



Forecastle Report

Newsletter of the Midwest Model Shipwrights

July 2009

● Scuttlebutt ●

Commodore **Sid Wotman** rang the ship's bell at 1950 hours with a crew of 28 answering the call. Two guests were introduced, **Sam Palermo** and **Harry Bloom**, who last honored us with their presents at our February 2009 meeting. Sam was a crewman aboard the USS *Dennis* during the Battle Off Samar. Harry was on the crew of a seaplane tender serving the renowned flying boat PBM "Mariner". Nice to see you back, men.

We note that our mate, **Gus Agustin**, has been spending time in the (N.W. Community Hospital) sick bay. We all send him our best wishes for a speedy and full recovery.

Sam Koukios



It is with deep sadness that we learned of the passing of Midwest Model Shipwright Sam Koukios. A member since April, 2001, Sam will always be remembered for his love of the hobby, his warm smile, and his desire to learn. He had tremendous enthusiasm for the club, and once stated that he wished he had joined the Shipwrights 20 years sooner! His

pride and joy was a very nice model of the *Rattlesnake*, which he completed in 2003.

Prior to retirement, Sam was a freelance artist, and was the illustrator for Harris Bank's famous mascot, Hubert the Lion. Over the years, Koukios would work closely with Harris creating original Hubert related artwork. Our sympathies go out to his family and friends. He will be missed by all his mates.



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July Meeting Notice

"Scratch Building on a Budget"

By John Mitchell

We are going to be filled in on techniques, tools and sources for building ship models from scratch while working on a budget. This will be a primer for all those interested in moving up from kits to self-directed projects, where selection of subject matter is at individual discretion. John has made a hobby out of getting the most from the least and we hope he will motivate you to do the same.

Fifth in our new series, **Historic American Warships**, features the *USS Constitution*, the US Navy's oldest commissioned warship. Read about her on page 5.

Our next meeting will be at 7:15 p.m. Wednesday,
July 15, 2009
At the Community Presbyterian Church
407 Main Street in Mount Prospect

● Manitowoc ●

By Bob Filipowski

The old saw says "a single photo is worth 1000 words". Bob made good use of that formula, as he showed us a seemingly endless parade of fine photos showing all the winners at the "33rd Annual Midwestern Model Ships & Boats Contest & Display" while using few words. And the photos spoke for themselves. Bob had organized the pix according to prize category and this did not leave out a single contestant!

As a lead in, we saw a view from the Wisconsin Maritime Museum with the fleet submarine's conning tower in the foreground and the signature Great Lakes freighter tied up to its unloading dock across the slip.

So, sit back and enjoy the parade of models and be prepared to be amazed.



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Manitowoc, continued from page 1

2009 Model Contest Winners: Gold Awards [photo #]

Category I Scratch-Built

Class A Vessels at scale of 3/32" = 1' or smaller
Class B Vessels at any scale larger than 3/32" = 1'

Novice

- B: Scott Miller—*Sea of Galilee Boat* [1]
- B: Scott Miller—*Frigate Triton Cross-section* [2]
- B: James Huebener—*Tugboat Edna G* [3]

Intermediate

- B: Kirk Brust—*Nautilus* [4]
- B: Larry Bowers—*USS Monitor* [5]
- B: Terry Bruce—*Sundowner* [6]
- B: Kirk Brust—*John Ericsson* [7]

Advanced

- A: Peter Baker—*Frigate Launch sprit-rigged* [8]
- A: Alex Derry—*Segwun* [9]
- A: Peter Baker—*Nimble* [10]
- A: **Gus Agustin**—*Mediator* [11]
- B: Paul Wilson—*6 Fathom Birchbark Canoe* [12]
- B: Bruce Hoff—*Piscataqua River Gundalow* [13]
- B: Stephen Wheeler—*22' Hunting Launch* [14a]

Category II Kit Models

Class A Wood of any scale
Class B Plastic of any scale

Novice

- A: **Paul Pollowy**—*John Ericsson* [15]
- A: Jim Cupec—*47' Motor Lifeboat* [16]

Intermediate

- A: Bruce Bertram—*Rattlesnake* [17]
- B: Lanny Teteak—*USS Yorktown* [18]
- B: Lanny Teteak—*USS Arizona* [19]
- B: Lanny Teteak—*USS Helena* [20]

Advanced

- A: **Bob Filipowski**—*Staghound* [21]

Category III Operational Models

Novice

- Thomas Thelen—*Milena* [22]
- Dan Lewandowski—*USS Syren* [23]

Category V Nautical Crafts

Novice

- Dan Lewandowski—*Carronade* [24]

2009 Model Contest Winners: Silver Awards [photo #]

Category I Scratch-Built

Advanced

- B: Bruce Hoff—*Bluebird* [25]

Category II Kit Models

Novice

- A: Albert Butkus—*Skipjack* [26]

