FORECASTLE REPORT

Newsletter of the Chicago Tri-Club Association ◆ October, 2022

• Scuttlebutt •

Returning to Port

During the September virtual meeting, it was announced that the Midwest Model Shipwrights will be resuming face to face meetings on October 19, 2022. As in the past, we will continue to meet on the third Wednesday of the month at the Dasom Community Church (formerly South Church) in Mount Prospect, Illinois, on the lower level. For those of you who may not be sure of the location, a map and directions will be sent out prior to the meeting. The church does not have face mask or social distancing requirements. Whether you follow these practices at Shipwrights' meetings will be entirely at your discretion.

A Zoom meeting will still be held each month. However, it will occur on the first Wednesday, and the North Shore Deadeyes will be the host. Their inaugural meeting will be on October 5th, and will follow the same format used for the past 2 1/2 years. Invites will be sent out a few days prior to the meeting.

Memberships will continue to be complimentary for all three clubs until January, 2023. Information on Tri-Club membership structure and dues will be announced prior to those meetings. Those who paid their dues in 2020 prior to the Covid shutdown will receive comp membership in 2023.

The Forecastle Report

As you can see, page 1 of the Forecastle Report has received a facelift. With this issue the Report will cover the activities of all three organizations within the Chicago Tri-Club Association. How successful this endeavor is will largely depend on your participation. In addition to bringing your models to F2F meetings, please continue to email photos of your current projects to Rick Szydelko and Bob Filipowski. The Report will be emailed sometime after the Shipwrights meeting each month.

Tri-Club October Meetings

Building a Mariner's Astrolabe

By Alan O'Neill

Alan O'Neill has become quite adept with a 3-D printing machine. Join us for a presentation describing his latest creation, a seventeenth century Mariner's Astrolabe. What makes this piece even more amazing is the fact that it actually works! In addition to explaining how the device was made, Alan will describe how it functions. This is one you don't want to miss.

Being hosted by the North Shore Deadeyes, a Zoom invite will be sent out a few days before the meeting. Proceedings will begin on Wednesday, October 5th, at 7:00 PM CST, but you will be able to log on as early as 6:30 PM. Hope you can make it!

The Refit of the Schooner *Charlie*

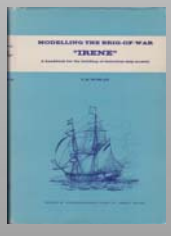
by Alan O'Neill

Often, restorations can be more challenging than building a model from scratch. Join Alan O'Neill when he describes the trials and tribulations he experienced while repairing a model of the schooner *Charlie,* a model that would eventually be a Christmas gift for the client's father.

The NRMS holds their hybrid gatherings in Westmont, IL on the second Saturday of the month. Invites will be sent out with directions a few days before the October 8th meeting.

October MMS Meeting

With Bob Filipowski

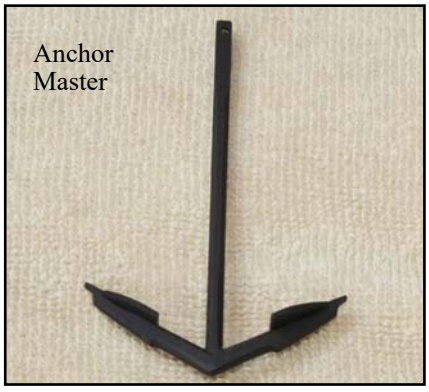


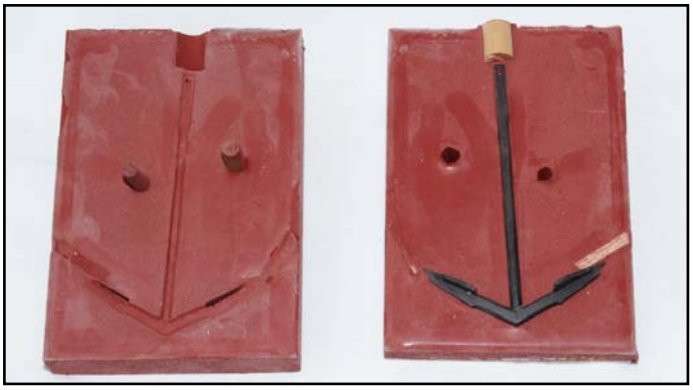
The *Midwest Model Shipwrights* will hold their first face to face meeting in over 2 1/2 years when they return to the Dasom Community Church on October 19th. The agenda will include a Ships on Deck, round table discussions, and a raffle. Items will include a very nice copy of *Modeling the Brig-of-War Irene* by E. W. Petrejus. This book has been out of print for decades and is considered a collector's item. More information on meeting location will be sent out soon.

