



FORECASTLE REPORT



Newsletter of the Chicago Tri-Club Association

August 2025



Congratulations Patrick



It is with great pleasure that we announce the acceptance of our shipmate, Patrick Sand, into the *Rope Model Ship Builder's Club*, which is home ported in Tokyo, Japan. This organization, without a doubt, is one of the premier model ship building clubs in the world.

Patrick and his wife relocated to the city of Kagoshima a number of years ago.

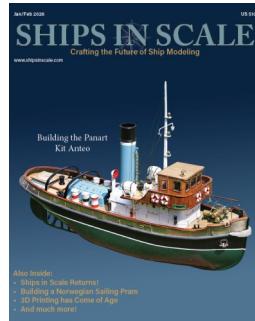
This picturesque seaside city is approximately 1350 kilometers from Tokyo and is located on Kyushu, the most southerly main island in the Japanese archipelago. It is also the capital of Kagoshima Prefecture. Needless to say, traveling such a great distance for meetings demonstrated Patrick's strong desire and willingness to do whatever is necessary to become a part of the *Rope* organization. We are sure being an excellent modeler certainly was a big plus.

The *Rope* celebrated its 50th anniversary in April. For Patrick to be inducted into the organization on such a momentous occasion was truly special!

Sand joins another Midwest Model Shipwright, Gus Agustin, who has been a *Rope* member since 2005. Congratulations, mates. We couldn't be more proud of you!



A New Voyage for Ships in Scale!



Ships in Scale magazine is setting sail once again, and Kurt Van Dahm will be a contributing writer! For decades, *Ships in Scale* was a vital part of the ship modeling world, connecting builders across generations with detailed build logs, kit reviews, expert guidance, and stunning showcases of craftsmanship. Like many of us, Kurt was a loyal subscriber.

It was recently announced that SeaWatch Books has reached an agreement with the Nautical Research Guild, and the first new issue is planned for early 2026. Subscriptions are being accepted, and include a special Pre-Launch 10% Discount for the first year! Both digital and print versions will be available.

support@seawatchbooks.com

August Tri-Club Meeting Schedule

The NSD August Meeting



The August North Shore Dead-eyes virtual meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 6th at 7:00 PM. The ZOOM invite will be sent out a few days before the meeting.

The NRMS August Meeting



For August, the Nautical Research and Model Ship Society meeting will be a hybrid session. The face to face segment will be held at 237 S. Lincoln Street, Westmont, IL. Kurt Van Dahm requests that those who plan to attend in person let him know so they can be accommodated.

For those preferring to attend the virtual version, an invite will be sent out a few days before the August 9th meeting. Proceedings start at 7:00 PM, but you will be able to log on as early 6:30 PM.

The MMS August Meeting



The August face to face Midwest Model Shipwright meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 20th at 7:00 PM.

We will be featuring Part IV of our 2025 Tri-Club flea market, compliments of Coleman Seskind. Emphasis this month will be on power tools and kits. Proceedings will begin at 7:00 PM.



Shipwright meetings are held at the *The Dasom Community Church*
501 S. Emerson Street
Mount Prospect, IL
Doors open at 6:30 PM.



Ships on Deck



Lively by Samuel X. Parent

This kit has an interesting history. It is the original kit for the topsail schooner *Lively* as offered by a company called *North River Scale Models, Inc.* out of Dover, New Jersey. The kit was packaged in a late *Marine Model Company* box, and the plans and guidebook were written by Jim Roberts dated 1990. Sam doesn't know what the history of the company or model is, but at some point, it was bought out by the *Lumber Yard* and a modified version of the kit is currently available through them. It looks like it is going to be a very handsome model.

