

Ship's Log

\$12. DUES ARE PAST DUE! TampaBayShipModelSociety

Meeting of February, 2025

TampaBayShipModelSociety.org

President Steve Sobieralski

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Treasurer George Hecht

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Secretary/Newsletter Editor Irwin Schuster

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Webmaster Phillip Schuster. Contact Sec/Ed.

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, Mar. 25, 10:30 a.m.

President Sobieralski called the regular February, 2025 meeting to order. **Treasurer Hecht** accepted dues from attendees.

Please Note: As of this time, **\$12.** dues are payable, and checks should be made out to, "Tampa Bay Ship Model Society." Cash is okay, too. Send payments to: **George Hecht, Treasurer**, 408 Kerry Drive, Clearwater, FL 33765.

Be aware that our mate and past President, **Ed Brut** had a gravitational encounter with stairs, requiring hospitalization and rehab. He hopes to be back for the upcoming meeting, to report on an IPMS figure show in Atlanta, that he attended.

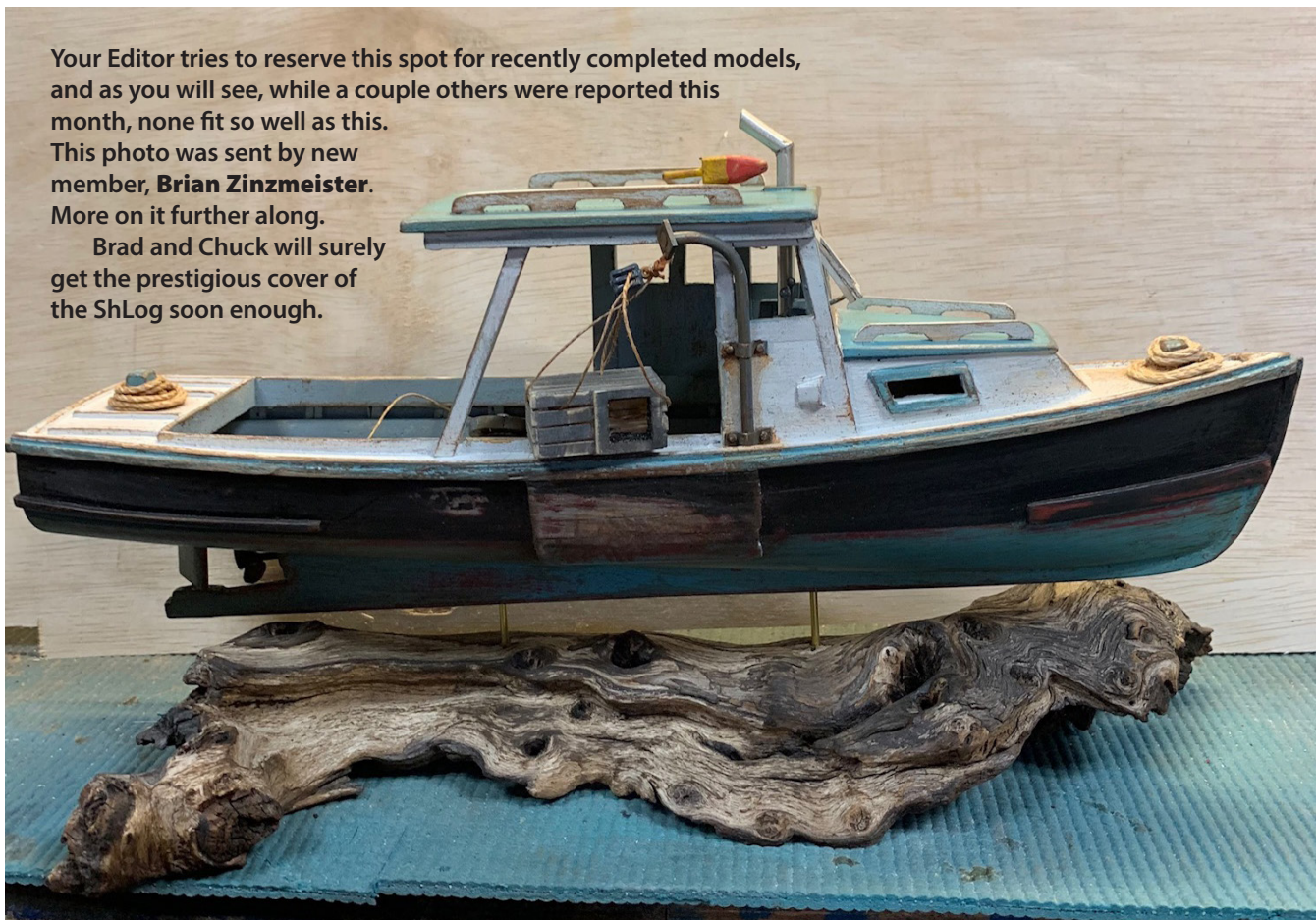
Steve welcomed a visitor, **Courtney Ross**, past owner of Ross Yacht Sales of Clearwater. Courtney was traveling with **Fairlie Brinkley**, en route, along with your Sec/Ed, to a board meeting of the *Gulf Coast Maritime Museum*. *GCMM* is a 501(C)3 organization, now with land in Parrish, adjacent to the RR Museum.

