

FORECASTLE REPORT



Newsletter of the Chicago Tri-Club Association

November 2025

• Pizza Bash Order •

Some of you probably thought that it was a bit early to be passing around the annual Pizza Wish List. Actually, it's not too soon to be thinking about what pizza toppings and beverage you wish to enjoy at the December meeting. For those of you who missed the October session, Bob Filipowski will be passing around the request sheet again in November.



For those of you who missed October and possibly will miss November, but plan on attending the Holiday gathering, please contact Bob by no later than December 17th with your choice of toppings and beverage.

42nd Annual Butch O'Hare Model Contest and Vendor Show



Saturday, November 15th, 2025
DuPage County Fairgrounds, Bldgs. 2 & 3
2015 Manchester Road, Wheaton, IL 60187

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- 60+ Vendor Tables



Don't be surprised if you see some familiar faces at the show, and in the competition!

November Tri-Club Meeting Schedule

The NSD November 5th Meeting



The November North Shore Dead-eyes virtual meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 5th, at 7:00 PM. The ZOOM invite will be sent out a few days before the meeting.

The NRMS November 8th Meeting



For November, 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 November 8th meeting. Proceedings start at 7:00 PM, but you will be able to log on as early 6:30 PM.

The MMS November 19th Meeting



The November face to face Midwest Model Shipwright meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 19th at 7:00 PM.

We will be featuring the next phase of our 2025 Tri-Club flea market, and a presentation by Dan Pacholski on three museum ships he visited while on vacation in England. The flea market will feature a considerable number of books. Most have not been shown before.

Proceedings will begin at 7:00 PM, but you will be able to enter the building as early as 6:30 PM.

As usual, F2F Shipwright meetings are held at

The Dasom Community Church
501 S. Emerson Street
Mount Prospect, Illinois



Ships on Deck



Lucia A. Simpson by Dan Pacholski



Ships on Deck Continued on Page 3

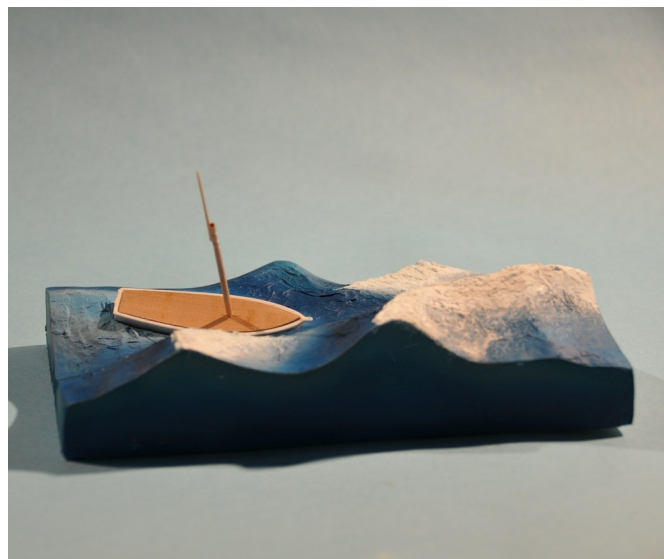


Ships on Deck



Stormy Seas by Gus Agustin

One of the things that Gus enjoys doing, is to experiment with different materials and techniques. In this example he is trying to achieve more realistic wave action in rough seas. His artistic abilities are quite evident in these photos.