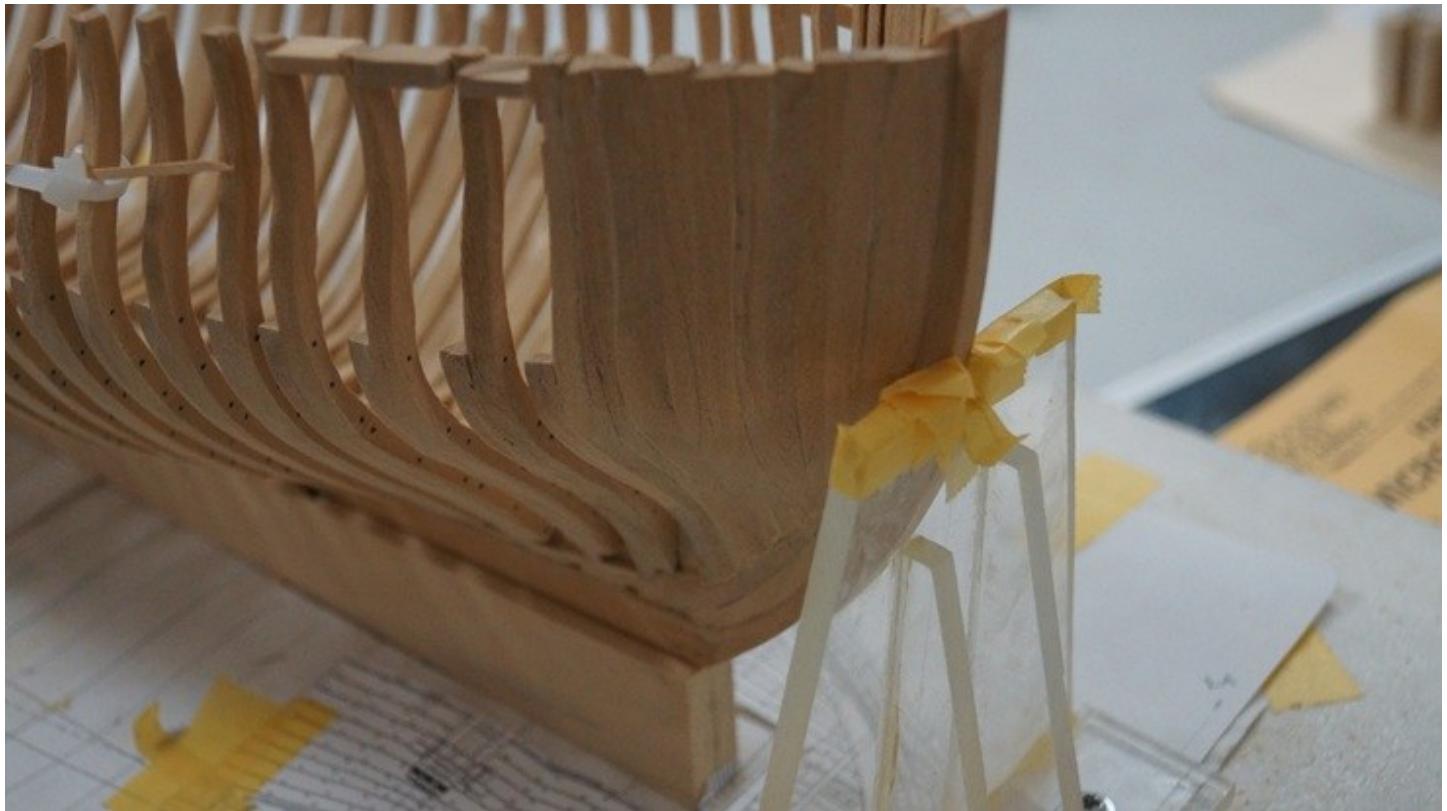
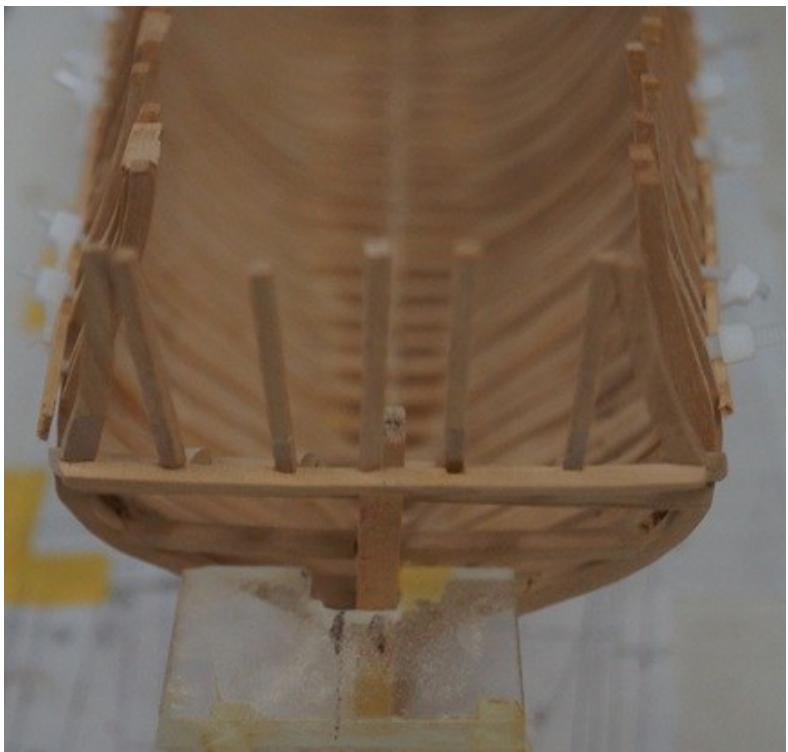




