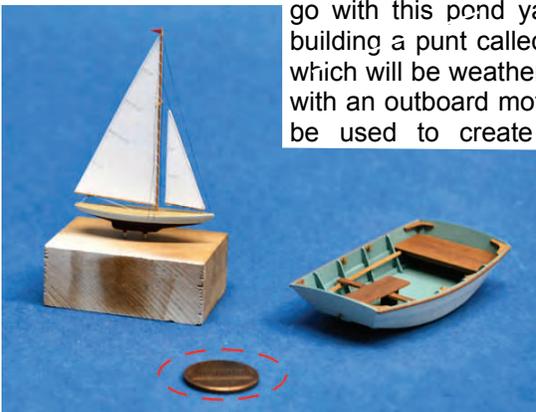
nated parts supplied.

In addition to this work, the channels and deadeyes/chain plates are in the process of being completed. The chain plates were made of brass wire, which was resistance soldered together and then blackened. Nice job!

Upon closer inspection, it was noted that the fife rail and skylight are both installed. Easy to miss this, with all the detail being added to the deck. Great results, mate.

Hal Chaffee brought us in multiple pictures of "Fort Osage" boats, a ship called *Mighty Aphrodite*, and a background article from the Chicago Tribune covering these. Fun to see all the local history come to light. Thanks, Mate.

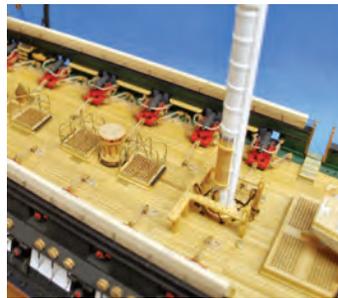
John Pocus moves forward in small steps; model steps, that is. His Pond Yacht *Pirate* is actually a 1:32 scale model of a model, which brings it in at around 1" (+/-). To



go with this pond yacht, John is building a punt called *Rinky-Dink*, which will be weathered and fitted with an outboard motor. Both will be used to create a diorama.

We're always fascinate with your work, mate. Just like being there in person.

Ken Goetz went to Herculean efforts to bring in his 1:76.8 scale model of the frigate *USS Constitution*, which is really in its final stages of construction. And what a



beauty she is! Ken's work is more than equal to the model shown in the "Model Shipways" catalog. We're only sorry that, once all the masts are up and rigged, she will be too big to get into Ken's van. This means we

won't see the final launch. Maybe someone with a truck will give him a lift. We know he will want to run it up to Manitowoc!



Tim Riggs has begun work again on his 1:192 scale model of *HMS Grasshopper*. Bow chasers, shot racks, pin rails, forecastle and poop decks and rudder were all



added since we saw her last. This is really a miniature, although you'd never know it by viewing this photo of the model. Leon had to photograph it with a penny for scale to prove the point.

The first *Grasshopper* was one of 22 18-gun Cruiser-class brig-sloop's ordered under Barham's Board in 1805.

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Ships-on-Deck, continued from Page 2

According to Wikipedia.com, the first ship of this name was launched in 1806 and stranded at Texel on Christmas Day 1811. She was captured the next day and taken into Dutch service as *Irene* until 1822.

A second Brig-sloop *Grasshopper* was launched at Portsmouth Dockyard in 1813 and was eventually converted to a Ship-sloop. She was sold out of service in 1832. Photo at right is of her sister ship HMS *Pelonus*, also a conversion. Armament on these Brig-sloops was 16 x 32-Lb Carronades and 2 x 6-Lb guns.