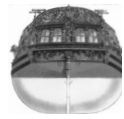
Finally, **Brian Zinzmeister** joined the crew. There being no further business, the meeting turned to *Show and Tell*.

Your Editor tries to reserve this spot for recently completed models, and as you will see, while a couple others were reported this month, none fit so well as this.

This photo was sent by new member, **Brian Zinzmeister**. More on it further along.

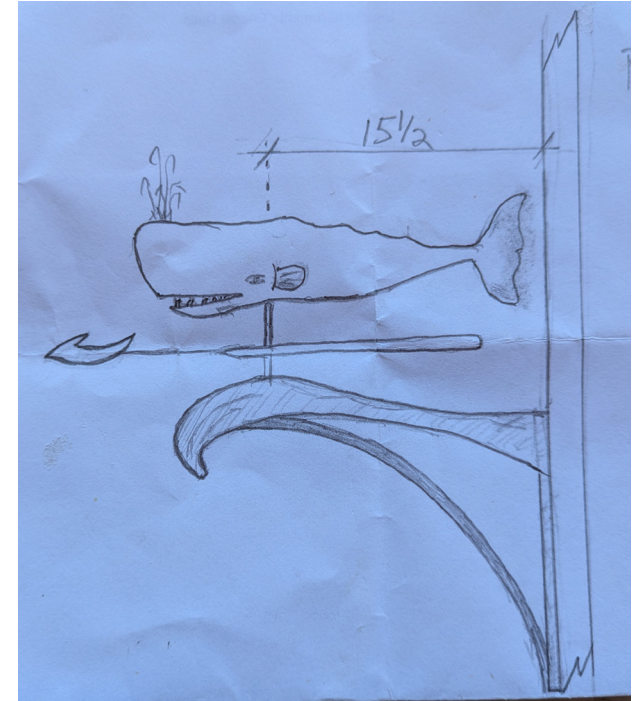
Brad and Chuck will surely get the prestigious cover of the *ShLog* soon enough.



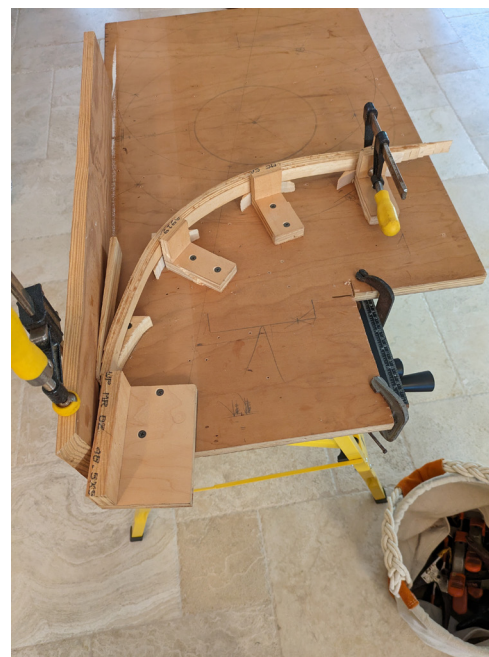


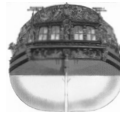
Brad Murray: "You don't need a weatherman to know which way the wind blows" - Bob Dylan. A whirly whale will do. Because whales live on the bounding main, a bracket in the shape of a wave seemed most appropriate. A simple sketch yielded one critical dimension; the distance from the pivot to the post the bracket was to hang on. Fifteen and a half inches would allow a full swing with the flukes just clearing the post. The other requirement was that the bracket be removable. A small bronze plate with three keyholes was let into a board. A thin, curved glue-lam for support suggests the shape of the wave. The two cheek pieces were fashioned from a cedar clapboard. A length of brass tube for the pivot pierces the harpoon which points due North.

*[If justification is needed for including such subjects, notice **WoodenBoat** offers courses in Shaker box-making, by putting **WHALES** on the box covers!]*



4 Photos from Brad.





The finish is two coats of oil-based sanding sealer, ("Old Masters") not the most durable of finishes but it yields a nice matt surface and is easily retouched.

When the weather is inclement the vane can be easily moved to a protected inside corner of the porch where I can see it from my bed.

My first foray into scrimshaw will be on a very small whale's tooth. On one side will be a map of Nantucket Island with the tiny islands of Tuckernuck and Muskeget trailing off toward the tip of the tooth. On the thick end of the tooth will be a compass rose oriented correctly.

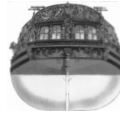
The reverse side will have the image of a Sperm Whale. I used a piece of carbon paper to transfer the map to the tooth. I've inserted sail-makers needles into dowels to create etching tools as would have been done originally.

The Whirly Whale, AKA the Anachronistic Anemometer in its natural environment" (above right).



