

Logbook!

No. 434

WWW.HRSMS.ORG

August, 2022

From The Bridge



Meeting Notice

The August meeting will
take place at 1000 hours
August 13, 2022



Trip Report - 4th Annual Philadelphia ModelCon

There were 5 members in attendance at the 2022 Philly ModelCon. Your skipper and 1st mate drove up together, risking a serious leadership vacuum in the event of a car crash or heated political debate that came to blows. Fortunately neither of these occurred. Ryland and his wife Pam drove up and travelled on to Ocean City after the event. Associate member Tom Ruggerio represented the Ship Model Society of New Jersey and associate member Joshua Fichmann was representing the Philadelphia Ship Model Society and running the entire event. Visibly exhausted at the end of the day, Joshua recovered himself with a hearty hibachi meal of fillet, scallops and shrimp at Magu's. His dining partners were his wife, 5-year-old daughter Olivia (cute as a button), his good friend Dave, Gene and myself. Mañana Man and the ex-Supreme Dude rolled back to the hotel to slowly digest our equally large meals. Apparently snoring helps with digestion.

I brought along my culé and chata for the second year in a row, as it's the only model I have worth showing. I



also brought along something out of the ordinary that I'll reveal at the meeting. Gene brought his sub chaser, which won best ship at the 2016 IPMS national event in Columbia, SC. Ryland brought his recently-completed Medway long boat. The predicted rain stayed away, but the wind picked up throughout the day and not two seconds after Ryland declared it time to put his uncased model away a particularly large gust knocked it over. To my knowledge, it did not suffer any damage, but we all had a blood pressure spike. Tom had his own Medway long-boat and HMS Liverpool. Joshua displayed his in-progress model of the Black Pearl.

Attendance was not as strong as last year, but still above that of a normal day. There were several models not present last year, and new to the event were adult beverages (I had one) and a sea shanty troop. I enjoyed listening to a few of the shanties - truly a fun touch to the event. I appreciated that they were close by but not right among the models. You could listen exactly as much as you wished (no more) and it did not interfere with conversations at the model tables (at least those not adjacent to the food tent).



Here are a few of my favorite models that were on display, not including those from our club. Also, the PSMS has posted a video (<https://youtu.be/m2GVRALafpY>) that unfortunately does not include the HRSMS table. What's up with that, Joshua? ;-)