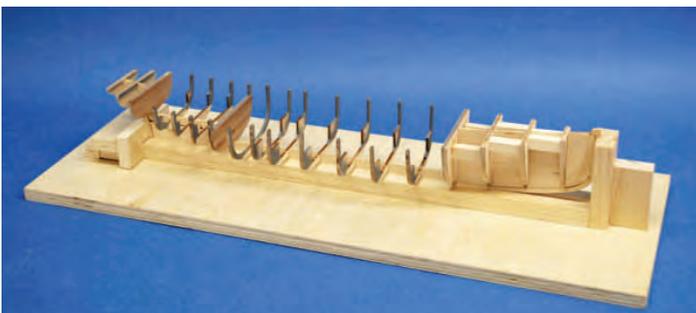
Deck detail and the scale reference is shown below.



She's shaping up to be a real beauty, mate, and well worth the wait to see her launched.

Kurt Van Dahm is working on the "Model Shipways" kit of the USN *Picket Boat #1* (1:24). This was a civil war era steam driven torpedo boat that was responsible for sinking the Confederate Ironclad CSS *Albatross*. Some history on this feat was covered in our November 2011 issue and detailed the exploits of her Captain, Lt. William B. Cushing, who received the "Thanks of Congress" for his heroism.

It's always fascinating to see how a master builder goes about building a kit -- and Kurt's work is always a great lesson in method and technique.

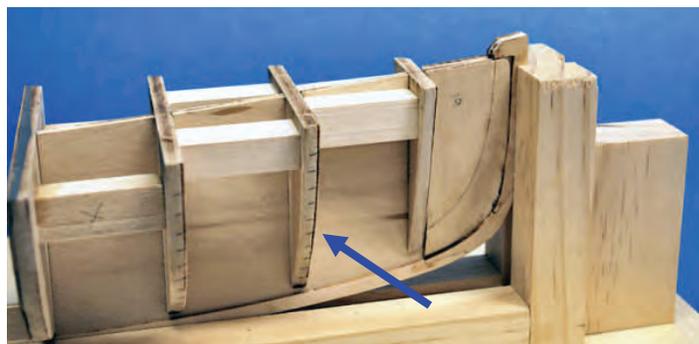


Above we see the building frame created to assemble the bulkheads and keel.

The bulkhead sections that will show inside the hull have already been painted and two other bulkheads were pre-planked to make final assembly easier.



You can also see that Kurt has taken the time to hand-number the bulkheads, so there will be no chance to mis-assemble them.



Also note the pre-marked plank runs on the forward bulkheads above; a preliminary to spiling.

Thanks, mate, for sharing your great building tips.

Bob Filipowski has put the final touches to the deck-house on his 1:64 model of the schooner *Arrowsic*. This included planking the bulkheads and roof.

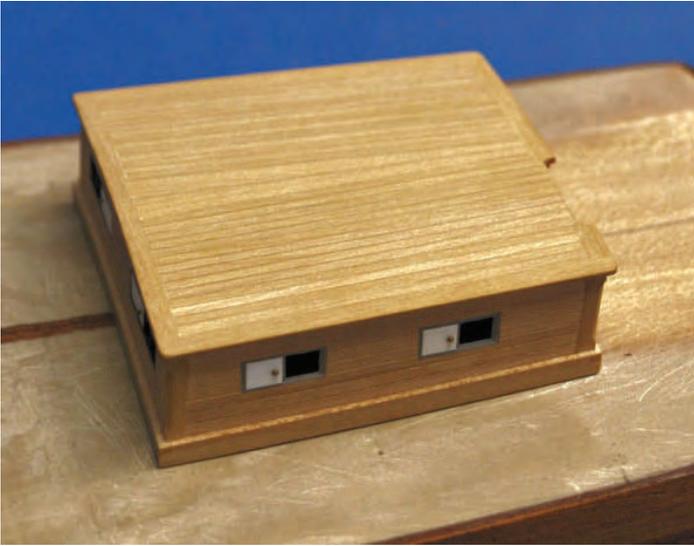


Also of note here is the fine job he did on the working base stand. Note the aft base extension with the stern post stop block. This helps stabilize the model while its being worked on.

