



Volume 42, Number 9 *Newsletter of the Ship Model Society of New Jersey*

*September 2024*

<p><b>In This Issue</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Meeting Report</a></li> <li><a href="#">Old Business</a></li> <li><a href="#">Books and Publications</a></li> <li><a href="#">New Business</a></li> <li><a href="#">Northeast Joint Clubs 2024</a></li> <li><a href="#">Battleship New Jersey</a></li> <li><a href="#">Show and Tell</a></li> <li><a href="#">Club Information</a></li> </ul>	<p><b>Meeting Report:</b> The meeting was opened by our President Eric at 10:30 pm at Tom Ruggiero’s home. Thirteen members attended. Tom presented the status of our finances.</p> <p>We started the meeting on Tom’s deck, but it started to rain so we had to move indoor.</p> <p>At the meeting we discussed the schedule for future meetings. In general, while meeting on Saturday is doable, meeting in the afternoon is not the best. We have discussed meeting dates and times with the Library Management and we have been able to schedule our 2025 meetings to start at 10:30. The Library will not be open in July and August 2025.</p>
<p><b>Upcoming Events &amp; Tech Sessions</b></p>	<p>The meeting schedule for the rest of 2024 is;</p>
<p>TBA</p>	<p><b>Saturday, October 19, 2024 at Roseland Library. Time is 12:30.</b></p> <p><b>The November meeting is Saturday, November 9, 2024 at 10:30 at Roseland Library. <u>Note that this is note the earlier day and time.</u></b></p> <p><b>The December Meeting will be virtual only.</b></p> <p>The meeting adjoined at 13:05.</p>

**Next Tech Session**

The October 2024 Tech Session is “Mast Hoop Making’ presented by Rich Lane.

# The Broadaxe

## OLD BUSINESS



### Joint Clubs 2025

The Joint Clubs Committee will be meeting virtually to plan the event. Mike Ellison will Chair the committee.

A deceased former member has an upgraded Preac Saw. Bill and Chuck suggested that the SMSNJ procure the saw as a raffle prize at the conference. It was proposed that SMSNJ buy the saw. A motion was made and accepted. All present members approved the funds to buy the saw.

## NEW BUSINESS



### The Capture of Britania

Bill was contacted by the Middletown Historical Society. They are having an event to celebrate the capture of the Britania, an English Privateer brigantine that was captured by the Colonials in 1779. They were looking for a model of the Brigantine, but need it by October 27, 2024. We don't have one, but Tom will be displaying his Liverpool that day as she was in Sandy Hook Bay at that time. Even though a completely different vessel, it is the same period and location.

## Tech Sessions

We discussed what the next two Tech Sessions would be. Tom mentioned that some clubs have a schedule of Tech Sessions for the year. There is a consensus that we should have more in person demonstrations. To that end, an email will be sent to the SMSNJ membership to obtain a list of subjects for future Tech Sessions with the goal that we can have a schedule of Tech Sessions. E are not ask=ing people to present just yet. We are looking for topics that our members would like to see. We will discuss this list at the September meeting.

## New SMSNJ President

I have received the following from Eric Marshall:

"I would like to thank the Ship Model Society of New Jersey for the opportunity to serve as president for the last year. Unfortunately, I feel I do not have the time needed to serve the club fully and faithfully as it deserves, so I have resigned. I will still be an active member and will continue to support our 'mission' as best as I can moving forward. Again, thank you!"

We appreciate Eric and thank him. As per our Bylaws, the immediate Past President will serve out the remainder of Eric's Term.

Bill Brown will serve out the remainder of Eric's term. A new President will be voted on in June 2025.

Tom Ruggiero

SMSNJ Secretary

## BOOKS



There were no Books or Publications at this meeting.

## THE NAUTICAL RESEARCH GUILD

"ADVANCING SHIP MODELING THROUGH RESEARCH"

Annual membership includes our world-renowned quarterly magazine, 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 discounts on annual conferences, 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.



