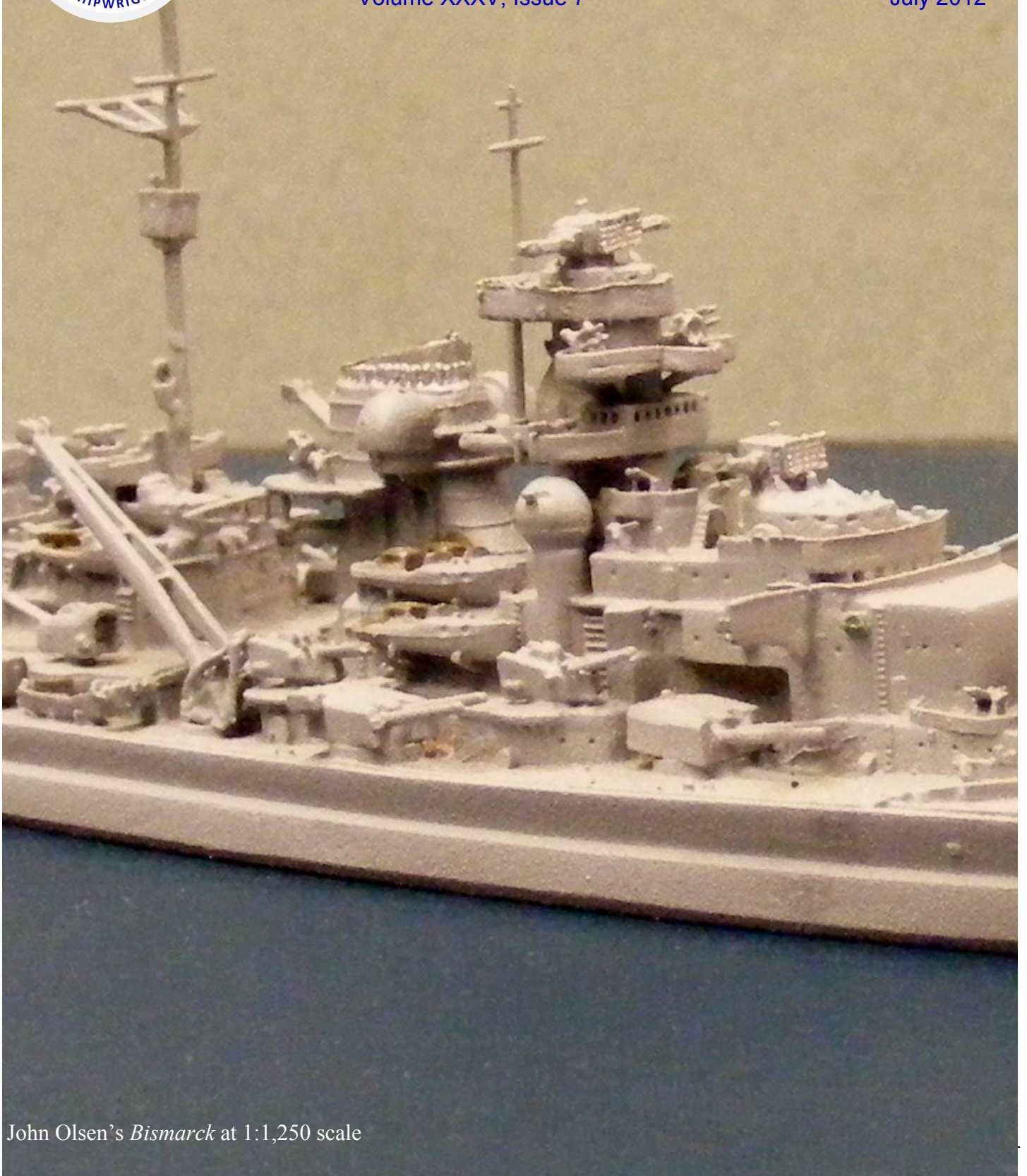




The Broadside

Volume XXXV, Issue 7

July 2012



John Olsen's *Bismarck* at 1:1,250 scale

The Broadside

USS Constitution Model Shipwright Guild Newsletter

Volume XXXV

Issue 7

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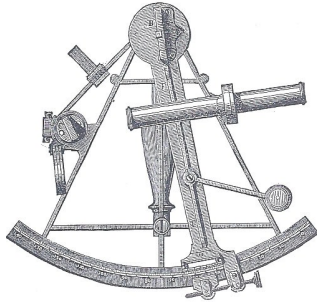
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Ned Guild (13)
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Harold Lincoln (13)



this month to share with you another one of my favorite boats.

Thunderbird was designed by famed naval architect John L. Hacker and built by Huskins Boat Works in Bay City, Michigan. Its owner, enamored with the lines of his personal airplane, requested that the hull

A View From The Weather Deck

I just want to wish the USSCMSG members a great summer. There are lots of model ship and other nautical events in the New England area over the next couple of months and I hope you'll find your way to at least some of them.

