

THE CONNECTICUT MARINE MODEL SOCIETY

☀ CMMS NEWSLETTER ☀ SEPTEMBER, 2017



Welcome back everyone! We had a very good turnout this month with 22 members plus two guests. We also had a large number of excellent models for show n' tell.

Last month (Sept.13), there was a well done **PBS** special live broadcast from an exploration of the remains of the WWII warship, **U.S.S. Indianapolis (CA-35)**. The ship lies in one of the deepest parts of the Pacific Ocean at a depth of 18,000 feet where the pressure is more than 9,000 lbs./square inch.

Some of our members will recall that the "Indy" was tasked with delivering critical nuclear bomb components to the island of *Tinian* and was then torpedoed and sunk on her way back to the Phillipines. There was a



The air crew that dropped "Big Boy" on Hiroshima. The Indianapolis delivered it to Tinian Island.

huge loss of life (more than 850 sailors) and subsequently a firestorm at the court martial for *Captain McVay*. The navy blamed him but *Admiral Nimitz* remitted his sentence and *President Clinton* exonerated his

record in 2000. Nevertheless, this sinking is the largest loss of life from a single ship in American history. We must remember their heroic service and sacrifice (see rear photo).

Keep building and above all, have fun! *Duff*



Secretary's Report, September, 2017

President **Duff Griffith** opened the meeting and welcomed two guests **Mike Jantsch** and **Mike Mariano**. Duff introduced Mike Jantsch, now retired from the US Navy where he served on the *USS Constitution*. He is currently building and refining **Blue Jacket's, Jefferson Davis** (see Page 11).

Mike Mariano was introduced by **John Elwood**. Mike is a professional artist who paints seascapes who is also interested in capturing water in three dimensions using dioramas.

Treasurer, **Pete Carlin**, gave an update on the treasury and reminded members that Club dues for the next year - \$25 regular dues or \$45 if you wish to receive a printed copy of the newsletter - can be paid from now until December 31.

Vice President, **Bill Strachan**, announced that he will be moving to Hickory, NC in the spring and will officially step down as VP at the end of December. We will have a special election to fill his remaining term of office. Bill has served the Club as Secretary - wrote the newsletter - and as VP. He has been a regular contributor to our Club's activity and leadership. He will definitely be missed.

Duff reminded everyone to begin to consider entering a model for the *Annual Wisner Award*. The award is given for outstanding artistry and

craftsmanship in Honor of deceased member, **Jim Wisner**. To be eligible the model must have been completed in the current year and shown at our club meeting. Voting for the Award will take place in December.

The annual *Nautical Research Guild Conference* will take place in St. Petersburg, FL from October 26 - 30. We have been informed that the Hilton Hotel where the meeting will be held did not lose power, was not damaged and is fully up and running. So, all is on schedule. Although the deadline for the group room rate has passed, if you are interested in going you can still make arrangements to attend.

In recognition of the *University of New Haven's* continued support for our Club by providing a place for us to hold our



Mike Jantsch



monthly meetings, a motion was made and passed unanimously to make a \$200 donation to the University.

Thanks also to member, **Dave Dinan**, who has served as our Club's official liaison with UNH over the years, keeping this relationship strong and ably representing us.

Our next meeting will be on October 14th at Kaplan Hall, University of New Haven - our regular location - at 10 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Al Saubermann, Secretary



Mike Mariano



John Elwood brought his guest, Mike Mariano, who displayed a large diorama showing us how he creates realistic looking water features. See Page 10.



Good Stuff From The Bench

This month's Show n' Tell was kicked-off by **Ron Neilson** who discussed some of the history and details of his current modified kit build, *HMS Swan*, which he started in late August.

The "Swan ships" are well known subjects to ship model builders; there is a rich trove of historical information and detailed, authentic plans from the 18th century. There is also a series of acclaimed hardcover books on scratchbuilding the Sixth-Rate Royal Navy sloops by professional modelmaker, *David Antscherl* (the four book *Swan Series* from *Seawatch Books*). Last, but not least, there is an excellent kit from *Amati/Victory Models*, the "**HMS Pegasus**." Ron has based his heavily kit-bashed *HMS Swan* on this kit.