For more information contact us at: [www.thenrg.org](http://www.thenrg.org) or call 585 968 8111

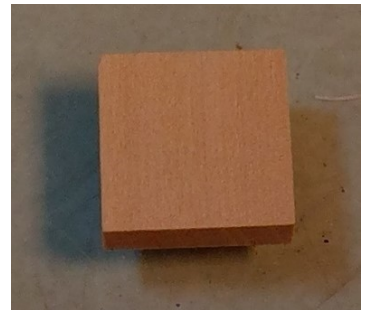
## "Making Gratings" by Tom Ruggiero

### Technical Session

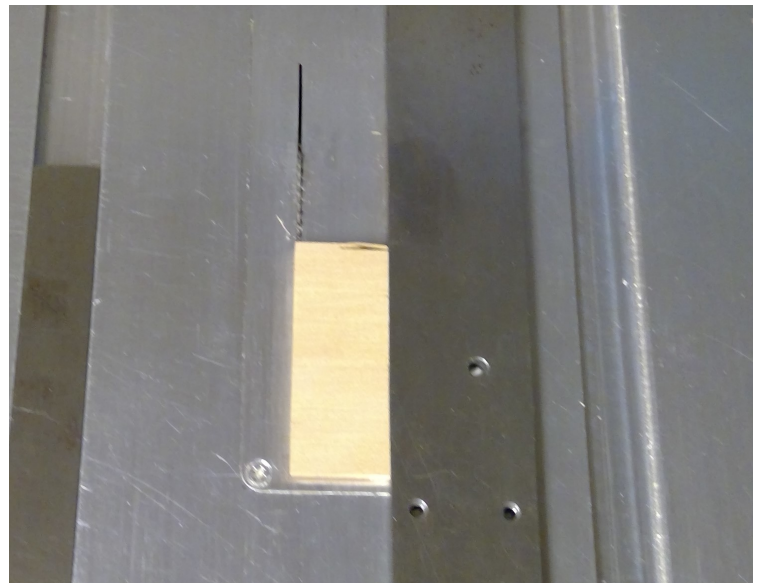
At this meeting, Tom presented a method that he uses for making gratings. Overscale gratings can ruin an otherwise beautifully executed model. There are commercially available grating strips. Generally, they are okay for scales of 1:48 and larger. However, in smaller scales the spaces between the slats way out of scale. Additionally, gratings usually have a wider edge where the grating rests on a ledge inside the coaming. Making your own allows you to include that detail.

The space between slats is based on the size of a heel so that a sailor doesn't get his foot caught. Depending on your reference, that space is between two and two and a half inches. In 1:96, that calls for a slotting blade that is 0.02" thick. You will start with a hard wood blank that will be about twice the finished grating depth. I use Castillo boxwood, but Swiss pear should work as well. I use a Model Machines table saw for this, but other modeler table saws do as well.

First, you will need to rip several strips that are 0.02" thick. I cut these from another piece of boxwood. The width that I cut them is about twice the final width that I will need. I do that to make them easier to install. More about that latter. I use the fence with the ripping fixture from Nautical Research Guild to make the strips. Cut one wider strip 0.04" You will use one of the 0.02" strips as a spacers to index the fence to provide the space for each cut. Larry uses a sliding table that includes a spacer guide pictured below. You could use the micrometer attachment on the Burnes saw. In that case, you would move the micrometer 0.04" to the left between each cut (0.02" for the slot plus 0.02" for the thickness of the blade). I've done it that way, but using the spacer is less tedious to me. The first set of cuts will be across the grain. Adjust this cut so that the depth is roughly twice the finished grating thickness. This cut is on the left side of the blank.



Indexing slide for cutting. Note the strip for maintaining the spacing between cuts



Ready for the first cut

## "Making Gratings" by Tom Ruggiero

### Technical Session

The depth of the cut needs to be about twice the depth of the second cut.

Make the first cut at the far edge of the blank. If you are going to have a wider border around the grating the first cut needs to be 0.04" from the edge of the blank (. You could go a little wider though and simply trim it to size when you are finished.

Before removing the blank, loosen the fence and slide the spacer between the blank and the fence.

Move the fence up against the spacer and tighten the fence.

Remove the blank and move it to the front of the table.

Make the next cut.