With nothing else poignant to say about guild business I thought I'd use the remainder of my space



Photo from mongorocks.com



Photo from mongorocks.com

and cockpit of his new speedboat resemble its fuselage. Fashioned of double-planked mahogany and brushed stainless steel it would enable him to get about Lake Tahoe with speed and style. Originally outfitted with twin V-12, 550 hp Kermath engines, the vessel was capable of 60 knots. *Thunderbird* was completed in 1940 at a cost of \$87,000 (well over 1 million in today's dollars).

Dave Morton, *Broadside* Editor

On the cover:

John Olsen's 1:1250 scale model of the *Bismarck* by the German firm Neptun. Ships made by this manufacturer are regarded by hobbyists as the standard by which all other miniature models are judged. Models usually come in standard gray, though special versions with painted decks, camouflage colors and photoetched deck railings and rigging are occasionally produced. For more information see John's article starting on page 9. Photo by John Olson.

Due to security requirements all members who wish to drive into the Navy Yard must be on the drive-in list. Please contact Carlo DiPersio at 508.888.2471 or carlo.dipersio@comcast.net if you haven't actually driven in within the past three months or want to invite a guest who will drive. Carlo must know by mid-morning on the Friday before a Tuesday meeting about guests. At the gate, the driver will have to show a picture ID.

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Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 10, 2012, 7 PM, USS Constitution Museum

Looking Ahead

- **Ship Model Exhibit at Custom House Maritime Museum (Sunday, 5/22 to Late June or Early July)**
 - **Boston Harborfest (Thursday, 6/28 to Wednesday, 7/4)**
 - **WoodenBoat Show (Friday, 6/29 to Sunday, 7/1)**
 - **USSCMSG July Meeting (Tuesday, 7/10, 7:00P):** Show & Tell; Coaching Service; **Note date change!**
 - **Ship Modelers Exhibition at the Wenham Museum (Saturday, 7/14 to Sunday, 9/2)**
 - **Lake Winnepesaukee Antique & Classic Boat Show (Saturday, 7/28, 9:00A-3:00P)**
 - **Salem Maritime Festival (Saturday, 8/4, 10:00A-5:00P)**
 - **USSCMSG August Meeting (Tuesday, 8/7, 7:00P):** Show & Tell; Coaching Service
 - **Antique & Classic Boat Festival (Saturday, 8/25, 11:00A-5:00P & Sunday, 8/26, 10:00A-3:00P)**
 - **USSCMSG September Meeting (Tuesday, 9/4, 7:00P):** Show & Tell; Coaching Service
-

Ship Model Exhibit at Custom House Maritime Museum

Newburyport, MA; Sunday, 5/22 to Late June or Early July

The exhibit is centered on the War of 1812; They are specifically looking for models of HMS *Guerriere*; Perry's ships on Lake Eire, *Lawrence* & *Niagara* and from the Battle of New Orleans, *Seahorse* & USS *Louisiana*; Also merchant vessels and privateers of the period and location; If interested contact Keith Manville at kmanville@comcast.net

2012 Boston Harborfest

Thursday, 6/28 to Wednesday, 7/4

Among the many activities throughout the city, USS *Constitution* will be conducting her annual turn around cruise on July 4th; This year she will be accompanied by USCGC *Eagle* and during the cruise there will be a fly over by the Blue Angels; On Saturday morning, June 30th, check out the Arrival of the Tall Ships

<www.bostonharborfest.com>

21st Annual WoodenBoat Show

Mystic Seaport, Mystic, CT; Friday, 6/29 to Sunday, 7/1

<<http://www.thewoodenboatshow.com>>

4th Annual Ship Modelers Exhibition at the Wenham Museum

Wenham, MA; Saturday, 7/14 to Sunday, 9/2

2012 is the 90th Anniversary of the Wenham Museum; This year's show *Anchors Aweigh: Great Ship Models and their names* is not limited to ship models that have names with some poignant story attached to them, any model you'd like to exhibit is welcome; The intake date for models is Tuesday, 7/10, 4:00P-7:00P and they want Entry Forms filled out and returned by Friday, 6/8; Our own Ed Parent is working with the museum staff to coordinate the details; For Entry Forms or if you have any questions contact Carolyn Nenart at

carolyn.nenart@wenhammuseum.org or at (978) 468-2377, ext 118

39th Annual Lake Winnepesaukee Antique & Classic Boat Show

Town Docks, Meredith, NH; Saturday, 7/28, 9:00A-3:00P

<www.necacbs.org/MeredithBoatShow.htm>

Salem Maritime Festival

Salem National Maritime Historic Site, Derby Wharf, Salem, MA; Saturday, 8/4, 10:00A-5:00P

In addition to seeing some great exhibits on all things maritime, the USSCMSG will have a couple of tables set up under a tent demonstrating ship model building; We are hoping to get 2 or 3 guild members to volunteer to participate with Bob Craig; If you're interested contact Bob at robertcraig1939@verizon.net