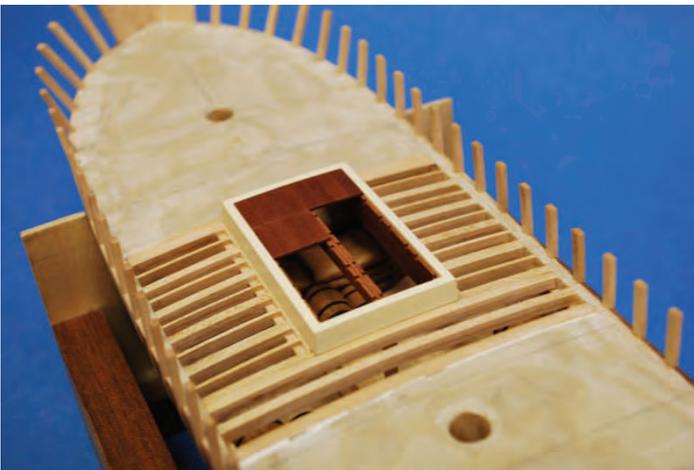
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Ships-on-Deck, continued from Page 3



The fine detail of the deckhouse planking can be seen here. Due to its non-square dimensions, it was necessary to spile the planks to achieve proper fit. The deckhouse has also been sited on the deck before the deck has been planked.

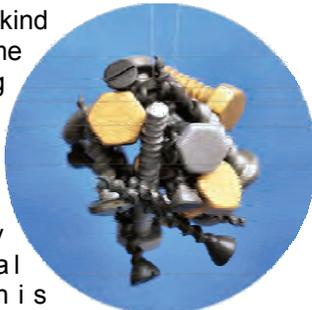


Open framing has been left next to the forward hatch to give a view of the hull structure and hold.

She's coming together wonderfully, mate.

Guest **Mike Trezek** was kind enough to bring with him some examples of his wood carving prowess.

Mike's subjects are occasionally whimsical and his "Bunnyman" is a prime example. The "Screws & Bolts" piece is actually a Christmas tree ornament! We could learn a lot from you, for sure! Many thanks, Mike.



Gus Agustin says, with a sigh, that his 1:288 model of the HMS *Bellona* - 1760 is finally complete; well, almost. He's still working on the display base and case. Still, after 11 months and 1400 hours of work, he's entitled to a feeling of accomplishment and a job superbly well done!



This miniature is not only accurate in its detail but unique in its method of display, with the hull split at the lower deck. This gives the viewer the added joy of being able to see detail on the lower deck that would otherwise be hidden. The stern is equally as intriguing, with its finely detailed carvings, lanterns and scrollwork. This is truly a *tour de force* in miniature modeling.



Paul Bien has launched himself into kit building waters by starting work on a 1:32 scale model of the stern-wheeler *Chaperon* by "Model Shipways". From the looks of his results so far, we'd say he is four square and well on the way to a beautiful model.



Paul's second show piece was a beautifully machined model of a 2-cylinder, double-acting, vertical steam engine of the type that could be found on an early launch. This one actually works, but only under air pressure - no live steam. Amazing workmanship!



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Scrapers, continued from Page 1

To sharpen the scraper, you first run a round tool across its edge to create a downward tilted burr. Special tools have been designed to do this (right), or you can use a simple screw driver.



Metal can be cut to a variety of shapes and sizes to fit your particular wood working space. Or you can purchase one of the commercially available wood scraper tool sets to do the job (photo left). You can also use scrap pieces of glass, which require no sharpening. Be careful how you handle these, however. Fastening such a piece of glass in a wooden handle would be recommended.

How you draw the scraper across the wood surface is as critical as how sharp it is.

HOW TO USE A SCRAPER



A SCRAPER CAN BE PUSHED...
(thumbs together near the middle)



...OR PULLED
(thumbs out near the ends)



finding the "grab" angle

Always tilt the scraper in the direction of travel at an acute angle and away from any obstructions such as a deck hatch or cabin. This will prevent buildup of wood scrapings next to the obstruction, which might be hard to remove.