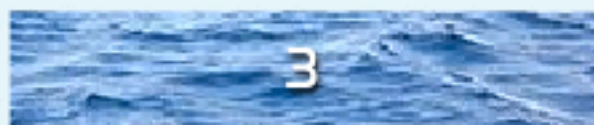
The model is in 1/64 scale and will be finished with pear and boxwood and walnut. Per his previous models from the same era, he plans to fully rig the *Swan* with both set and (weathered) furled sails.



Ron plans to display his completed model in a "living diorama," replete with mid-Atlantic deep water as well as a miniature crew.

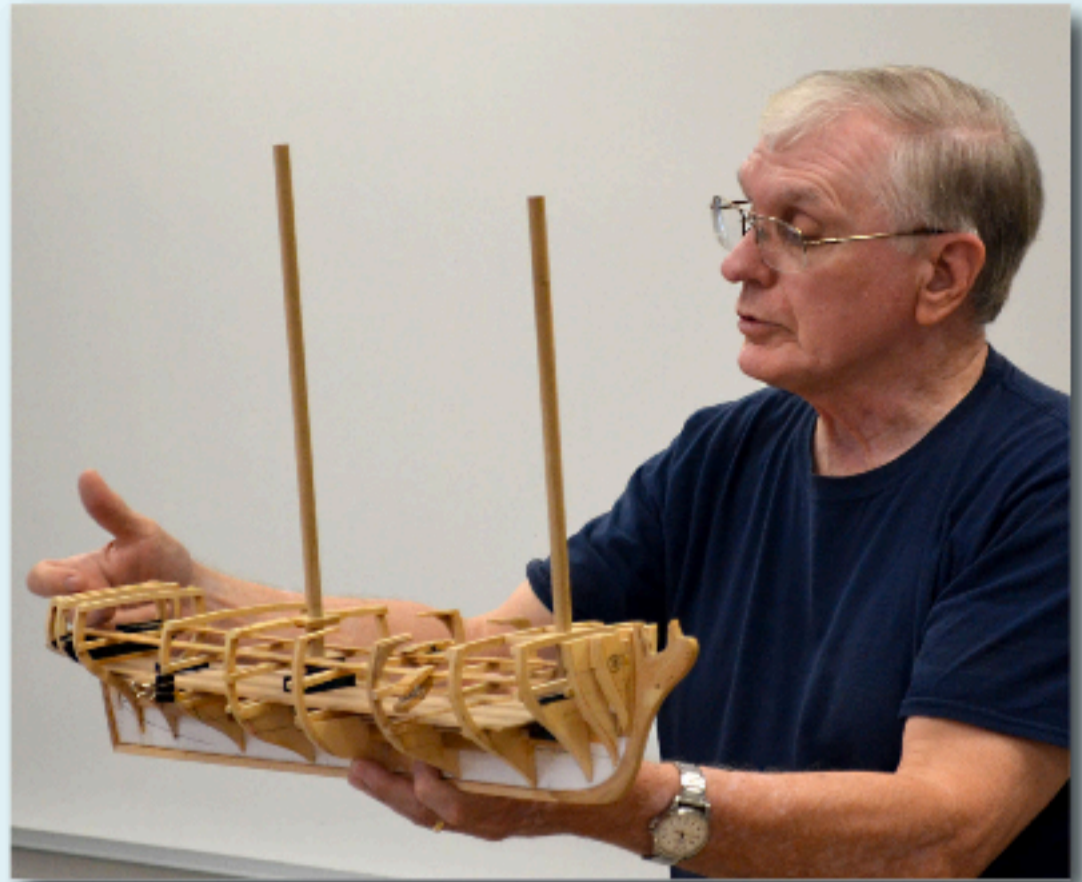


Duff Griffith is also building a modified kit, the *HMS Badger* (1778). The kit is from the U.K. manufacturer, *Caldercraft*. The company offers an extensive range of high-end historical kits including no less than nineteen different ships in their "Nelson's Navy" line. The *Badger* is in 1/64 scale, the de facto standard for the majority of period English navy models from both *Caldercraft* and *Amati/Victory*. Like Ron, Duff is also using upgraded quality hardwoods for his model. The square-rigged brig was mainly used for escort and blockade duties and was *Horatio Nelson's* first commission. In July, 1779, Nelson was later promoted to post-captain, transferring to the 28-Gun Frigate *Hinchinbroke*. By the end of the 18th century he was Vice-Admiral Lord Nelson, who died at the Battle of Trafalgar (1805) on the 104-gun, First Rate flagship, *HMS Victory*.