<www.nps.gov/sama/planyourvisit/maritimefestival.htm>

30th Annual Antique & Classic Boat Festival

Brewer Hawthorne Cove Marina, Salem, MA; Saturday, 8/25, 11:00A-5:00P & Sunday, 8/26, 10:00A-3:00P

Nice old boats and another opportunity to help out the guild; Similar to the Maritime Festival, the guild will have a presence demonstrating ship model building; Contact Bob Craig if you're interested in participating

<www.boatfestival.org>

June 2012 Meeting Notes

- Donna gavelled the meeting to order at 7:10 PM
 - Donna announced that John Churchill has been named as the guild's Librarian; John will work with Tim Mahoney to catalog and organize all of the guild's books located in the model shop
 - Donna mentioned that membership applications for the Nautical Research Guild were placed on the back table for anyone interested in becoming a member; The NRG is offering a discount on the membership fee if the application is received by June 30th
 - Donna also said that Bill Leong had left a number of old copies of the NRG Journal on the back table; They were free to anyone who's interested
 - Jonathan Kinghorn announced that he had taken a new job and would be unable to purchase the doughnuts for the monthly meetings into the foreseeable future; Donna asked for someone to volunteer to take over Jonathan's duties; No one stepped up to the plate
 - Donna announced that the Admiralty Board had voted to present the Founders Award at an upcoming meeting; She was a little cagey on the subject of whom would be receiving the award; See below for additional information about the award criteria
 - Dave Lash gave the Purser's; For the last month expenditures exceeded income
 - Your humble editor mentioned a number of upcoming events over the next several months; He asked that members attending these events keep the Broadside in mind, bring their camera, take pictures and perhaps, when they come home, write a few words so that their fellow members might enjoy the event vicariously through them; I also held up a half sheet of paper with notes that Ed Parent had written relative to his talk about his latest model during Show & Tell; I encouraged other people bringing models to Show & Tell to do the same and asked for a round of applause for Ed who consistently provides this information every meeting when he brings in a project to share with the other members
 - Ed Parent brought in entry forms for the model show that'll be held at the Wenham Museum; Because the Museum was late getting out the announcement on their model showed said they'll be extending the registration deadline
 - Donna handed out some tote bags that were donated by George Kaiser
 - Lastly Donna pointed out that the July meeting would not be held on the first Tuesday in July because of a conflict with another Museum event; Our next meeting will be July 10th; There will be both Show & Tell and the Coaching Service that evening
 - The meeting ended at 9:10 PM
-

June 2012 Meeting Raffle Prizes

- CD; *Nautical Research Guild Journal*, Vol. 1-9; Donated by Tom Babbin's estate; Won by Alex Bellinger
 - Book; *A Dawn Like Thunder*, by Robert J. Mrazek; Donated by John Churchill; Won by Bill Wood
 - Book; *Ship Model Building*, by Gene Johnson; Donated by Tom Steverman; Won by Richard Lavoie
 - Book; *Warships, WWII To The Present Day*, by Martin J. Dougherty; Donated by Ray Crean, Won by Bill Wood
 - Commemorative Edition X-Acto Knife; Donated by the Guild; Won by Bill Leong
 - Miscellaneous Rigging Thread; Donated by the Guild; Won by Larry Ward
 - Miscellaneous Small Tools; Donated by the Guild; Won by Bob Hanes
 - Hot Glue Gun; Donated by the Guild; Won by Tom Tello
-

Founder's Award Info

From the Guild's Policies & Procedures: The Founders' Award of the USS Constitution Model Shipwright Guild recognized the efforts and memories of those individuals who first created the Guild in 1979. The Award may be

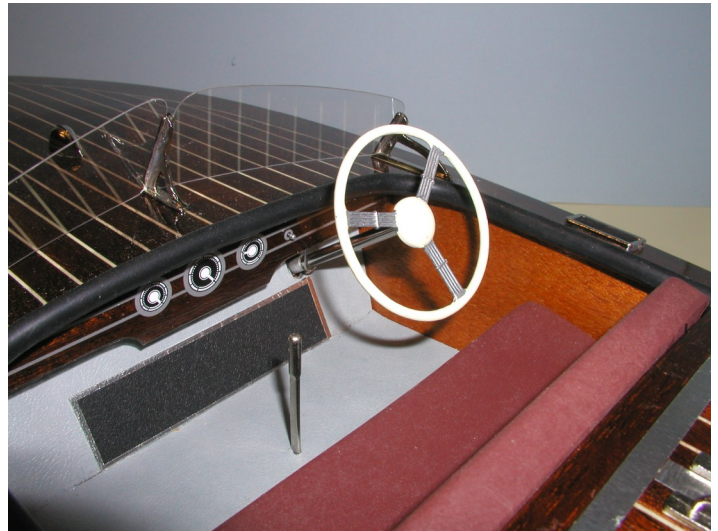
presented occasionally or regularly, but not more often than once in any twelve month period, to any individual, organization, or institution which has worked to advance the goals of the Guild as stated in the By-Laws.....