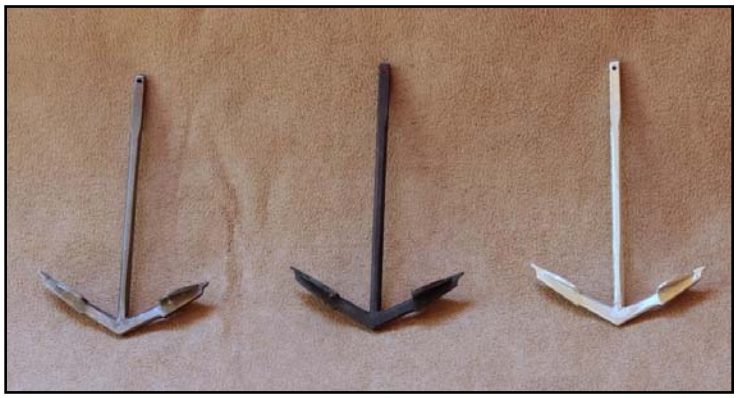
• Ships on Deck •

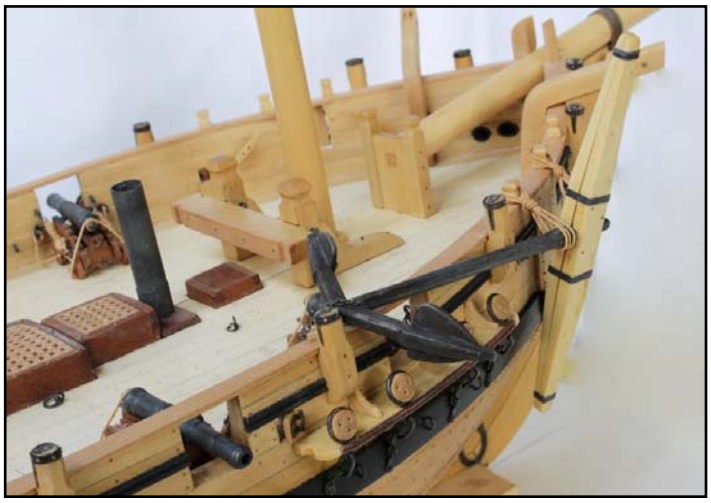
HMS *Swallow* by Toni Levine

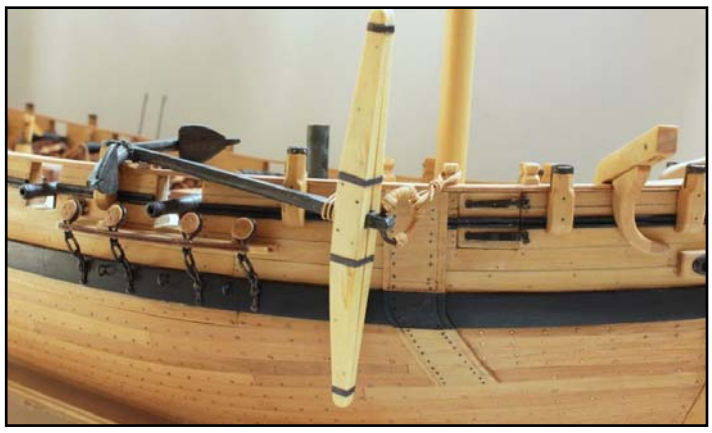
Photos by Toni Levine











"Ships on Deck" , continued on Page 3

• Ships on Deck •

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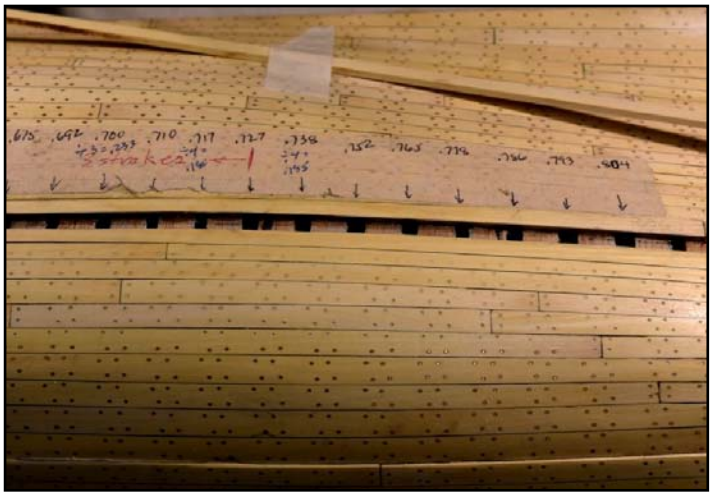
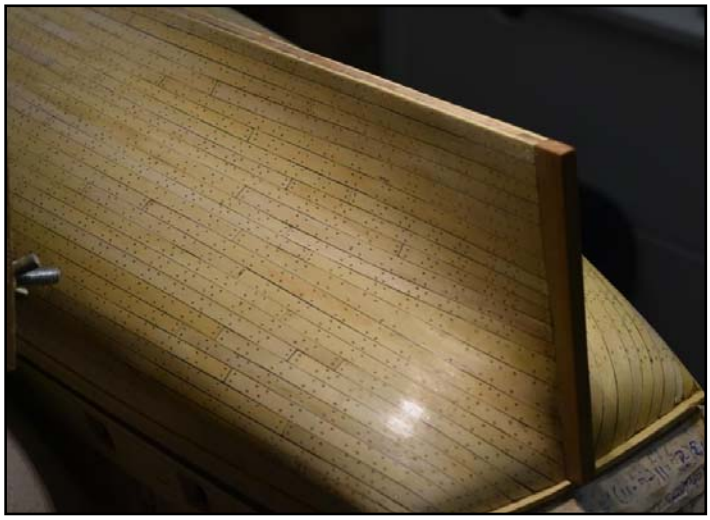
French Frigate *L'Hermione* by Bill Sproul