Good Stuff From The Bench

Bill Strachan, showed us a build that he started several years ago. He has decided recently to put the kit-modified ship back on his bench. The POB model is the 1:50-scale, *HMS Ajax*, from Italian maker, *Euromodel*. He unfolded one of the large plans that accompany the high-end kit; the drawings are truly "works of art," especially since they were executed in the Old School Days of drafting! Bill bought the kit for \$229 in the late 70's. The kit, designed in 1976, is still offered today on their web site (www.euromodel-ship.com) — for 474 euros, about \$550. Good investment, Bill! Their web site features 18 languages (and 73 photos of the model), but the kit's plans are in Italian. The "Ajax" is a fictional ship of the English navy and in the words of Euromodel: "the construction of a typical European frigate of the late 18th." (century-sic: Ed.)



Bill explained that his next challenge for his superb building skills will be carving. The kit features extensive decorative elements typical of the early 18th century navy frigates.



Sal DeGennaro has also headed off to Europe this past summer to find the subject of his current kit-bash project, *Prins Willem*. The 1/100 scale *Corel* kit is a 32-gun Dutch warship from 1649/50. Sal has created a build log on **Model Ship World** (www.modelshipworld.com). His nicely



photographed log can be found by searching on the name of the ship - or his avatar name:

SalD

Sal has also recently built a **Kentucky Rifle Kit!** (above photo). Yes, it does work (as answered by Sal in his log). I can't be the only one to want to see this Mitch McConnell Special at the club's December "Anything Goes" meeting. And Fred, you now have some competition for that Black Powder you love!



Good Stuff From The Bench



Fred Kerson - has made substantial and impressive progress over the summer on his kit build of the *LaReale*, a Corel kit. He's added the complex oar positions to the impressive hull (this model is BIG), and even added a piece of 1/8' thick marble to the officer's stations at the stern which he picked up from a rock & mineral club.

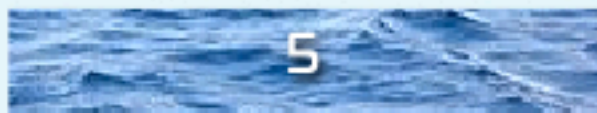
In Fred's words: *"I'm using the very best and the very worst (woods) for my model: the luxurious... and plain garbage. I've even used rotted wood with 3-year-old mold."*

Fred added: *"...for color, I'm using a mix of black and brown stains. But you know what? There's a lot of sanding. I don't even like sanding. When I sand, I cry."*

We feel you, Fred. We all feel you.

*Fred holds up a souvenir glossy photo card from this summer's **Eclipse Event** that he and his brother attended while visiting rural Crossville, Tennessee during the rare event. The eclipse lasted a full 2 minutes and 41 seconds in their location as the shadow of the moon swept across the North American continent.*

Stunned by his experience, Fred likened his witnessing to a once-in-a-lifetime "religious experience." Amen.



Good Stuff From The Bench



as well as the NMM. He discussed how he uses CAD (Computer Aided Design) to prepare the digital source files for 3D printer output. He informed us about the many options that are available with the technology as well as some of the limitations.

An engineer by background, Frank acknowledged that it all starts with the knowledge and skill of using CAD programs - and why it make sense to use a service that has an investment in a \$315K machine that can make parts-fast!

Frank Shurick brought in a wide assortment of various ship model components he's created with 3D printing. He showed us frames for an 1812 schooner from research he's done based on Howard Chapelle's archives at the Smithsonian

Frank uses a Long Island-based company, *Shapeways*, for nearly all his component pieces: www.shapeways.com. Your Newsletter editor is anxiously awaiting recently ordered miniature figures from this company.

Pete Carlin is nearing the finish line for his *New Bedford Whaleboat* project. Over the summer he's added more detail and completed the majority of the boat's structural parts. Pete is starting on some of the additional pieces that will accompany the completed model that add more realism — items like oars, harpoons, buckets, iPads, (just kidding!) etc. When asked by new member, **Mike Jantsch**, about how he achieves the high-quality to his finish work (to basswood), he reminded us that he prefers *Deft*, a lacquer that can be sprayed or brushed on — and available at *Home Depot*.