Advanced

- A: Jeffrey Goldberg—*RMS Titanic* [27]
- A: Ralph Buckwalter—*Harriet Lane* [28]
- B: Robert Foss—*Elidir* [29]

Category III Operational Models

Advanced

- Chuck Lewis—*Robert P* [30]

Category IV Dioramas

Advanced

- Gordon Stiller—*USS Missouri* [31]

2009 Model Contest Winners: Special Awards [photo #]

Roger Jaekel Best Great Lakes Award: Stephen Wheeler—*22' Hunting Launch* [14b]

Modeler's Choice Award (Sponsored by Rocky Mountain Shipwrights): Alex Derry—*Segwun* [9]

Dana McCalip Best Miniatures Award (Sponsored by the Nautical Research & Model Ship Society of Chicago): **Gus Agustin**—*Mediator* [11]

Badger Airbrush Best Paint Finish Award: Alex Derry—*Segwun* [9]

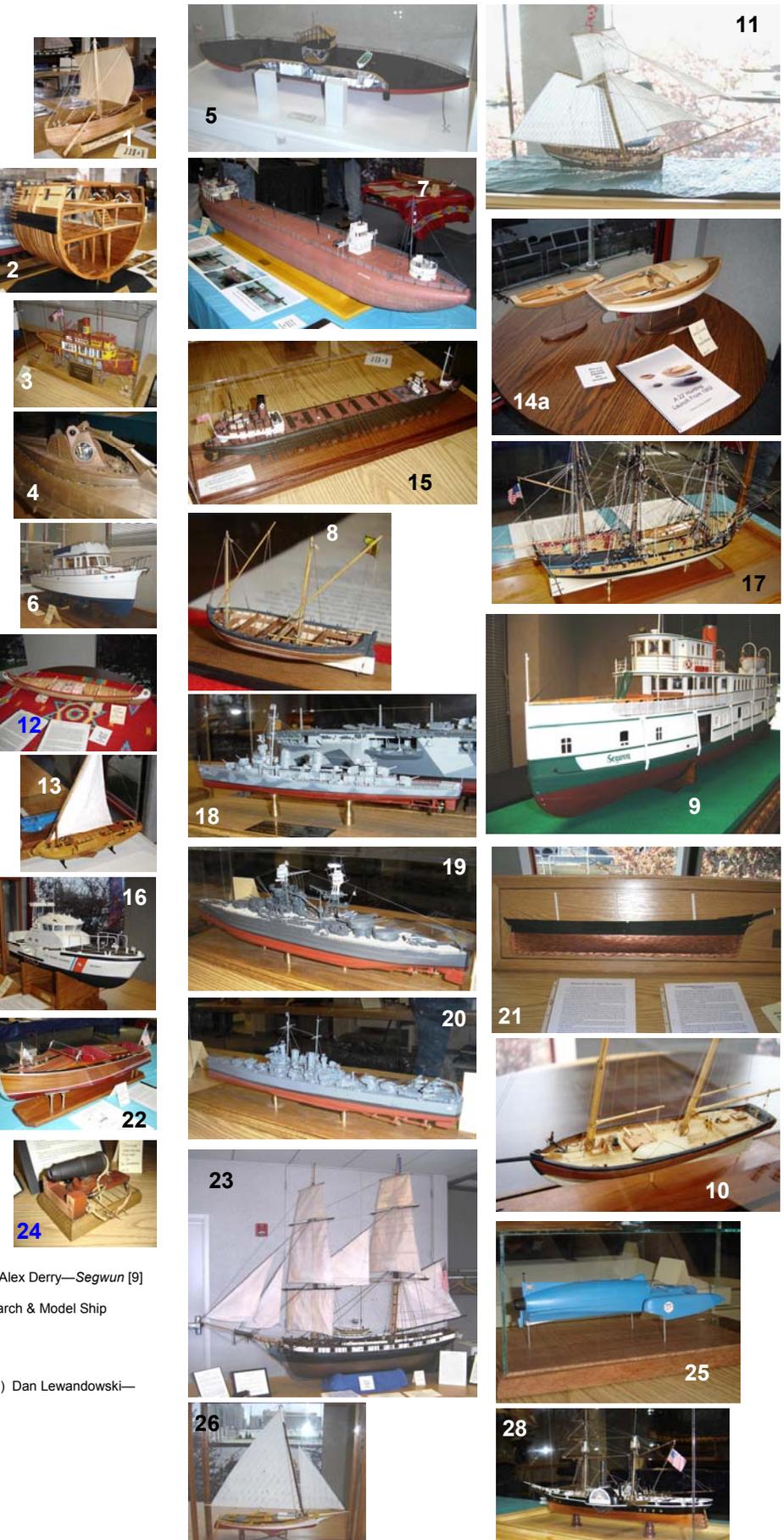
Best Novice Builder Award (Sponsored by Chicago Tri-Club Association) Dan Lewandowski—*USS Syren* [23]

F.K. Bemis Best of Show: Peter Baker—*Nimble* [10]

People's Choice Award: *USS Syren* [23]

2009 Model Contest Winners: Certificates of Merit

There were no Certificates of Merit given out at the event this year!



