



Volume 43, Number 2 *Newsletter of the Ship Model Society of New Jersey*

*February 2025*

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**Upcoming Events  
& Tech Sessions**

Next Meeting is Saturday, February 15, 2024 at Roseland Free Public Library, 20 Roseland Ave, Roseland, NJ 07068 at 10:30 am.

**Meeting Report:** The meeting was opened by our President Bill Brown at 10:15 am at the Roseland Library. Fourteen members attended. There was one guest; Joe Cali-Poutre. This is Joe’s second meeting. The library opens at 10 am. Today we had a scramble to set up and bring our remote members in. Therefore, starting with our next meeting the start time will be 10:30. Members are welcome to come a 10:00 to help set up the room.

Tom presented the status of our finances.

At this meeting we discussed the upcoming Northeast Joint Clubs meeting. See the report in Old Business.

Kevin Kenny has a video on MSW on modeling woods. When he weht to use his Proxon joiner, he heard disturbing noises and the result was a damaged cutting bald and holder. The nuts are seized so h=e will be using heat as such to attempt removal. If that is unsuccessful he will have to order a new one from Germany. Kevin received Japanese box clamps. They come in three sizes. They are easy to use and he will need them for his model of Ulysses.

The meeting adjoined at 12:30.

**Next Tech Session**

The February 2025 Tech Session is “Weathering Techniques” presented by Mason Logie.

# The Broadaxe

## OLD BUSINESS



### Joint Clubs 2025

Joint clubs preparations continue. The presenter of the afternoon talk will be David Antscherl. Vendors are being lined up and the member clubs have been contacted for door prizes as well as a Round Table presentation. As was done last year, the presentations will be given in the room off the deck. The special raffle item is an ungraded Preac Table saw.

Registration is open and you are encouraged to get yours in now.

## BOOKS AND PUBS



No books and publications this meeting.

## NEW BUSINESS



### Sandy Hook Foundation

Mason has been contacted by the Sandy Hook Foundation. They have several model ships and they are looking for cases. We have ACME Plastic in Woodlawn Park was recommended by Rou Goroski. Bill will also give them contact information for Everything Plastic in Philadelphia and Pop Displays.

Mason noted that Sandy Hook was used as an artillery proving ground until the ranges became too long and the proving ground was moved to Aberdeen Maryland.

He also mentioned that in 1778 a group of English sailors deserted at Sandy Hook. A brutal storm and extreme cold ensued and the search party that went to apprehend them found them all frozen to death. These were the last English casualties of the American Revolution. Mason will be asking them for a tour of the facility.

Joe mentioned that the Twin Lights Lighthouse is a great place to visit and that just behind it is a museum where there is a 16" gun that was shore emplacement used for shore defense.

**“Serving Rope and the Reasons” presented  
by Dan Caramagno**

**Technical Session**

Dan presented; “What I Learned Serving and Seizing Model Ship Rigging”. He noted that he is left handed so right handed folks will need to adapt. His tools for serving are; Serving Jig (size matters), alligator clips, tweezers, a good scissors, and, a nail clipper or blade, dental picks, a magnifier and light, and clamps to hold the jig. The serving jig in this demonstration would be too small for models 1:48 and larger, but there are many others available including from Syren Ship Model Company. He noted that you need ship rigging references as well as a book on knots. A source that is helpful is found at; <https://maritime.org/doc/steel/index.php>

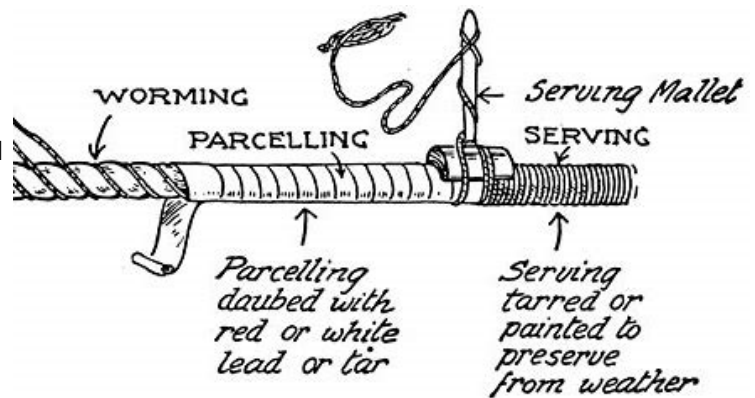
Dan notes that good material is everything. For thread, he prefers synthetic or Linen (very expensive), and be mindful of what colors that you will need. For fixing knots, he uses PVA glue, Matte Medium, Acrylic Floor Finish, or Animal Glue. Joe Cali-Pouter recommended Quick Shine Floor Finish. Dan specifically noted that Cyanoacrylic should not be used as it is a plasticizer chemically hardens the thread and makes it brittle. He uses medical gauze for making a mouse.

