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#### Meetings

are held at **10:30 a.m.** on the fourth Tuesday of each month except December (none).

#### Location

is the lower level of Trinity Lutheran Church, 411-5th St. N., St. Petersburg. From I-275, Exit at I-375 East to second exit (4th Ave. N.). Proceed to traffic light at 5th St. N., turning left. Church is on right. Parking is to the left of the church.

#### **Objectives**

This Society is an organization of model builders, historians and artists who encourage the construction of nautical models, creation of marine art, and research in maritime history, at every level of expertise, through the exchange of ideas and presentations.

#### Membership

There is no charge to attend meetings, and all interested parties are invited. Annual dues of \$12 are payable in **January**.

#### Presentations

Members and guests are encouraged to bring in or send projects current and past, plans, modeling problems or maritime-related items of interest for discussion, or inclusion in the monthly *Ship's Log*.

Next Meeting Tuesday, July 23, 10:30 a.m.

### **TampaBayShipModelSociety**

#### Meeting of June 25, 2024

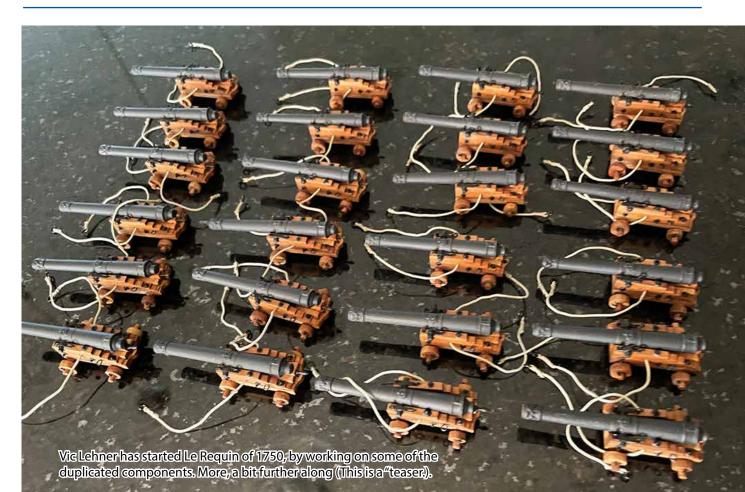
#### TampaBayShipModelSociety.org

This regular meeting was called to order by President **Steve Sobieralski**, who notified the attending members of your Sec/Ed's recent article in the Nautical Research Journal. The subject is my research on John Savarese's ship, S.S. *Mistletoe* (ca. 1892-1917), primarily about confusion on her size. The article is a down-sized version of a treatise I attached a few months back. The full file has a lot of Tampa to Sarasota history. If you want a copy, just ask.

Our Treasurer, **George Hecht**, reported no significant change in our funds. There was some discussion regarding a minimum number of attendees that might trigger a meeting cancellation, in that we have entered the hurricane season, and a few members travel a distance. *No policy emerged, and the officers will address situations as they occur.* 

Admirable Ed Brut described the PAMS (Polk Area Model Society) yearly show, held June 22. That will be covered further along in this issue.

The society is not burdened by a lot of weighty issues, and so, after a little gamming, moved on to Show & Tell.



# **SHOW & TELL**

#### Ship'sLogTampaBayShipModelSociety2

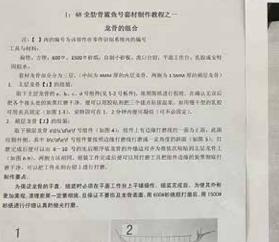
Mathematical - Balton

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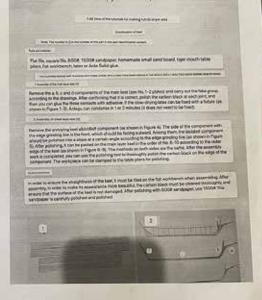


Vic Lehner: "Le Requin of 1750, Full Rib Version, Scale 1/48 (47.6"), Wood Model Ship Kit Xebec Ship. "A bit of an update on my ship building from far, far away.

I bought the kit from China, from CROWN HOBBY WORLD / Ebay stores. The kit I bought was the 'Le Requin', made of Pear and Boxwood. When it arrived, I noticed that all instructions were in Chinese (no English version was available and I was aware of that when I bought it), so the first challenge was converting it to English. To do that I took a picture of the page in Chinese and forwarded to my e-mail. Pull it up in my mail and right click, and then save in download. I then opened another window with google translate and clicked on the download pulling the image to google translate - images. To get a printed copy after translation I right click on translated item and saved it into documents.