● Ships on Deck ●

Bob Sykes brought in his completed "OcCre" kit of the Spanish first rate *Santisima Trinidad* (1:90) complete with a full set of sails. This one was built on commission in three months but, with a cancellation from the buyer, she may be again available for sale. A beautiful job, mate.



Kurt Van Dahm continues work on his 1:24 scale model of the 1884 Steam Packet Boat *Chaperon* by "Model Shipways". She's complete up to the hurricane deck,



which is ready to be added. Even though the boilers are on the main deck, the just added deck above is known as the boiler deck - why? Who knows? The front and rear cabin walls are curved and were cleverly laser cut to permit curving (the cuts are later covered by the cabin wall battens). To assure that the cabin wall pieces did not fall apart when bent, Kurt wisely attached card stock to the inside. Adding all the 1/32" square battens was a bit tedious, but the beautiful results were well worth the effort.

Kurt found that the bass wood batten material was not up to par, as he could not sand properly. Instead, he cut new 1/32" battens from a 1/32"-thick sheet of cherry - much nicer. So far, Kurt says he thinks the kit is really great and he is enjoying working on it. Thanks mate.

Bob Filipowski proudly showed us his completed half-hull model of the Clipper Ship *Staghound* (1:96). And proud he should be, having garnered a Gold Medal at the Manitowoc in the Advanced Kit category. This model began life as a solid-hull kit of the *Flying Fish*, which he cut in half and modified to the lines of the *Staghound*.

The solid hull was planked with cherry strips which had been rounded to enhance the plank run definition. Copper plating of the lower hull was another subject altogether. Gold leaf decoration was applied using pressure sensitive transfer paper. Many fine details are too numerous to mention here. Beautiful job mate! Bob also gave us a look at the book "Waterline Dioramas" by Justin Camarata. A must have for anyone wanting to increase their modeling skills.



Doc Williams has now added styrene deck & bulwark liners, bulkheads around the cabin and scuppers, hatches and hawseholes to his (1:24) Hartman *Harbor Tug*. The



R/C power train and steering mechanism are in as well as an oiling tube for lubrication of the drive shaft. Thanks to the article written by Kurt Van Dahm on building this kit, Doc has

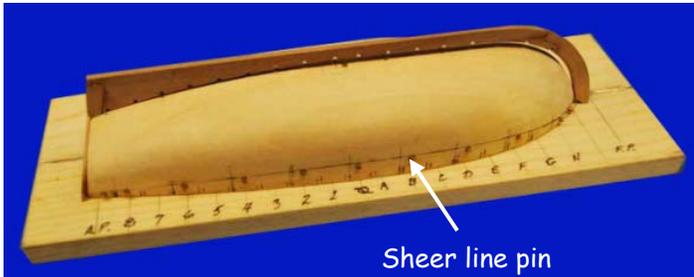


been able to overcome some of the "semi-kit's" mysteries. Styrofoam decking was added to allow installation of deck hardware, which otherwise would not be possible on the fiberglass sub-deck. In addition to the hawseholes, scuppers are also being added to permit drainage of the deck when it goes awash. Nice work, mate.

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Ships-on-Deck, continued from page 3

Ray Oswalt demonstrated the methods for making ship's boats using the plug form method á la Gus Agustin. The transom is put in place then the ribs are inserted into each hole in the base and then the keel/stem is installed with the ribs fitting into notches cut into the keel. Lastly, the



planks are applied between the stem and transom over the ribs. Care must be taken not to glue anything to the plug underneath. Before planking, pins are also inserted along the sheer line to assure the plank runs are in proper location. Ribs are cut off to remove the shell from the base. Sounds easy, but it clearly takes a lot of skill to get it right. Nice that we have an expert among us as a reference, should we get lost somewhere at sea. Ray's next challenge is to think out a clinker built cutter, which means the planks have to overlap. Stand by for that one. Thanks, mate, for charting this difficult course for us.

Jim Merritt is down to the fine details on his *Yacht Mary* (1:54) hull. Poor castings on the cabin windows required Jim to make his own version and the results look very authentic. MoRope was used to create the window mullions. Nice job, mate.



Scuttlebutt, continued from page 1

John Pocius is working on a web site plan that he hopes to present to the membership for discussion in the near future. So, gather your thoughts on what you think would be nice to include in such a site.

Helmut Reiter has some left over material from his lantern presentation last month that he would make available to anyone needing it. Consists of another Lucite turning and Helmut will make the end caps, if desired. Thanks, Mate.