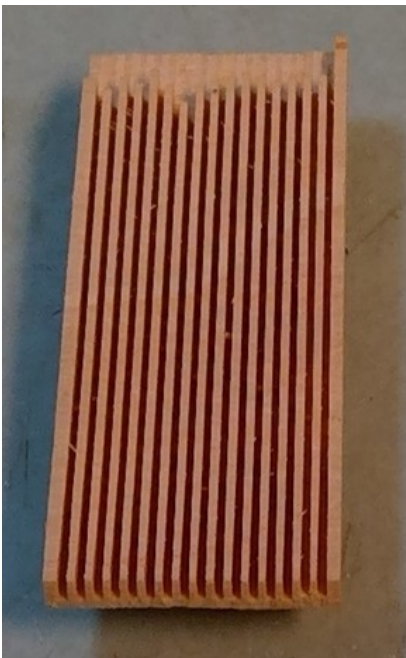
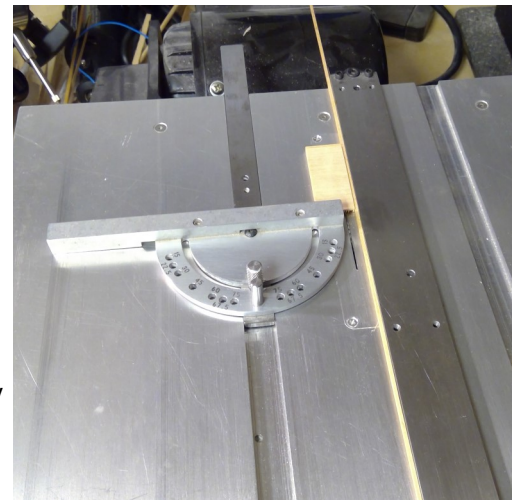
Repeat the steps.

If you are putting a wider border on the periphery of the grating, for the last cut you need to move the fence 0.08" to the right.

After each cut, you will move the blank 0.04" away from the blade. You do that by using your 0.04" spacer, or by using two of your 0.02" strips. The photo shows a blank after the first cuts have been made. Note the wider spaces on the edges of the blank.

After you have made your "first" cuts. You need to lower the blade to roughly the depth of your grating slats. That would be between 0.02" to 0.03" above the saw table.

#### Caution



Before proceeding to the next step, something to consider. The notches that we made were perpendicular to (across) the grain of the wood. We made this cut deeper than the next to try to avoid breaking off the projections when the second cut is made. Making the second cut shallow is an attempt to prevent that, but I have had to make multiple blanks because of tear out. That is because the thickness is now within the structure of the wood itself (Eric explained this in one of his Tech Sessions). After I made my gratings, and after lots of wasted attempts, I spoke with someone from Sherline about how you would machine these tiny wood pieces. The solution that she suggested was to soak the wood with Cyano. That effectively makes the wood into an acrylic so tear out will be minimized.

**"Making Gratings" by Tom Ruggiero**

**Technical Session**

**On to Step Two**

Once you have adjusted the blade height, turn the blank 90 degrees and make cuts using the same procedure that you used for the first cuts. The photo on the right shows a the notches. This was one of my throw aways because of the numerous tear out. Next time, I use the cyano trick.



**Step Three**

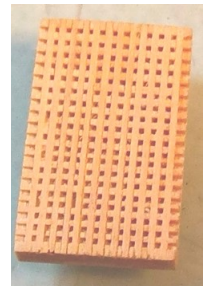
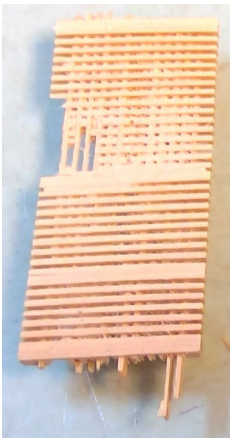
Next is the insertion of the strips. These are inserted perpendicular to the grain of the wood on the blank. I typically use cyano for this.

**Step Four**

The last step is to sand the strip flat to the nubs.

Turn the grating over and sand the bottom until the spaces are open. This is the underside of a grating being sanded. Note the wide strips. I was making two gratings that are next to each other in one hatch coaming. This is also a throw away.

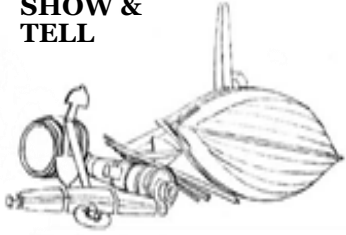
The photo on the right is a completed grating. Note that the photo shows the grating larger than the actual size.