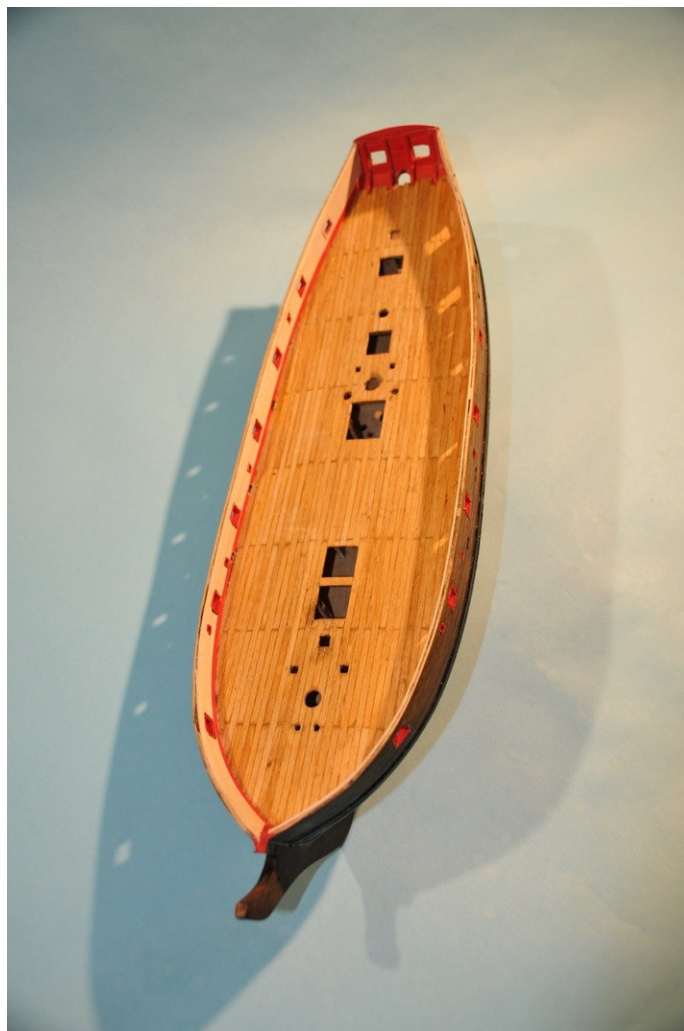


Ships on Deck



USS *Flint* by Keith Zeilenga

Keith is experimenting with some different procedures on his latest “dumpster” model. His efforts are especially evident on the outside of the hull. He’s finding that trying different materials and finishes can be an enjoyable and challenging experience.





Ships on Deck



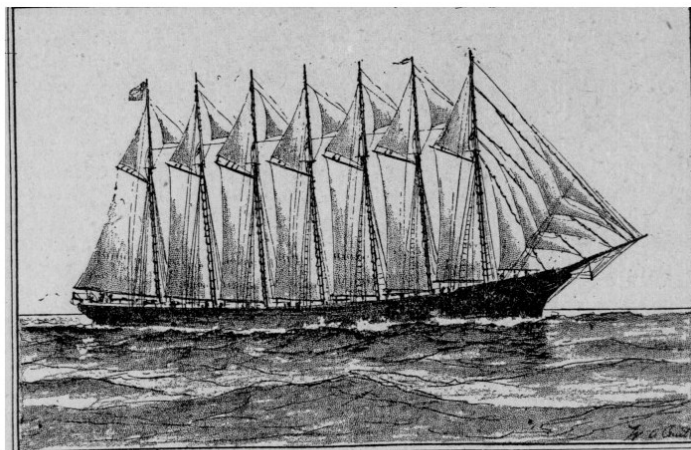
The Schooner *Thomas W Lawson* (1902-1907)

This article appeared in the San Francisco Call in November 1901—124 years ago this month. At the time, the ship did not even have a name. She would eventually be christened after one of the vessel's owners.