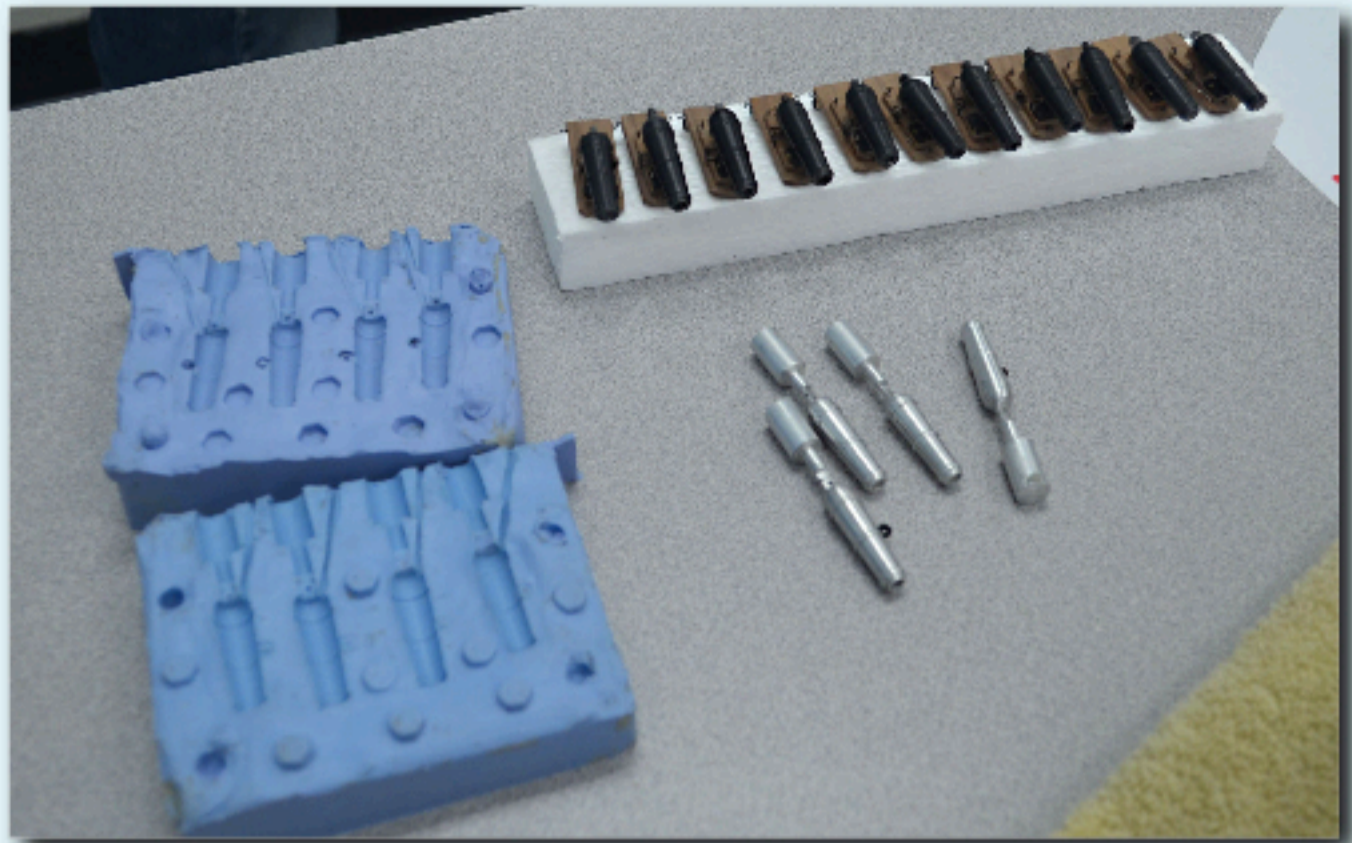


Good Stuff From The Bench

Al Sauberman delivered an impressive tutorial about how he went about molding resin carronades for his current build, the American frigate, *U.S.S. Peacock*.

To begin his project he carefully turned aluminum forms on his lathe from accurate drawings. He then built a mold box into which he poured silicon rubber to get the two-part molds of the pieces that would be eventually made from epoxy resin. Lastly, Al pulled the pieces from his mold, touched them up and painted them. The results (seen on the right in the background and below), speak for themselves. These 1/4" scale miniatures are first-class.