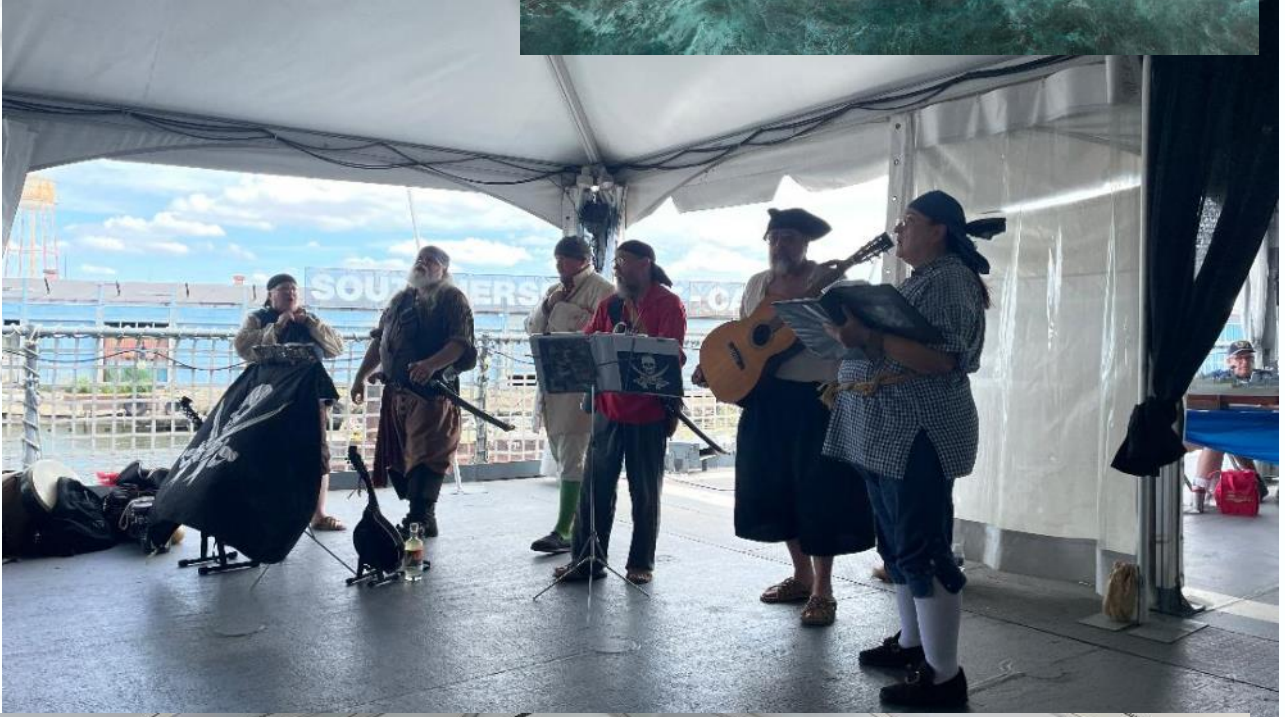
- MM

Right:

Sea shanty
troop

top right:

HMS Swan by
Ron Nielsen
(PSMS)



The Gang



Minutes



Held at the Mariners' Museum War Room

July 9th 2022

It is a warm and humid morning in Newport News as the esteemed members of the HRSMS saunter thru the broad oxidized doors of the Mariners Museum Business Entrance. As the sun filters thru the flitting leaves of the lushly appointed grounds of the nation's premier nautical foundation, the light catches upon the gently hand polished highlights and tidbits on the massive bronze doors worn by curious hands exploring nature's ample gifts.

Working thru familiar exhibits and briefly stopping by the Taco Stand to taunt current inmates, the assemblage eventually finds our way to the meeting room down the hall and past the main entrance foyer. Here we engage in the monthly ritual of greeting and courteous rib poking. If one is brave enough to bring a subject for show and tell, it too is fair game for scrutiny. Sometimes it takes a seasoned and hard boiled modeler to weather the gale of compliments. I'll take it as it comes.

As the time grows close to taking our seats, Greg, our resident cat herder, pleads the masses to take their seats, shut up and allow him to get the meeting underway...or words to that effect. Lest we spend the bulk of the day sequestered in debate....it starts. Greg calls the meeting to order at 10:03.

The usual custom is to first recognize new members and guests. Mike Pelland answers the call and briefly introduces himself to the members in attendance. With some luck he is neither frightened or otherwise discouraged to come back into the fray...he seems nice enough.

The skipper has nothing to note, and no corrections to

the previous meeting are recognized, so the session is off to a rapid start.

As the webmaster, Greg continues the meeting with the addition of photos donated by Ron Lewis of past banquets and members past. A short discussion ensues regarding some pictures of the annual model engineering show in PA. attended by some of our council...Cabin Fever.

Moving unto Old Business, a rather controversial discussion arose over the rules and use of the model stand by our members. The display of models in the attached display case was also impacted as the Mariners Museum adjudicated HRSMS of this responsibility. An inventory of tools and the return of long displayed models to their owners were organized. A brief update to the PA. Model Con was talked about and those in attendance encouraged attending.