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Sent from my Phone



Photos from Vic

I then pulled it up from documents and clicking on the 3 dots you will find print. It was the Geek Squad at Best Buy that helped me with getting a process in place to translate all the plans. After I got the hang of it, it went well.

Picture shows before and after. I decided to start by making the components with the oars being first, then the cannons (each will have around 60 pieces per cannon when mounted) and finely the service boat. The service boat is built upside down using a frame provided in the kit and I am now about halfway through with it.

Each component when tackling it is like a mini kit. Building the components, I found to be no different than any other kit I have built except the service boat. It was like a Harold Hahn method and extremely detailed.

The kit is excellent, and the only drawback is that it takes forever to remove the char from the laser cut pieces."

This longboat is available as a separate kit, for around \$70."







Photos from Vic



Jeff Potter: "I brought this (Halcon kit from Amazon in 1:100 by GA-WEGM) build in progress to show what they can expect for \$18, for a wooden ship kit. I purchased this kit as a group build project. In my previous club (Rocky Mountain Shipwrights) we decided it would be fun for a bunch of us to get this kit to see what could be done with them. Not long after I started, I needed to pack for my move from Colorado to Florida, and I have just recently arrived at the point where I can start working on models.

Back to the kit. You can't expect much in a wooden ship kit for \$18. The bulkheads did fit nicely on the false keel. However, the single sheet page of instructions printed on both sides (the second sheet is just 1:1 print of the sails if you want to make them). They do provide fabric material in the kit. Instructions are severely lacking to the point of not providing any information on masting and rigging at all. There is a small bit of thread for rigging, but nothing is included in the way of blocks or deadeyes.

The canon barrels are flat silhouettes of barrels made of thin plywood. I did notice that there is a new version of the kit available for just under \$21 that includes brass barrels, but it has the 7 flat wood barrels included too! There are parts included that are not used, and there are some wood parts that are not included. I had to make channels out of scrap wood from the kit (thankfully there was enough).





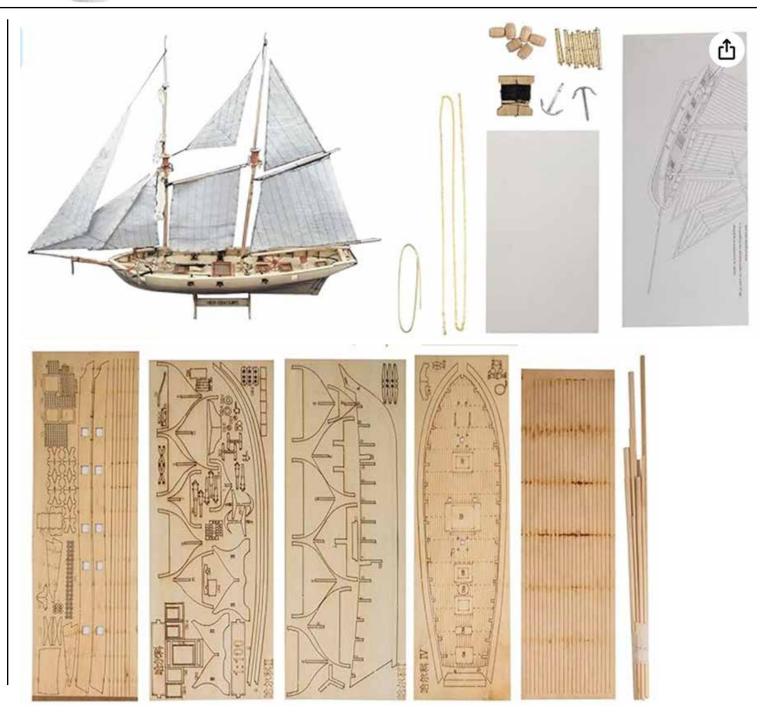
Even the new kit is lacking this part. The picture of the completed kit shows next to no rigging (including no shrouds).

So, for my build, I found some brass barrels I can use. They were as much as the kit cost. Then I found HiS Models out of the Czech Republic. They have a block kit which includes blocks, deadeyes and rigging plans. This set was twice the cost of the kit, but I will admit they are very good quality. So, now my \$18 kit cost is closing in on \$80.

