

Hyde Street Pier Model Shipwrights

July News, 2018



Annual BBQ Set for September 15th

At our most recent meeting of the model shipwrights, we decided on Saturday, September 15th as the date for our annual barbecue, only it won't be a barbecue this year. Instead, Paul Reck had suggested that we have lunch at the San Francisco Yacht Club, over in Belvedere on the north side of the bay.

We'd kicked around the idea of holding it sometime in August or September and, finally, we came up with September 15th, as a tentative date. That's a regular meeting date, so we will have our luncheon in place of the meeting. Members can bring one guest at no cost to them. Time of the gathering to be determined.



New Company – Ship Model Okumoto

There's a new Japanese ship model bringing a whole new kind of kit to the market. Ship Model Okumoto has released a series of frame-style kits, allowing just about anyone to build a beautifully stylized model in a fraction of the time it takes to build most full ship model kits.

There are currently four kits to choose from: Hannah 1/70 scale, Santa Maria 1/80 scale, HMB Endeavour 1/80 scale, and La Couronne 1/123 scale.

These kits make heavy use of laser cutting, requiring a minimum of sanding and shaping. The result is a kit that takes about 120 to 240 hours of effort to build, according to Ship Model Okumoto's specifications. Prices range from about \$290 for the Hannah, on up to about \$640 for the Endeavour, depending on current exchange rates. Shipping from Japan is included.



Being kits from Japan, the instructions are in Japanese, but appear to be well illustrated. Also, the advent of smart phones and powerful apps means that you can scan the instructions with your iPhone or Android and view live-time translations of the text, so foreign text has become far less of an obstacle.

Ship Model Okumoto's English language website can be viewed at: <https://ec.en.ship-model.net>

No More Ships in Scale Magazine

Recently announced by the Nautical Research Guild is that Seaways has stopped publishing Ships in Scale magazine. This is very sad news for readers, builders, and article authors alike. I expect that official notification from the publishers is forthcoming, as I'm sure many subscribers are wondering what will happen to their incomplete subscriptions.

However, the currently running multi-part articles will be made available by the NRG, and the Journal will reportedly be making efforts to expand ship modeling construction articles to cover the beginning and intermediate builders, as well as the more advanced stuff they are known for.

June Meeting Notes

Our June meeting took place as usual on Saturday, June 16, at 9:30 a.m. aboard the *Eureka*. We had a very light attendance due to member travel plans and health issues.

Announcements and Club Business

Treasurer's Report

Paul Reck was absent, so we didn't get an official treasurer's report. But, based on the last report, we should have about \$980 in our coffers.

Web Report

Clare Hess reported that visits to our website, www.hspms.org, are down a bit, with 84 visitors last month. News about Paul Reck's anchor hoy generated the most interest. Most visitors seem to find us through search engines and Facebook, though we have gotten a couple referrals through The Rope Tokyo's website.

Our Facebook page is doing well, which drives some of the traffic to our website. We gained about 30 followers in the period from the beginning of April to the middle of June, giving us a total of 342 Facebook followers.

As always, we are looking for interesting things to post on our website and for members to post their own ship modeling related photos, like visits to museums and such.

