Forecastle Report

Newsletter of the Midwest Model Shipwrights ◆ www.midwestmodelshipwrights.com ◆ August 2012

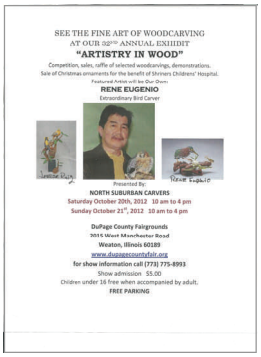
● Scuttlebutt ●

COMMODORE **Gus Agustin** opened our July meeting at 7:30 sharp with 25 hands present. There were no guests to introduce.

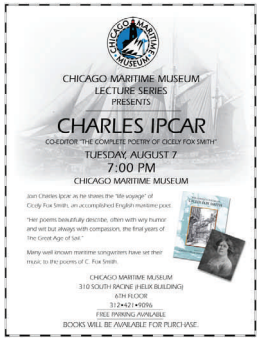
Kurt Van Dahm announced that our club came in third in the NRG new member drive (5 new members) and, for our effort, we have received a copy of the NRG Shop Notes II for our library or future raffle.

Further from Kurt, the price has been set for the October 20, 2012 Tri-Club Symposium. Cost remains the same as last year at $20 for members and $25 for non-members. Checks can be made payable to: *Nautical Research and Model Ship Society*. Kurt requested that all those planning on attending sign up and pay their fee early. This will be a great help to the planning committee. Thanks, mates.

Leon Sirota called our attention to an upcoming woodcarving exhibit being sponsored by the "North Suburban Carvers" at the DuPage County Fairgrounds, Wheaton, IL, October 20th and 21st, 10 am to 4 pm. The exhibit title is "Artistry in Wood" and features competition, sales, raffle of wood carvings, and demonstrations. A sale of Christmas ornaments will benefit the Shriners Children's Hospital. Admission is $5.00.



If you are a poet fan and would like to combine that passion with your attachment to ships and the sea, here is an excellent way to indulge both. The *Chicago Maritime Museum's Lecture Series* is presenting **Charles Ipcar** discussing the poetry of the English maritime poet Cicely Fox Smith. Tuesday, August 7th, 7 pm at the Chicago Maritime Museum.



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President (Commodore)	- Gus Agustin..……	(847) 398-5208
Vice Pres (Flag Captain)	- Bob Filipowski..…......	(847) 394-0757
Treasurer (Ship's Purser)	- Ken Goetz …….....	(847) 678-4249
Secretary (Ship's Clerk)	- Open ……..	
Newsletter Editor	- John Mitchell …… .	(847) 392-2259
Photographer	- Leon Sirota ...……	(847) 541-6285
Web Master	- John Pocius…….	(630) 834-9477
	- johnpociusdesign@att.net	

August Meeting Notice

"THE ROPE" Ship Model Exhibition Tokyo, Japan

Courtesy of Mr. Norio Uriu

Gus Agustin and Bob Filipowski will show photos of the recently held "THE ROPE" model ship exhibition in Tokyo, Japan. The photos were sent to us courtesy of Mr. Norio Uriu. We're sure you will want to be on hand to see the fine work that our fellow modelers in Japan are doing.

Our next meeting will be at 7:15 p.m.
Wednesday, August15, 2012
At the Community Presbyterian Church
407 Main Street in Mount Prospect

● Deckhouse Construction ●

By Bob Filipowski

All the steps necessary to build and finish a ship's deck house were carefully outlined using commentary and photos by Bob and we all came away from the evening eager to try our hand at just such a project.

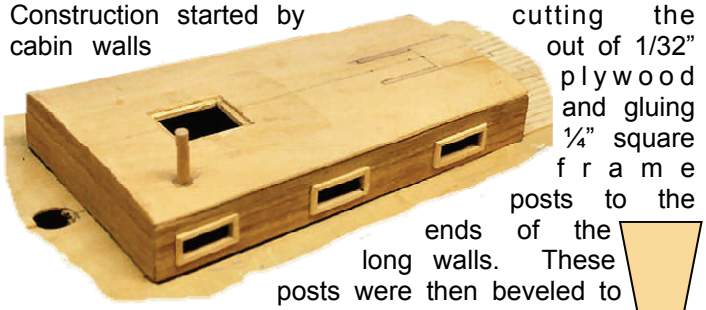
To get a complete handle on this subject, we first need to look at the desired end result and then analyze the steps it took to get there. Below is the fine end product.