At the time, there was no information I was able to find on a real ship called the *Halcon*, but it appeared to me to be a Baltimore Clipper. Now some of the new kits say it is a "Baltimore" Clipper so, that is what I'm using for a masting plan.

It's an interesting challenge when you are not totally sure of the orientation of parts to be connected for the kit. I will bring it back much later in the build process for all to see."

Photos from the www







**Captain Howard Howe:** "The fabrication of the first level deck cabin for the *Barbara-Lee* has been mostly completed. This required scratch building the sides, bow, and stern walls per my drawings based on photos, measurements and original boat plans. I am using 3/32" bass wood and hand cutting out the windows and other features. Now I really appreciate the kits with die cut parts!

My plan is to make each section removable for access to internal wiring and mechanical parts. As a display, I will have the stern wheels and external lights operational from a 3v DC source and timer.

I pondered about tinting the plastic windows since I would not have interior details for viewing. After several experiments, I just painted the interior plastic side gray. The exterior plastic will still be reflective and have the window look. All exterior walls are being painted before adding details, windows, and assembly.

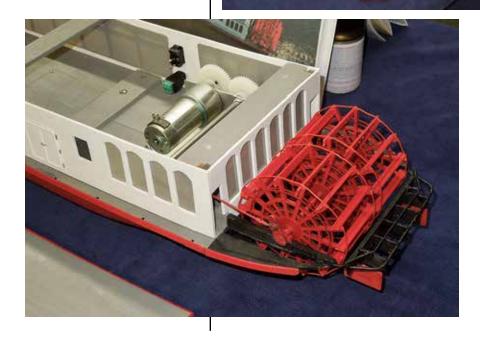


One of the challenging features of the model is ensuring the proper curve of each deck. Before painting, I soaked each red side trim piece in alcohol and set to dry in a curved nail pattern on a board. After painting, when glued to the thin deck piece, it formed the necessary curve. They will then be attached in place with screws.

The next challenge will be to start the second level deck cabin and create the multiple stairways and hand rails!"









Above photo from Howard





**Guy Hancock:** "I continue working on the colonial schooner, *Sultana*. Not a lot of progress on the model this month as we took a short RV trip and **also got married.** I bought a \$15 desktop cooler that helps me work in the garage when it is so hot. It puts out a surprisingly strong stream of cool air which is great when I need to use some of the tools in the garage.

I read the book Skipjacks of the Chesapeake that Irwin loaned me (Chesapeake Bay Skipjacks, P. Vojtech, Tidewater Publications). It is a good history of oystering in the bay, the boats, and especially the oystermen who coped with bad weather, harsh conditions, poor economics, and old boats. I lived near the bay for 3 years and enjoyed seeing these workboats.

I am reading *Wood, Fiberglass, and Steel, The History of Boat Building on Florida's Gulf Coast,* by John and Laura Pether. It brings back many memories of the boats and boat companies from the 70's here in Pinellas County. I lusted after many of these boats and owned a couple myself. **Bob Johnson** is mentioned numerous times as he was a yacht designer for several firms before starting the **Island Packet** boat company. The amount of research and detail about boats, designers, and companies is amazing and I am glad this history has been documented."

(Charley Morgan, too)

Chesapeake Bay Skiviacks Text and Photographs by Pat Vojtech

Wood, Fiberglass, and Steel The History of Boat Building on Florida's Gulf Coast

John and Laura Pether





**Chuck LaFave:** (Donations collected:) "The gentleman the models and tools belonged to started the kit, but died while working on the *Constellation*. He was building the ship for a friend, and it needs to be finished and given to his friend.

I hope someone from our club or Naples can do it, because I'm working on three jobs for this guy, who has 30 to 40 displayed in his home and more in his summer place.

So, while there are three kits started (*Essex*, *Constellation* and *Emma Berry*), *Constellation* is the one that needs to be finished. Also, he donated a tub with all kinds of stuff like wood, hand tools and fittings, and yet another tub of books, plans and other miscellaneous items."