Show and Tell Segment

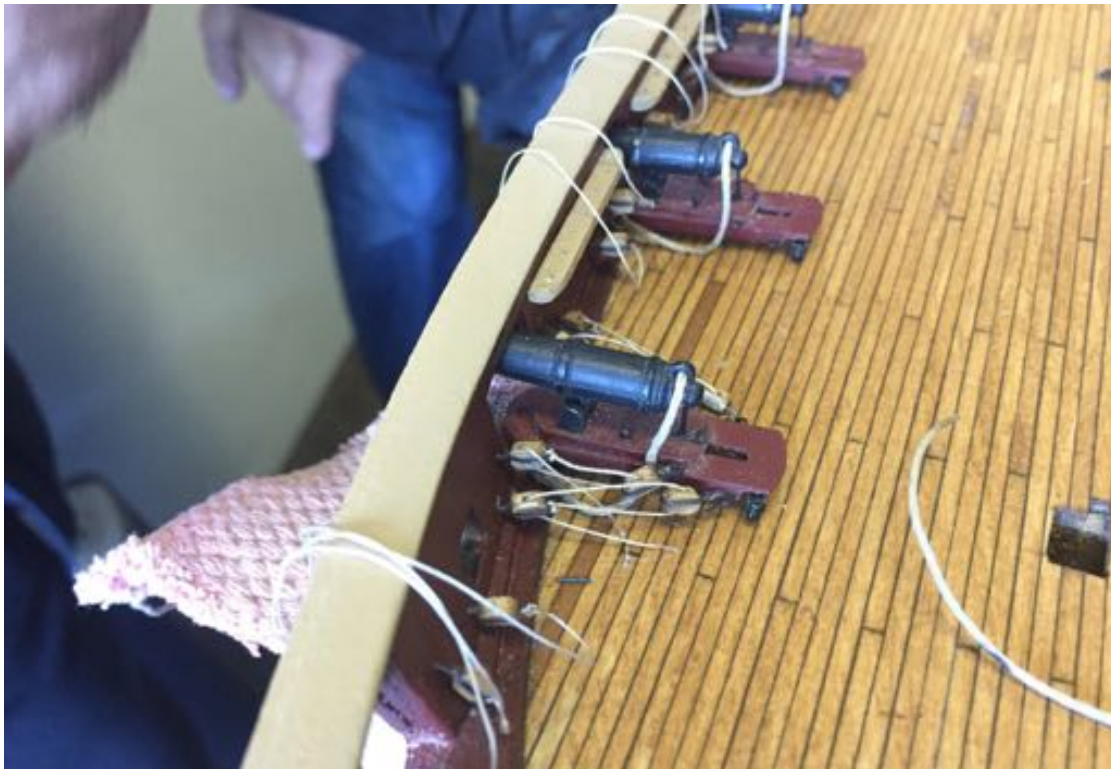
Tom Shea has been working on his model of the USS Niagara, the Great Lakes brig of war from the War of 1812, and showed us the progress he has been making on the rigging of the gun tackles for the ship's 18 carronades and 2 long guns.



Tom decided to simplify the rigging of the guns and improve the scale look by stropping the blocks with wire, which is then glued directly into the bulwarks. He still has a lot of rigging to go, but the lines are all present now, even for the pair of carriage guns, which haven't been placed on the deck yet.



Tom explains some of the issues he's dealt with in the rigging of the carronades, while Dan Canada follows along.



Dan Canada followed member Paul McKenzie in finding one of those neat little metal folding kits that you find in many shops these days. Having built a model of the Golden Hind as a kid, his first model ever, he chose Metal Earth's Golden Hind kit as his next ship model project.