When asked about his moldmaking experience,



Al reflected:

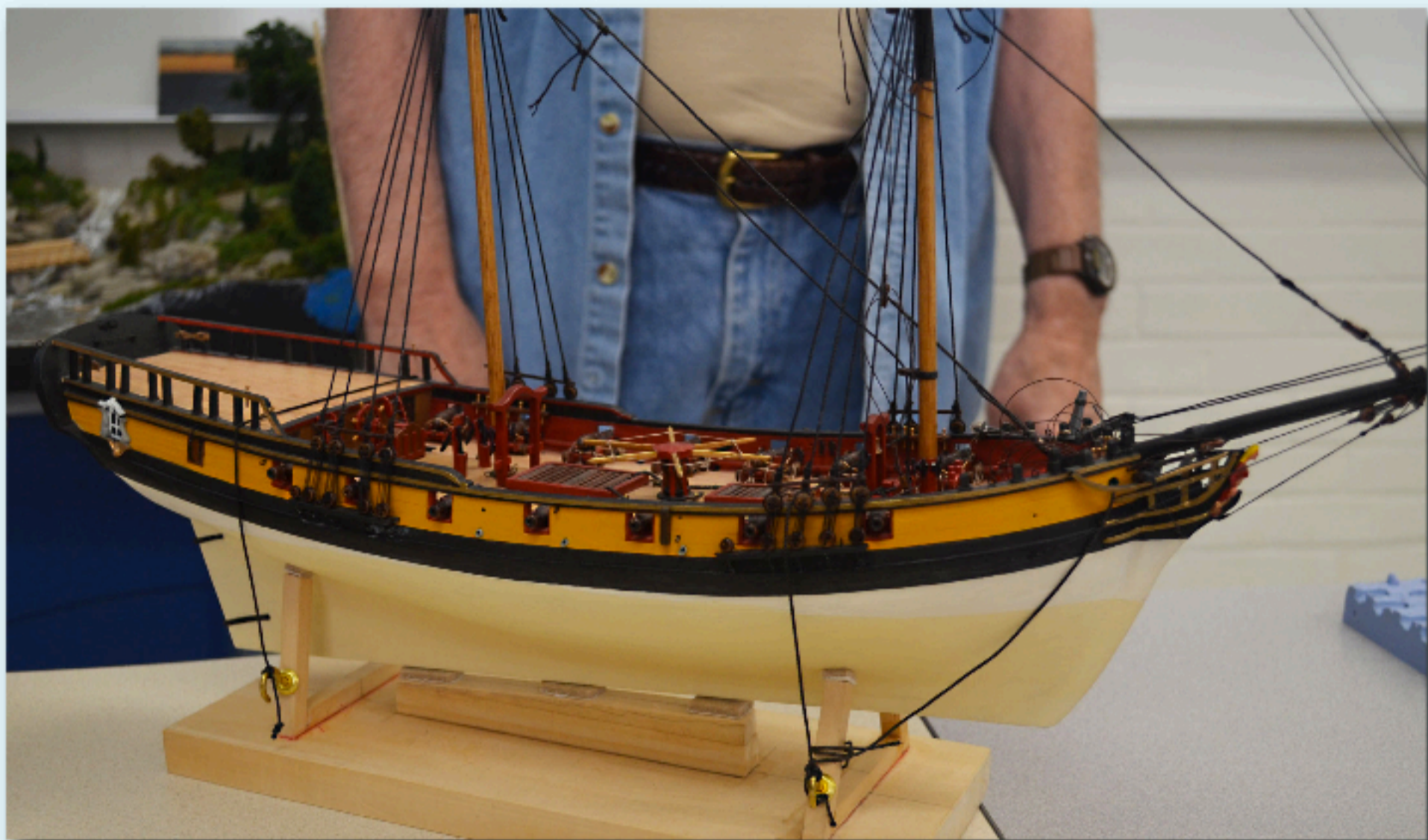
"I could have machined a small handful of seven more aluminum pieces and been done in a fraction of the time it took to do this molding experience! But, I did learn a lot about this interesting technique."