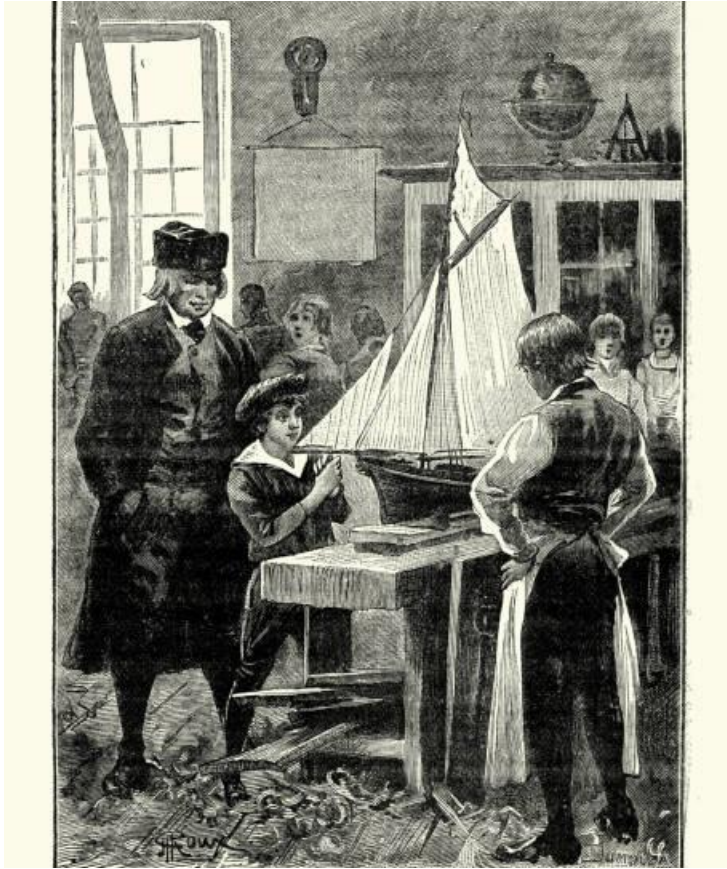
Ron Lewis solicited those interested in refurbishing a liberty ship needing rigging, railings and armament. Dennis Hobbs' wife forwarded some photos of Dennis to include in a memorial, and a discussion was initiated about a plaque or some means to honor his membership since 2006. We are an aging population and lamented over the need to attract a more youthful congregation.

New Business brought Tom Ruggiero to life with updated news of the NRG, Chuck Passaro and the model workshop in Annapolis. The September 10th picnic plans were solidified by Ryland. Dave Chelmow donated some hand tools and supplies from his deceased dad for inclusion in our sometimes annual auction in Norge, VA. Tim Wood requested a cork board or means by which to attach plans and notes to the model shop spaces to alleviate taking up valuable desktop real estate...and with that we concluded the business portion of the monthly gathering.

SHOW & TELL IDEAS

Next page

On to Show and Tell. Which is why we're here after all!



Gene...that would be me, showed off the progress of my Olympia's 30' Steam Launch. Much work yet to be accomplished. Al Sutton brought in a 1/200 Trumpeter USS Arizona model that had previously been on display in the window of the now closed Denbigh Hobby Center. He was hoping for it to follow another member home. I don't remember how successfully he made out. John Proudley, proudly...oh, that was bad, showed us how he created the brick work on his 1/24 Charles Morgan oven. The mortar and bricks are very convincing and made of cork. Great job! Mort showed us James Lee's Rigging Book and progress on his HMS Victory model as he prepares for the massive task of fitting her out. Tom Ruggiero's Titanic commis-

sion based on the Mini Craft kit is moving forward, slowly but with a great amount of attention to the smallest details. He also talked about some of the kit errors he had to overcome.

Of course, not demanding any attention to himself, Sean Maloon sauntered into modeling sanctum, fashionably late and just in time...10:35, for Joshua to discuss his project du jour of photographing Philadelphia club's members model in their homes. Sounds like a great way of chronicling members and their fine work. He spoke of his trip to Maine Maritime Museum, his visit to the Bluejacket factory and conversation with Al Ross on the development of his kits. By the way, Bluejacket is for sale....any takers????

The presentation was conducted by Kevin Ritton. The making of rope is a very interesting and necessary skill illustrated by Kevin in a very informative format. The curtain has been pulled back on a facet of wood ship modeling long eluding me.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:18 and a lunch destination established, perhaps the most important event of the meeting. See you Saturday.