June 2012 Meeting Show & Tell

Mat Leupold; Chris Craft Runabout, 1:8; Mat brought in a nearly finished, three year long project

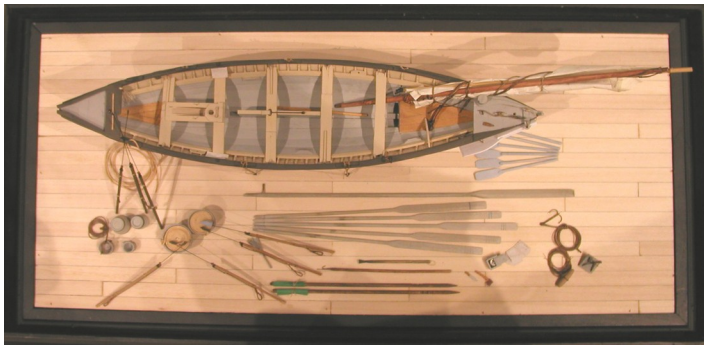


that he is setting up with remote control for his son; Built from a Dumas kit, he described the directions as good, the wood supplied with the kit as OK and the metal fillings as bad; In that this boat is intended to be used in the water Mat sheathed the bottom with fiberglass; The topsides were finished with 13 coats of urethane; He said that he wished he had filled the mahogany before he started applying the finish, he wouldn't



have had to use so many coats; Finally he said that he had received some assistance with the motor and remote control from Bob Presioso and Bob Olkerholm

Tom Lauria; Whale Boat, 1:32: Built from plans available at Mystic Seaport, this boat was modeled after one built by the James Beetle Shop in Fairhaven,



MA in 1933; In this configuration it represents a whaleboat as it would appear in the 1870's at the culmination of over 100 years of design and construction evolution, it was state of the art; The model is displayed on a base mimicking the deck of a working whaling ship of that time period, with 1 x 12 x 20' pine planks; All of its gear laid out on the deck in front of it rather than stowed as it would be when in use; This was at the request of Tom's client who want-



ed a model that would serve, in part, as an educational tool; The boat is carvel planked, a recent innovation, which is quieter moving through the water than the



hulls previously planked clinker style; It is also equipped with a pivoting center board and a sail, spirit rigged, which is easy to set up and more importantly easy to stow when they came up close to a whale; The sail is displayed as it would be stowed if the men harpooned a whale and were being taken on a Nantucket



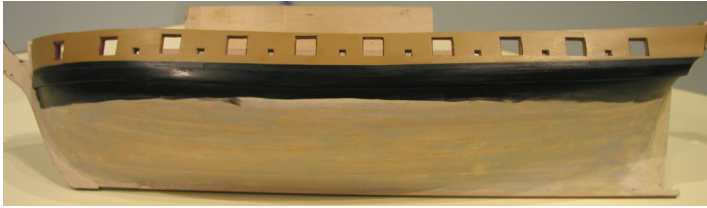
Sleigh-ride; Present in the foreground of the boat, both oars and shorter paddles are displayed; Whalers, having learned that a stealthy pursuit of their quarry often

Continued on Page 6

June 2012 Meeting Show & Tell, continued from page 5

yielded better results, had determined that approaching a whale initially by sail and then switching to paddles was more successful than approaching using oars as was the previous custom; The oars were retained, however, to afford the whalers every option at their

Ned Guild; Syren, 1:64: Ned brought back his Model Expo kit to show the progress he had made since the last time it was shown to us at the March



meeting; Earlier this evening he had availed himself of some review and constructive criticism from the Coaching Service; As some of you might remember from the last time Ned showed us this boat he had allowed the center frame to go out of alignment as he was assembling it; Prior to the March meeting he had begun repairing the problems created by that misalignment; At this time the repairs are completed and he has begun to move on with the remainder of the construction; He pointed out that he had fixed the plank-

John Olsen; IJN Fuso, 1:1,250: John brought in three models of IJN *Fuso*, depicting her in different configurations consistent with the modifications that were made to the ship throughout her time in service; The models were all manufactured in Germany by Neptun using a proprietary alloy of pewter

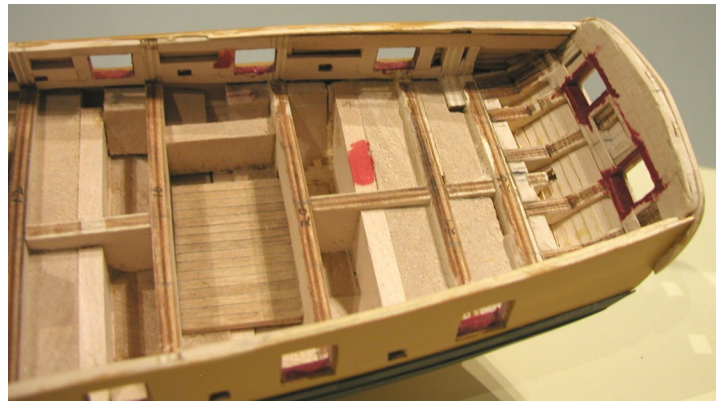
The first model is of the ship as it appeared when it was originally built in 1915; It's layout was pretty simple, there were two funnels and the turrets could be rotated for use in war games