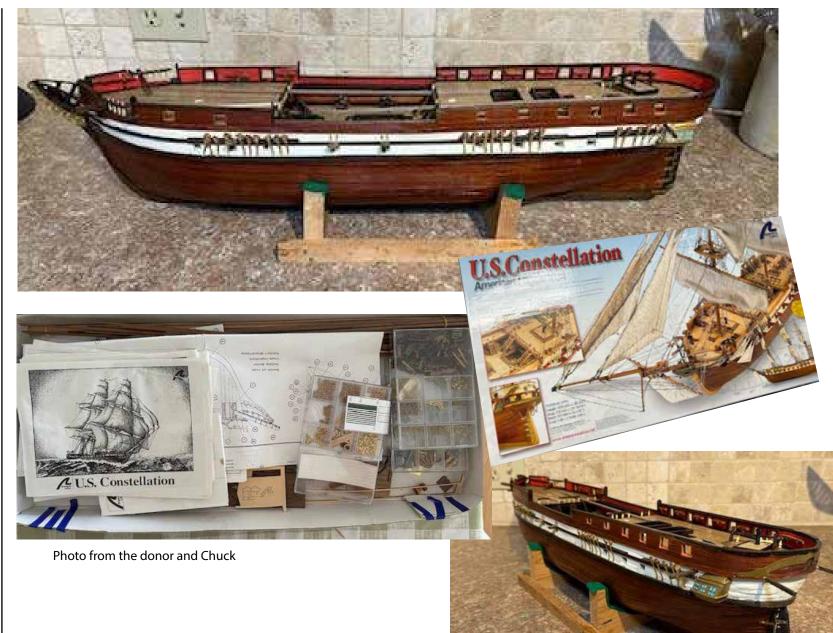










Photo from the donor and Chuck







**Doug Hamilton:** "I brought two models to this meeting; first, my completed model is the 13" Seacoast Mortar on a rail car, known as *The Dictator*. The 13" Seacoast Mortar was a high angle artillery piece, emplaced on a small rail car during the Civil War battle that became known as *The Siege of Petersburg* (VA).

This was a piece of Federal artillery that was used to throw shells into a heavily defended Confederate position. The gun tube weighed in at about 13,000 lbs. and, while the tube and it's bed had the provision for elevation, little could be done to give it traverse, or motion to port or starboard. To gain that advantage, Federal forces used an ingenious method of parking the car on a curve in the track thus enabling enough traverse to change the complexion of the battle.

The kit is 3-D printed in 1/72 scale. It is printed in resin which makes it easy to work on. Attachment point clean-up was quick and easy, and the total build time for this project was one week!! It may be the fastest model I've ever done!! The parts list of the kit is simple and contains all the parts seen on the model. The rail car parts list contains front and rear trucks, platform, and two platform extensions that fit into slots in the trucks. The gun is two parts consisting of the tube and the bed.

Other parts included are a set of pioneer tools, a rammer and swab, bucket, five rounds of ball ammunition, one of which has handling tongs printed as part of the ball, and three barrels.



Assembly was simple and straight forward and I encountered no issues during the build. No instructions were included, but they're not really needed. Everything is self-explanatory, plus I've built this type of mortar before and have a ton of references regarding Civil War Heavy Artillery.

I spent most of the time on painting and finishing the model. The kit includes a short section of rails and ties which I epoxied to a wood base I had in my stock. I added ballast between the rails and ties to simulate a railroad bed. I assembled the rail car and attached it to the completed bed, then added the mortar bed and the tube. The additional parts were finished then added to various places on the rail car around the mortar to complete the build.

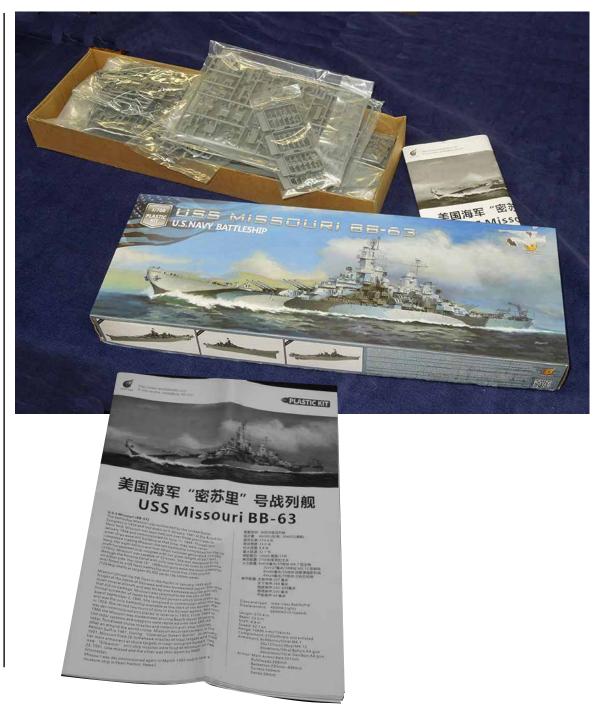
I brought the completed model to PamsCon held in Plant City last weekend. It took a Silver Medal in the Military Vehicle category.