Gene, Supreme Clerk



The Scene Explained



I'm not going to say a whole lot about last month's scene, it didn't generate much interest. But I will say that it depicts fishermen, probably sport fishermen, attempting to land a big marlin. Marlin fishing might be the most physically demanding big game fishing there is. They are fast and they are huge. I have heard stories of people fighting the fish for over three hours just to bring it in, both the fish and fisherman being utterly exhausted—talk about your test of wills. It's an expensive sport that has been romanticized by notable characters like Ernest Hemingway.

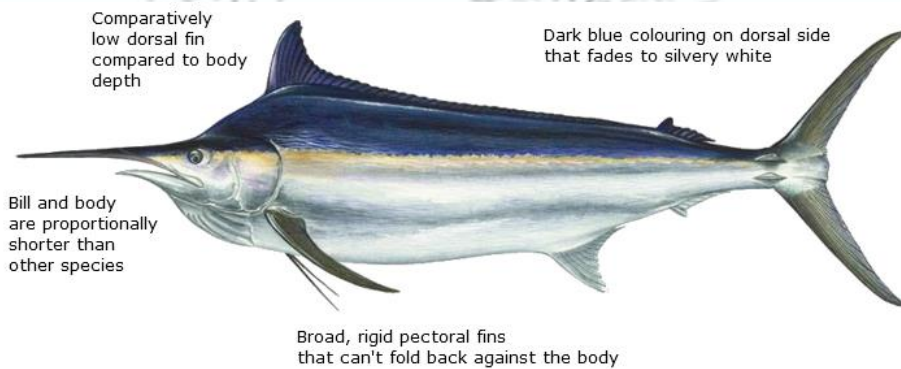
So, what are these "big-game" fishermen going for?

"The billfish (swordfish, marlin and sailfish), larger tunas (bluefin, yellowfin and bigeye) and sharks (mako, bull, great white, tiger, hammerhead and other large species) are the main species recognized as big-game fish."

And how are they getting there? "Big-game fishing requires a boat of sufficient seaworthiness and range to transport the crew to the fishing grounds and back... The cost of a suitable boat, electronics, tackle and the operating costs (fuels and other consumables, insurance, mooring fees and maintenance) can be very substantial." The sport is expensive so many anglers go through the charter services "where they hire the use of a boat and equipment, and the fish-finding expertise of a captain, in preference to maintaining their own." Because of the cost, for most of us it would be considered a "bucket list" item. For those of means it can be a way of life, ask Ernest.

I think if you asked people on the street, you'd find that most of them think the sport is most prevalent around Hawaii and off the coasts of Australia, California, and

Florida. But the fish are somewhat migratory and follow the warmth of the water and the food supply. That opens the sport to "almost all the Latin American coastal nations." If you want to try this sport locally, you can charter a ride to go big-game fishing in Virginia Beach. The "season usually starts in May and continues through the summer up to the month of October. White Marlin fishing usually starts around the end of June and continues through the summer till October. With August and September usually are the best in months for catching large numbers. Marlin fishing is an offshore only fishing trip. The cost of a Virginia Beach fishing charter ranges from \$3,200 - \$6,400."