Three images above, from Brad.



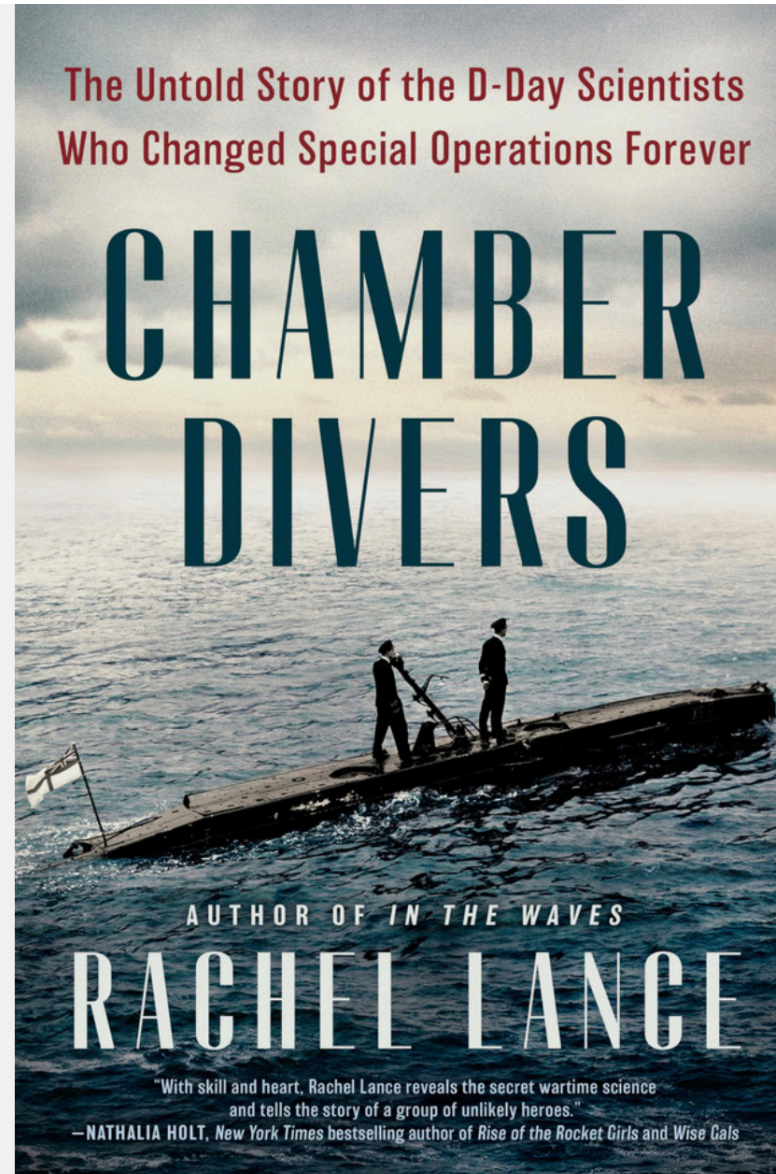


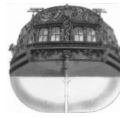
George Fehér: "Book *Chamber Divers* by Rachel Lance. The previously classified story of the eccentric researchers who invented cutting-edge underwater science to lead the Allies to D-Day victory

In August 1942, more than 7,000 Allied troops rushed the beaches of Normandy, France, in an all but-forgotten landing. Only a small fraction survived unscathed. It was two summers before D-Day, and the Allies realized that they were in dire need of underwater intelligence if they wanted to stand a chance of launching another beach invasion and of winning the war.

Led by the controversial biologists J. B. S. Haldane and Dr. Helen Spurway, an ingenious team of ragtag scientists worked out of homemade labs during the London Blitz. Beneath a rain of bombs, they pioneered thrilling advances in underwater reconnaissance through tests done on themselves in painful and potentially fatal experiments.

Their discoveries led to the safe use of miniature submarines and breathing apparatuses, which ultimately let the Allies take the beaches of Normandy. (AMAZON BOOKS)"





