

FORECASTLE REPORT



Newsletter of the Chicago Tri-Club Association

July 2025



What Is It?



One of the more intriguing aspects of helping Coleman Seskind dispose of his collection of books, tools, and modeling supplies has been the discovery of items that have puzzled Rick Szydelko and Bob Filipowski.

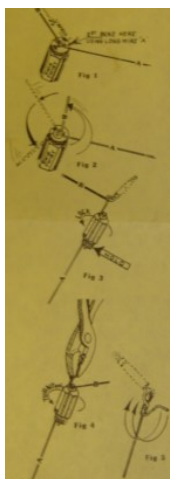
Here are two of the more interesting tools that, at least for Rick and Bob, left them scratching their heads

The first might be considered one of the



smallest tools in Coleman's collection. Fortunately, there was some paperwork with it. It's referred to as a "Tool for forming

guy wires." It can handle wire .014" to .032" in diameter. Although not the clearest diagram, it gives some idea how it's used.



The next item is more complex and has no paperwork. It might come under the heading of "Your guess is as



good as ours." Both of these items will be available at the 2025 Tri-Club Flea Market on July 16th.

July Tri-Club Meeting Schedule

The NSD July Meeting



The July North Shore Deadeyes virtual meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 2nd at 7:00 PM. The ZOOM invite will be sent out a few days before the meeting.

The NRMS July Meeting



For July, 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 July 12th meeting. Proceedings start at 7:00 PM, but you will be able to log on as early 6:30 PM.

The MMS July Meeting



The July face to face Midwest Model Shipwright meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 16th at 7:00 PM. Bob Filipowski will share his techniques for serving and stropping.

We will also feature Part III of our 2025 flea market, compliments of Coleman Seskind. Emphasis will be on tools and kits. Proceedings will begin at 7:00 PM.

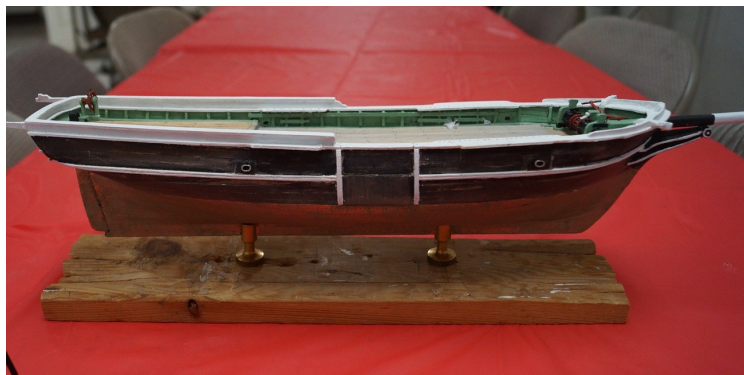
Shipwright meetings are held at the
The Dasom Community Church
501 S. Emerson Street
Mount Prospect, IL
Doors open at 6:30 PM.



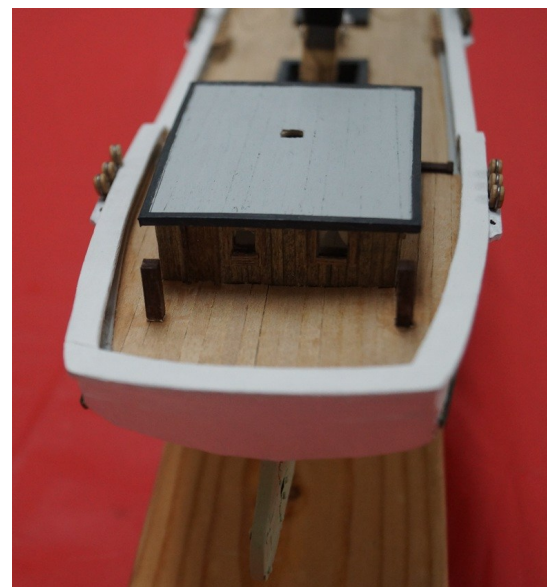
Ships on Deck



Kate Cory by Don Purney



Don's most recent accomplishments on this *Kate Cory* include the added upper bulwarks, and the anchor windlass. Note that the ironwork on the windlass is featuring a weathered red color. This color scheme was common among sailing ships during this period.



