



Volume 43, Number 1 *Newsletter of the Ship Model Society of New Jersey*

January 2025

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**Upcoming Events
& Tech Sessions**

January 4, 2025, 10am Workshop At Chuck's.

Next Meeting is Saturday, January 18, 2024 at Roseland Free Public Library, 20 Roseland Ave, Roseland, NJ 07068 at 10:00 am.

December Meeting Report: The virtual meeting was opened by our President Bill Brown at 10 am. Seventeen members attended. There were three guests. Joe Cali-Poutre is a long time ship modeler and member of the New Jersey Chapter of IPMS. He is a trustee and the social media coordinator and website manager for Navesink Maritime Heritage Association - <https://navesinkmaritime.org/> Member Central NJ IPMS and a former trustee of Battleship New Jersey Historical Museum Society (instrumental on getting the ship back to NJ). He builds mostly steel ships, favorite theme is ships and other items named after NJ, locations therein, people from, or part of NJ history. He is currently editing an online page and future book listing and describing the models of Bahr's Restaurant in Highlands, NJ. Not that most of those models were donated by a deceased SMSNJ member, Henry Schaefer.

His wife Connie, also attended and she is a beginner ship model builder. The third guest was Lynn Bullock, the wife of member John Bullock. Welcome to you all.

Tom presented the status of our finances.

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

The meeting adjourned at 12:00.

Next Tech Session

The January 2025 Tech Session is "Serving Rope and the Reasons" presented by Dan Caramagno.

The Broadaxe

OLD BUSINESS



Joint Clubs 2025

The Joint Clubs Committee met on December 11th. We have a speaker for the afternoon talk. They will be announced later. 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. We do have a special raffle item.

Tom will be keeping track of expenses. The goal is to have registration forms distributed by the second or third week of January 2025.

NEW BUSINESS



No New Business at this meeting.

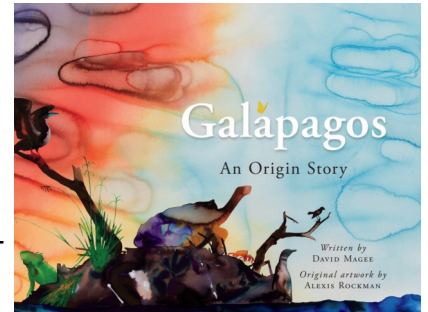
BOOKS AND PUBS



Mike Ellison showed the next two books published by Seawatch. The first is "Dutch 17th Century Ship Models in Paper" by Ab Hoving. Ab worked as the chief model restorer in the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam. Studied the technique of Dutch ship building in the 17th and 18th century. He has written numerous books, articles in several magazines and given lectures. He has been involved in major replica building projects, such as Duyfken (West Australia, Statenjacht (Utrecht) and others. This is his latest book and it describes how he produced a Dutch 17th century pleasure vessel using card.

The second is Seawatch's first-ever children's book, Galápagos: An Origin Story!

This extraordinary collaboration brings together the talents of renowned screenwriter David Magee (Life of Pi, Finding Neverland) and acclaimed artist Alexis Rockman, whose work has been featured at the Mystic Seaport Museum, the Smithsonian, the Peabody Essex Museum and more. There are a lot of theories about how Giant Tortoises and other animals who couldn't swim found their way to the Galápagos Islands — but of course, the only ones who know for certain are the animals themselves. This is their story. But this book is more than just a beautiful story. Together with David and Alexis, we're donating all profits from Galápagos: An Origin Story to ocean conservation initiatives.



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 or call 585 968 8111

Technical Session

"Working With Acrylic Material" by Joe Lorenzo

So you've finished your model, and now you need to protect it. Joe Lorenzo is a woodworker as well as a ship model maker. He has made several cases using acrylic, and at this meeting he presented what he has learned and perfected. His presentation covered the selection of materials, the tools that he uses, the sizing of the panels and polishing the edge of the panels, assembly of the case, and proper care. He credits a presentation by Ray Peacock, a member of the Model Shipwrights of Niagara and an occasional guest at our meetings.

