

HYDE STREET PIER MODEL SHIPWRIGHTS

February Meeting Notes, 2015



Meeting Commencement:

Our December meeting took place on Saturday, February 21, aboard the Eureka. Meeting commenced at 9:30am. What started off as a very tiny showing ended up with 8 members in attendance. Sadly our meeting master, Leo Kane, had to bow out at the last minute due to an injury that morning. Hopefully, he will be back on his feet in short order and we'll see him at the shop soon.

Treasurer's Report:

Paul Reck reported our balance at \$742.68 with a couple members not paid up yet. As a reminder, dues have been reduced from \$25 down to \$24 to simplify pro-rating.

Gracie S. Report:

Gracie S's move to a permanent home is still on hold as we wait for the powers-that-be to give us a go-ahead. In the meantime, we're starting to consider that we may need to get a case and display the model ourselves. It should be noted, we have been warned again "Model Creep," the slow expansion of our ship model displays out beyond what we have now, but we have little choice and we may have to ask Terry to budget a case for us.

Workshop Report:

While Carlos wasn't present at the meeting, it was reported by Dan Canada that the visit to the shop by the students that Carlos works with went very well. The visit took place Friday, January 23rd. Dan, who was asked by Carlos to assist during the visit, reported how impressed he was with how respectful and intelligent the students were.



Carlos had earlier reported that the students were from the Katherine Delmar Burke School, a private elementary school for girls that was founded back in 1908. Carlos has been working there for 22 years as Director of Facilities.

While the visit to Hyde Street Pier was part of the students' Gold Rush Era curriculum, their visit to our Ship Model Workshop was particularly special because of their own ship model projects that they work on at the school.

Web Report:

Nothing to report this month.

Announcements and Club Business

Dues are Due As a reminder, if you haven't paid dues, please give your \$24 to Paul Reck to keep your membership current.

IPMS:

Clare Hess announced that the local chapter of the International Plastic Modelers Society was sponsoring a model show and competition on Saturday, April 11. The event, while dominated by plastic planes, tanks and cars, it isn't limited to plastic, and that there are no restrictions on material, so wood ship modelers are welcome to participate. The South Bay Model Shipwrights have reserved a table their for their own display. While it is probably too late to participate as a club, people are encouraged to participate individually.

Kid Kits

Clare showed a couple kits that are produced by Billing Boats of Denmark which are carried by Ages of Sail. These are very simple, flat-bottomed kits designed to be very easy to build by kids. In the past, there have been kids in our shop working on more complicated projects and these

tend to take a lot of time and it's easy for young builders to lose interest. These kits look to alleviate that problem.



Two kits were shown, a little lobster boat and a mini-Oseberg Viking ship. The club agreed that it would be good to have a few of these inexpensive kits (less than \$20 each) on hand to let visiting kids work on them to encourage model building. Two of the mini-Oseberg kits and one "Lobsy" lobster boat kit will be purchased. In the future, perhaps a kid-built kit will take its place in our display case!

Show and Tell Segment

There always more to this segment of our meeting than what appears in the notes, as the notes are generally limited to physical things that people bring in.

Paul Reck and Tom Shea started off our Show and Tell session with the committee boat they are building for the Corinthian Yacht Club. The boat is based on a Grand Banks, but of course it is scratch built. The model looks to be basically done and Paul and Tom are looking at figures for populating it.