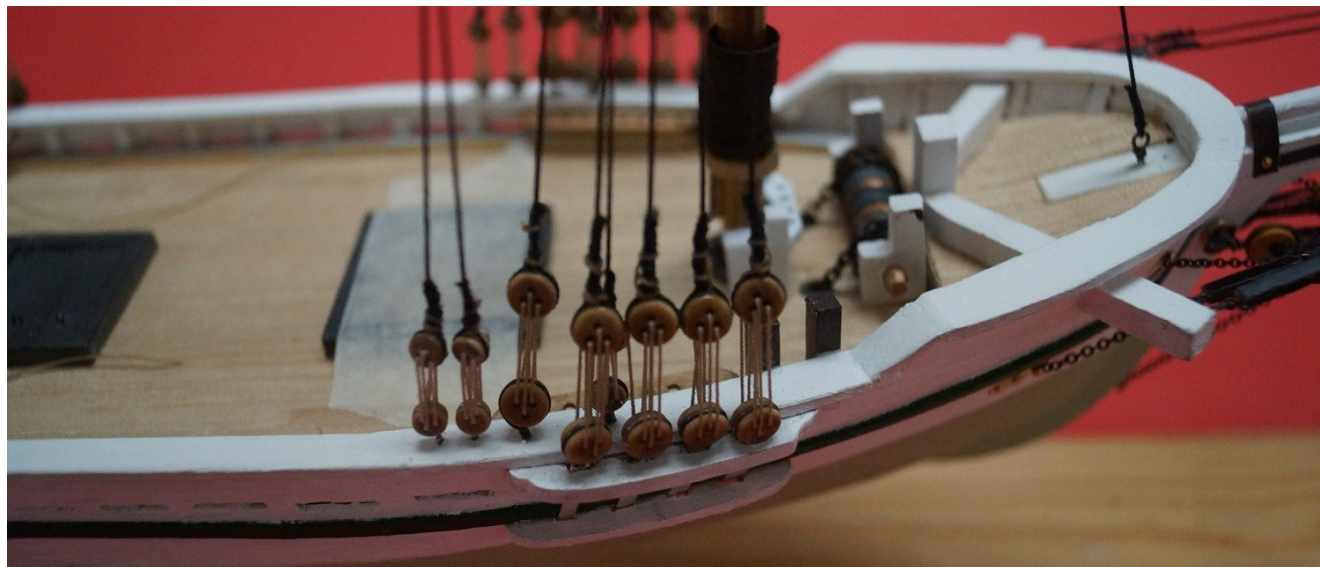
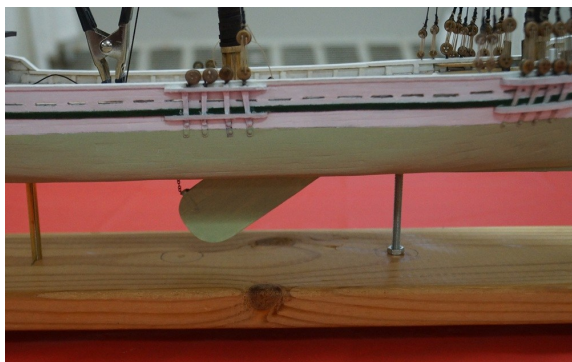
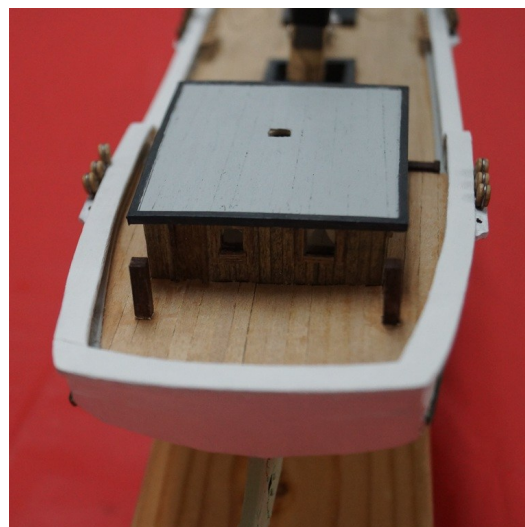


Ships on Deck



Lucia A. Simpson by Dan Pacholski

Dan is progressing nicely on this Great Lakes schooner. The foremast standing rigging is complete, and the mainmast is sporting its first shrouds.