See Deckhouse, Page 6

• Ships on Deck •

Your Editor, **John Mitchell**, stayed in out of the heat for a few days this past month and got a good start on the aft deckhouse of his 1:48 scratch built model of the 1852 Great Lakes Clipper-Schooner *Challenge.*

Construction started by cutting the cabin walls out of 1/32" plywood and gluing ¼" square frame posts to the ends of the long walls. These posts were then beveled to allow attachment of the short end walls to form a trapezoid



Before assembly of the cabin, windows were traced out on the side walls from a copy lifted from the plans and these were cut out by first drilling pilot holes at the four corners and then sawing out with a jeweler's saw. The openings were intentionally made undersized and then filed out to correct dimensions.

Window frames were made from 1/16" square bass-wood strips, mitered at the corners and glued to the ply-wood walls. Lastly, the cabin walls were planked with walnut strips 1/64" x 1/8", which was narrower than the deck planking. A roof of bass wood was added with a cutout for the skylight yet to be built. Lots of fun, mates.

Leon Sirota amazed us with his carved figure, which showed a very high level of achievement. We all learned that Leon is an avid carver as well as model boat builder and we can see how the two skills are compatible. Not only is this a very well carved figure, but the coloring was also very artfully applied.

Thanks, Leon, for sharing your beautiful work with us and for your heads up on the coming carving show (see *Scuttlebutt*).

Doc Williams has now completed his built-up masts on his 1:64 model of the *Charles W. Morgan* whaler and

they look very fine. As part of his building technique, Doc installed "pilot" fore and main stays in cotton thread to evaluate mast alignment and as a guide for the real stays to come. The masts were built up from square strips glued together and then rounded –first by creating hexa-gons then rounding from there. This method produces a much stronger mast not prone to warping and easier to shape than solid dowels. Great tip, mate.

Another look Doc created was the unique base finished in a "dry dock" look—supporting timbers rather than pedestals or cradles. Fits the model to a "T".

And then there's the lookout at the mast top! What a touch!

Bob Ivan also loves to carve wooden figures and his passion is for wildlife - principally birds in flight.

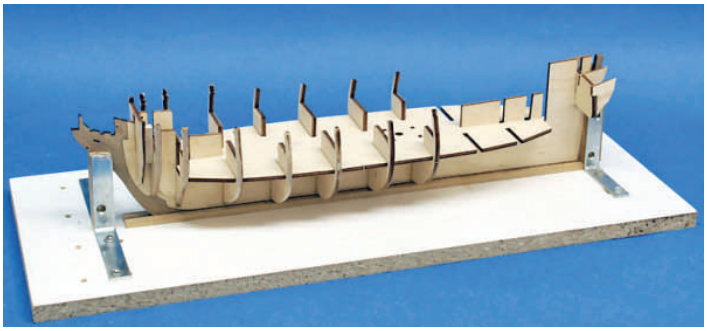
Bob has captured the true feeling of flight in his latest creation and we were glad he shared it with us.

Keep up the good work, mate.

See Ships-on-Deck, Page 3

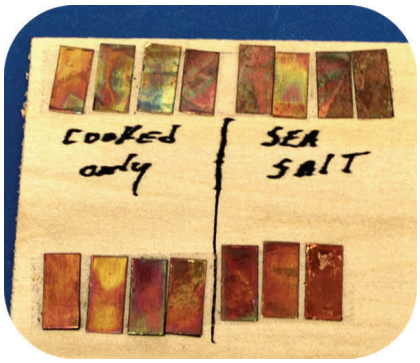
Ships-on-Deck, continued from Page 2

Sid Wotman has begun a new project and we know he will plan to complete it in this decade for sure. The model he chose was the 1:64 "Victory Models" (Amati) kit of the



1776 sloop HMS *Fly*. Going by the ad photos of this model, Sid will have a very beautiful result, as this is a fine looking vessel. And judging from Sid's working base, he will have a very square hull, as well. This issue was of a particular concern to him, so we know he'll get it right. Nice startup, mate.