Our thanks to our mate, **Doc Williams**, for an enlightening evening and a very fine presentation. Thanks to him, too, for providing us with these great illustrations.

Scuttlebutt, continued from Page 1



We learned from **Kurt Van Dahm** that the **2012 NRG Conference** originally scheduled for September 12-15 in Portland, Maine has been cancelled due, in part, to the unavailability of the scheduled meeting hotel. Planning is, however, underway for the 2013 Conference. See the NRG web site for additional details at www.thenrg.org.



From the Wisconsin Maritime Museum in Manitowoc, WI comes news that registration for the **"36th Annual Midwestern Model Ships & Boats Contest and Display"** being held May 18-20, 2012 is required before May 14th. The Museum says: "Enjoy the longest running ships & boats model contest in the nation by joining us for this weekend! Whether you're entering a model, viewing models, talking with modelers, or sitting in on the symposium or roundtable, you'll find this to be a fun event! Registration information can be downloaded at: www.wisconsinmaritime.org/special-events/. Thanks to the following sponsors of our model contest: Rocky Mountain Shipwrights, Chicago Tri-Club Association, Nautical Research & Model Ship Society of Chicago, Badger Air Brush, F.K. Bemis Family, Midwest Model Shipwrights, and members of the Wisconsin Maritime Museum".

Cindy Crosby of the Isle Royale National Park is putting together a program for visitors to Isle Royale which requires three small, simple carved wooden boat models. With some grant money available to cover costs for these models, she is looking for someone interested in doing the carving. If you have an interest in this type of project, you can contact Cindy at: phrelanzer@gmail.com. She would love to have these for programs at Isle Royale, plus there is a potential for them to be displayed at their Visitor Center in Windigo.



The Benefits of Membership

Access to Members-Only areas of our web site

- searchable access to our **List of Members**
- access to our **NRG E-mail System**
- browse and upload **Project Photos**
- borrow from our **Lending Library**
- **Research Assistance** from our Members

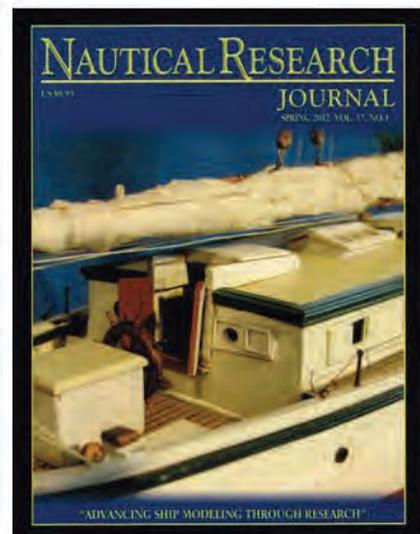
Four Issues of 'The Journal'

Photographs and articles on ship model building, naval architecture, merchant and naval ship construction, maritime trade, nautical history, and maritime arts.

Annual Conference

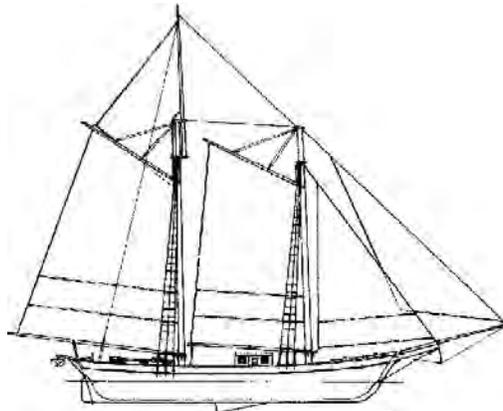
The NRG Conference is held each fall in a "nautical" location. Join other members for our annual celebration of model ships and maritime history.

For more information, visit our website at www.theNRG.org.





John R. Mitchell, Editor
2011 N Charter Point Dr. • Arlington Hts., IL 60004



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