Hobby Town USA, 549 Waukegan Rd., Northbrook in the Brookside Plaza is the newest hobby shop offering model ship materials. The Manager, **Steve Derosh**, is an active ship modeler and has attended a *Deadeyes* meeting. A classroom for meetings is reported to be one of the store's features.

Manitowoc, continued from page 2



Our thanks to **Bob Filipowski** and **David Botton** for their hard work in making all these photos available and to Bob for his fine presentation.

Around the Horn

with the Tri-Club

The Nautical Research & Model Ship Society of Chicago had a first class meeting on June 13th which included a



presentation by **Charlie Scardon** on Resin Cast Models. Examples of good and not so good resin ship kits were shown and building tips and answers to member's questions were offered. The evening was rounded out with a presentation on the Manitowoc contest by **Bob Filipowski**.

Airbrush Workshop

By Bob Filipowski

If you were to ask those members who have attended the Saturday morning workshops what they thought of these sessions, you would probably get an enthusiastic "thumbs up". In June, Kurt Van Dahm and the Chicago Nautical Research and Model Ship Society held two workshops devoted to the art of airbrushing.

An excellent Power Point presentation on the various types of air-brushes, and how they function started things off. Although usage was the main topic, Van-Dahm also discussed the advantages of a spray booth, and how critical proper care and maintenance can be.



This was followed by some hands-on demonstrations. For many of us, this was the first time that we had ever used an internal mix, double action model, and everyone agreed that it really wasn't that difficult!



Some attendees brought their own airbrushes to the meeting for evaluation, and Kurt tested them, and made recommendations on how to improve their performance. In some cases, all that

was required was a good cleaning. However, at least two had damaged parts that would require replacement, which was quite a revelation for the owners! This facet of the workshop was especially important since it gave attendees some idea as to why their own airbrushes weren't giving them the performance they expected.

A special thanks to Kurt for an informative and enjoyable workshop. Hopefully, there'll be many more!



● USS Constitution ●

USS Constitution is a wooden-hulled, three-masted heavy frigate of the United States Navy. Named after the Constitution of the United States of America by President George Washington, she is the oldest commissioned naval vessel afloat in the world. Constitution, launched in



1797, was one of the six original frigates authorized for construction by the Naval Act of 1794. Joshua Humphreys designed these frigates to be the Navy's capital ships, and so Constitution and her sisters were larger and more heavily armed and built than the standard frigates of the period. Built in Boston, Massachusetts at Edmund Hartt's shipyard, her first duty with the newly formed United States Navy was to provide protection for American merchant shipping during the Quasi War with France and to defeat the Barbary pirates in the First Barbary War.

Her most famous era of naval warfare was the War of 1812 against Great Britain, when she captured numerous merchant ships and defeated five British warships: HMS Guerriere, HMS



Namesake: U S Constitution
Builder: Edmond Hartt's Shipyard
Laid down: 1 November 1794
Launched: 21 October 1797
Maiden Voyage: 22 July 1798
Nickname: Old Ironsides
Home Port: Charleston Navy Yard
Status: Active in service, 2009

Class & type: United States-class frigate

Length: 204 ft overall

Beam: 43 ft 6 in

Draft: 21 ft forward
13 ft aft

Displacement: 2,200 tons

Speed: 13 knots

Crew: 450 officers & enlisted, including 55 Marines & 30 boys

Armament: 30 x 24-pounder long gun, 20 x 32-pounder carronade, 2 x 24-pounder bow chasers

Java, HMS Pictou, HMS Cyane and HMS Levant. The battle with Guerriere earned her the nickname of "Old Ironsides" and public adoration that has repeatedly saved her from scrapping. She continued to actively serve the nation as flagship in the Mediterranean and African squadrons and circled the world in the 1840s. During the American Civil War she served as

a training ship for the United States Naval Academy.

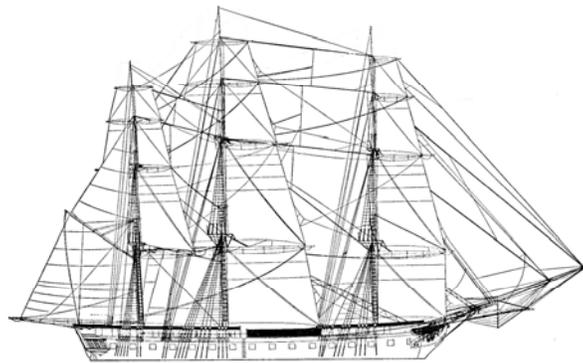
Retired from active service in 1881, she served as a receiving ship until designated a museum ship in 1907. In 1931 she started a three year 90-port tour of the nation and in 1997 she finally sailed again under her own power for her 200th birthday.



This article was compiled from information in the public domain found on the web at Wikipedia.org.



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