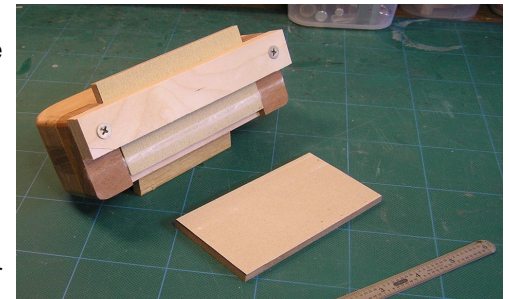
Joe described the various materials available and that they are generally either cast, or extruded. He notes that cast products have a higher melting point so that the machine better. Plexiglass and Optix are cast products that he uses. In general, the pieces are cut on a table saw with a fine tooth blade (80 tooth CMT) specifically used solely for plastics. He finds this easier than CNC machining and manual routing. He advises that the protective backing (film or paper) remain in place and after being cut to size, remove only a strip to allow bonding.



Accurate engineering squares are a must. Cheap (~\$12) but quite accurate set of 3 squares at Harbor Freight. Alternately; plastic carpenter squares. Joe trims the corner flange of the square. The carpenter square enables clamping.



Clamps are useful in both polishing and assembly operations. You will also need masking tape. A flat work surface is a must topped with either Formica or glass so as to resist the solvent used for bonding. For edge polishing, he uses a plywood shooting board. You can purchase one (Lee Valley #05Z1501, 8" sand paper holder), or make your own.



A polishing block is also helpful. He made one (bottom left) from scrap $\frac{3}{4}$ " material glued up and trued perpendicular face. It has 2 slightly recessed guide blocks, a capture bar and polishing inserts. 180 to 320 grit sand paper is used in the inserts. Advantages are; an adjustable sandpaper surface, removable sandpaper inserts, and capable of wide range of grits. Alternatively, you can purchase the Lee Valley 05Z1501 (bottom right).



For bonding, he uses Weldon 4; fast fusing, solvent. He notes that it has very low viscosity (less than water) and evaporates quickly and highly volatile. For these reasons, keep it well covered when you are not drawing it from the can and use in a very well ventilated area away from sparks or open flame. An alternate is Weldon 3 but that is slower fusing. (cont'd)



Technical Session

"Working With Acrylic Material" by Joe Lorenzo (cont'd)

For application, Joe tried using a hypodermic, but he abandoned that. The reason being was that it invariably dripped and was generally too long to use inside the case. His solution is the bottles and applicators to the right. He got these from Amazon, 18, 20, 25 Gauge Tips. The 25 Gauge bent tip worked best. The 30ml squeeze bottles supplied are supplied with tip stoppers for \$10. He built a support tray to hold the bottles vertical for filling.



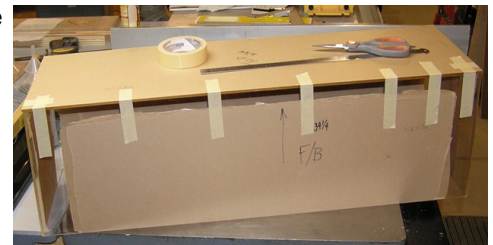
To avoid spills, fill no more than ¾ full. Gently squeeze air out just prior to application, and hold the bottle upright until ready for application. Release squeeze the bottle and apply to the joint. Capillary action will pull the solvent in and go from bottom to top. Do not wipe up spills as that will mar the plastic. The solvent will evaporate.

Construct case prior to base! It is easier to make a base that fits the cover. Use case inside dimensions with the object clearance from inside faces of about 2" to 3" for large subjects and a larger separation for small subjects. The easiest configuration for assembly is sides sandwiched between front and back and the top overlays sides, front and back.

When assembling the case, start with a flat surface. Tape and square one face, one side in 'L' configuration. Ensure taped edges align correctly and then tack joint shown to the right first. Flip the sub assembly and tack the opposite joint and then infill joint as required. Repeat assembly process for second 'L' sub assembly. Join the two sub assemblies with tape, square joints and apply solvent repeating the sequence you used before. Now the top can be placed.



Size top ¼" wider in width and depth than case outside dimensions. Remove protective sheet on inside of top. The protective backing cut away on sides, front and back. Then, place the bare extended top over the four sided assembly and the top to 4 sided assembly, flip assembly and check for uniform spacing case sides (~ 1/8"). Apply solvent around outer perimeter in non taped areas. Remove the tape and finish off joint. The last step is to trim the top overlap. Rout the top with a laminate trim router/bit. A smooth, continuous machining motion yields best results. Do not pause the continuous movement.