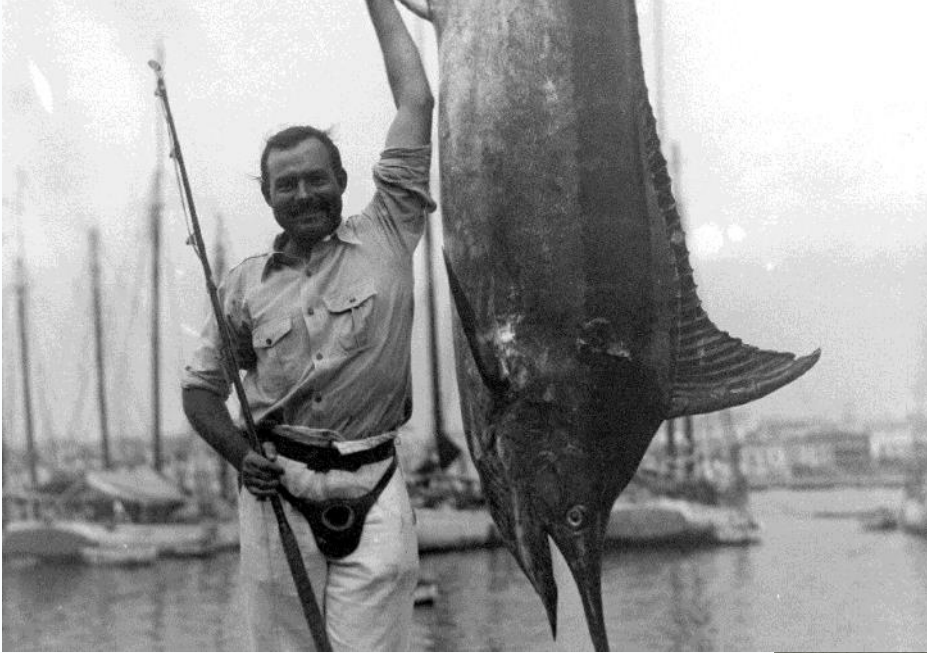


"Big-game fishing started as a sport after the invention of the motorboat. Charles Frederick Holder, a marine biologist and early conservationist, is credited with founding the sport in 1898. He went on to publish

many articles and books on the subject, noted for their



combination of accurate scientific detail with exciting narratives. Purpose-built game fishing boats appeared early in the 20th century. An example is the Crete, in use at Catalina Island, California, in 1915, and shipped to Hawaii the following year. According to a newspaper report at that time, the Crete had "... a deep cockpit, a chair fitted for landing big fish and leather pockets for placing the pole." A more familiar example is the modified 38-foot Wheeler "Playmate" Pilar. Hemingway had it altered to suit



Boats Photo Gallery at michaelrybovichandsons.com. The3se two places can give you the history and standards of the modern sportfishing boat.

John Cheevers



"big-game fishing".

The boat in this scene does not resemble my vision of what a big-game sport fisherman should look like, I don't see a fighting chair or a flying bridge. The boat has good lines and a lot of charm. While superficially resembling certain Chesapeake watercraft, it's the sheer and long cuddy she gives her the look of a Maine lobster boat or maybe a down east picnic boat. Of course I have no idea of her origin or type, so I can only comment on what I see.