The second model shows the ship as it looked in 1928 after her WWI configuration had been modified; Note that the pagoda has been enlarged and a hood has been added to the forward funnel to deflect exhaust smoke away from the pagoda (it turned out that that

disposal in their quest; Also displayed in front of the boat are the steering oar, the harpoons, the buckets of stowed line, small tools and even the boxes and barrels of food, water and tobacco that the six man crew would need while they were away from the ship

ing below the waterline with wider pieces of planking and those that would've been used on the original ship; His reasoning was that these planks would be covered by copper sheathing and therefore not visible; At the end of his presentation there was one question about the purpose of the small holes in the bulwarks between the gun ports; Ned answered that they were for oars



particular modification was ineffectual)



The last model shows the ship as she looked after her modification in 1938 until she was sunk in 1944 at the battle of Leyte Gulf; In this configuration the forward funnel has been eliminated and the pagoda has been enlarged again



For more information on the topic of collecting miniature ship models refer to John's article on page 9

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June 2012 Meeting Show & Tell, continued from page 6

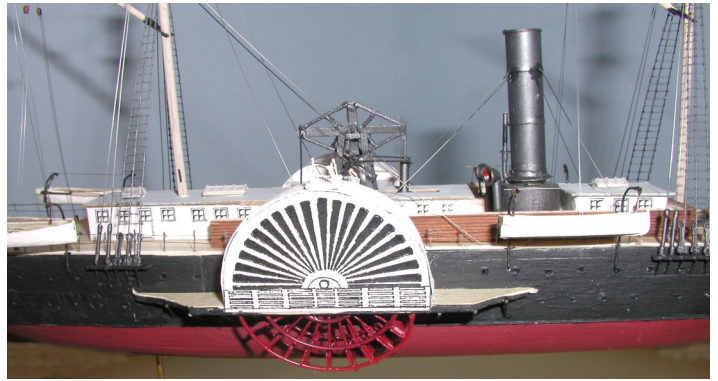
Ed Parent; CSS Governor Moore, 1:240: Originally the 1854 New York built steamship *Charles Morgan*, this 1215 ton side-wheeler was seized by the State of Louisiana at New Orleans in January 1862, armed with two 32 pound rifled guns, fitted with a bow ram and renamed *Governor Moore*; Called a cot-



tonclad, her pilot and machinery spaces were protected by wood and iron bulkheads filled with cotton bale; She was assigned to the Confederate River Defense Fleet and during the night battle off Forts Jackson and St. Philip, below New Orleans on 24 April 1862, she twice rammed the Federal gunboat *Varuna*, an assault

which, with the aid of a companion ship, resulted in *Varuna's* sinking; Later in the battle she was badly damaged by gunfire from the Federal fleet, lost many of her crew and went aground, where she was burned to avoid capture

Ed discussed the number of details regarding the construction of this model, the first being the cover over the paddlewheels; Rather than try and cut out the intricate details of the covers he elected to draw the middle larger scale and reduce them to the scale of the model; He also mentioned fabricating the rail stanchions out of 9 mil tungsten and the rails from 2 mil thread



June 2012 Meeting Demonstration

Scott Bradner reprised the demonstration he initially made at the Northeast Joint Clubs Ship Model Conference & Show held in New London back in April. He presented a very effective method for making model gratings. The process consists of laminating together strips of wood that are the thickness of the bars on the grating using a glue that dissolves in acetone, cutting slots across the edge of the laminated strips, where the slots are the same width as the strips are thick and the slots are separated by the width of the slot, then using acetone to dissolve the glue and release the now cut strips.

The cut strips are then placed cuts upward in a gluing jig, with enough strips used to make the width needed for the final grating. Addition-



al strips are then glued cuts-down interlocking with and perpendicular to the strips in the gluing jig. Use a acetone-proof glue for this step.

After the glue dries the excess strips are cut off and the tops finished down to the tops of the cross members. The assembly is then removed from the gluing jig and glued face down, using the glue that dissolves in acetone, on a small scrap of wood. Enough glue is used to fill the holes in the assembly. The tops of the remaining strips are cut off and finished. The grating is finished after the glue is dissolved, again with acetone.

For detailed, step-by-step instructions with photographs go to Scott's website at www.sobco.com/ship_model/index.html

Ship Model Building Information On The Internet

Ship Modeling Forums

By Jamie Peghiny

Did you know that there are online forums for model shipbuilders like us to hang out, view each others work and most importantly, share our knowledge? I started checking out online model shipbuilding forums a couple of years ago before I started my current Gloucester Fishing Schooner *Smuggler* at 1:48 scale. It had been over 40 years since my last modeling experience and the internet had not yet been invented.