When it comes to cleaning, it is very important that you never use anything with ammonia or alcohol. Never Windex or similar products. Such chemicals will eventually cloud or yellow the case. A little soap and luke warm water, rinse and dry w/clean cotton cloth. There are products specifically made for cleaning as well as a dust repellent. The two pictured are for general cleaning and dusting using a clean cotton or microfiber cloth (never paper towel). Novus has three part cleaning system for removing scratches. You start with 3, then 2, and then 1. In Joe's neighborhood, sample costs and availability are Optix at local Home Depot: 48" X 96" x ¼" (really 0.22") = \$259, and Plexiglass at Estreet Plastics: 24" X 48" X ¼"(0.22") = \$37. In our area, you can plastic, and, solvent, tools, and all the products for assembling and cleaning a case from;



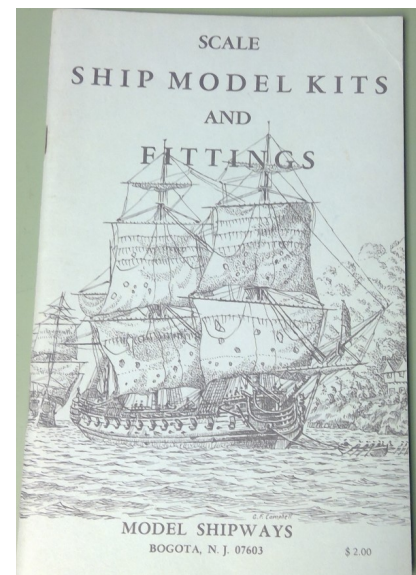
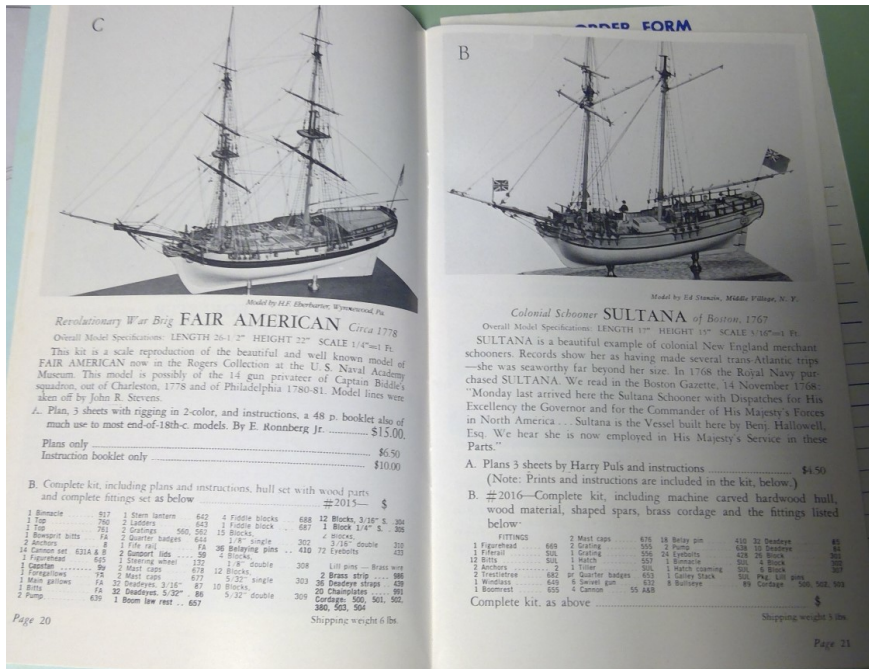
Everything Plastic, 2 Wolf St Unit 1D, Philadelphia, PA 19148, 215-238-9800, everything-plastic.com.

The Broadaxe

Remember When

Who remembers the origins of Model Shipways? Model Shipways was founded by and originally owned by John Shedd and Sam Milone. Many of us went to the original store in Bogota, NJ. In the 1980's Jim Roberts, Willie Dunn, and others were in the store on most Saturdays. Your editor remembers the time when you can call up to get some fittings and such and it was sent with an invoice that you paid via check. Those days are long gone. Model Shipways was sold to Model Expo and moved to Fairfield. From there they moved to the Poconos, and then to Florida.

Barry sent the photo on the right is the original store, now Booklink. Your editor, who doesn't throw out anything, found a Model Shipways catalog from 1982. Note the price for a Fair American or a Ben-



Comic Relief?