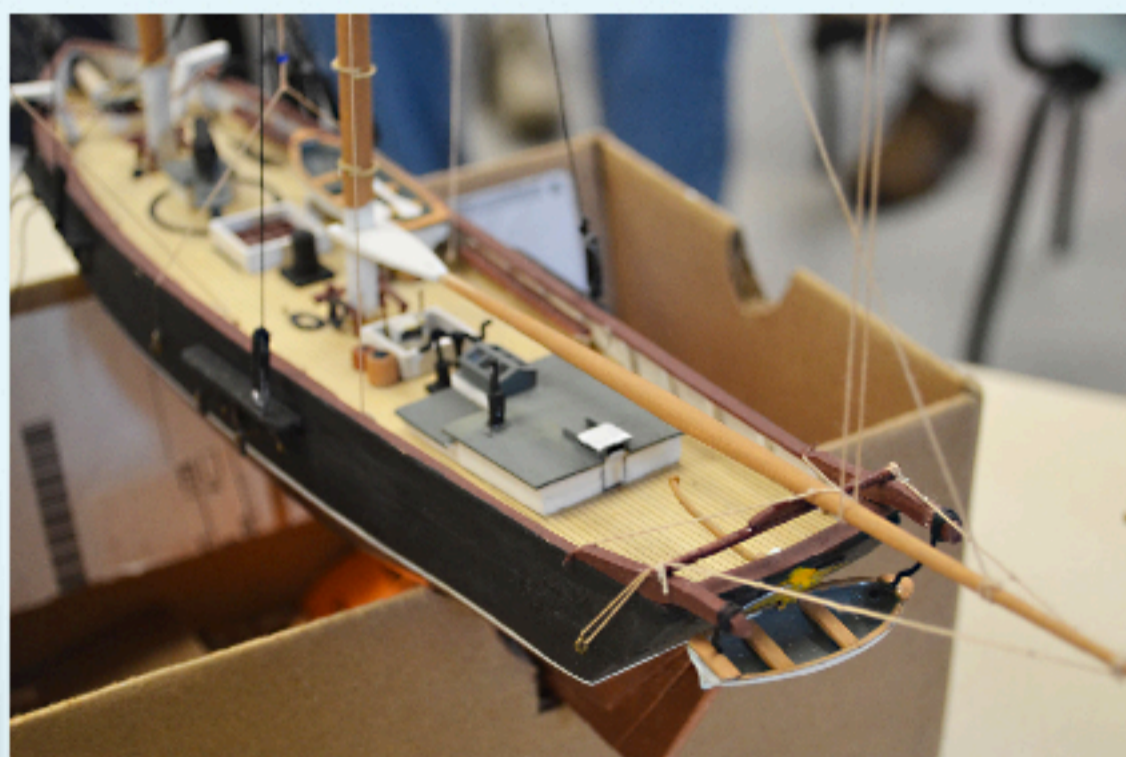
An almost even dozen (11) carronades for Al's scratch build of the *U.S.S. Peacock*



Good Stuff From The Bench



Joe Delaney - has made impressive progress with his *Fair American*. He's now doing the rigging. Joe recounted an interesting story of his visit to the *U.S.S. Constitution* in about 1992. Great looking model, Joe.



Howard Williams' model of the clipper he's naming "*HMS Rosamund*" is in the early stages of rigging. Howard plans to add silkspan sails to the 1:96 scale model. I overheard a member suggest that he display the completed model on something other than an old cardboard box. Good suggestion!



Good Stuff From The Bench



Ed Petrucci - showed a 19th century schooner, "Ella," in his favorite 1/8' scale. As usual, his detailed work is exquisite. Ed will also tackle the rigging and sails over the next couple months (Ed puts sails on nearly all his builds).



Justin Camarata impressed us all with his finished oil painting of sailboats and a steam passenger ferry on the Connecticut River. He spoke about the importance of properly framing paintings — which was on display with his presentation.

In the last few years, Justin has devoted most of his hobby time to taking up marine fine art painting. It's quite evident he's become an accomplished artist! Ron Neilson will be referring to Justin's book on creating marine dioramas.