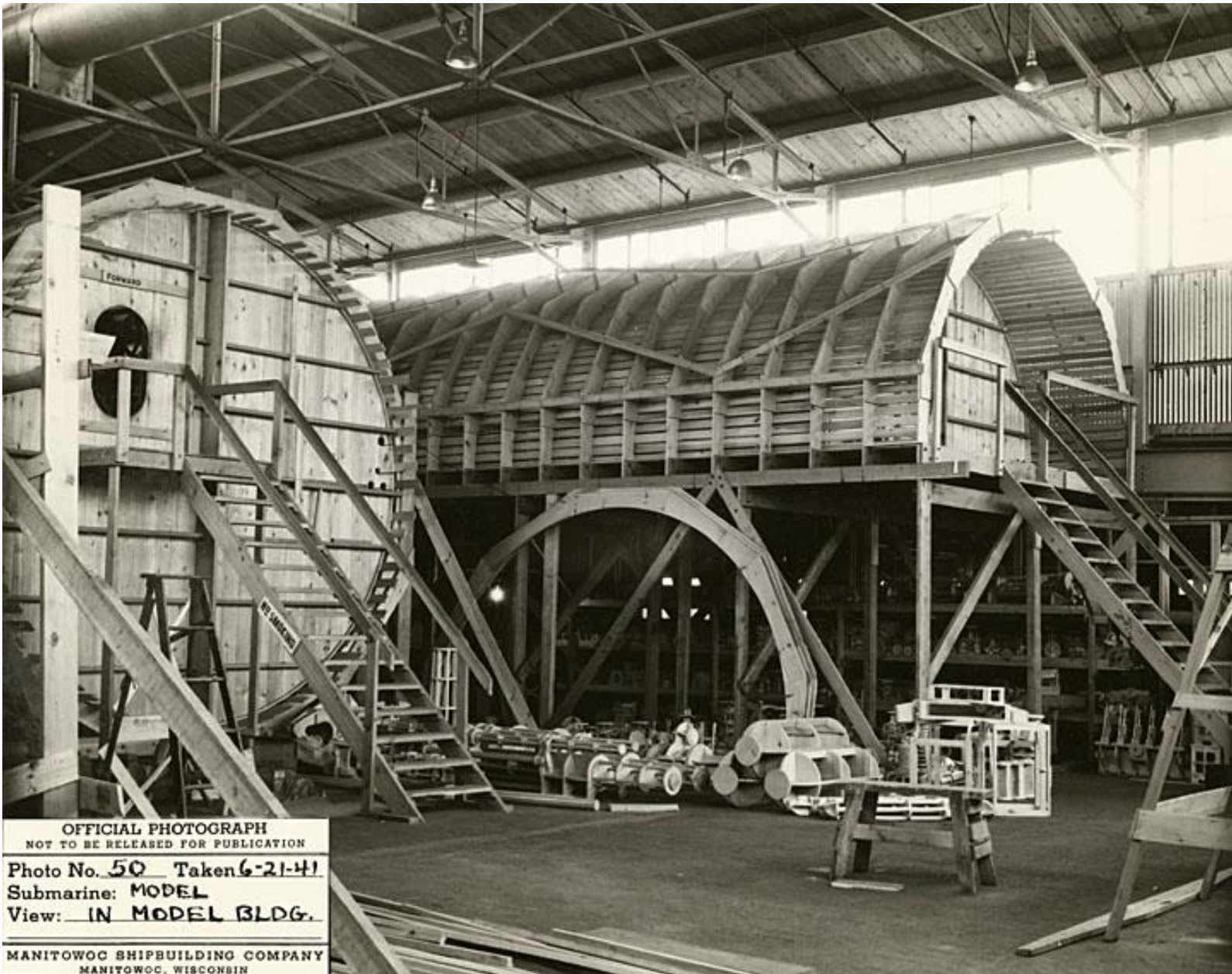
If you search on line for fishing boats, there is a nice article about the evolution of sportfishing boats at anglersjournal.com. Also, you can look into the Vintage



The Next Scene



What in the world ?
Something to ponder for August.
What are your thoughts ...



OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPH

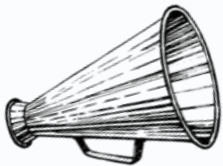
NOT TO BE RELEASED FOR PUBLICATION

Photo No. 50 Taken 6-21-41

Submarine: MODEL

View: IN MODEL BLDG.

MANITOWOC SHIPBUILDING COMPANY
MANITOWOC, WISCONSIN



Auction Fever....we have it!

For a few months now we have been gathering useful items that must be returned to service. And my supervisor has declared that I get the shop into 5S standard. That means everything must go!! It also means that I plan to ask the Webmaster to crank up the on-line auction page so we get some of these items into your talented little hands in time for an early Christmas.

Stay tuned for details.....