The knots that he uses are; Stop Kots (Overhand Knot, Double Overhand, Common whipping) and Seizing Knots (Common whipping and Seizing). These knots should hold on their own but the use of acrylic floor finish is his insurance.

Standing rigging was protected by serving in areas that could be chaffed or wore by scuffing etc. For example, shrouds, stays, and back stays needed such protection where they wrapped around the mast, and also where the deadeye was turned in. Some also completely served the forward most shroud on the lower mast completely to protect from chaffing from the sails rubbing on it. The protection was three steps; worming, parcelling, and finally serving. Dan notes that cable laid rope has the strands twisted to the left while shroud laid has strans twisted to the right.

“Worming” the line is designed to fill in the channels (the contlines) between the strands in order to keep water out and to allow tighter, smoother wrapping of the next layers by giving the rope a more cylindrical shape. Dan has wormed rigging, but in larger scales as it is nearly invisible below say 1:48. Worming is laying a thread into the twists of the rope (basically making it smooth). Worming is a very slow process.

Using dark brown cable and thread, start with a stop knot (Crossover, Seizing) and seal the knot. Worm one groove to other rope end finishing with a stop knot. You need to check that the worm spacing is equal to the number of strands. Repeat for each strand (you may need a pick to rearrange strands if they are laying in the wrong gap). Glue the stop knot and coat the cable to seal the worming.



**“Serving Rope and the Reasons” presented  
by Dan Caramagno**

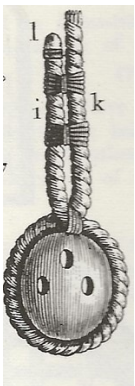
**Technical Session**

The next step was called parceling. Parceling is wrapping the line in a spiral fashion with long overlapping strips of thin canvas. Since the line is going to be served, for modeling this is typically skipped.

The last step is serving. The outer layer of protection is formed of twine wrapped as tightly as possible around the line, each progressive turn of the twine laid as close as possible against the last, covering the line completely. Start with a stop Knot (Double Overhand) then turn the handle slowly rotating the line. Keep the twine lines close together but not overlapping and not too tight. As necessary, you may need to rearrange the twine with your fingers or tweezers. Add a stop knot at the end.



The stays wrap around the head of the mast. This was accomplished by passing the end of the stay through loop made with an eye splice. To keep the loop from closing, a raised portion called a mouse was used to prevent the eye from sliding upward. Dan starts with a stop knot (double overhand). Then he serves into the desired shape. Finally, he covers the serving with gauze or medical wrap. The ends are then tied. Serve over the knots at the ends and then paint or stain to the color desired.

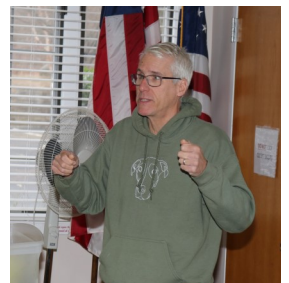


Dan also demonstrated various types of seizing. A throat seizing is used to fasten overlapping rope. If the line is cable laid, loop the ends to the left and under the standing part. If the line is hawser/shroud laid, loop to right and under standing part. Camp into the server. Add a stop knot (double overhand). Tie the loop (Common Whipping). Adjust the loop around the deadeye. Set the seizing with acrylic floor finish.

Dan then demonstrated how parallel lines are seized to one another. Start with a stop knot (double overhand knot), then whip around several times. Pull the loose end of the whipping between the two ropes. Twist the end of the whipping two times around the seizing, and then tie off. Fix the seizing with a drop of acrylic floor finish.



Thanks to Dan for a great presentation.