Here are a few of the gratings on Liverpool. Note how the two hatches to the right have two gratings in each coaming. You cannot get this detail with commercially available grating strips. While a bit tedious, you do get great results.

# The Broadaxe

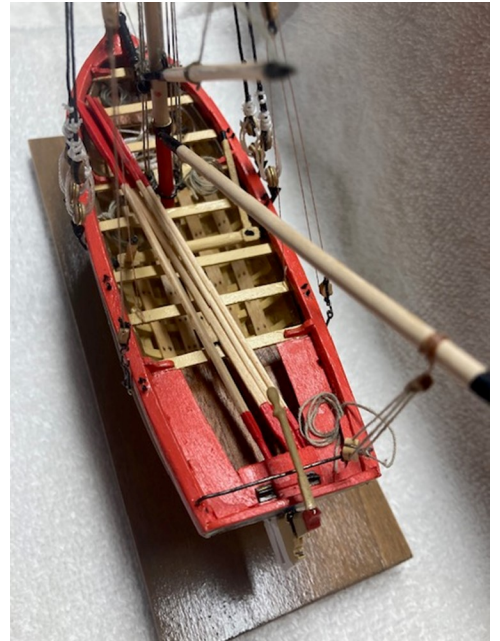
SHOW & TELL



18th Century Longboat  
1755 Scale 1:48, POF  
Model Shipways Kit

Paddy O'Hara

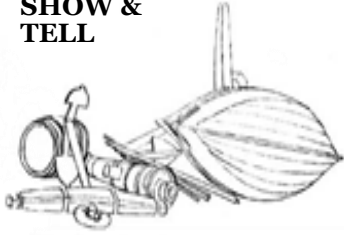
Paddy has completed his longboat. Well done.





# The Broadaxe

## SHOW & TELL



Dianna, British

1812, Scale 1:96

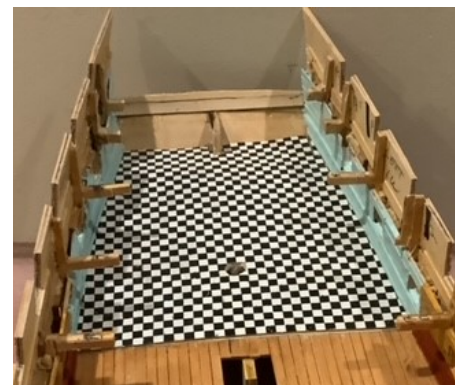
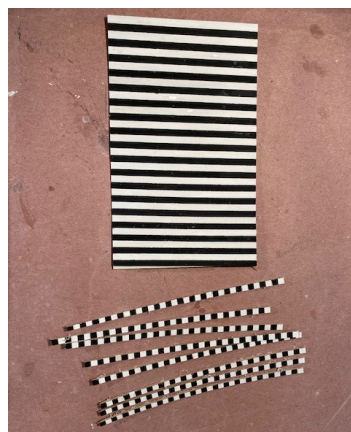
## Caldercraft Kit

Mort Stoll

Mort is working on the has installed the deck covering in the Captain's cabin. The covering is a wood veneer that Mort made using the following process.

He first makes a template of the area of the deck that he will be covering. He then paints two sheets of wood; one black and the other white.

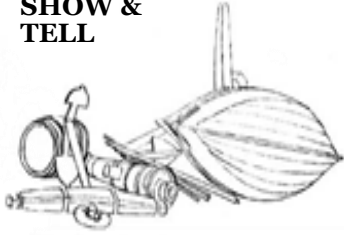
He cuts the sheets into strips that are the width of each square on the deck. He then glues the strips edge to edge alternating black and white. It might be a good idea to glue the strips to paper so that the edge gluing is a little easier. Once these new sheets are dry, he saws them across the grain making black and white strips. Finally, he lays the strips on the template of the deck that he is covering. The sequence of this process is shown below. Thank you Mort.





