



THE CONNECTICUT MARINE MODEL SOCIETY

☀ CMMS NEWSLETTER ☀ OCTOBER, 2017

DUFFISMS

Imagination. What is it? We all have it and some have an abundance of it. Do you imagine being on the main top of a sailing frigate as it sails smoothly on a broad reach?

When we build a model ship, are we are making an image of the real ship — so that as we look at her — we can imagine sailing on it, on open green seas with gently rolling waves

with no storm clouds in sight.

So, perhaps illusion is part of imagination. After all, our



models represent real ships (most of the time). However, we all know our models are only — well — models.

So my fellow ship modelers, may I suggest you let your imaginations have free reign; put those wild thoughts and ideas into your work. I think you'll be surprised what you'll discover and can accomplish.

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



Secretary's Report — October, 2017

After opening the meeting, President **Duff Griffith** welcomed new member **Mike Jantsch**. As there were no guests we proceeded directly to the Treasurer's report. **Pete Carlin** gave an update on the treasury and again reminded members that Club dues for the next year are due by December 31: \$25 for regular dues or \$45 if you wish to receive a printed copy of the newsletter.

Dave Dinan gave a brief update on our website and encouraged members to take advantage of it. He has been adding the Newsletter and pictures of our models to the Gallery. Dave has done an outstanding job of setting up and maintaining our website.

At our last meeting Vice President **Bill Strachan** announced that he will be moving to Hickory, NC next spring. Bill originally planned to step down as VP at the end of this year, but because of family issues he will be away for an indeterminate time and he felt it was best if he resigned the position of VP as of this meeting. Bill requested that we have an early election to replace him. In response to his request, Duff Griffith called a special election asking for nominations or if anyone present was interested in serving as VP and would like to run for the office. Two members, **Fred Kerson** and **James McGuffick**, volunteered

Eleven-year-old, Faith, was a happy modelmaker at the 31st Annual Model Railroad Show in Fairfield. Member Dave Dinan captured a fun moment (see story below the Report) *



for the office of VP. As there were no other nominations or volunteers, a closed ballot election was held. The winner and new Vice President is James McGuffick. James will assume the duties of Vice President as of this meeting. Congratulations James and thank you for agreeing to serve in this capacity.

Duff again reminded everyone about the *Annual Wisner Award*. The

Wiser Award is given for outstanding artistry and craftsmanship in honor of deceased CMMS member, **Jim Wisner**. Everyone is encouraged to participate by entering a model. To be eligible the model must have been completed in the current year and have been shown at a club meeting. Voting for the Wisner Award will take place in December.

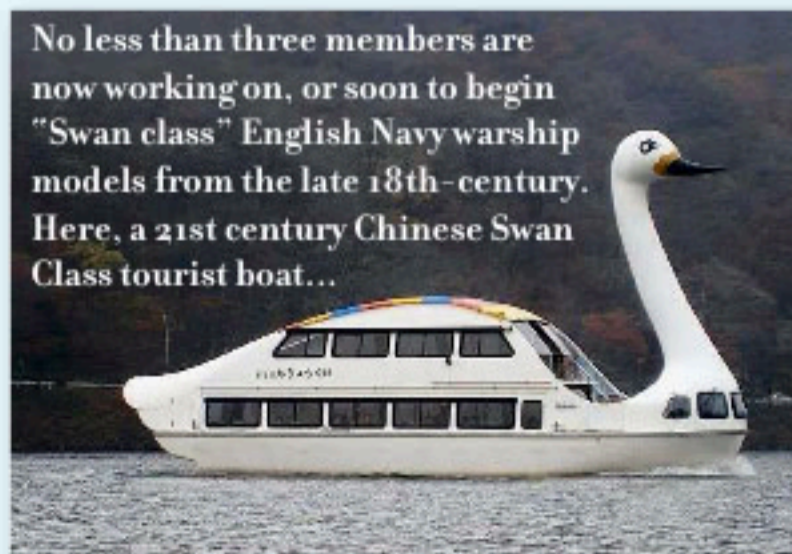
Ron Neilson, Newsletter Editor, noted that it is possible to re-order club shirts and he would do so if members were interested. The cost is estimated to be \$20. The shirts are very good quality polo shirts in navy blue and sport our club logo in white. They are also a good price. Let Ron know if you are interested.

Our next meeting will be on November 11th at Kaplan Hall, University off New Haven - our regular location - at 10 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Al Saubermann
Secretary, CMMS

*CMMS club members **Dave Dinan**, **Tom Kane**, **John Adriani** and **Pete Carlin** manned a demo table at a recent Model Railroad show in Fairfield on October 22nd. They answered many questions from attendees about model ship building. Tom showed his restoration project *Henrietta*, John a *Revell USS Arizona*, Pete his *New Bedford whaleboat* and Dave his *Canadian corvette*. Faith (shown above) helped Dave to shape the hull of his model. Do we have a future club member?