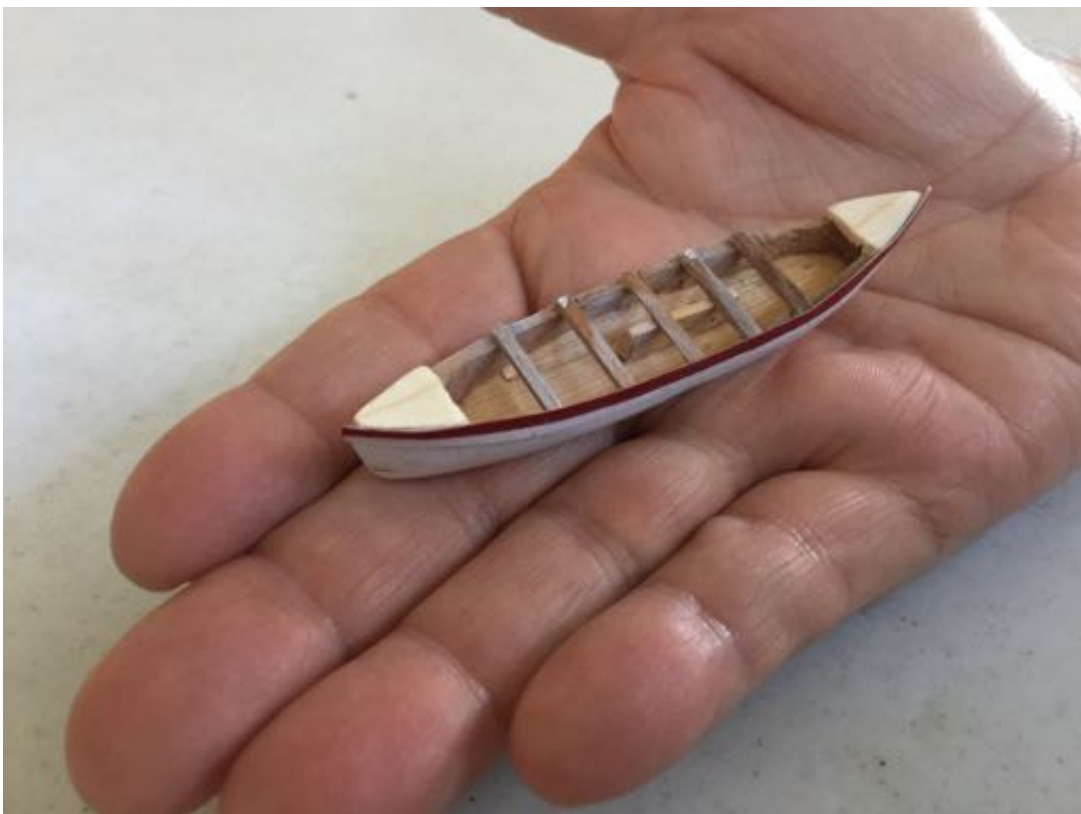


The product consists of a pair of thin metal sheets with pre-cut parts that you have to cut free from the sheet and bend to shape, using metal tabs to fit the parts together. This looks like a fun kind of project that shouldn't take a lot of time or a lot of space to build and display.



From the manufacturer's website

Warren Gammeter, in his research to scratchbuild the whaleship Californian, has been working on whaleboats and recently discovered a new twist. When it comes to davits, there appears to be no consistent spacing between them, even though the whaleboats themselves were of a consistent size. Rather, the davits were made to fit whatever spacing was available.



Clare Hess brought his model of a yacht of the government of the Japanese Shōgun from the mid-19th century. The model is being built from the most detailed drawings done of one of these vessels, which was by a French officer Armand Paris in 1868. The drawing is one of many found in the book *Le Souvenirs de Marine*.



The yachts were called “Gozabune” (go-zah-boo-ney) and most were essentially highly ornate warships. This particular ship was of the smallest classed called a “Kobaya”. The 1/32 scale model is being built from scratch and will be painted red and black with copper and gold decorations.





Clare also brought a small side project, which is a diorama model depicting a small Japanese river boat going down the rapids of the Hozu river. This is a first-time diorama project, so he is just learning to use cut foam, the artificial water and trees and water that railroad modelers have known so well.



Paul Reck and Tom Shea have mostly been working on a kit that we've chosen to evaluate for beginning builders. While Paul is absent, we reviewed the progress on the model, a Corel kit of a Chesapeake Bay "Flattie", a type of workboat particularly popular in the late 1800s.



The 1/25-scale kit has thrown a few challenges at the builders, but they've managed to overcome and to note the issues for future builders.

Any corrections? Let me know at catopower@mac.com.

**Next meeting is Saturday, July 21st
9:30 am Aboard the Eureka
Please bring your projects to share and discuss!**

Visit our web site at <http://www.hspms.org>

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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.



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