# The Broadaxe

SHOW & TELL



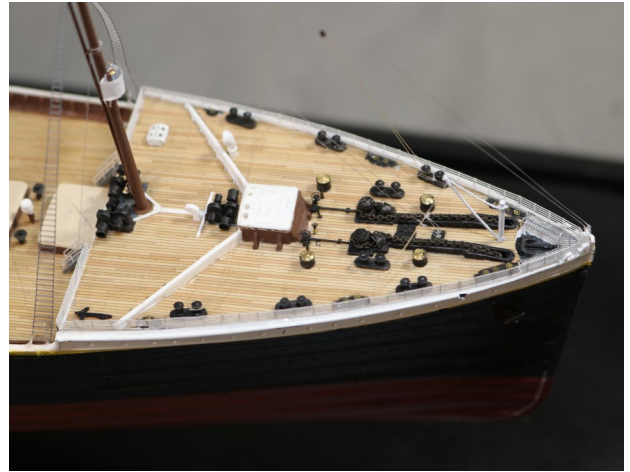
## RMS Titanic

British Ocean Liner 1912

Scale 1:350, Minicraft Kit

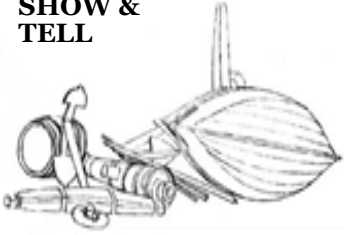
Tom Ruggiero

Tom has completed RMS Titanic. The display case cover was purchased from Pop Displays. Learning from the last base that he made, he purchased the plexiglass cover and made the base fit the cover. He used pine project board. Project board is several two inch wide pine strips that are glued together. It is less expensive than a pine board and is not as likely to warp as a single wood board will. The base has a one inch quarter round perimeter and was sprayed with several coats of flat black Krylon. The cover fits into a rebate. Thanks to Josh for the use of his router and table saw. Thanks to Chuck for making the name plates. Titanic is now at its new home and Tom is on to his next project. More photos on the next page.

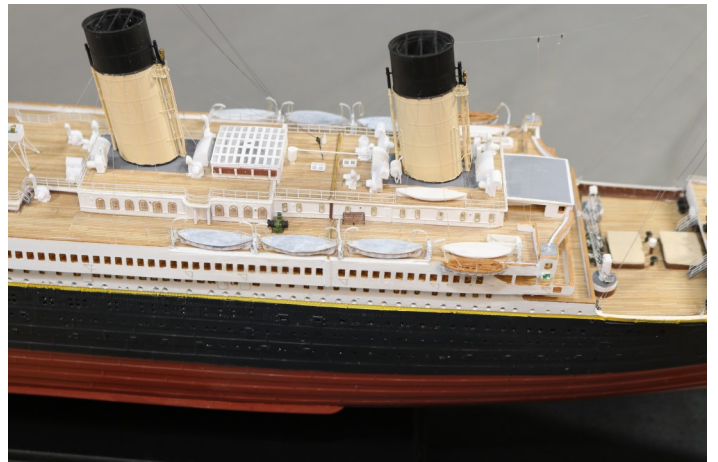
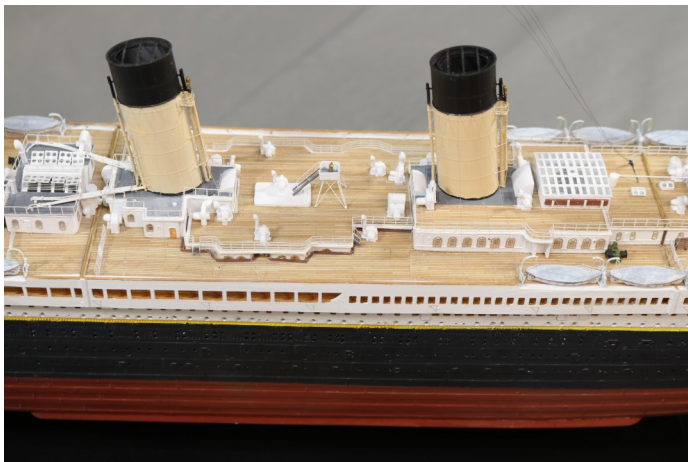
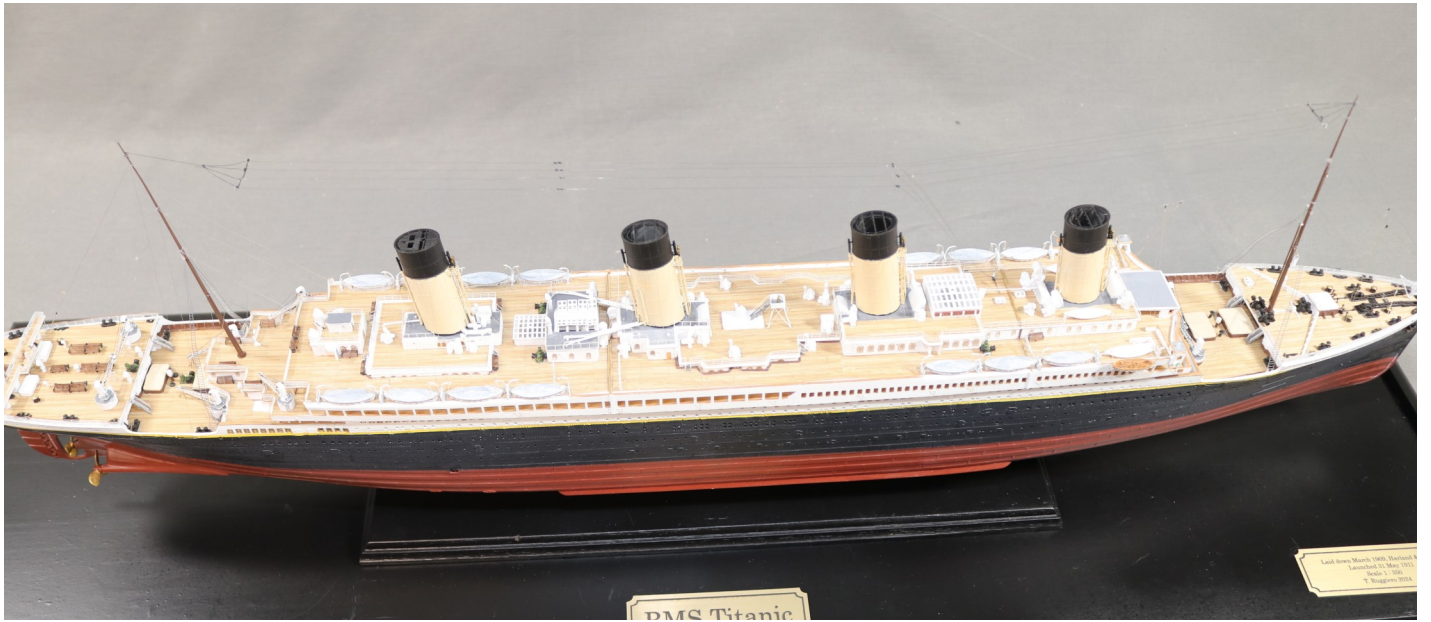