The second model I showed is a 1/700 scale Battleship, BB 62, the USS Missouri from a Chinese Company known as Very Fire Models. won the kit in the raffle at PamsCon, along with a few other kits. I've never seen any offerings from this company or heard of them, but am impressed by the contents of the box. This kit has what looks to be hundreds of parts, many of them guite tiny in reflecting the scale of this diminutive giant!! The parts are nicely molded and look like it should build into a nice representation of The Bia Mo!! Missouri is currently a Museum ship located in Pearl Harbor, and faces the USS Arizona, as if to guard her from further attack. It's on my bucket list to get back to Pearl and tour her. I've toured Wisconsin (The Big Whiskey) and New Jersey (The *Big J*) and still need to get to *Big* MO and the class namesake *lowa*!!

PamsCon was a very nice event. There was a light turnout in the Ship category with 11 models populating it. I judged and by default was Head Ship Judge. The range of work in this area ranged from museum quality to amateur. Best Ship went to a beautifully rendered Italian Battleship *Roma*. The show was a GSB judging style event, which meant that every model was judged against itself and must have met a certain standard to be awarded a Gold, Silver of Bronze award.

There was also the option of not awarding a metal if warranted. We were charged in the Judges Meeting with awarding the model with the award the builder deserved, and no award if a model had several major construction mistakes. We were able to move through the category quickly, and our results were fair, benefited the modeler in close situations and were honest appraisals of the what we looked at. My CSS Tennessee was awarded a Gold and was in the running for Best Nautical Subject. I excused myself during the judging of my entry and had no part in the discussion.

Next Years PamsCon event will be held 21 June, 2025, also at the Plant City location. Next up is the IPMS National Convention, which will be held in Madison WI July 17-20th. I'm looking forward to going and will have a full report at the July meeting!! "





**George Hecht:** "My two for this month were the 1940's MacDill AFB Crash Boat and a diorama of *Rogers' Rangers of 1759*, which I brought for the water effects I added. I used clear and white silicone.

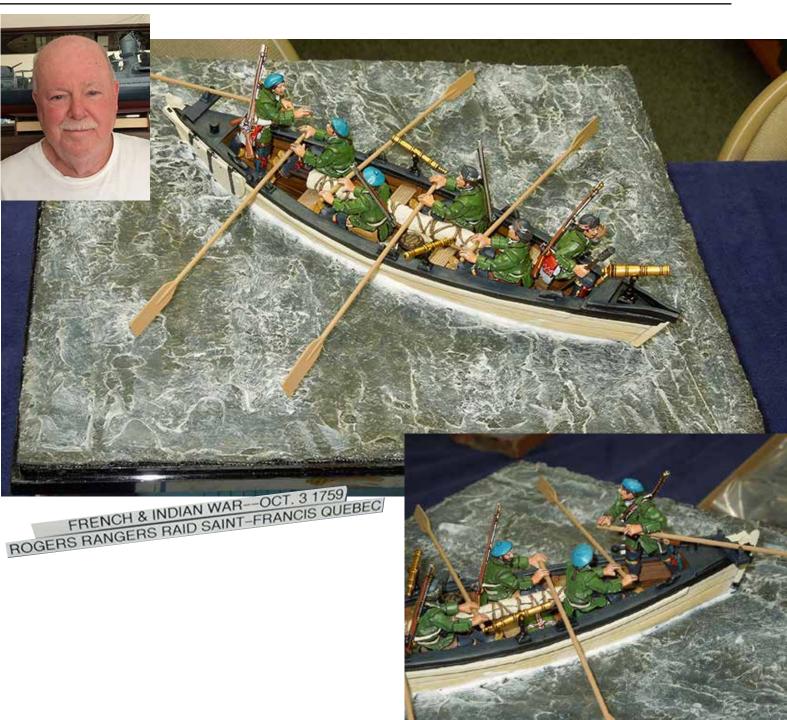
Once you decide on the state you want the water to be in, squeeze out the clear in rows and fluff it up with a tongue depressor. Then, add the white, a bit at a time, and paint it up with an "acid brush." Get creative, applying a bit at a time, to look like sea foam. Too much or too little is up to you! I saw the technique done at a How-to Demo years ago.