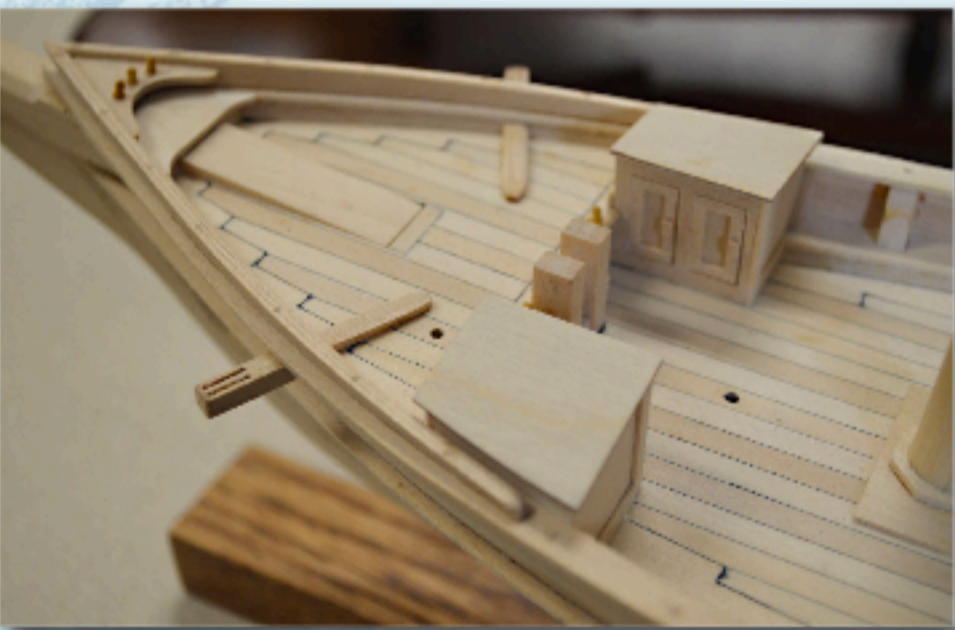
Guest Page: Mike Mariano



Club Guest, **Mike Mariano**, by invitation of **John Elwood**, displayed some of his outstanding artistry. Shown here are a nature diorama with convincing looking running water features (top photo), deep ocean waves made from plaster and painted with acrylics (left photo) and a seascape painted in oils (below). Mike expressed his high regard for the abundant artistic skills of our club members and his general interest in all things relating to the sea.



Guest Member Page: Mike Jantsch



As can be readily determined by looking at these photos (and in-person at the meeting), new member, **Mike Jantsch**, is an accomplished ship modeler. What an impressive introduction to our club.

Mike was recently introduced to Duff by member **Nic Damuck** of Bluejacket. The model Mike showed us is an in progress kit-bash of the *Bluejacket* Baltimore schooner kit, *Jefferson Davis*. The model is 1/4" scale and is made entirely of bass-wood.

The *Jefferson Davis* was in the United States Revenue Cutter Service (now, U.S. Coast Guard). She was a topsail schooner built in 1853, named for Jefferson Davis, then United States Secretary of War under President *Franklin Pierce*. Davis was later president of the Confederate States of America. The ship participated in the suppression of a Native American uprising in Olympia, Washington in 1855, during the Puget Sound War. Later, in Bellingham, Washington, the entire crew except for the captain deserted to join the Fraser Canyon Gold Rush.



**Next Meeting:
October 14, 2016**



**CMMS MEETINGS ARE THE
SECOND SATURDAY OF THE MONTH
SEPTEMBER THRU JUNE
† 10:00 AM TO NOON
THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAVEN
300 ORANGE AVENUE † WEST HAVEN
CONNECTICUT 06531
KAPLAN HALL**

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Ron Neilson, EDITOR hollowneck1946@gmail.com

Front: The U.S.S. Indianapolis battleship at Mare Island, Alameda, California, July 10, 1945. A mere 10 days later she delivered the first atomic bomb to Tinian island in the South Pacific. Inset photo: the type of torpedo that sunk the Indy; the Japanese submarine, I-58, fired all tubes (6 torpedoes), but only two struck. **Rear:** The CA-35 Indianapolis Memorial in Indiana. Of her crew of 1,196, only 316 survived.

The Connecticut Marine Model Society is a member of the IPMS, Connecticut Chapter



Cover photo: USNA Museum, Annapolis, MD.
Rear photo: Wikipedia.org

www.ctshipmodels.org