LARGEST VESSEL OF HER CLASS EVER CONSTRUCTED IN A SHIPYARD

A Seven-Masted **Schooner** That Will Be Ready for Service in February---Will Carry 10,000 Tons Dead Weight and May Make First Voyage From the East to San Francisco California is noted the world over for its fleet of four and five masted schooners. There is not a port on earth that one of the fleet has not entered, and the fore-and-after seems to be the coming vessel. So far California has only turned out a five-master, and the chances are that be fore another year has sped the coast will be behind the East. A new **schooner** that will be a wonder among shipping is being built for a Boston syndicate. She will be a seven-master and will carry at least 10,000 tons dead weight. Next month she will be ready for launching, and a big crowd of Senators and Congressmen will be present to witness the event. The seven-master will be of the following dimensions: Length over all, 403 feet 4 inches; water line, 368 feet; beam moulded, 50 feet; depth from top of keel plate to top of upper deck, 34 feet 5 inches; draught to load water line, 25 feet 6 inches. She will be constructed of steel and will have a sail area of immense proportions. She was designed by B. B. Crowninshield and is being built for a syndicate, including Thomas W. Lawson and Captain J. G. Crowley. The seven masts will be 155 feet in height and will be steel cylinders 32 inches in diameter. The booms of the first six masts will be 45 feet long and of the stern mast 75 feet, and will be of Oregon pine. The stern sail will be 75 feet on the boom, 88 feet in the leach and 67 feet at the hoist and the other mainsails 45 feet on the boom, 83 feet in the leach and 72 feet at the hoist. She will also be rigged with a forestaysail, a foretopmast staysail and three jib sails and topsails, making a spread of 30,000 square feet of canvas. She will have a steam windlass and capstan, and the stockless anchors of 10,000 pounds weight each, as well as all of the heavy working machinery on board, will be manipulated by steam power. Her gross tonnage will be 7000 tons, with a displacement when loaded of 10,000 tons, and she will draw 26 feet 6 inches of water when loaded. Her extreme length, from the bowsprit to the end of the after boom, will be 480 feet. It is said that the big vessel's name will be *Roosevelt*, and a sister ship now on the stocks will be called *Prosperity*.

THE NEW SEVEN-MASTED STEEL **SCHOONER** NOW NEARING COMPLETION IN BOSTON FOR THE COAST TRADE. SHE WILL BE LAUNCHED IN FEBRUARY, AND WILL MAKE HER MAIDEN TRIP FROM THE EAST TO CALIFORNIA VIA CAPE HORN.



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The *Thomas W Lawson* was the largest schooner ever built, at some 475 feet long and 5200 Gross Register Tons. She was made of steel, sported no engines, and had seven masts, one of the very few seven-masted schooners ever built. Launched in 1902, she started her career as a Collier, but was converted to an oil tanker in 1906, serving mostly on the US East Coast. After her retrofit to a tanker, she was one of the few sailing tankers to ever see service.

Like the slightly smaller *Wyoming*, the *Lawson* had modern winches, a donkey engine, and a small crew of only 18. With seven masts and only so much sail possible at a time, the *Lawson* was very much at the point of being too large to sail with the technology of the time: In GRT and displacement terms she was bigger than the *Preussen*, but carried only about two thirds the sail area. This made her ungainly to maneuver, and she was too deep of draft to enter many east coast ports.

The *Lawson* did not have a long career. After launching in 1902, she served as a collier, though not at maximum profitability due to the small number of ports she could access. On a trip to London in 1907 she was wrecked in a gale off the Scilly Islands near the coast of Cornwall. This wreck caused the first large marine oil spill, and killed 16 out of the crew of 18. While the *Lawson's* story is mostly one of costly mistakes, it shows one of the same problems as the *Preussen*: You can only make a sailing vessel so large before it becomes hazardous to operate. While modern technology may increase the size of possible sailing vessels, these warnings from the past should be kept in mind for future windjammer developments.

Author:

Steven Woods is the Solaris and Education coordinator at the Hudson River Maritime Museum. He wrote his thesis on the revival of Sail Freight for supplying the New York Metro Area's food needs. Steven has worked in Museums for over 20 years.

NRG 2025 ANNUAL MEETING

**The Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday,
November 08, 2025 at 11:00 AM Central.**

PLEASE ENTER TIME & DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR

Link to the meeting will be sent on Thursday, November 06, 2025.

MEETING AGENDA

- Introduction of Leadership
- Treasurer's Report
- Membership Report
- Editor's Report
- Donations
- Legacy Giving
- Website Update

- 2024 Guild Accomplishments
- Photo Contest
- Scholarship Program
- Dues
- Adjournment

The meeting will be recorded and will be posted to the web site soon after the meeting.

• 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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Don't Miss
The Boat...

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



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