Robert Wicklander is working on a 1:96 model of the HMS *Victory* and has been experimenting with various methods to treat the hull's copper plates. We were shown a test set that compared the effects of treating the plates with heat and with immersion in a sea salt solution. Robert prefers the sea salt, and it certainly looked good to all of us, as well.



Peter Pennigsdorf has finished his "Footy" *Blue Max* and has only to launch her in water in the coming week end. His results look very seaworthy and we hope he has much success. The sails were made out of drafting film and then colored with Testers paint. This is a trial solution open to change, depending on their sailing performance. We'll look forward to a full report next month, mate. Happy sailing!

Bob Sykes has his next project, the 1:60 OcCre kit of the Spanish galleon *Apostol Felipe*, well in hand - having only started on her since our last meeting.

Despite its origins, Bob says this kit is fun to build and goes together without much trouble. The wood finish he used was a sealer followed by a light waxing. Really brings out the beauty in the wood. Sticks and string come next. As usual, a fine piece of work, mate.

John Hirsch has "launched" his modeling hobby by building the HMS *Bounty Launch* by "Model Shipways". As his first model, results have been very rewarding, however John said that one thing bothered him: "For laser cut, finish is not the best". Other *Bounty Launch* builders were right there to lend a hand and help John with his concerns. After such a good start, we're sure you'll by happy with the results, mate.

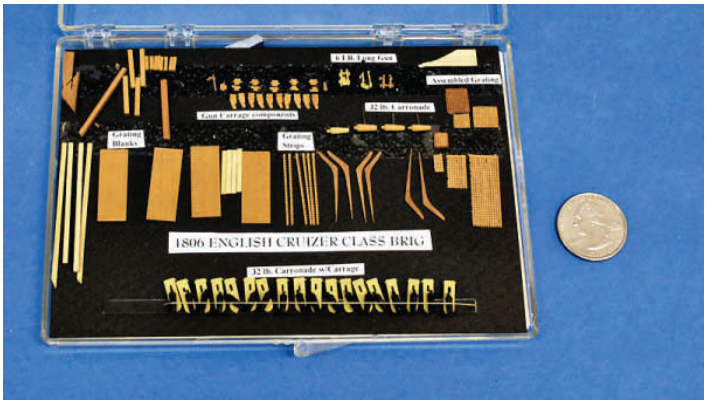
See Ships-on-Deck, Page 4

Ships-on-Deck, continued from Page 3

Hal Chaffee brought in a "Model Shipways" kit #2029 of the 1851 American schooner *America* in a scale of 3/16" = 1'. This model builds to a length of 25.5" and a height of 21". This kit will be sold with the proceeds to go to the Midwest Model Shipwrights! A very fine gesture and very appreciated by all. Thank you mate.

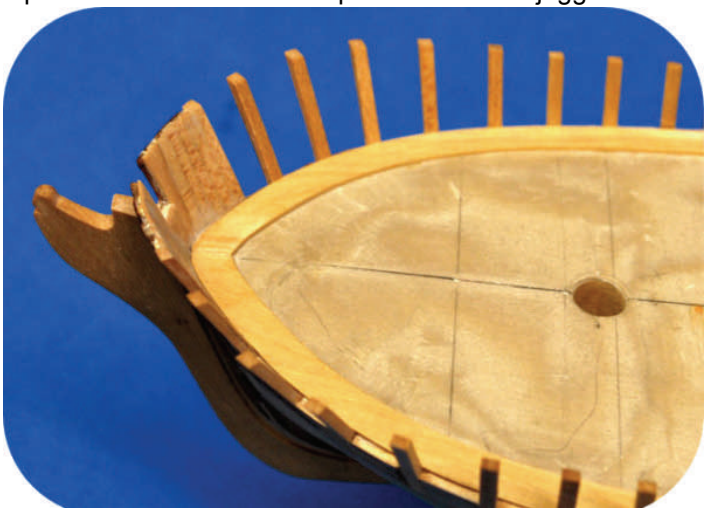
Tim Riggs, after a very long hiatus, is once again turning his considerable talents to the completion of his 1:192 scale miniature of the Cruizer-class brig HMS *Grasshopper*. Since we last saw her back in April 2012, the long boat gallows, windlass, tiller and the 6-pounder cannons have been added.