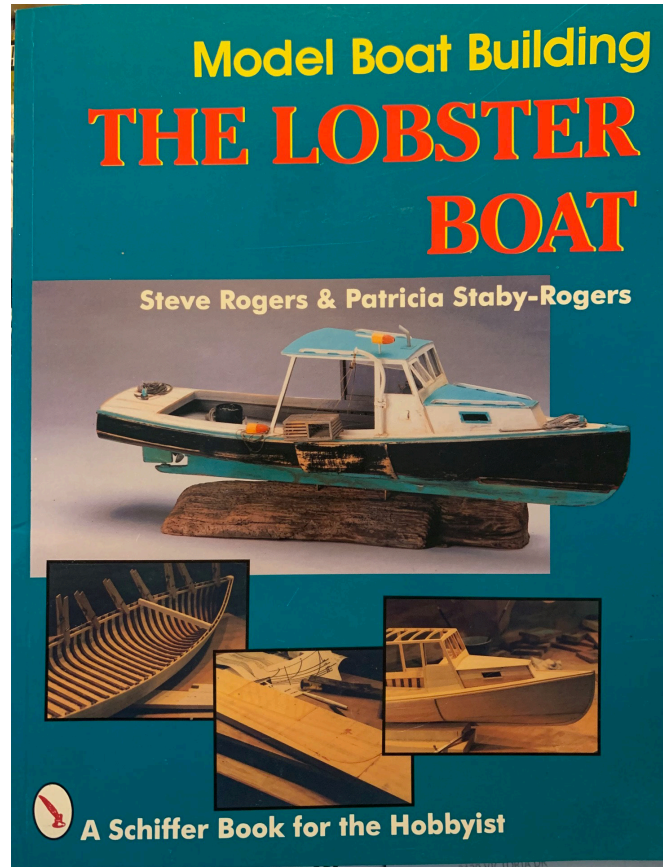
Brian Zinzmeister: "I built this model of a Beal's Island lobster boat based on the book by Steve and Patricia Rodgers, who modeled it from a design by a man named Alvin Beal.

The book gives you the lofting lines in $\frac{1}{4}$ " scale and Steve enlarges those to get a $\frac{3}{4}$ " scale for his model, which would end up being around 27". However, I wanted to build it smaller to display, so I went to $\frac{3}{8}$ " scale which made the model 13.5".

The first step was to build a mold of the inside of the hull using the cross section lines and sheer lines transferred to make outlines on wood used as reduced buttocks lifts.

The center lifts are left wider between stations 2 and 4 so it can be held a vise to shape the hull. (in my case I just attached an extra piece of wood with screws).

He then glues the lifts together (without nails) and then shapes



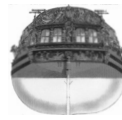
the hull by planing and rasping until it follows closely to the station lines.

After the mold is made you mark spacing for the ribs and draw lines where they will be placed. I made the ribs from poplar measuring $\frac{1}{8}$ "x3/16". I soaked them in ammonia in a PVC pipe with one end glued on and one end removable.

After 24 hours they are pliable enough to bend and attach to the mold with push pins (he uses nails, but then you have to pull them out later), at the lines previously drawn.

When the ribs are dry you can start planking the hull starting at the garboard on one side of the centerline and working toward the sheer line.



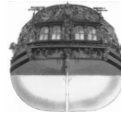


Be careful with the glue so as not to interfere with removal from the form later. Once the planking is finished, you can sand and fill any spaces and holes left by pins or nails before you pull it from form. This worked better than I imagined since you can place it back on the form to work on more until you are ready for interior bilge, gunnel and deck beams.

All the rest of the build out is explained, including the finishing, which I copied using a distressed look by sanding off paint in areas. I also chose a raw umber glaze to give it a weathered look. I got the idea of mounting it on driftwood from the book and found a particularly nice piece for it. Steve and his wife Patricia (who does the renderings) have a series of boat model books that I would recommend to any beginner like myself."



These "Under Construction" images from Brian.



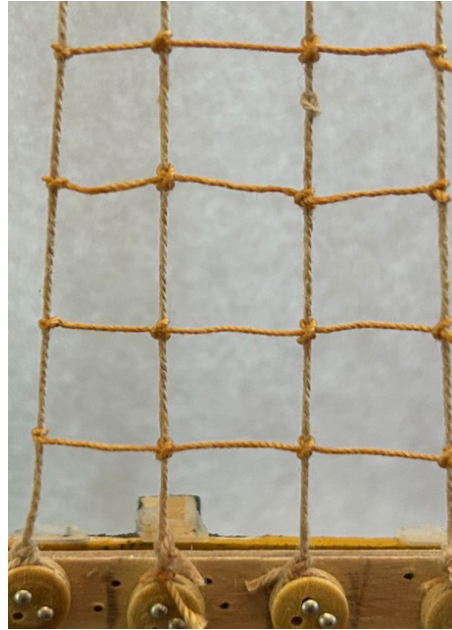
Chuck LaFave:

"I have three ways to do ratlines. The first is with typical knots, then clove hitches.

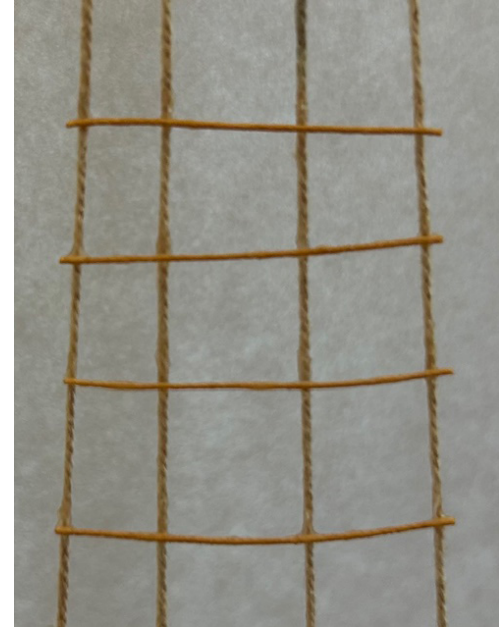
The second is straight lines. Put two nails in a piece of wood, then tie the string tight and coat with 50 percent white glue and water. Coat the string with glue and let it dry. Then using super glue, put a small dot on each line and clip a piece of stiff line on each dot.