Ships on Deck



French Sloop of War *La Volage* by Toni Levine





Ships on Deck



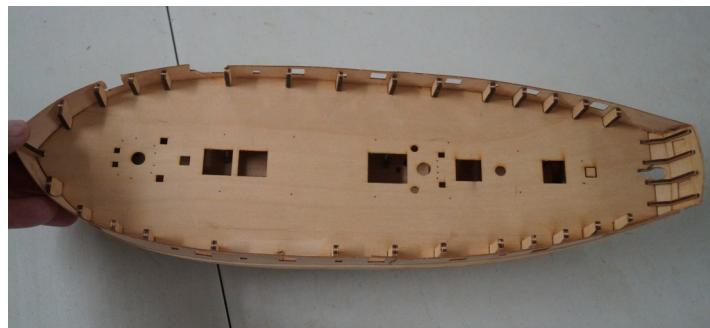
San Francisco Scow Schooner by Kurt Van Dahm

Kurt has decided to do a little kit bashing that is based on his common sense approach to model ship building. Sounds like a good idea!



Another “Dumpster Kit” by Keith Zeilenga

Keith refers to them as “Dumpster Kits” but you can’t argue with the final result. Another model nobody wanted will eventually be turned into a real gem.



Britannia by Gus Agustín



Gus is in the “home stretch” on this little beauty. This may be his best work yet!



Ships on Deck



Britannia by Gus Agustin

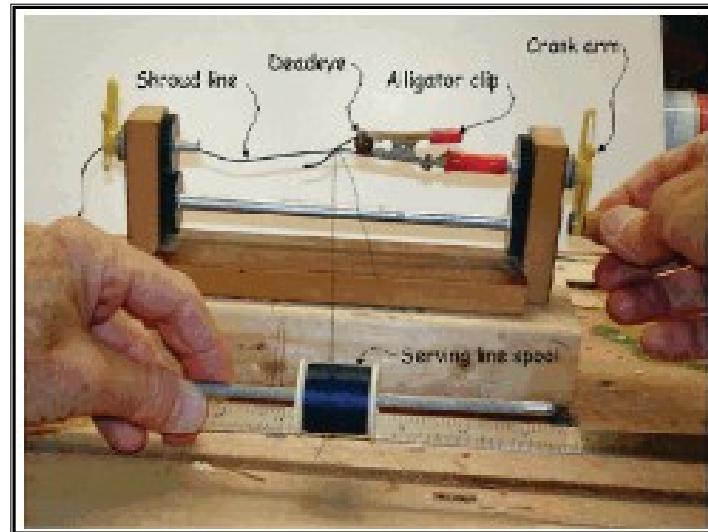




Serving & Stropping



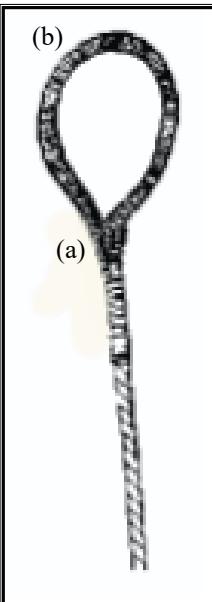
Although, Jim Merritt is no longer with us, many of his excellent presentations continue to enrich our meetings. His talk on serving and stropping was given in November 2010, and remains a classic. Known as a "String-Along", Jim Merritt gave us a great look at what was a pretty special machine at the time. It allowed the operator to wind serving line onto a shroud with remarkable ease.