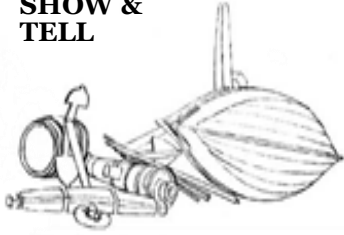
Model Kit: Pirate Ship Bird House. Kit source: Michael's Hobby Store. Scale: who knows? Modeler: my granddaughter Riley when she was 11 (now 14). Not exactly museum quality but a good effort.

Have fun with it Tom. Merry Christmas



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SHOW &
TELL



Fair American, Brig, Colonial/British

Scale 1:48, Modified Model Shipways Kit

Bill Brown

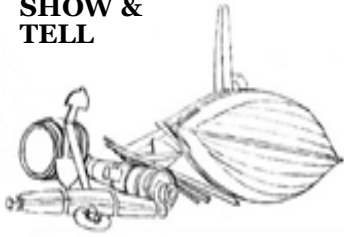
Fair American is a model of a model in the Rogers Collection in Annapolis. The vessel is believed to have originated in South Carolina. Captured and used by the British during the Revolution. The kit is a Yellow Box original Model Shipways kit that starts with a solid hull.

This was a model that Bill started decades ago. At the time, it was more than he bargained for so he put it aside. After getting back into building models he picked it up again. He started by removing and refinishing the hull, and removed the bulwarks and other features and replacing them with Castillo box. He replanked the deck as well. The hull is now very well finished. Much more to go, but much better than how it started.



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SHOW & TELL



Argus US

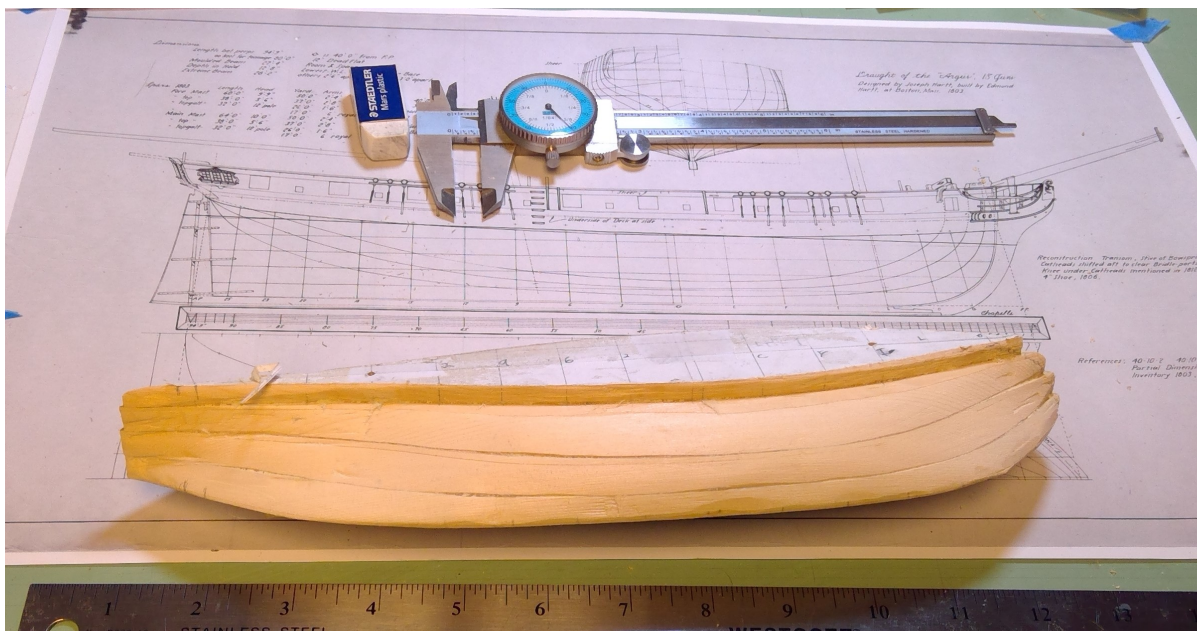
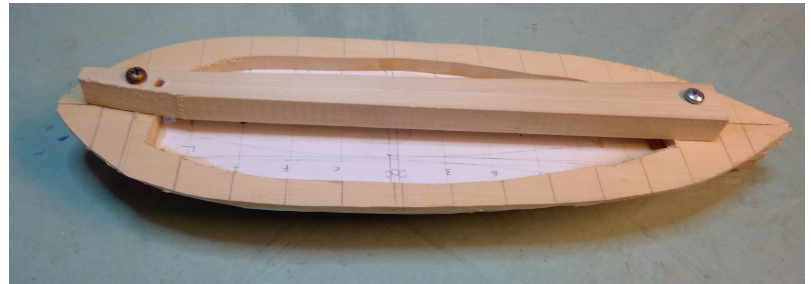
1807, Brig