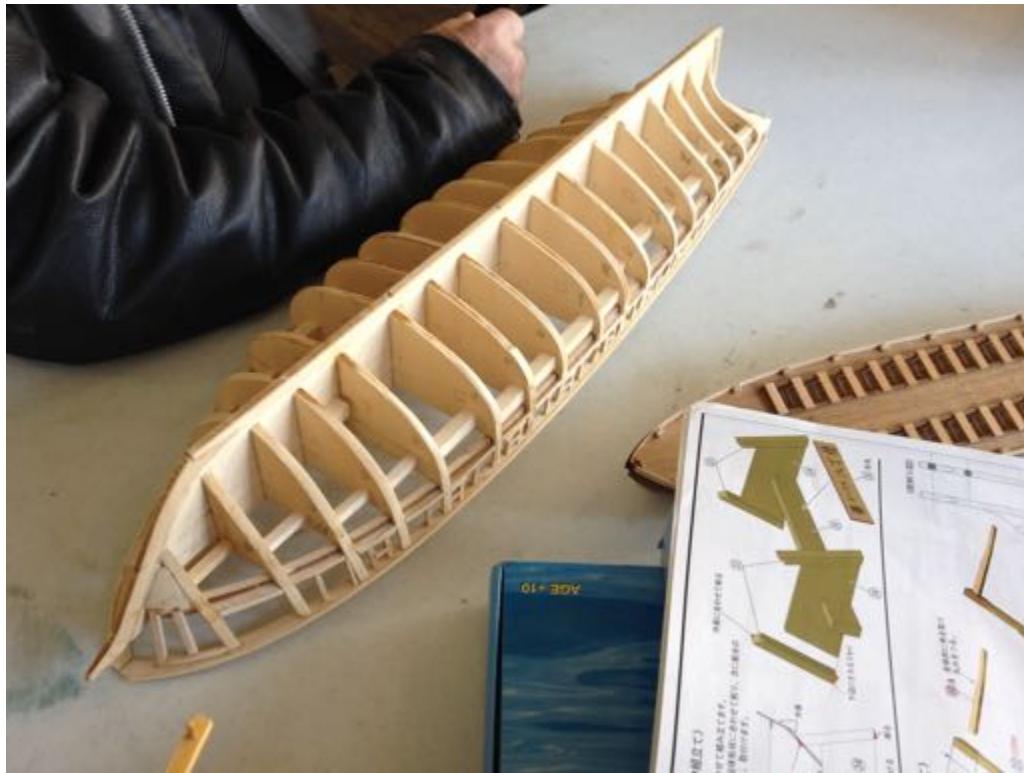
The model is built to a scale of 1:16, so finding figures was a bit of a challenge. Paul managed to find some articulated figures from the German toy manufacturer, Bruder. Now the next task is to find and/or modify them to look like they belong on a boat!

Clare Hess brought in a 1:24-scale model of a Japanese Edo period fishing boat he's working on called a Hacchoro. The boat has an interesting background story. It is told that the outgoing Shogun liked to hunt, but the hunting grounds were across a body of water, so 24 fishing boats were commissioned to escort the Shogun's boat. However, due to earlier restrictions placed on fishing boats as to the number of oars they could employ, they were having a difficult time keeping up. As a result, the local fishermen were given special permission to use 8 oars, giving the boats their name. Hacchoro means 8-oared boat.



Clare Also showed off the hull of the kit that he's now keeping in the shop to work on. The kit is a 1:55-scale model of an American row galley from the era of the War of 1812. The kit is produced by Amati and appears to be based on a drawing created by Howard Chapelle of a two-masted, lateen-rigged galley gunboat. The ship was equipped with a long gun at the bow and a carronade at the stern, both on pivot mounts.

Tom Shea showed us the skeleton of his brig Niagara, which looks about ready to plank. Tom commented on how thick the bulwarks framing was going to be with planking inside and out and how this would eliminate any lip on the caprail, so he widened the caprails that he ended up putting on the model.



Tom also pointed out the mental challenge of building the transom, pointing out how easily it went together once he actually did it. But, the mental challenge of understanding how it would work out help him up for a long time. His words of advice from the experience are like a Nike ad, "Just Do It."