## An Era Ends

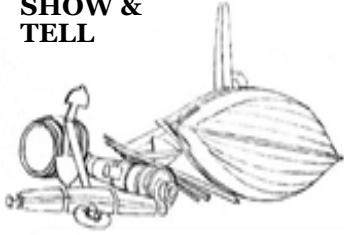


SMSNJ has had monthly workshops at Chuck's home in Rutherford, New Jersey for many years. Chuck is moving to a new home, and much larger workshop space (with a new home attached). He invited us to meet at the old workshop for one last time on January 4, 2025. Tom Ruggiero, Roy Goroski, Mike Ellison, Mike Rogers, Bill Brown, and Dan Caramagno were at the workshop. Below are photos of the event. SMSNJ thanks Chuck, and his wife Pat, for his comradery, assistance and great fellowship and wish them well at the new home.



# The Broadaxe

SHOW & TELL



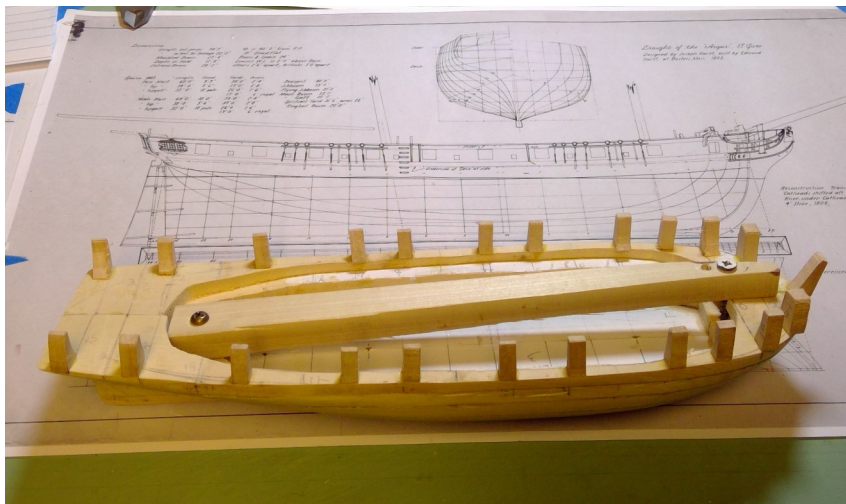
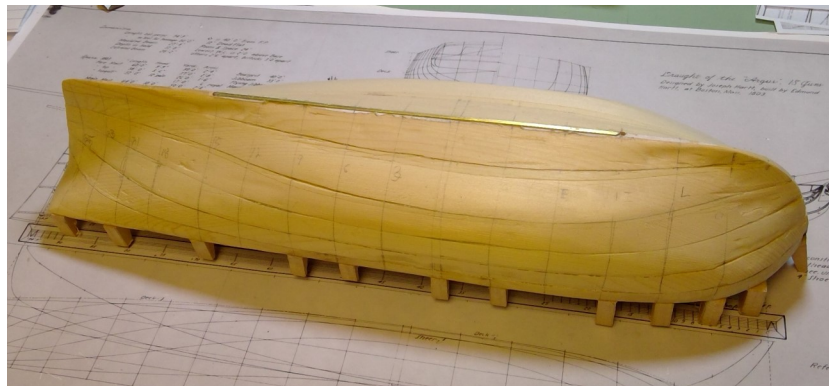
## Argus US

1807, Brig

Scale 1:96, Scratch Build

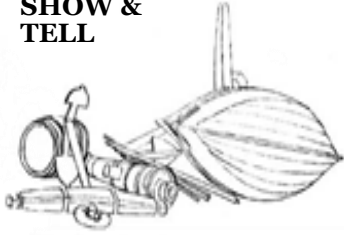
Tom Ruggiero

Since Argus was coppered, the plan was to leave a rebate the thickness of a plank in the two upper lifts. That plan is void because the body and half breadth plans that he used to cut the lifts is drawn to the inside of the planks. So, he now needs to plank the entire hull. The Argus is a flush deck vessel. The total width of the bulwark is just under 1/8" in 1:96 scale. So, planking inside and outside is impractical. So, formers were made and glued to the top lift. Paper will then be glued to the outside of each former. The planking above the deck will be two strips laminated together. Once the glue sets up and is thoroughly dry, the plan is to break out the formers. It is hoped that the paper will allow the formers to cleanly break free of the planks. Tom will use cherry for planking below the yellow band at the gunports, and Alaskan yellow cedar above. Since the inside planking will be painted, he will use bass wood for that. The brass strip on the keel is temporary to ensure that it remains flat and isn't mistakenly carve away. The wood on top of the hull is so that the hull can be held in a vise for planking.



