COMMODORE Gus Agustin opened the meeting at 7:30 PM with 27 hands present and accounted for.

Gus announced a new associate member, Kevin Hudson, from Ruse, New South Wales, Australia. We’re really happy to have a mate “down under” and look forward to getting an update from him on modeling activity in that part of the world soon. Welcome aboard.

With the Wisconsin Maritime Museum show in Manitowoc only weeks away (May 20-22), we hope that all of our members planning to attend have submitted their applications and booked their hotels. Hate to see anyone left out. With the high level of excellence that has been shown at recent exhibits, the competition in Manitowoc is expected to be stiff.

The Model Boat Show, held April 10, 2011 at the Schaumburg Park District facility was a real success and is reviewed on page 5.

May Meeting Notice

Metal Plating at Home
By Steve Wheeler

We are happy to welcome back to Chicago our Associate Member, Steve Wheeler from Loveland, Colorado, who will give us the straight scoop on how to apply metal plating to a variety of model parts—the easy way and in your home workshop. This is a “must see” program, mates. Be there!

Steve is a member of the Rocky Mt. Shipwrights, Denver, and holds the 2010 Manitowoc “Best of Show” and “Modeler’s Choice” awards for his Star Class Racing Sloop.

Our next meeting will be at 7:15 p.m. Wednesday, May 18, 2011
At the Community Presbyterian Church
407 Main Street in Mount Prospect

Of about the same era was a nice stern wheel steamer that caught Bob’s eye, shown at left.

The Maple Leaf (R) was a side-wheel steamer of a little later era but equally well done and nicely displayed as a waterline model.

Bob was impressed by all the beautiful woodworking that was very much in evidence, as represented by the stem view of this fine model with its finely carved tiller.

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Tug boats were also on display. The one shown by Bob was the historic steam tug *Hercules*.

The real ship, pictured at right, is on permanent display at the San Francisco Maritime Museum.

Another area of interest to many viewers were the models with finely painted details (L) and equally fine decorations (below).

If you were into detailed carving, there was something for you, as well.

And for those who like to work on framing detail, these two couldn’t be beat.
Thanks, Bob, for putting us all in the picture.
Tim Riggs displayed two WWII Canadian Flower Class Corvettes (1:700). These two represented short and long forecastle versions of this Class. A bad paint job resulted in Tim’s trying to remove it using break fluid. While that works on plastic models, it melted the resin hull of one model. Now he is working on restoring the damaged portion in preparation for repainting. One suggestion was to use “Wexlies” Tire Bleach to remove paint? Anyone second that idea?

Doc Williams has a final coat of black paint on the hull of his whale ship Charles W. Morgan (Model shipways kit) and is preparing to copper plate the bottom. Other touches added were the plank sheer, top rail, cheeks and trail boards, referred to by Doc as the “hood ornaments”. Final hull color will be adjusted to add some wear.

Bob Wicklander added to the whaling mystique by bringing in his collection of scrimshaw art work. Four were from the ship Emeral, 1881, and one from the ship Nero, 1875. Bob collected these beauties some 25 years ago and now they are part of his “retirement fund”. Also shown was a Japanese fan made from whale bone cut so thin one could see the blood veins in it!

John Pocius showed us his nearly completed model of a Single Racing Shell ca 1954 in 3/8” scale. This exceptional diorama features a hand carved crew figure modeled from a photo of his nephew on his rowing machine. Remaining work will involve painting the figure. The water on this model looks absolutely real and was created by sponging on 8 layers of “Liquitex” matt medium paint and adding a wake made of spackle. Transparent coats finished the job. Beautiful work, mate.

Bob Sykes says he finished the Baltimore clipper Swallow and then wrecked her. A little accident broke the bow sprit, but then Bob can fix nearly everything - just look at how wonderfully he refurbished this model. The original construction was done from plans printed in a 1935 copy of “Popular Science” magazine. Bob covered the lower hull with 1500 copper plates and did a beautiful job of it. This is one of the really fine restorations we have seen, mate.
Kurt Van Dahm has the deck in place, coal hatches in the deck, the main cabin indexed on the deck, towing bitts made, bulwarks finished and the cap rail under construction on his 1/8" scale model of the tug *Lackawana*. Some scratch built work was done on the water-ways, as the kit versions were not attractive enough. His high-low hull plating technique shows off nicely in the inset photo. The cabin block, built to plan, was out of scale, so Kurt sanded it down with a belt sander to make it fit on the deck properly. Luckily, Kurt has photos of the actual tug to help him get the dimensions correct. Thanks for sharing all your great techniques, mate.

Helmut Reiter’s 1:48 model of the 1863 Tartane Ligure *La Gemma* has progressed dramatically and now looks very nearly complete. Helmut’s focus was clearly on the work he did in building the windlass, which shows off his considerable machining skills. The gears on the windlass were a work of art in themselves and we can only wonder at their accuracy at this scale. He says he is lucky to have a lathe and a milling machine but he is also quite obviously skilled in their use and that’s not luck!

Bruce Hoff says, with an audible sigh, that his 3/8" scale model of the schooner *Chaleur* is almost done. While the concept of building a split-hull model is very unique and exciting to view, the labor required to do everything in duplicate certainly made this a monumental project. Many kudos to Bruce for carrying off such a job and achieving such a high level of excellence. Dead eyes, windless and pump handles have yet to be made and the quarter deck railing has to be finished and supported in the middle by a “half” flag staff. Another 50/50 will be the tiller! Some of the items seemed oddly out of scale to Bruce, but the plans willed out.

In retrospect, Bruce is sure he will not build another model like this and probably not another in a 3/8" scale because “size is not a trivial problem”; the problem being the difficulty in bending planks at this scale. He favors 1/4" scale. A masterpiece for sure, mate.
To describe all the details on how Helmut constructed these windlass parts would fill a small book. If you have an interest in this kind of work, contact Helmut directly. Maybe this is another special presentation on machining.

Bob Filipowski continues to add to the neat details inside the cargo hold on his 1:64 model of the Arrowsic. In addition to the barrels we saw last month, Bob has made up a quantity of sacks made from a two-part clay that were then painted and antiqued using a paint/sponge material. To get the burlap effect he stippled the surface with a stiff brush and applied chalk to accentuate the texture. “Be careful not to get the chalk on the planking, as it is hard to remove”.

Lastly, he added a coat of Dullcoat. Next up will be the decks. Great new ideas, mate.

The Schaumberg Model Boat Show, hosted by the “Fleet 4 Commodores R/C Club” on April 10, 2011 at the Schaumburg Park District facility, was a rousing success, judging by the number and quality of model boats displayed. There were many fine sailing and power R/C models, as befitting the host club, but our Tri-Club displays were equally impressive. Tim Riggs had a fine set of his miniatures featuring several of his amazing card models. Kurt Van Dahm’s recently launched African Queen made an appearance as did the fine composite model of the French 74 Le Superb by Richard Romaniak. Bob Sykes added several of his recent jobs, including the superbly restored Baltimore Clipper Swallow.

Bob Filipowski was also in attendance with the Tri-Club’s new video camera to record Dave Clement’s presentation on making scale figures. The photo at left has Ken Goetz chatting with onlookers over a sea of masts with a few of the many R/C sail boat models visible in the background. It was a fun day for everyone and the hosts are to be commended for putting on such a fine event. Let’s hope shows like this can be launched again soon.