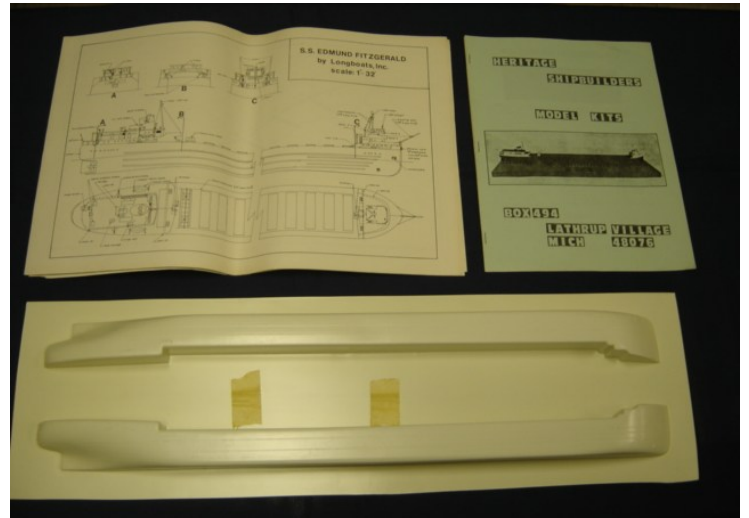
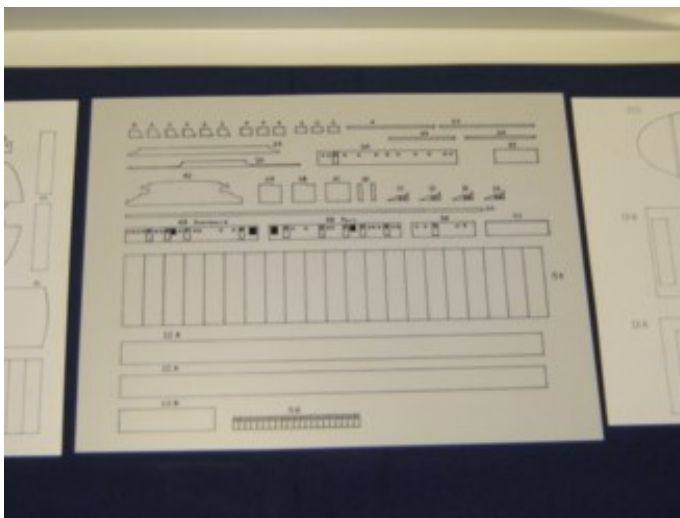
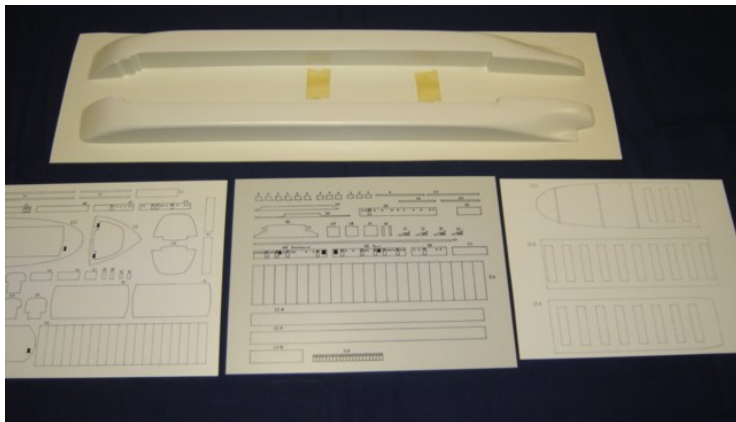
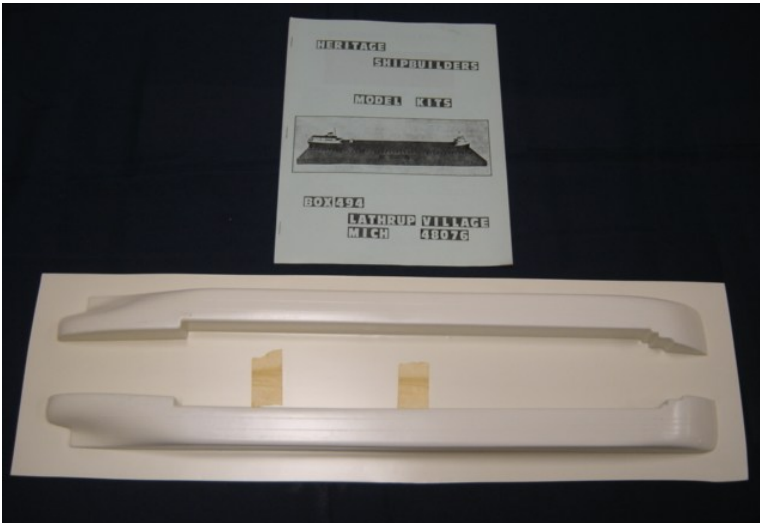


