



# Forecastle Report

Newsletter of the Midwest Model Shipwrights ♦ www.midwestmodelshipwrights.com ♦ May 2011

## ● Scuttlebutt ●

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.

## Western Ship Model Conference & Exhibit By Bob Filipowski

The Western Ship Model Conference & Exhibit of 2011 featured over 200 models, with some of them coming from as far away as France and Japan. Symposiums were held over a two-day period at the Newport Harbor Nautical Museum, and showcased many speakers prominent within our hobby. A remarkable flea market, excellent food and glorious weather all helped to make this a most memorable and enjoyable event.

Leading off Bob's presentation was one of several iron clad war ships from the Civil War period, one of which was an R/C model. The detail was



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 stern view of this fine model with its finely carved tiller.

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Western SMC, continued from Page 1

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.



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.



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



## ● Ships on Deck ●

**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 excep-



tional 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.

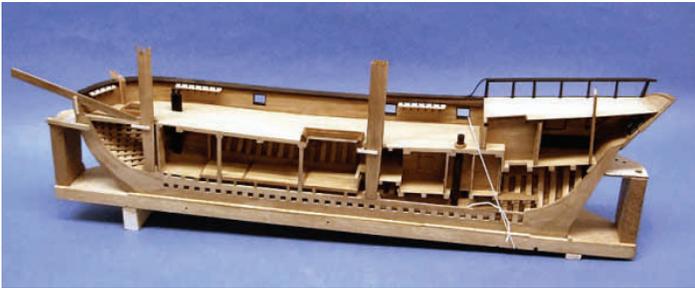
This is one of the really fine restorations we have seen, mate



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*Ships-on-Deck, continued from Page 3*

**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 du-



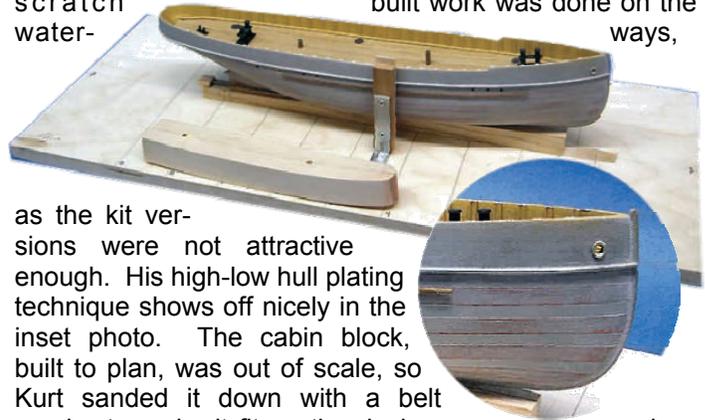
plicate certainly made this a monumental project. Many kudos to Bruce for carrying off such a job and achieving such a high level of excellence. Dead eyes, windless and pump handles have yet to be made and the quarter deck railing has to be finished and supported in the middle by a "half" flag staff. 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.



**Kurt Van Dahm** has the deck in place, coal hatches in the deck, the main cabin indexed on the deck, towing bits 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-

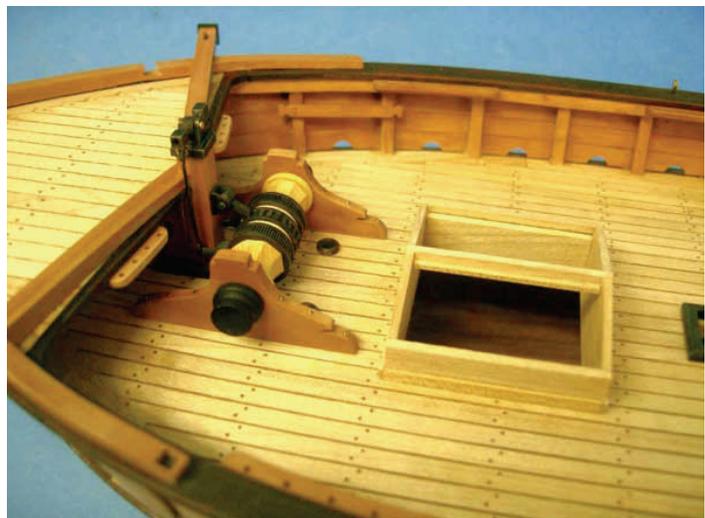


as the kit versions were not attractive enough. His high-low hull plating technique shows off nicely in the inset photo. The cabin block, built to plan, was out of scale, so Kurt sanded it down with a belt sander to make it fit on the deck properly. Luckily, Kurt has photos of the actual tug to help 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!



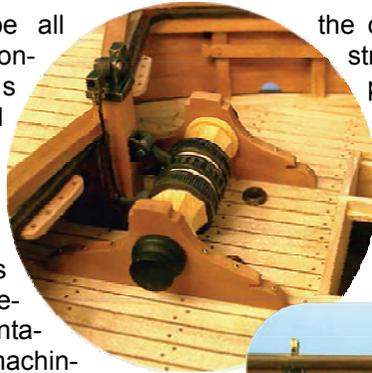
*See Ships-on-Deck, Page 5*

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*Ships-on-Deck, continued from Page 4*

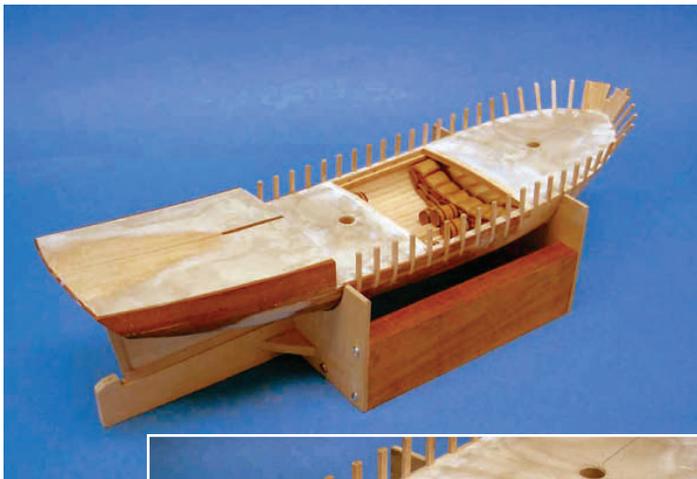
To describe all the details on how Helmut constructed these parts would fill a small book. If you have an interest in doing this kind of work, you should contact Helmut. Maybe this is another special presentation on machining.

His chain plates were made from brass but were left natural, as blackening solutions can stain the hull planks. They will either darken with age or he will paint them. Beautiful results, mate.



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**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.



## ● Schaumburg Model Boat Show ●

By John Mitchell

The 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 ap-



Kurt Van Dahm



Tim Riggs

pearance 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 Crement's** presentation on making



L-R; Bob Sykes, Richard Romaniak



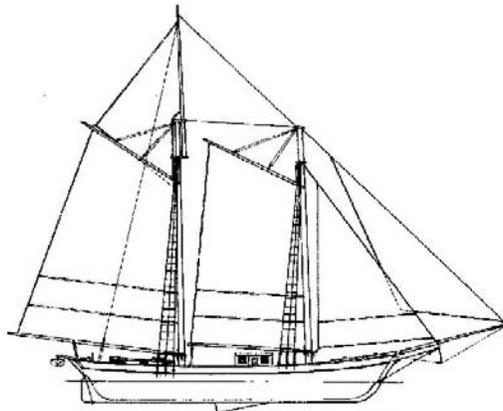
Ken Goetz

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.



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