The model comes as a kit, Pewter figures, Resin boat, fully painted. Just add glue. The base is the bottom of the case, painted dark blue. I glued down the boat and went to work. (George used Super Glue. Note that for the water technique to work, the surface must have color applied, first ).

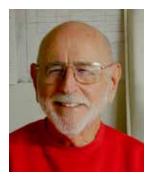
**Q.** What silicone? Answer: off the shelf product for sealing and water-proofing.

(Is Sec/Ed the only member who did not recognize the term, "Acid Brush"? George told it is a disposable, used for applying any crappy material such as grease, gelcoat, resin, etc. Horsehair or nylon bristles and metal handle. He thinks his preferred Acid Brushes have Horsehair bristles).

(Next page) The crash boat was a modified kit from the 1950s or -60s. I left off the guns because it was pre-war."







Irwin Schuster (Sec/Ed): The sloop-yacht, *Emilia of Nisida*, is at the fitting- out stage. To review, **Chuck** LaFave rebuilt and refinished the hull, laid a new deck and designed and made the current cockpit-cabin. We are pretty sure we exterminated the termites. It was shown with tentative standing rigging, scattered deck fittings and paraphernalia.

Nisida is a small, volcanic island at the north edge of the Gulf of Naples, 8-10 miles from that city, and where the model owner was born. I created a name graphic, printed it out in a few sizes in gold and black, and applied them with Mod-Podge, a liquid commonly used in decoupage.

My method of determining the intended scale was to find a male figure, assign it a height of 5'-10" and print it out in a series of sizes. Then, I posed each aboard until I found one that looked comfortable. I assigned the hull a length of 40 feet, did the math and out came a scale of 1/16.

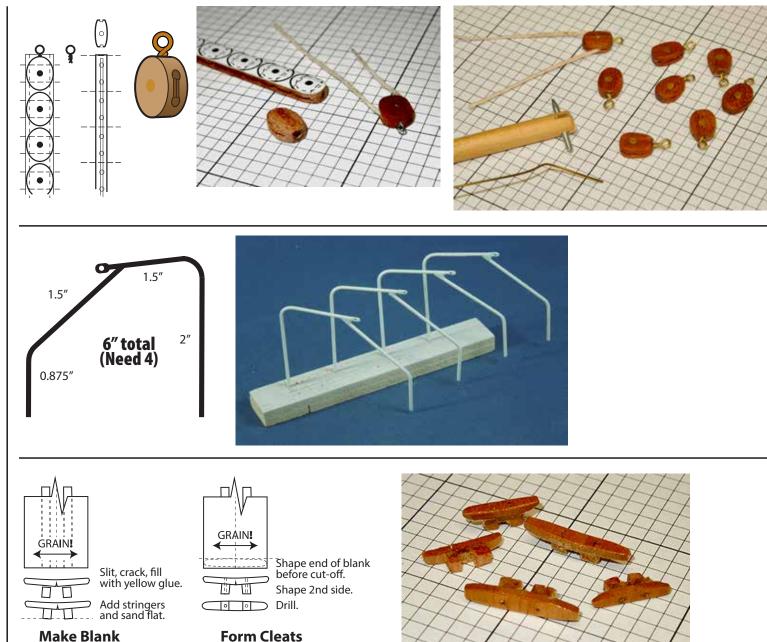
Rigging Bowsies / Bowsers are in place at this point, as a paean to the model's origin as a pond yacht. They may stay, or they may go, rather in-



inconsistent with the faux turnbuckles, but much of the model is that way. No sheets are in place, as yet, as I have (had) not yet found or made the blocks required. The mast is slotted but no decisions have been made as to how the sails (to be sewn by the owner\*) will be attached.

I produced lifeline stanchions and pulpit parts to my own design such that four identical structures were formed and successfully soldered. I used a technique of "Vise-Grip-Forging" to flatten the 1/16" brass rods, which were then drilled. The tip flattening can be done in 2-3 stages. Squeeze all at one setting, then adjust the tool and do them all again. Centering the drill bits is a challenge at that size. Last, I made a deck winch starting with a push-pin, and showed cherry cleats, shaped as if a shaped extrusion, rounded a bit, then chopped and rounded on the cut side. Blocks, too.