Photos by Bill Sproul





"Ships on Deck" , continued on Page 4

• Ships on Deck •

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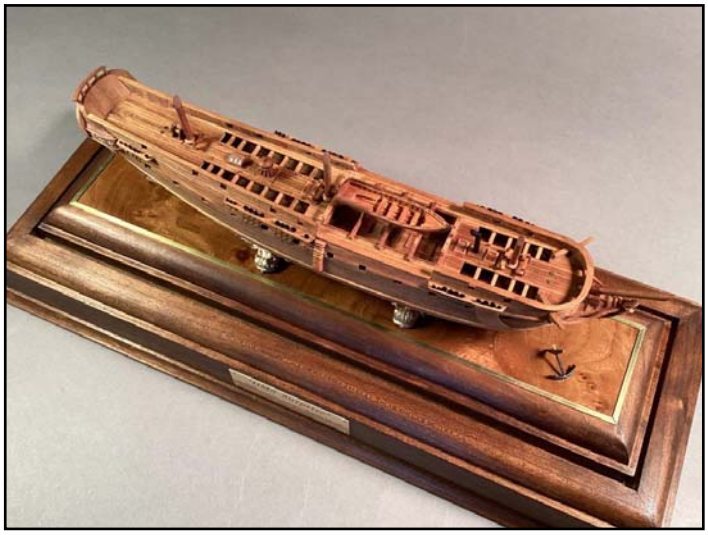
HMS *Surprise, Scale: 16' = 1"* by Gus Agustin

Photos by Gus Agustin



• MMS Anti-Piracy Policy •

Here is a list of banned companies that have been pirating and duplicating kits, books, and plans from reputable manufacturers. Quite often these disreputable companies offer their products at what appear to be reasonable prices, but these items are often poor in quality. Many of them do not have websites. They market their illegal products via the Internet on sites such as eBay.

If you are contemplating your next project, please check this list. If you are not sure, discuss it with Kurt Van Dahm before you commit to a purchase. For easy reference, this information will appear in all future issues of the *Forecastle Report.*

Please note that *CAF* has been removed from this list.

ZHL	WN
RealTS	Unicorn Model
Snail Model	YQ (YaunQing)
XinFeng	Master
JD Model	CN
LHQK	CF
Shi Cheng	Shi hai
Woodenkit (Russian MFG)	4H Model
YengFan	SC
Moxing	DUJIAOSHOU

• Submarines on Lake Michigan •

By Kurt Van Dahm

One of the things that hit home concerning Kurt Van Dahm's presentation on Manitowoc-built submarines was the ability of the United States to gear up industrially after we joined the conflict. Shipyards sprang up along inland waterways in Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana and Michigan, just to name a few locations.

The Manitowoc Shipbuilding Co. originally agreed to build ten *Gato* Class subs. They would end up building 28 before the war ended. In addition to submarines, these Midwest shipyards produced minesweepers, Navy Tugs, Sub Chasers, LST's and various landing craft. Two aircraft carriers were constructed and operated out of Chicago, training US navy pilots.

For the Manitowoc subs, the major challenge was getting them to the Pacific after they were launched. A special floating drydock was designed and built that would help get the submarines past shallower areas of the passage down to New Orleans.

After the boats conducted their shake-down cruises on Lake Michigan, most of the upperworks of the conning tower were removed, crated, and stored on deck. Once the tow got past the lower bridges, the crew began reassembling as much of the structure as they could to save time while transiting the Mississippi.

In the above photo to the right, the drydock is being pushed by the Federal Barge Lines Towboat *Kansas City*. The sub is the USS *PETO,* the first of the 28 subs built in Manitowoc.

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