Scale 1:96, Scratch Build

Tom Ruggiero

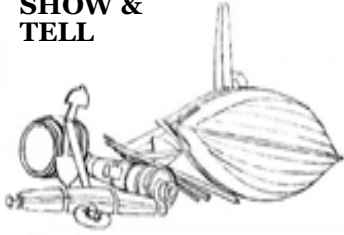
Tom glued the first four lifts together. He attached a piece of scrap to the top so that he could hold the assembly in a vise. He used three sizes of chisels to rough out the hull. He then used 80 grit sand paper to get it near the final shape. The lowest lift has not been carved yet. A brass strip will be temporarily glued where the keel will go so that the surface remains flat.

After doing this, Tom realized that he made a rookie mistake. 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. Oh well, some extra practice.



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SHOW & TELL



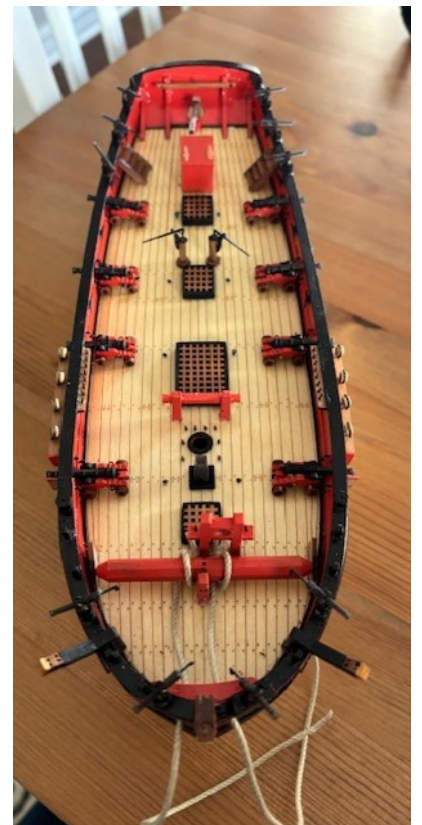
HM Cutter Sherbourne 1763

English, Scale 1:64

Vanguard Models Kit

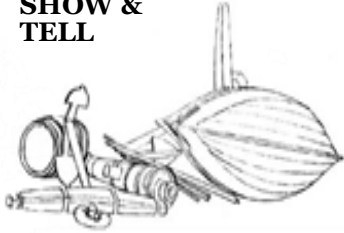
Paddy O'Hare

Paddy continues with this very good looking model. The model is plank on bulk-head. The hull is complete armament installed and deck furniture just about complete. Masting comes next.



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SHOW &
TELL



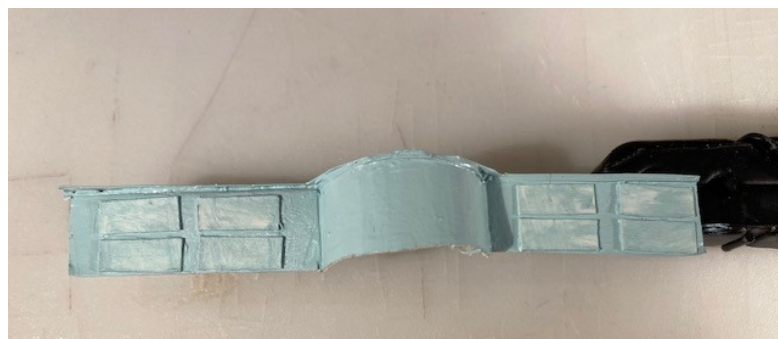
HMS Dianna, Frigate

1794, Scale 1:64

Caldercraft Kit

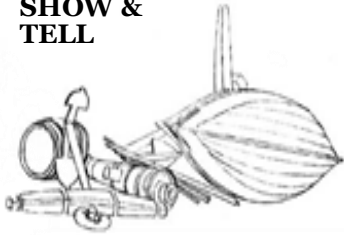
Mort Soll

Mort is working on the quarter galleries with the hanging lights, commode, sliding door to the great cabin and almost complete stern gallery bench seat with storage drawers. Am now trying to organize layout and furniture of the Captain's dining, sleeping and great cabin. As mentioned, he has disassembled parts of the model so that he can better detail it. Coming along Mort.