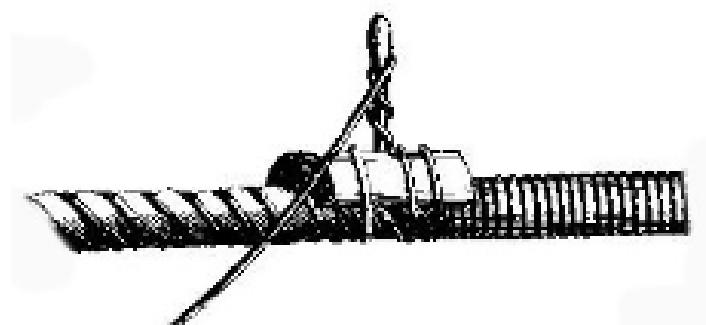
The presentation started out with a review of the terms commonly used when it comes to rigging. SERVING is a covering applied over rope, usually stays and shrouds, to prevent wear at points of stress. SEIZING describes the splicing of two pieces of rope where a simple knot will not suffice.

The illustration to the right shows both seizing (a) and serving (b) on a shroud. This illustration shows only two segments of the procedure. The full treatment would be to "worm, parcel, and serve" a rope. To WORM a rope, thin twine is wound into the crevasses between the larger rope's strands, resulting in a smooth surface. PARCELING covers this wormed area with thin strips of cloth. Serving then covers this all with small, tightly wound cord. The sea term is: "worm and parcel with the lay, turn and serve the other way". For larger scale models, only parceling is usually not performed.

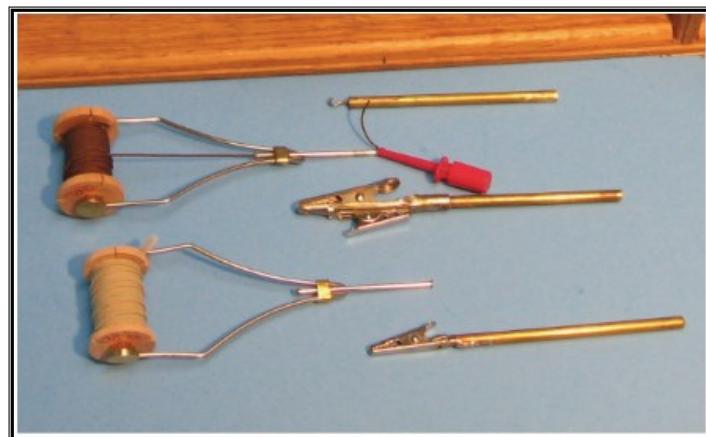
It didn't take long for modelers to realize the advantages of the String-Along. The only awkward aspect when using one of these units was getting used to using both hands when serving the line.



The membership was shown a photo of a "serving mallet" in action. If you look closely, you can see the results of all three phases of the procedure. It must have been a tedious job!



One of the best tips to come out of Jim's presentation was the use of fly tying equipment that can be used as dispensers when serving line. Two of those tools can be seen in the photo below.



Revisiting this talk after so many years was a real pleasure for many of us who knew Jim. He was a great member who enjoyed providing first rate discussions. We hope he was their with us enjoying the meeting just like he always did.

We have other videos featuring Jim Merritt, which we will feature in the not too distant future.



● Tri-Club Anti-Piracy Policy ●



Here is a list of banned companies that have been pirating and duplicating kits, books, and plans from reputable manufacturers.

Quite often these disreputable companies offer their products at what appear to be reasonable prices, but these items are often poor in quality. Many of them do not have websites. They market their illegal products via the Internet on sites such as eBay.

If you are contemplating your next project, please check this list. If you are not sure, discuss it with Kurt Van Dahm before you commit to a purchase. For easy reference, this information will appear in all future issues of the *Forecastle Report*.

DryDock Models and Parts (Canada) sells for companies that pirate.

| | |
|------------|---|
| CN | ZHL |
| CF | RealTS |
| shi hai | Snail Model |
| 4H Model | XinFeng |
| Moxing | Crown JD Model |
| Microcosm | JD Model LHQK |
| WN | Huasong |
| Jaocdoen | Shi Cheng |
| SC | woodenkit (Russian MFG) |
| DUJIAOSHOU | YengFan |
| LHQK | Unicorn Model |
| Master | YQ (YaunQing) Modelship Dockyard (China) |

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