Ships on Deck



Edmund Fitzgerald Scale 1"=32'

This model is one of two examples of the *Edmund Fitzgerald* donated by Coleman Seskind to our Tri-Club Flea Market. The hull is vacuum formed and is quite rigid. Over forty 3"X5" glossy detail photos are also included with the kit.





Ships on Deck



Edmund Fitzgerald

Scale: 1" = 32'

This second model of the *Edmund Fitzgerald* reflects a fair amount of work that has already been done. Both models come with a large selection of photo etched brass. When completed, these lakers will be very impressive.





• Sacks •



This presentation began with a little historical background on how sacks were handled and stored aboard sailing vessels.

When shipping wheat, longshoremen lined the entire ship's hold with wood and burlap to guard against condensation that caused spoilage. They also went barefoot to avoid ripping holes in the sacks. Heavy matting was placed on the deck, so spilled grain could not fall through cracks and clog bilge pumps.



The material, at first, can be quite sticky. Keeping your fingers moist helps alleviate the problem. Once you have achieved the basic shape, the edges are rounded, and the corners are carefully elongated using your fingers.



An excellent product for making sacks is *Milliput*. Unlike Sculpey



Clay, which needs to be baked in an oven to be cured, *Milliput* is self curing, and can be rock hard in 3 to 4 hours. This product can be drilled, sanded, and carved. It adheres to almost any surface prior to being fully cured.

The cargo hold was lined with wax paper to prevent the sacks from staining or sticking to the ceiling planks or bulkhead, which had been covered with a mirror to add a sense of depth.



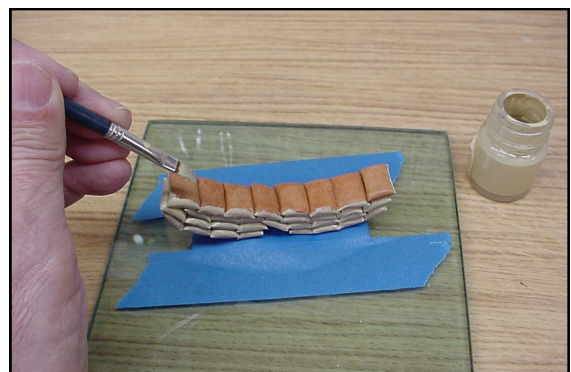
It is a two-part epoxy mix. Equal quantities of each part are thoroughly mixed together.



Small quantities, which will make about 3 or 4 sacks at a time were utilized. Pieces of scrap wood were used as guides for consistent thickness and size.