The Broadaxe

SHOW & TELL



Ulysses 1797

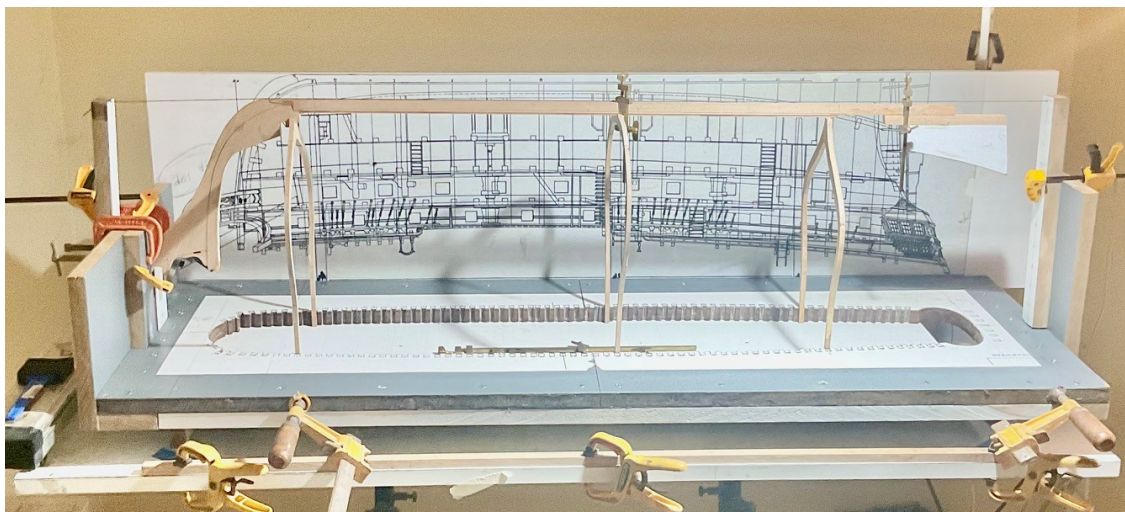
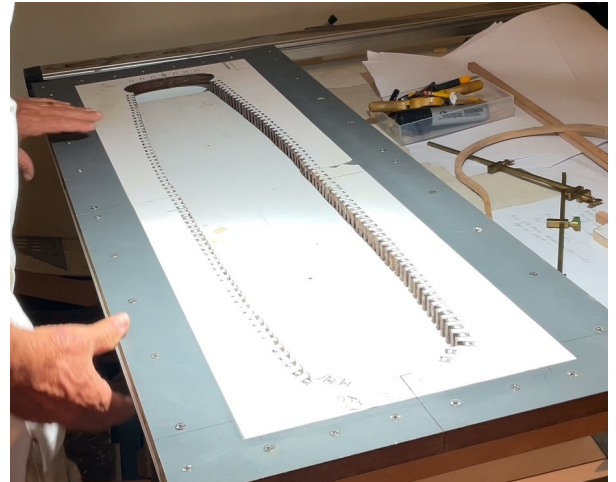
English, Scale 1:48

Scratch Built

Kevin Kenny

Thorn is still working, but Kevin has started another project. It is His Majesty's Ship Ulysses. Kevin always builds ships and craft that are connected to his home in Trinidad. The Ulysses bought Kevin's ancestor, Chevalier Michel Julian de Verteuil to Trinidad in 1797.

This vessel is the same class as the Roebuck. Harold Hahn built and has plans for the Roebuck so that is Kevin's starting point. He is using the Hahn method. That method uses laminated frames that are mounted inverted into a fixture. The tops of the frames are extended to a common plane in the jig. The keelson holds the bottom of the frames. Kevin has a video of this process on MSW.



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.

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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