The last is, a knot, then half clove hitches, then a clove hitch. Finally, put a small drop of 50/50 white glue on each knot."

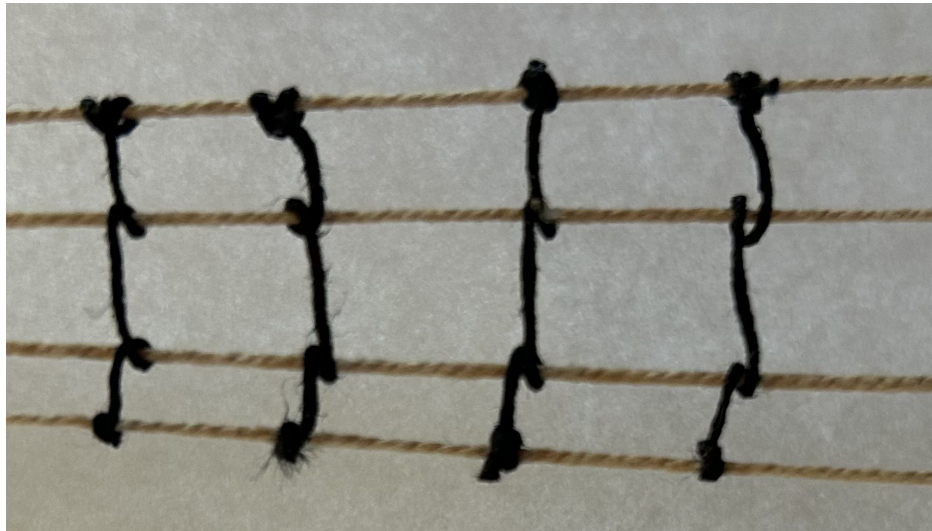
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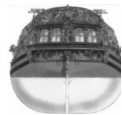
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3



Images from Chuck.



Chuck continued: "This Chinese Junk belongs to **Rick Knight**, who brought it to our meeting last year.

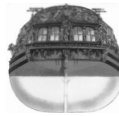
His house was damaged from the last 2 hurricanes, so I restored the junk to a new junk.

When the cabin roof is removed, the supporting frame comes out and it was hard to put back together, so I glued the frame in place, added new decking and raised the mast up so the sail would clear the cabin top."

Sec/Ed: "Junk in, junk out."

Image below from Chuck.





Howard Howe Modeling History: "After recovering most of my home from Hurricanes Helene and Milton, I decided it would be a good time to summarize my model boat history. Thankfully, all my models survived the foot of salt water that found its way into my home. Pictures of the 16 models are numbered in the sequence they were fabricated."



#1, 2007 RC 28' Albin model, *Sea Story* – Scale 1/12
I decided to make a model of our personal boat. Since the ALBIN is built in New England and based on the Lobster boat hull, I purchased a MIDWEST Boothbay Lobster boat model kit and modified it to be an ALBIN. Then later, I built an Acrylic case and installed RC components.



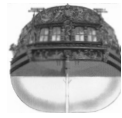
#3, 2013 RC Coast Guard 44' Lifeboat, #44347 – Scale 1/16
I found TBSMS group through a friend and started attending meetings with other boat modelers. This provided hobby encouragement and I joined with the RC group, SSMBC at Seminole Park. Coast Guard Lifeboat model was fabricated from DUMAS Kit #1203.



#2, 2012 RC Lobster Boat, *Delimmah* – Scale 1/12
After visiting New England and seeing a lobster boat named *Delimmah* (Miss spelled) I thought I would use the lobster boat kit I had and make another model.



#4, 2014 RC Springer Tugboat *HH Springer* – Scale 1/25
Former member **Paul Anderson** introduced the *Springer* Tugboat idea and I decided to build one per the standard format for experience and customize it with my design.



#5, 2015 RC 1919 Tugboat, *Buttercup* – Scale 1/48

A charter member of TBSMS, **Emory Massman** (deceased), passed on to me a 1/48 scale fiberglass hull of a Tugboat that his Father ran on the Great Lakes. He also provided me with information about the tugboat. I purchased a *Lakawana* tugboat kit and fabricated this model to represent *Buttercup*



#6, 2016 RC Shrimp Boat *Linder Lou* – Scale 1/24

During one of our boat deliveries, we saw a shrimp boat named *Linder Lou*. My wife, Linda said that was what her mother called her when it was time to come inside. I purchased the DUMAS Kit, *Rusty* the Shrimp Boat. I researched the shrimp boats in St Augustine and found the original owner. Linda's adopted brother is named "Rusty", so we renamed the boat model!