Once the assembly is completely cured it should be quite ridged, and can be painted. *Milliput* comes in white, silver-grey, yellow-grey, black, and terracotta. These particular pieces were made with terracotta.





● Sacks ●



Burlap sacks were normally a light tan or beige color. To match this, a base coat of tan paint was applied to the assembly.

Once the base coat was dry, a brown antiquing agent was applied with a stiff-bristled brush. The tip of the brush is dabbed along the surface of the sacks, which produces a "stipple" appearance that simulates burlap material.



Once the antiquing agent is dry, earth tone chalks were applied in crevasses and along the rounded edges. Be careful not to smudge the chalk when handling the assembly.



The bottom of the assembly was then cleaned and scuffed up. Five minute epoxy was used to glue the sacks in place. Note the mirror behind the sacks.



Some members questioned why the cargo hold was planked over, thus hiding all that detail. It was stated that the hatch covers would be removed on the finished model, thus giving onlookers an intriguing yet tantalizing glimpse of what a cargo hold might have looked like in the age of sail. It looks like that affect was achieved!



A coating of Testors Dullcote Lacquer was applied, which gave the assembly a rich color, and sealed in the chalk.



The Nautical Research Guild®

2025 PHOTOGRAPHIC

MODEL SHIP COMPETITION

The Board of Directors of the Nautical Research Guild is pleased to announce the 2025 Photographic Ship Competition. The last NRG model photo competition was in 2021. Just like last time your photographs will be submitted on-line.

Gold, Silver and Bronze medals will be awarded for the First, Second and Third place models in three categories: Novice, Apprentice and Master, and a Best of Show medal will be awarded to the best Gold medal winner.

The competition is open to all Regular Members in good standing of the Nautical Research Guild. We have established a reduced fee \$20.00 membership open to Non-members who wish to participate in the 2025 Photographic Ship Model Competition. The special half-price membership entitles the new member to receive the digital Nautical Research Journal and all membership privileges for one year.

The fee is still only \$30 per model entered and entrants will also receive a written review of their model. Winners will be announced at the Annual Member's Meeting.

The contest rules and entry forms are on the NRG website.

<https://thenrg.org/contests>

Download the rules and entry forms and follow the directions to enter. A separate entry form is required for each model entered.

Please tell your club members about the contest and the reduced-price membership offered to those non-members wishing to join and compete.

• 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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NAUTICAL
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Don't Miss
The Boat...

James Northcote, 1746-1841 "Sinking of The Centaur"



• NRG Ship's Store •

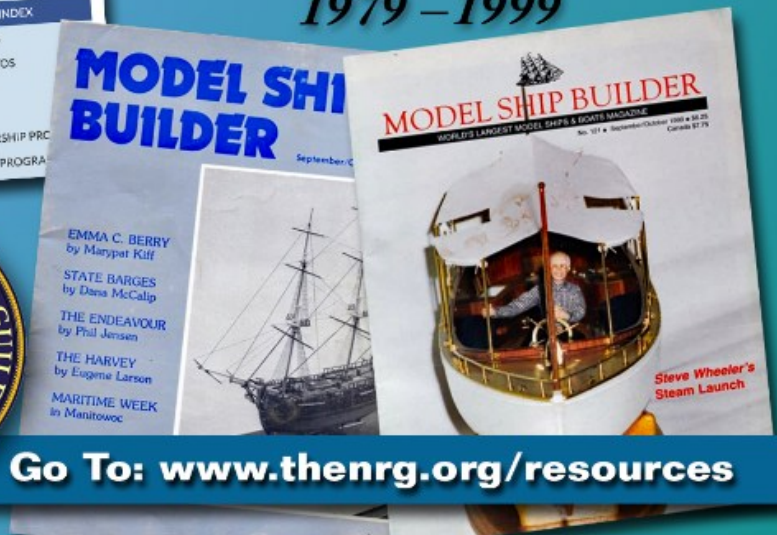
MODEL SHIP BUILDER MAGAZINE

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