# The Broadaxe

SHOW & TELL



RMS Titanic (cont'd)



# The Ship Model Society of New Jersey



*The Broadaxe* is published monthly by The Ship Model Society of New Jersey (SMSNJ), a nonprofit organization dedicated to teaching and promoting ship modeling and maritime history. Membership dues are

\$25.00 for the first year and \$20.00 per year thereafter.

Visit our Web Site at: <http://www.shipmodelsocietyofnewjersey.org> where a web version of *The Broadaxe* can be found. *The Broadaxe* is distributed each month by email in PDF format.

Regular meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 6:45 PM, at the Roseland Free Public Library, 20 Roseland Avenue, Roseland, New Jersey. Guests are always welcome.

Contributions to *The Broadaxe* are always welcome, and SMSNJ members are encouraged to participate. Articles, shop hints and news items may be submitted directly to the Editor as typed manuscript or electronic files, either on discs or by email. Handwritten notes or other materials will be considered depending on the amount of editing and preparation involved.

*The Broadaxe* is edited by Tom Ruggiero. Your ideas and suggestions are always welcome. Please submit them to Tom Ruggiero at [trugs@comcast.net](mailto:trugs@comcast.net).

If any member would like an email copy of the roster, please drop a note to Tom Ruggiero at the email address listed below. If there is an error in the roster let Tom know and the roster will be amended. Please make sure that your spam filter is not blocking emails from Tom because if it is, you won't get member bulletins. Please keep your contact information up to date. Your email address is particularly important because that is the main avenue of communication for club announcements. In case of emergencies such as last-minute cancellations due to weather, emails will be sent to the members. Direct All Correspondence to Tom Ruggiero.

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