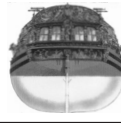
#7, 2016 RC 74' Army Tugboat ST-42 – Scale 1/48

Doing research on my family history, I found that my father was a welder who had worked on the WW2 Army Tugboats in DeLand, Fla until he passed away with pneumonia. After visiting the Military Museum in DeLand, I assembled the DUMAS Kit of the 74' ST Tug.



#8, 2016 RC 86' Army Tugboat ST-479 *Tiger* – Scale 1/48

After acquiring the original design plans for the 86' Army Tugboat, I purchased another 74' DUMAS kit and scratch built the plank on frame hull and used parts from the kit to fabricate the model. One of the 86' Tugboats survived and has been returned to DeLand area from Sweden and is planned to be a Monument. I have visited ST-479 *Tiger* twice and donated this model to the Museum.



#9, 2017 Lightship *Nantucket* – Scale 1/95

I convinced my wife that there was enough space in the living room for one more lighthouse! I purchased the plastic model kit of LV-112 *Nantucket* and created a wall display before she realized it was another boat model! Lights are on a timer.



#10, 2018 RC Chris Craft *Cobra* – Scale 1/96

A partially built DUMAS Chris Craft *Cobra* kit was donated and I accepted the challenge to complete it. I added Barbie's little sister and then a modified Barbie due to scale conflicts. This became the fastest boat in my fleet.



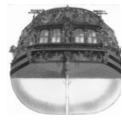
#11, 2020 Crab Boat *Captain Jim* – Scale 1/25

The *Captain Jim* is a crab boat that was being assembled in Cortez, Fla using the salvaged hull from a 44' 1988 Ocean Yacht. I had the opportunity to make a model for the owner. I purchased the BILLING *White Star* BB570 Kit for my hull. From measurements on the crab boat, I was able to scratch-build the model.



#12, 2020 Fishing Boat *Ricky B* – Scale 1/25

The *Ricky B* is a fishing boat in Madeira Beach that is owned by some long-time dive and spearfishing friends of mine. They ask about a model, so I researched and purchased a MIDWEST Maine Lobster Boat Kit No.953 for the hull. Again, from measurements on their boat, I was able to scratch-build the model for them.



#13, 2022 RC 1931 British Tugboat *Perseverance* – Scale 1/32

Again, I had the opportunity to acquire an older donated CALDERCRAFT's *Imara* Tug Boat Model Kit made in England. After research I found the real *Imara* had been upgraded to *Perseverance*. So, I modified the kit to meet the real boat upgrades.



#14, 2023 RC Alaska Crab Boat F/V *Saga* – Scale 1/32

My interest in *The Deadliest Catch* TV program inspired me to make a model of *Saga*. I found BARRACUDA RC BOATS, USA who had a generic crab boat model. I ordered the kit and from TV pictures, I was able to create my F/V *Saga* model.



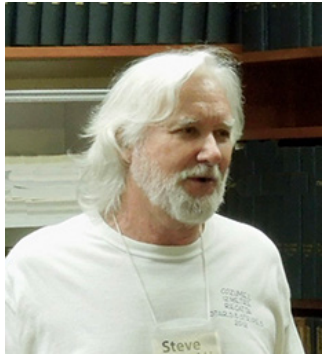
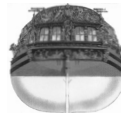
#15, 2024 RC Grand Banks *Restless* – Scale 1/20

My wife, Captain Linda, helped a lady move their 46' Grand Banks, *Restless* from New England to Florida. I found the detailed AMATI Grand Banks model kit Am1607 for assembly and I added a Bimini top and a captain at the helm.



#16, 2024 Paddle Boat *Barbara-Lee* – Scale 1/48

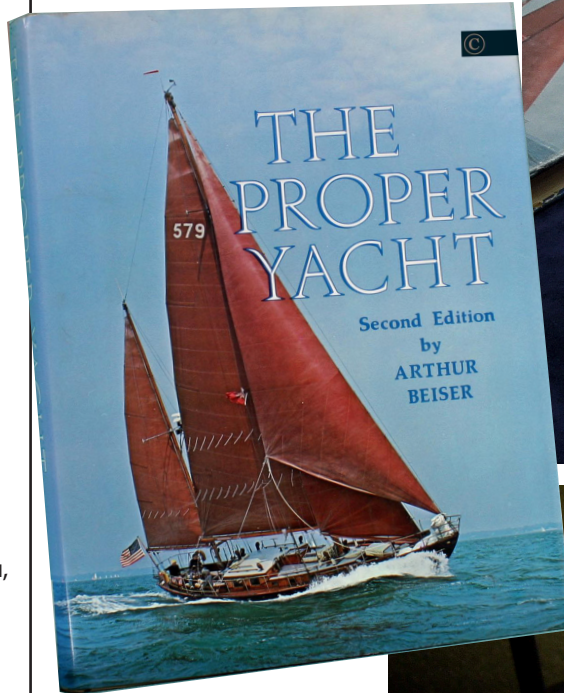
Scratch building underway using a MODEL SHIPWAYS MS2190 *Chaperon* Kit.