Anyway, I was browsing through Model Ship World, and I started reading one of the online build logs. The author started his log with photographs and a description of the kit he had just received and was starting to build. He made detailed entries about the build along with photographs showing the work as it was completed at each stage.

I was immediately hooked and searched for a build log for my upcoming *Smuggler* project, and sadly, there were none. There are hundreds of build logs covering all types of kits including solid, plank on bulkhead and plank on frame.

There are also hundreds of build logs from scratch built models as well. There are sections for ships built from card, CAD and 3D modeling, plastic models, radio control, tutorials, practicums, model photography, making molds for casting and much, much more.

There are a couple of things that I particularly like about the Model Ship World forum. One is the amount of knowledge sharing that occurs. If you have a question, there is a forum for that and you'll definitely get answers from very knowledgeable and experienced modelers. Another is the attitude of the partici-

pants. I've belonged to other forums where some discussions quickly go downhill quickly and end up in arguments between two or more members. I have seen none of that on Model Ship World. The forum is moderated and that type of behavior will not be tolerated.

Please take a few minutes and have a look at my current build log and two written by Peter Jacquith who is also a member of the USSCMSG.

My *Smuggler* build log:

www.modelshipworld.com/phpBB2/viewtopic.php?t=13379&postdays=0&postorder=asc&&start=0

Pete Jacquith's Brigantine *Newsboy*:

www.modelshipworld.com/phpBB2/viewtopic.php?t=11721&start=0

Pete Jacquith's Topsail Schooner *Eagle*:

www.modelshipworld.com/phpBB2/viewtopic.php?t=10574&start=0

I have been a member of the USSCMSG for only a short while and there are many members here who have years of experience and a lot of knowledge. Like the guild, Model Ship World is a place where we can share our building experience and make a lot of new friends too. Please join me on modelshipworld.com, you can search for me by my username which is jpeghiny. Hope to see you soon!

Below are links to other model shipbuilding sites:

www.modelshipbuilder.com

www.shipmodeling.net

www.lauckstreetshipyard.com

www.canberramodelshipwrights.org.au

www.shipmodelmaking.com

A Few Odds And Ends From The Scran Bag

From my friend Jeff who, though not a guild member, loves to send me information on all things military: News item on the ongoing construction of the new USS *Gerald R. Ford*; Includes many comments

after the story, not all of which are complimentary

www.businessinsider.com/the-uss-gerald-r-ford-reaches-a-construction-milestone-2012-5?op=1

From Bill Leong: My ship model mentor, Jack Hudock, who helps out at the Naval Academy Museum with the repair and maintenance of the ship model col-

lection, provided the attached.

www.usscmsg.org/brsdfiles/fighting_lights.pdf



Miniature Ship Models

The World of Small Scale Ship Modeling

By John Olsen

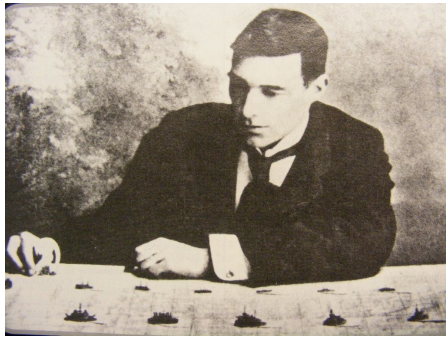
(Editor's Note: All photographs accompanying this article were supplied by the author)

Origins

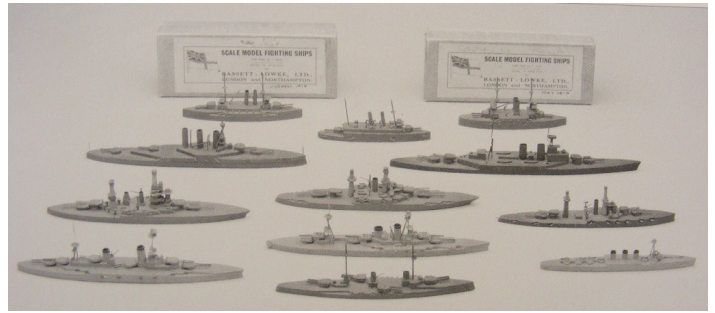
Small scale ship modeling (the building and collecting of ship models at consistent scales of 1:1200 and smaller) began in the late 19th century when evolving naval technology demonstrated a need for new tactics in naval warfare as well as a quick and easy way to identify individual ships. To test new tactics, service academies turned to war games, which were popularized around the turn of the last century by



British naval journalist Fred T. Jane in his annual publication *All the World's Fighting Ships*. Along with a set of rules, Jane marketed a series of crude waterline scale models to lend added realism to the games. When the British firm of Basset-Lowke began producing much improved models at a consistent scale of 1:1200 (1 inch = 100 feet) in the early 1900's, the hobby of small scale ship model collecting was born. The wooden Basset-Lowke models set such a high standard in quality and accuracy that they were utilized officially for ship identification purposes by the British Admiralty in both World Wars.