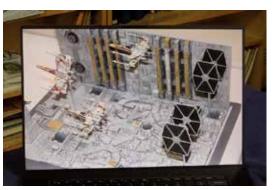


**Ed Brut:** "The PAMS (Polk Area Model Society) held their yearly show June 22. The show was well attended with over 400 models shown. The ship category of 11 entries was sparse but nicely filled.

I will start with the kid's category showing the wellknown Titanic in Lego type blocks complete with iceberg. In the miscellaneous category was found two related "ship" items, the mechanical shark used in the movie JAWS and a VW getting the "fishing bug".

On to the "ship side" a 1/700 scale mine sweeper about 3 inches long, In the same scale a US Navy LCAC hover landing craft. In the larger scale 1/350 ROMA Italian battleship, and a Kaiser's dreadnought. The category was filled out with several reruns from the Spacecoast show a month ago. Several German U-boats from 1/700 to 1/350 to 1/72 scale, nuclear boats Skipjack and Nautilus, and a commercial push boat tug."



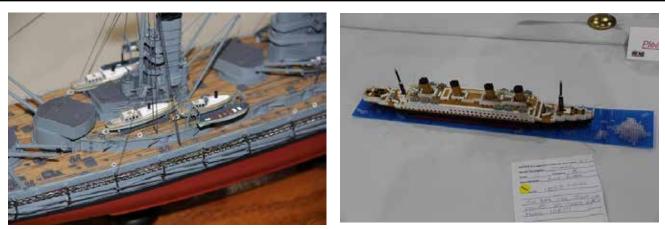




Some photos from Ed. The others show his laptop at the meeting, cycling through the lot











Photos from Ed







Skipper Steve Sobieralski: USS John S McCain "I brought in my recently completed (except for a permanent stand and base) 1/200 model of the Arleigh Burke class destroyer, USS John S McCain DDG 56. Originally named after John S McCain Sr., and John S Mc-Cain Jr., both admirals in the United States Navy, the ship was rededicated to include John S McCain III, navy Captain and US Senator, shortly before he died.

The model was built using a recently released plastic kit by the PRC company I Love Kit, which is a subsidiary of TRUMPETER. From the box it builds the USS *Curtis Wilbur* DDG 54, but a long-time admiration for the McCain family made me decide to build it as their namesake ship. The two ships are virtually identical, so a name and number change is all that was required. The kit from the





box is quite detailed with a myriad of detail parts (some extremely tiny) and six frets of photoetch. While I am sure improvements could be made to some of the kit parts I decided the kit was good enough to build it "out of the box".

My major disappointment was the kit-provided SH-60B helicopter. For all their previous large scale ship kits TRUMPETER has provided aircraft molded in clear plastic. This allows any canopies or windows to be masked off prior to painting the exterior color and leaves these areas clear. Unfortunately, the helicopter provided with the kit is molded in solid gray plastic, so I had to resort to using segments of black decal cut to shape for the windows.

Arleigh Burke Class Destroyers from Wikipedia: The Arleigh Burke class of guided-missile destroyers (DDGs) is a United States Navy class of destroyer centered around the Aegis Combat System and the SPY-1D multi-function passive electronically scanned array radar. The class is named for Admiral Arleigh Burke, an American destroyer officer in World War II and later Chief of Naval Operations. With an overall length of 505 to 509.5 feet (153.9 to 155.3 m), displacement ranging from 8,300 to 9,700 tons, and weaponry including over 90 missiles, the Arleigh Burke-class

destroyers are larger and more heavily armed than many previous classes of guided-missile cruisers.

These warships are multi-mission destroyers able to conduct anti-aircraft warfare with Aegis and surface-to-air missiles: tactical land strikes with Tomahawk missiles: anti-submarine warfare (ASW) with towed array sonar, anti-submarine rockets, and ASW helicopters: and anti-surface warfare (ASuW) with ship-to-ship missiles and guns. With upgrades to their AN/SPY-1 radar systems and their associated missile payloads as part of the Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense System, as well as the introduction of the AN/ SPY-6 radar system, the class has also evolved capability as mobile anti-ballistic missile and anti-satellite platforms.