More Modelcon Memories



Uncredited tugboat

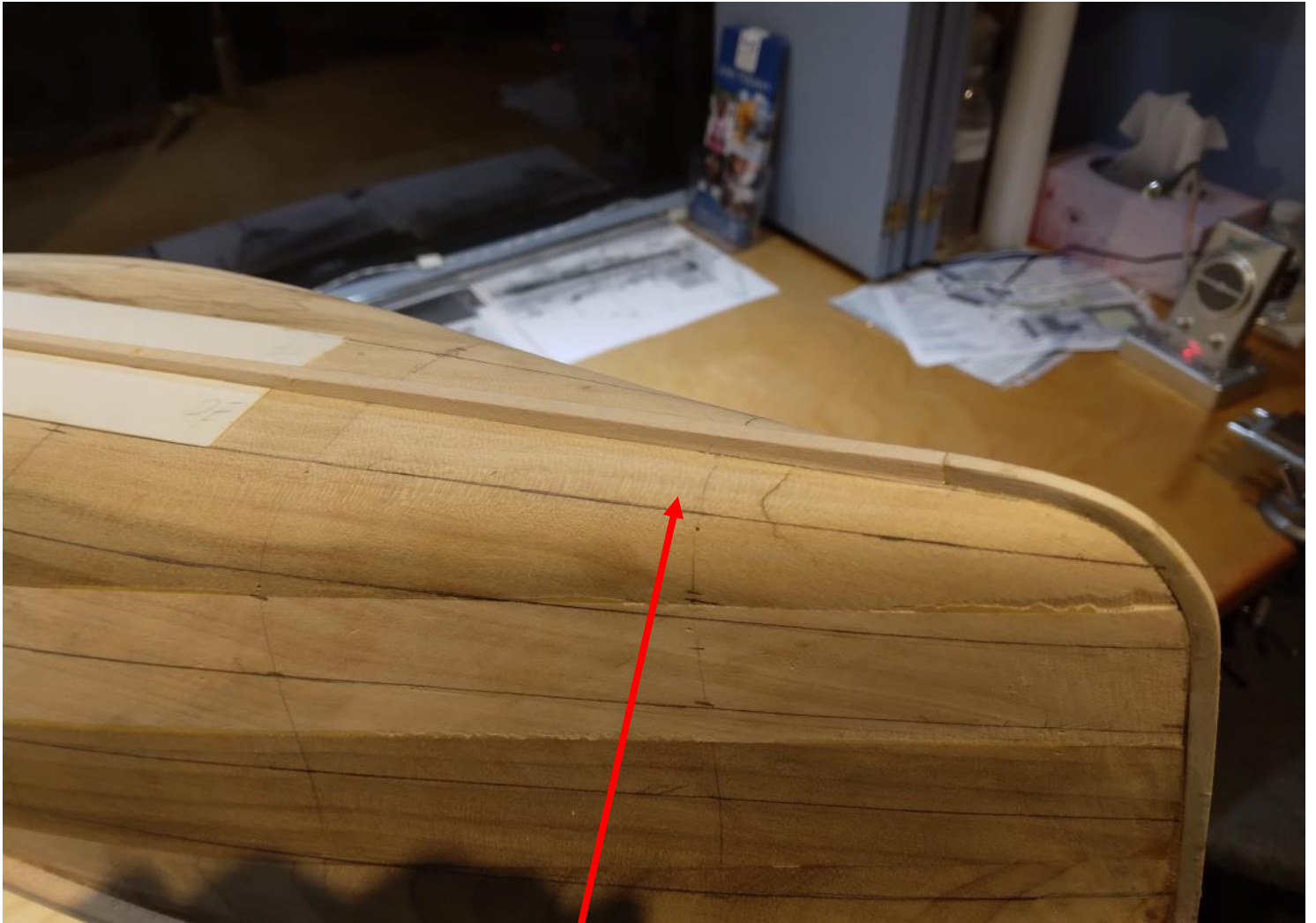
Winchelsea by
Chuck Passaro
(SMSNJ)



Pipes Dream by Joe
Jordan (PSMS)

MEMBER MODELS

No photos this month so I'll treat you to an action shot showing plating being added to the Revenue cutter

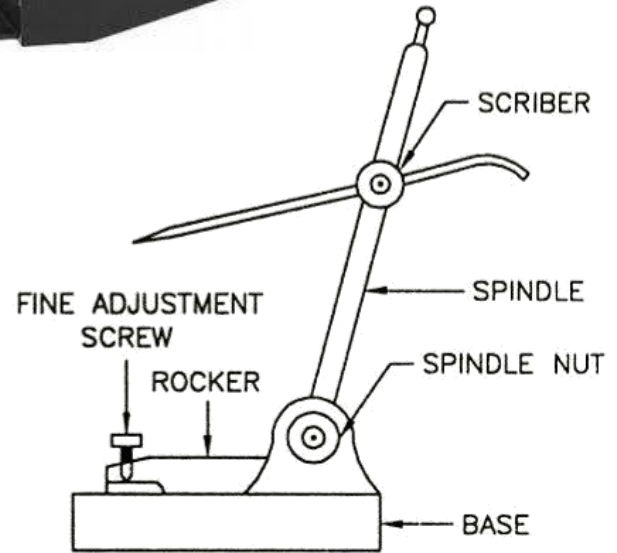
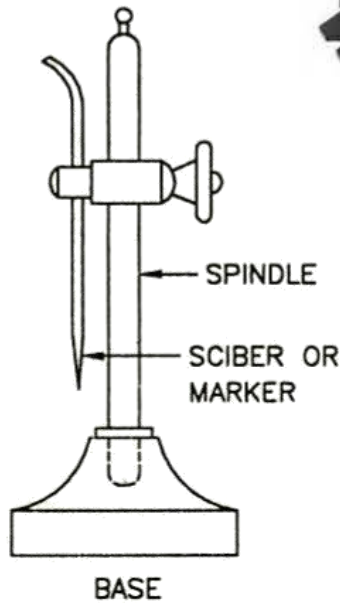