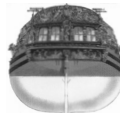


Steve Sobieralski: "As a bit of a break from my usual naval modeling subjects I have embarked on a build of a sailboat. The subject is Minots Light, a classic ketch-rigged sailing yacht designed by legendary naval architect John Alden.

The medium is a 1/32 scale plastic kit, originally produced by the Japanese company OTAKI, and later repackaged and marketed in the US by ENTEX.

I also brought in a book entitled *The Proper Yacht* (second edition) because it features a fine color photo of Minots Light on the dust jacket and its author, Arthur Beiser, owned her for many years. The photo shows her in a striking color scheme of gloss black hull, natural mahogany deck-works and red dyed sails, and was a large factor in my embarking on this build.





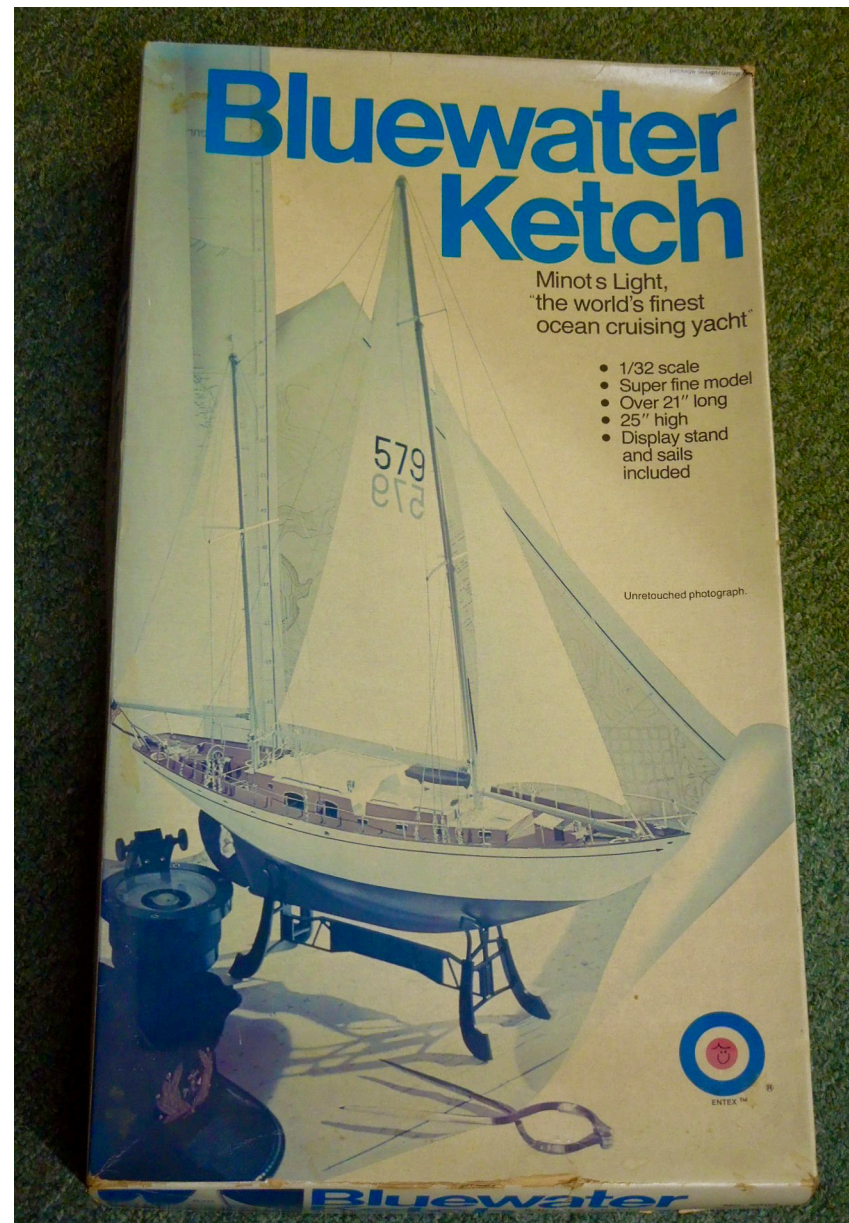
From the book, here are *Minots Light's* vital statistics:

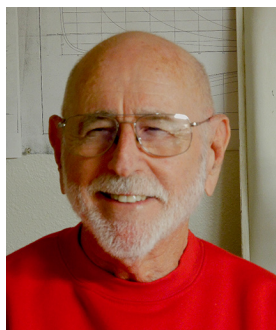
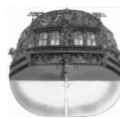
- LOA: 58ft 1in
- LWL: (fully loaded) 42ft 9in
- Beam: 14ft 3in
- Draft (fully loaded): 7ft 9in
- Displacement (fully loaded): 64k lbs
- Sail Area: 1,518sqft
- Construction: Welded Steel Hull,
- Teak Deck on Steel Beams,
- Mahogany Deck-works,
- Fiberglas Covered Plywood Cabin Tops
- Builder: Abeking & Rasmussen, Germany

Work on the model so far has entailed planking the kit's plastic deck with 1/32" x 5/64" bass wood strips. These will be stained and sealed to replicate the prototype's teak deck."