# The Broadaxe

## SHOW & TELL



## New Bedford Whaleboat US

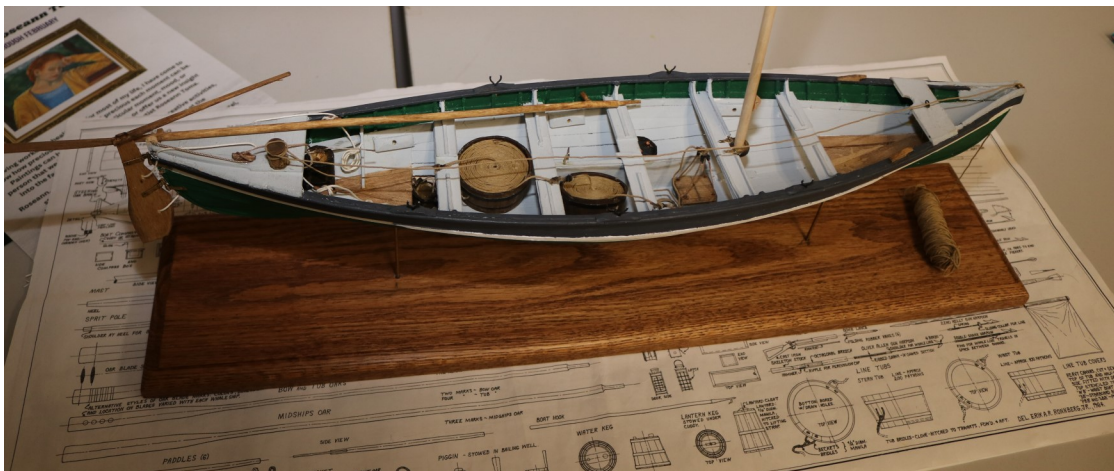
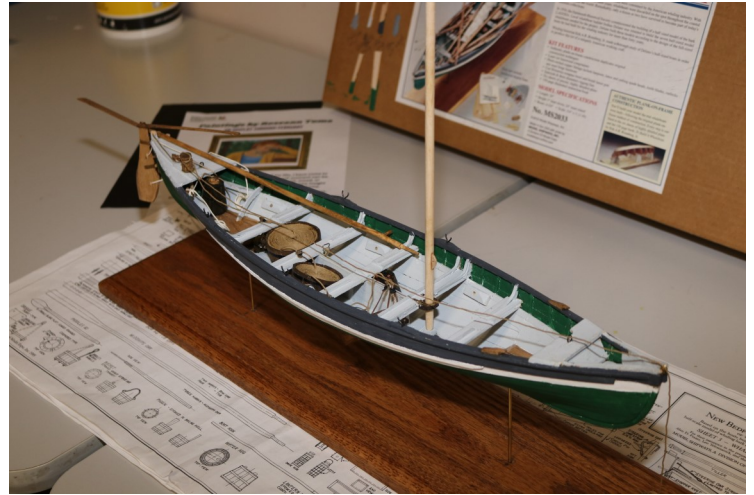
Scale 1:16, Model Shipways Kit

Steve Fletcher

Steve is building this beautiful whaleboat from the Model Shipways kit using the plans and book by the acknowledged expert on whaleboats, Erik A. R. Ronnberg, Jr.

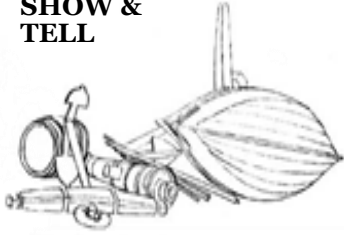
The model is a large scale and as such, requires lots of detail. Steve has finished the rope work including coils in the buckets. He needs to add oars, harpoons and other features. Everything was collapsible and made to fold into the boat. He has a full size marlin spike that he will use as the name plate. Bill suggested that Steve take a look at the Whaleboat model construction series that Tom Lauria has on Youtube. It is a very good step by step video of a build.

Steve notes that Ronnberg's plans are excellent.



# The Broadaxe

SHOW & TELL



Ross Jackel, UK, 1961

## Fishing Trawler

Scale 1:144, Revell Kit

Mason Logie

The trawler was built for the North Sea Fishing Trade from the 1960's. In the 1970's, she took part in the Cold War. The kit was originally marketed as a model of a Russian spy trawler. The ship is now a museum.