With the outbreak of World War II accurate identification of friendly and enemy ships and aircraft had become a military necessity to avoid costly mistakes on the naval battlefield. The demand for large num-



bers of accurate waterline recognition models could only be met by the mass production of metal castings at uniform scales. Firms such as Framburg, South Salem Studios and Comet (USA), Tremo (Britain) and Wiking (Germany) utilized industrial die-casting methods to produce lead model sets of all major classes of Allied and Axis naval and merchant ships in vast numbers that were packaged in rugged wood cases and sent to



naval ships and bases all over the world. American and British producers continued to use the popular 1:1200 "Imperial" scale, while German

producers favored the similar, though slightly smaller, 1:1250 metric scale, a difference that persists to this day.

The end of World War II saw the end of the wartime ship model production effort. Of the US firms, only Comet continued production for the civilian market under the name Authenticast. Basset-Lowke survived in Britain and the Wiking line was revived in Germany. It was these three firms that would carry the hobby through to its eventual transformation beginning in the late 1950's.

Post World War II

The 1950's saw the introduction of plastics into the mass market. It revolutionized the hobby industry. Model kits of ships, planes, tanks, cars, rockets and other subjects suddenly became available in great quantities and varieties. Plastic ship model kits generally focused on larger scales, but several lines of small

Continued on Page 10

Miniature Ship Models, continued from page 9

scale ships appeared in the late 1950's to early 1960's. The British firm Eaglewall introduced a line of 1:1200 plastic waterline World War II era British ships that were later marketed in the US (with American and Japanese ships added) under the Pyro label as the "Table Top Navy." Other plastic model firms such as Revell, Airfix and Heller also had their own lines of 1:1200 scale ships.

Of the older small scale metal casting producers, only Wiking experimented with plastics. Several newer classes of ships and aircraft were produced, but the new product never completely replaced lead as the material of choice. Indeed, new model lines introduced in Germany, Britain and the US during the 1950's-60's still relied on metal die and spin-casting rather than plastics, particularly the new American line Superior, which took over from Comet/ Authenticast after that line ceased operations in 1962, and is still produced in the US by Alnavco.

But it was in Germany that a revolution in casting and production techniques began that would transform the hobby from this time forward.

The German Revolution

Though Wiking continued to dominate ship model production in Germany throughout the 1950's, a small group of modelers in Munich were experimenting with flexible latex molds in place of the hard Vulcanized rubber used in spin casting. Latex molds supported by a plaster jacket allowed models to be cast in one piece, eliminating joint lines and permitting a far greater level of detail to be achieved. This technique eliminated both the need for machined brass master models from which the molds were formed, and the high temperatures required by the Vulcanized rubber process. Master models could now be executed in greater detail with plastic, a much easier and less expensive material to work.

Spearheading this revolution were Gerald



Schweizer, whose Mercator line set a new standard of detail and quality, Rudi Kraus, who pioneered the use of latex molds, replaced toxic lead with new metal alloys, and improved production techniques to produce the Navis/Neptun line that raised the Mercator standard even higher, and Peter Wiedling, whose support of these early breakthroughs from his popular hobby shop in Munich provided the financial backing that allowed their efforts, as well as the efforts of the next generation of modelers, to flourish. The 1960's breakthrough in casting techniques opened the production of metal ship models to anyone with the urge and the skill to try it. No longer was it necessary to capitalize a production plant. A line of models could now be produced out of one's own basement or garage. Consequently, the 1980's and 1990's saw the number of model producers in Germany, soar.

Supporting this thriving hobby were the toy shops and collectors clubs, chiefly in larger German cities like Munich, Hamburg and Bremen. Here, collectors and producers would mingle informally over dinner and drinks, often long into the night, lending a hearty social dimension to what was still a highly localized hobby. And on every alternate year collectors from throughout Germany, and occasionally beyond, would gather at the big *Sammlertreffen*-collector's meeting at Kassel.

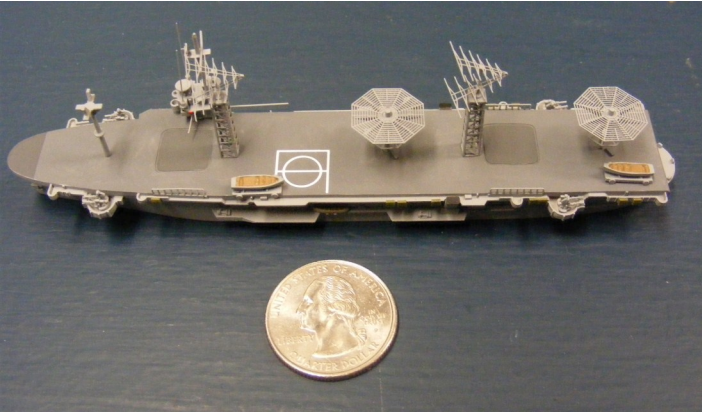
The Hobby Today

By the late 1990's, the small ship modeling world was entering a second revolution, this one brought