The lead ship of the class, USS Arleigh Burke, was commissioned during Admiral Burke's lifetime on 4 July 1991. With the decommissioning of the last Spruance-class destroyer, USS Cushing, on 21 September 2005, the Arleigh Burke-class ships became the U.S. Navy's only active destrovers until the Zumwalt class became active in 2016. The Arleigh Burke class has the longest production run of any U.S. Navy surface combatant. As of October 2023, all seventy-three built are active, with nineteen more planned to enter service."





**Fairlie Brinkley:** (Fairlie intended to attend and describe progress of the Gulf Coast Maritime Museum, but life got in the way).

"The latest from the museum -Pat (Ball-Treasurer), expected the (potential site) Railroad Museum to approve a revised lease at their last board meeting but unfortunately it was not presented. Pat is at his summer place in Maine so action is not expected until he returns in the fall.

Good news is an article about us in a local magazine is being written and our new museum director/consultant seems to be getting her sea legs.

Courtney Ross and I were in St. Pete yesterday to look at a 54-foot *Morgan*-designed sloop which is being offered to the museum. She's a nice looking CCA (Cruising Club of America – rule) fiberglass boat.

The discussion is about displaying her in front of the museum building along #301 as an eye catcher. Courtney says she's structurally sound & I think she's a good candidate for a donation; however, we both agree it would not be prudent to proceed until we have a ground lease and a place to store her until the land is cleared and graded. The gift should come up for discussion at the next (GCMM) board meeting.

I'm hoping future board meetings will continue to be open to all advisory board members.

Again, I am disappointed that I had to miss the model meeting."





These photos from Fairlie, who builds to a different drummer

#### A plea for model part source

Fellow Model Ship Crafters - Modelers.

I have recently learned that SHAPEWAYS, which in the past has provided me with a number of 3 D printed 1/96 scale model ship fittings and parts has apparently gone bankrupt.

I am now in need of other sources of 3 D printed, 1/96 scale USN WW 2 era parts and fittings. Does anyone in the group know of and have the contact information for someone or some company that can assist me with obtaining additional parts needed to complete my ship model? I am modeling (essentially scratch built) USS *Constellation* CC 2 (a *Lexington* Class Battlecruiser) as reconstructed for service in late WW 2, similar to *USS West Virginia* BB 48.

Please advise and thank you.

#### **Russ Wick**

**Skipper Steve Sobieralski** responded: "I was aware of this and, yes, I consider it bad news. I have bought a fair amount of parts from SHAPEWAYS over the years and will miss them. As I understood their business model, they were basically a catalog for a lot of different 3D designers. The designers displayed their offered items and SHAPEWAYS received the orders, manufactured the items and shipped them. Their website featured several designers who produced modern warship fittings in various scales. The question is will any of them either find someone else to produce their products or will they take on the production themselves.

The cry for possible alternatives is being heard across the ship modeling internet."

Steve

Sec/Ed will relay any sources supplied, to Russ.



Alex Bellinger: (Re historical accuracy) "I think of the popular 1854 brigantine *Newsboy*, which is well documented by the 1856 Griffith's article (in U.S. Monthly Nautical Magazine. Ya'll recall that, don't you?). That gives hull lines, sail plan, the log of one voyage and an ever-tantalizing remark about her deck arrangement. It is a wonderful view of the clipper ship principles applied to a smaller vessel.

This led to the popular MODEL SHIPWAYS kits, in 1/8" and 3/16", along with George Campbell's well detailed plans, and many models of the brig. In 1980, Erik Ronnberg Jr. took exception to a number of features of the Campbell plan and developed a new reconstruction, expressed through a model made by his father, and explained in his article in Model Ship Builder. There was one well known ship portrait, by William Badger and another recently came to light which confirmed some, but not all, of Erik's ideas.

Because of the brig's date and size, I personally favored the idea of a single topsail even though her double topsail was clear in Griffith's sail plan and noted in the text. Both ship portraits show her with a single topsail.

So, in theory, it could be said all models of *Newsboy* are probably incorrect, to some degree. At least, some of each interpretation is open to speculation. All of this should not stop the production of models of *Newsboy*. She is a very attractive brig and many model makers have enjoyed bringing her to life in 3 dimensions.

I have personally made 9 (all in bottles)."

[Alex is a past associate and super boat bottler, in MA.]



2 gallon kerosene bottle, scale approx. 18' = 1''Basically done from George Campbell's Model Shipways plans, with some modifications based on Erik Ronnberg's 1980 article on this brig. Photo sent by Alex







Potential model to clean out your leftover parts boxes



Private aircraft carrier