Mason will use the instructions on how to improve the model with several scratch built details. As there are two museum ships he was able to view details on the internet of the ships.



## Train Station., 1890-1950's

Scale 1:87, Walters Kit

Mason Logie

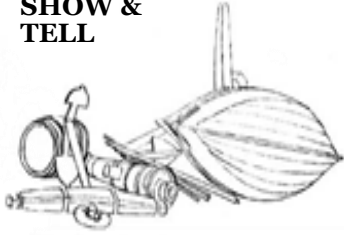
The second model that Mason brought is this small train station. He is building this to be part of a water front diorama.





# The Broadaxe

## SHOW & TELL



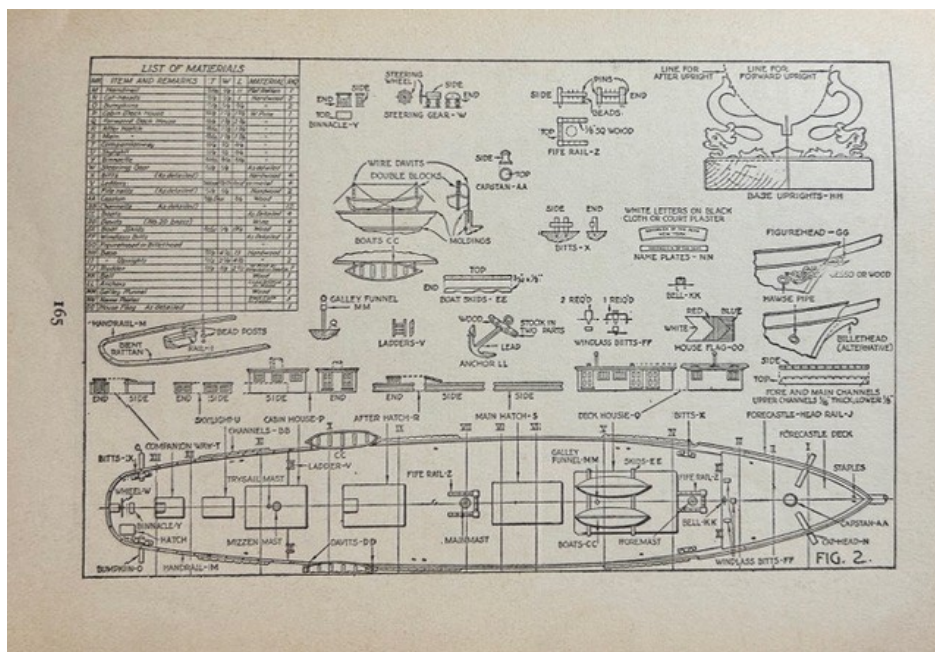
## Sovereign of the Seas, US, Extreme clipper

Scale 1"=12", Scratch Built

Mark Peckham

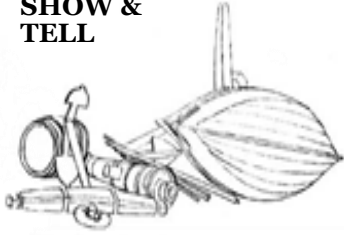
This is a restoration of a circa 1925-1940 model, built from plans published by E. Armitage McCann beginning in 1925 and republished by later books and magazines including Popular Science in 1934. I have encountered three similar models recently. This one belonged to a friend who recently passed away. It sailed off his mantel many years ago and was badly broken. Fortunately, all of the parts were saved in a cigar box. The years between the wars have been called the "golden age of model ship building." Plans for models at this scale made the hobby widely accessible and resulted in very attractive but simplified scale models. These models still show up in antique stores and flea markets for \$100-200.

The model is a solid/bread and butter hull and measures 24" x 3.5" x 19".



# The Broadaxe

SHOW & TELL



HMS Dianna, Frigate

1794, Scale 1:64

Caldercraft Kit

Mort Soll

Mort was not able to attend our meeting as his grandchildren are spending the weekend with us while parents vacation. He has been working on his latest project. Here are Diana pictures of 2 partitions of the Captain's quarters in place and the remaining partitions waiting to be installed. Also a picture of his hanging bed which also has to be mounted. Nicely done, Mort.



# 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 Steve Maggipinto 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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