To nitpickers such as I (Sec/Ed), the missing apostrophe in Minots is annoying. However, it is as documents show it to be!

Look closely at the kit carton, where they inserted a space, but not the punctuation. Weaseling.





Irwin Schuster (Sec/Ed):

I displayed a few Popeye (the Sailor – Sailorman) toys created with the classic technique of printed paper laminated to wood. Classically, 4-color process lithography, but for my purposes, desk-top printed and laminated with *Mod-Podge*. M-P is usually used for adhering and coating decoupage.

For the record, a string-balance artifact, a string climbing toy and a jig-dancer as yet undecorated.

In addition to the evident link to maritime history of the spinach-fueled tough guy, the point of these things is the colored paper process of adding graphics to ship and boat models. I do it by creating images in **ADOBE ILLUSTRATOR**.

They can consist of scans or illustrations easily sized – flipped – inverted – warped – slanted – etc., to suit the application.

As mentioned, once created, they can be replicated with subtle variations of size, color and such, so that when printed, the perfect solution can be chosen and mounted. Or, go back to the file and alter all... for the price of a sheet of paper, neglecting the cost of labor – as we all do.

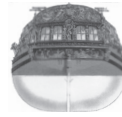
Use for name-boards, minute instructions on life-saving gear, flags and all the usual “decal” detail that can be customized for your model. I am willing to do it for members.

I do not have transparent film for my ink-jet, but I see it is available, if it were required.



Other wood and paper
Popeye toys.





Believe It or Oar Knot!



Running Free: Member News

February 2025



Congratulations to all of our 2024 Sail Training Award Winners!

The Tall Ships America Sail Training Awards recognize the achievement and contribution of individuals and programs involved in the work and the community of sail training and tall ships. Each year we recognize strong leadership, extra effort, significant impact, and steadfast commitment to our collective work. Receiving a Tall Ships America Award is a high honor and celebration of the people dedicated to the principle that experiences under sail

George Fehér suggested members check this out.

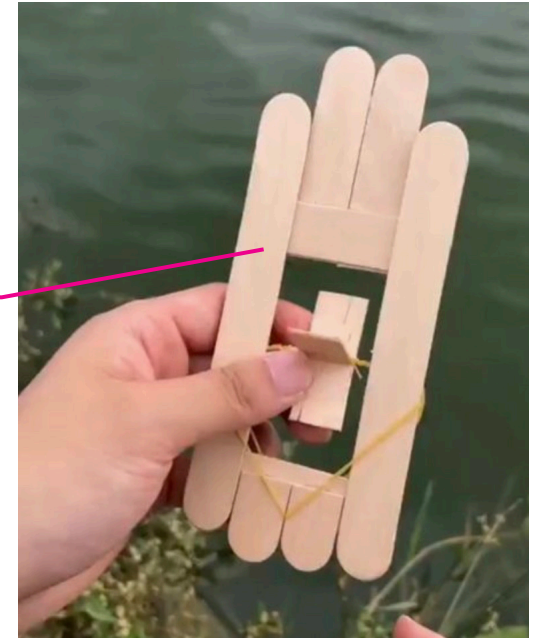
The Subject is Whales: Both Moby and Dick – because unbeknownst to him, they were twins and always hung together to doubly torment him, watched whilst Ahab clunked up and down the deck screeching things like, “Belay the bos’n, me hearties” and beseeching the Lord above to give him one more chance to take “The Great White Whale;” and what caused their animosity was his generalization on color, in that Dick actually considered himself to be a perfect Vincennes Porcelain, while Moby fancied his hue to be closer to Tuscan Alabaster, because, you see, the truly outsize thing about them was their vanity.

The rule to the Bulwer-Lytton Fiction Contest is; create an opening sentence to an imaginary novel.

OK, your Sec/Ed cheated on the imaginary part.

If you are struggling to get started with ship or boat modeling, look for a simple subject. Maybe not this simple, but, a log raft diorama? Duck boat? Rustic Jangada? How about a solid hull kit? Or, a half-model? Waterfowl carving?

Come on in, the water's fine!

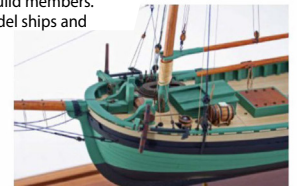


THE NAUTICAL RESEARCH GUILD “ADVANCING SHIP MODELING THROUGH RESEARCH”

Annual membership includes our world-renowned quarterly magazine, the Nautical Research Journal, which features photographs and articles on ship model building, naval architecture, merchant and naval ship construction, maritime trade, nautical and maritime history, nautical archaeology and maritime art.

Other benefits include Virtual Workshops, ship modeling seminars, NRG products and juried model competitions, which are offered exclusively to Guild members. We hope you will consider joining our ongoing celebration of model ships and maritime history.

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