Make no mistake, the deck furniture for this model is very, very small and can get misplaced very easily. A case in point was the boxful of parts lost among Tim's recent home moving crates. After having remade all the missing parts, what should appear but that mislaid box. A spare to go!

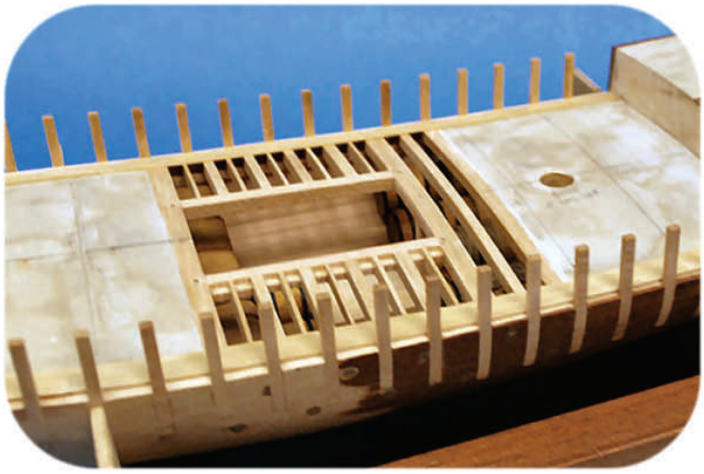


This certainly demonstrates one of Tim's strengths - patience. Your model shows your passion and intensity, mate. She's a beauty.

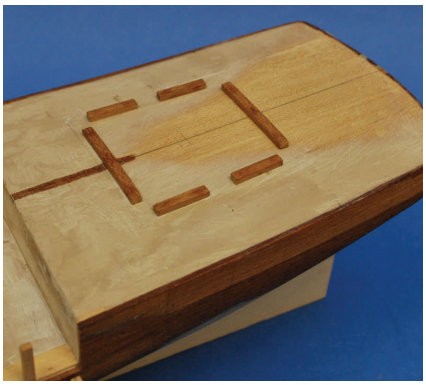
Bob Filipowski is now moving on after the successful completion of his highly detailed deck house by installing the deck margin planks on his 1:64 model of the schooner *Arrowsic*. Attention was paid to the design of these planks, so that the necessary scarf joints would not correspond to areas where deck planks would be joggled in.



In the photo above, the margin plank at the bow shows the seamless run where joggling will take place.



Amidships, the margin plank can be seen as a straight run with no scarf joints.



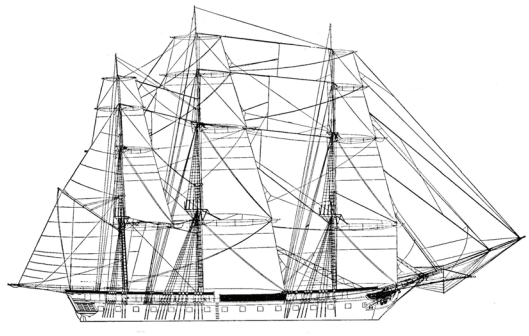
The stern has been prepared to accept the deck house by addition of locator cleats on the false deck. The cleats were installed to hold the deckhouse in the correct position, while the planking is applied around the deckhouse.

Your model is shaping up to be a real masterpiece, mate. All systems go!

See Ships-on-Deck, Page 5

Ships-on-Deck, continued from Page 4

Ken Goetz sent us photos of his USS *Constitution* built from the "Model Shipways" kit at a scale of 1:76.8.
As we have reported in previous issues, Ken can no longer transport his model in his car once all the masts have been added. Thanks to his photos, we are able to enjoy the beauty of his work. Thanks for sharing with us, mate. She's really shaping up first rate!



Some scenes around the room at the July meeting:

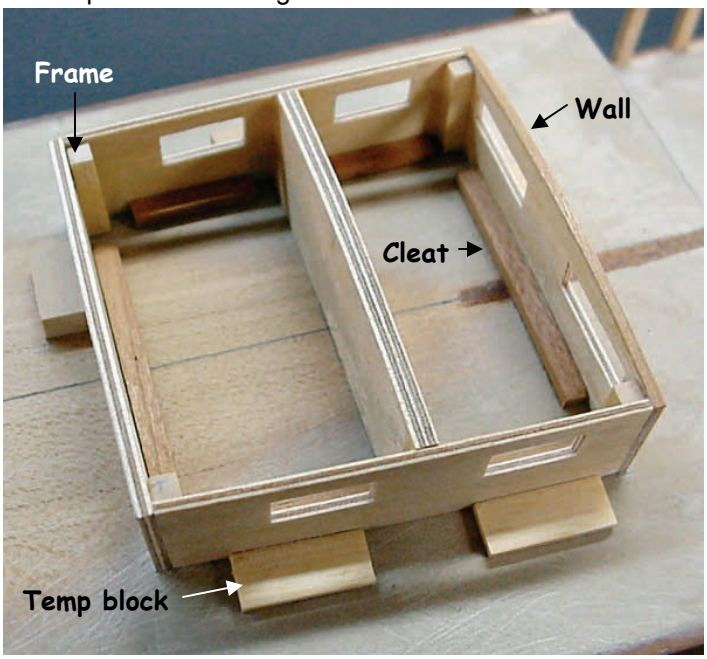
Robert Wicklander and Ray Oswalt exchange views.

Gus Agustin and Richard Kuenstler talk shop.

Deckhouse, continued from Page 1

What our eye is first drawn to is the companionway door and the compass box - why? Because they are a strong color and texture contrast to the rest of the deck house. Next we see the obvious planking on the deckhouse roof; also a texture and color contrast. It was very important to Bob to get these elements just right, as they play an important part in the overall appreciation of the object. A good lesson that "The devil is in the details". If you get the details right, the rest of the job will follow along. The deckhouse walls are also finely planked, the cabin windows with their weather shutters are also finely crafted and the roof and base trim are neatly applied. These elements act in a supporting roll to the more obvious details just described.

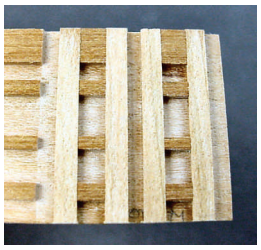
Looking at the basic construction details, we see how Bob cut the side walls out of plywood and then glued frame posts to their edges.

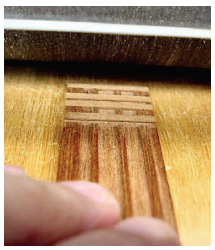


Cabin windows were cut out and the four walls were then glued together. To aid in alignment of the walls during gluing, Bob had pre-installed cleats on the false deck to fall just inside the cabin walls and temporary alignment blocks on the deck outside the walls. The bottom edges of the end walls had to be sanded to conform to the deck cant.

Once the roof was installed and the wall planking started, the window openings were cut out of the planking with a file, bottom first, top last.

Now to the details. The companionway door was made by first milling a piece of wood to form the horizontal/recessed panels, then gluing on wood





strips to form the vertical panels. The whole package was then drum sanded to arrive at the correct thickness. A very neat and a very straightforward method yielding a near perfect door rendition.

Inside the binnacle box, Bob installed a compass made from a section of brass tubing with a photocopied compass rose and plastic lens.

Time, effort and creativity created great details and these have given the whole package its overwhelming realism.

There was much to learn here, mates. Lucky us! *JRM*

Take the time...

Please check out our website. We are now featuring, in its entirety, C. A. Raven's treatise on building the USS *Cairo*. You can find it, and much more, at www.theNRG.org.

In addition to features on naval architecture, maritime trade, nautical history, and maritime arts, the Journal now offers more color photographs. articles on ship model building, and an expanded Shop Notes.

THE NAUTICAL RESEARCH GUILD

"Advancing Ship Modeling Through Research"

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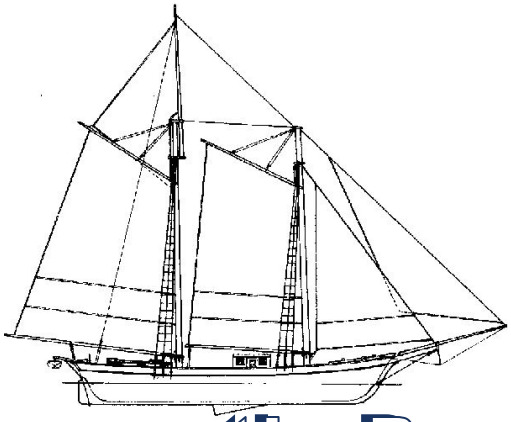

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