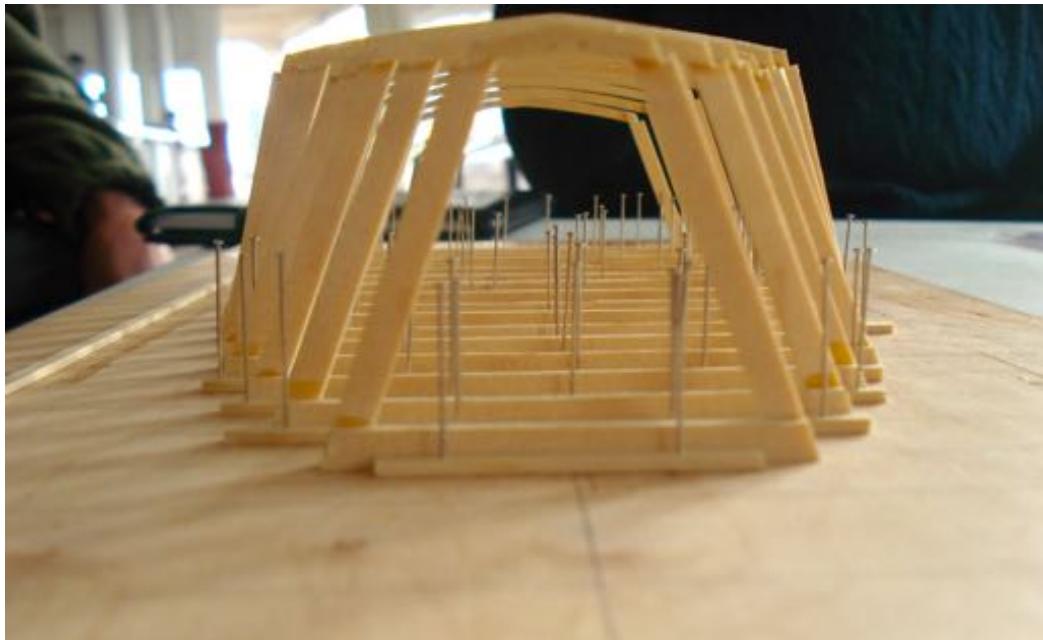
For those that didn't already know, the Niagara served as the relief flagship for Oliver Hazard Perry at the Battle of Lake Erie in the War of 1812.

Bit of Trivia: According to Wikipedia, it wasn't until 1907 that the prefix of US Navy ships was standardized to be "USS." This came about as an executive order by President Theodore Roosevelt: *Prior to this, ship prefixes were used "haphazardly", but ships' names were often preceded by the abbreviation "US" and the type of vessel. A survey of documents contained in the National Archives and Records Administration that were sent to and from the Department of the Navy in that era found a number of inconsistencies. Of 55 correspondences that mentioned the Niagara, 43.6 percent used the term "US Sloop Niagara", 32.7 percent used "US Brig Niagara" and 23.6 percent had "USS Niagara".*

Dan Canada showed us a kit that he had gotten through the South Bay Model Shipwrights club. The kit, an old Bluejacket model of the brig U.S.S. Boxer, was missing a few things and he contacted Bluejacket for assistance. He reported that even though the kit hadn't been produced in decades, the person he spoke with actually took the time to go over the kit and help him with the missing parts. That's customer service! In return for the help he had received from Paul Reck on his last project, Dan officially presented the kit to Paul.

Dave Wingate brought in his Lightning class sailboat that he's been working on. He now has all the frames, stem and transom glued down to the baseboard and is in the final stages of fairing

the frames. He's a bit apprehensive yet about the trueness of his frames, but is just about ready to plank the hull. Dave is doing a very careful job and we're looking forward to seeing some planking soon.



Barbara Hayes wrapped up our show and tell with an example she brought of a Bobbin Lace project that she has been working on. You learn much more than just ship modeling at these meetings!



Did I miss anything? Let me know at catopower@mac.com.

**Next meeting is Saturday, March 21st
9:30 am Aboard the Eureka**

Please bring your projects to share and discuss!

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