The Tool



Once upon a time in the West there was a precept in the ship modeler's community that you made a lot of your own tools and tooling. It was kind of a necessity, really, as a lot of the specialized tools we use today and take for granted did not exist in sizes conducive to model making, or the expense was too great to justify the purchase. Ship model makers had to get creative and make what they needed. This gave rise to some clever designs for small table saws, disc sanders, etc.

Today we are going to look at options for a tool that is very important to the ship modeler—the surface gauge. A surface gauge is a machinist tool that is used to locate and mark a designed height on a part. They come in many types and sizes, and price ranges. Its primary use in our hobby is to mark a line on a hull that indicates the load waterline and/or the boot topping so they can be tapped off for painted correctly.



A good surface gauge has a heavy base, an adjustable spindle, a scribe, and a fine adjustment mechanism—see photo on the left. For our purposes, a pencil needs to be substituted for the scribe, and we really don't need the fine adjustment feature—see photo on the right. Eliminating some of the features can really bring the cost to own



down.

Now if you're really handy or subscribe to the old ways of the hobby, you can make one of these for yourself. I've seen some nice wooden examples. It's all in how you float your boat.

Recently, I came across this homemade example that harkens back to the principles of the olden days. And it's clever in its construction: The base is an old mayonnaise jar lid filled with lead into which a coupling nut is set. A threaded brass rod is screwed into the nut. A homemade shaft collar and thumb screw hold the scribing plate in place. You can see how the adjustable pencil holding bracket works. The price has got to be right.



Of course once you have that waterline marked on the hull, you can check for accuracy using a cheap laser like the one shown at the top of the page. Just make sure you have it and your model leveled in both axes.

The Deckplate

AUGUST

6 Modelcon, Philadelphia, Pa.
13 HRSMS Monthly meeting:
Presentation: Ryland - Review of Modelcon 2022

SEPTEMBER

10 HRSMS Monthly Meeting: Picnic Newport News City Park
19 Talk like a Pirate Day
Presentation: Picnic

OCTOBER

9 HRSMS Monthly Meeting: Mariners' Museum
Presentation: "The Intricacies of Card Stock construction",
By Dave Baker - 13 US Navy birthday

NOVEMBER

12 HRSMS Monthly Meeting: Mariners' Museum
Presentation: John Cheevers - Carving the Perfect Hull

DECEMBER

10 HRSMS Monthly Meeting: Mariners' Museum
Presentation: Gene Berger - High Tech; the Photo Etching Process

JANUARY 2024

14 HRSMS Monthly Meeting: Mariners' Museum
Nomination of officers
Presentation: David Chelmo - Woodworking techniques

FEBRUARY

11 HRSMS Monthly Meeting: Mariners' Museum
Election of officers
Presentation: Tim Wood - Photographing your model like a pro

MARCH

11 HRSMS Monthly Meeting: Mariners' Museum

APRIL

HRSMS Monthly Meeting: Mariners' Museum

MAY

HRSMS Monthly Meeting: Mariners' Museum

JUNE

HRSMS Monthly Meeting: Mariners' Museum

JULY

9 HRSMS Monthly Meeting: Mariners' Museum
Presentation:

WATCH, QUARTER, AND STATION BILL



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