Continued on Page 11

Miniature Ship Models, continued from page 10

about by the computer and its various applications. The introduction of applied photo-etched brass com-



ponents in the form of deck railings, lattice masts and radar sets, raised the level of detail far above that achievable in cast metal. New developments in plastic resin formulation and casting made it an acceptable substitute for metal, and the science of “rapid prototyping” allows computerized laser cut masters to replace the more laborious hand-crafted master models in the casting process. The most recent innovation has been the introduction of “3D printer” acrylic models generated by computerized lasers directly from scanned and uploaded plans. The net result has been a quantum leap in accuracy and detail fidelity, achieved, some would say, at the cost of the human touch.

But the most significant impact of the computer on the hobby has been the advent of the Internet. Collectors, model producers and scratch builders around the world are now in instant touch with one another by e-mail, and the message board of the 1250 Scale website <www.1250scale.com> has become a daily forum for the exchange of ideas and information. Models are now readily available through internet mail order from on-line dealers such as Morning Sunshine Models <www.msmodels.com> and Alnavco <www.alnavco.com> in the U.S., and L. Wiedling <www.wiedling.de> in Germany, as well as e-Bay and other web auction sites. Credit card and PayPal have made payment transactions and currency conversions effortless and models shipped overseas often arrive within a week.

Though scratch building and kit building are popular, most small-scale “modelers” are collectors rather than builders. Building at scales of 1:1200 and small-

er requires special skills, good eyesight and an approach to detail that is unique to the craft. True detail fidelity is almost impossible to achieve at these scales, and most highly regarded modelers prefer to sacrifice the detail in favor of the overall proportion, balance and visual effect of the model. For those who choose mass-production, the casting process offers its own challenges beyond the mastery of basic metal/resin casting and finishing skills. The master models from which the molds are made must be deliberately scaled back in size and detail to anticipate the results of the finished cast model, and the master itself is often destroyed in the act of making the mold.

Nevertheless, the number and variety of 1:1250 scale models commercially available today is astounding. Nearly every ship or class of ship represented, both merchant and naval, from every nation in the world and every time period in history. Today, there are about two dozen commercial producers turning out upwards of 50 new models every month, with well over 200 models currently in production and many times that number available in dealer inventories at prices ranging from under \$10 to over \$600. Out of production models can be obtained from a variety of sources, so that collections can be built up that often number in the thousands. Many collectors focus on



special areas such as particular ship types, time periods or nationalities. Model conversions and enhancements are also popular among collectors, and an active subculture continues the practice of war-gaming with fleets of models as small as 1:6000 scale.

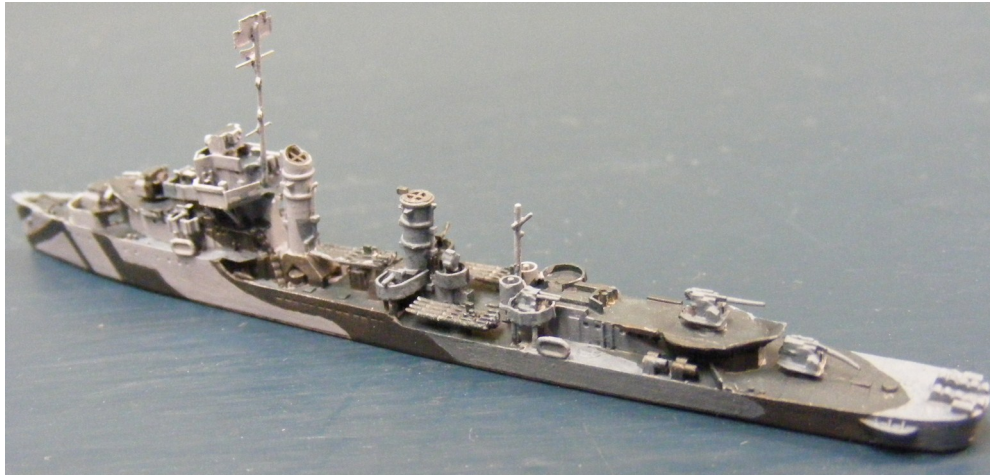
Today, the hobby is served by its own organization, the Society of Miniature Ship Collectors (SMSC)

Continued on Page 12

Miniature Ship Models, continued from page 11

which has sponsored annual meetings of collectors from around the world since 2008. The SMSC is based in Massachusetts and held its 2010 meeting at

Boston's USS Constitution Museum. It will host its next event at Annapolis, MD, on September 6-9, 2012, featuring exhibits, displays and sales of both current and second-hand models. Admission is free and all are welcome to attend.



More information on the hobby can be obtained from the SMSC's website <www.smsc-home.org> and from the book *Miniature Ship Models* by Paul Jacobs, available from the U.S. Naval Institute

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