No less than three members are now working on, or soon to begin "Swan class" English Navy warship models from the late 18th-century. Here, a 21st century Chinese Swan Class tourist boat...



Good Stuff From The Bench



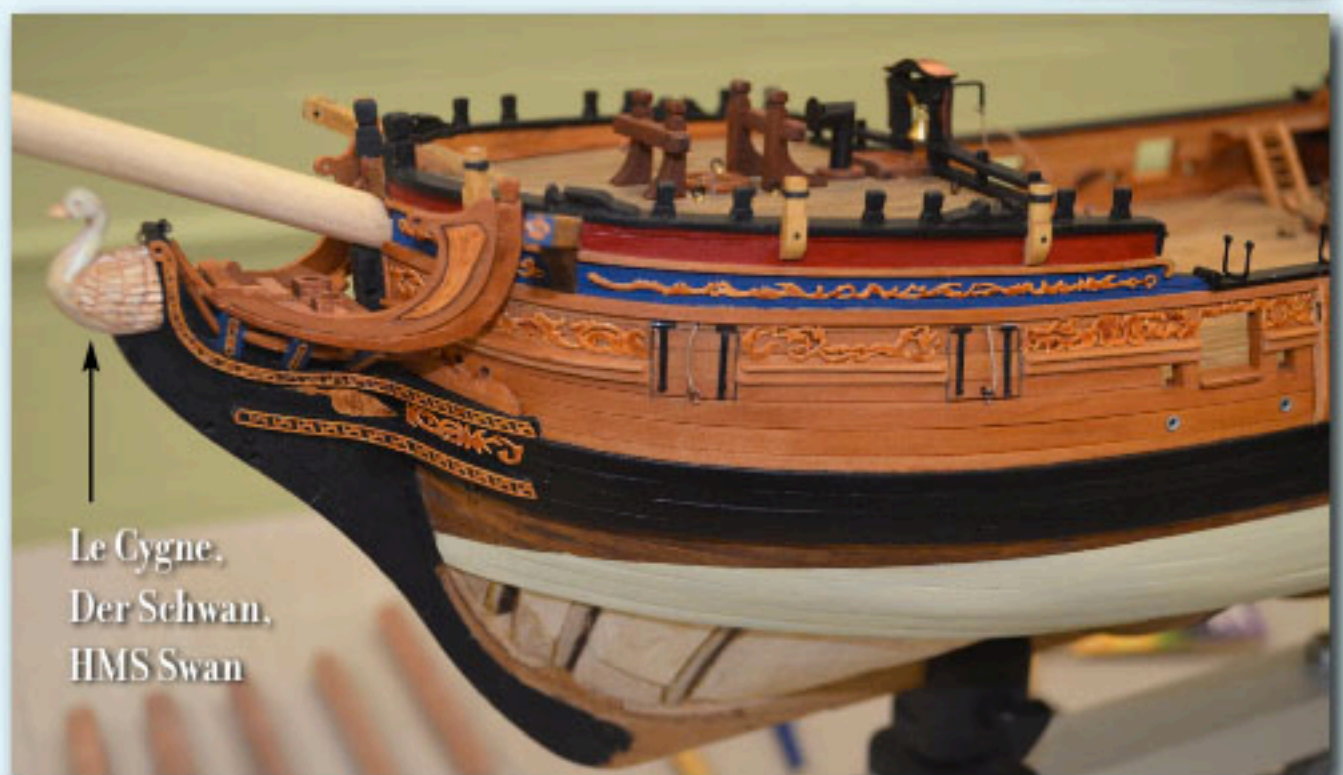
The Show n' Tell was kicked-off by **Ron Neilson** who discussed details of his continuing build of the *HMS Swan*, a 1:64 scale English Navy warship from 1767. He pointed out a detail he's added to his model's turned brass cannon: tompions. Although the cannons of ships of the line were protected as they were retracted inside the ships, many smaller vessels had exposed gundecks which required a plug to protect inside of the barrels. To combat rust when ships were not in action the barrels were sealed with a tompion (and plugs in the touch hole). Olive oil and round shot were left inside the barrel; with the gun laid horizontally the shot would roll up and down the barrel as the ship caught waves, which lubricated the gun simply through the motion of the ship.



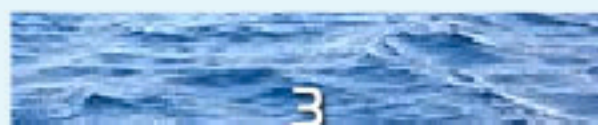
a "tompion"
(HMS Victory)

The hull of the *Victory Models* kit-modified build is nearly completed and he plans to start on the intricate masting and rigging next.

It was noted that two other 18th-C "Swan Class" models are planned by members **Pete Carlin** (*HMS Atalanta*) and **Duff Griffith** (*HMS Vulture*). Ron noted that he has yet to discover a model of the actual namesake for the legendary English 6th-Rate sloops-of-war.



Le Cygne,
Der Schwan,
HMS Swan

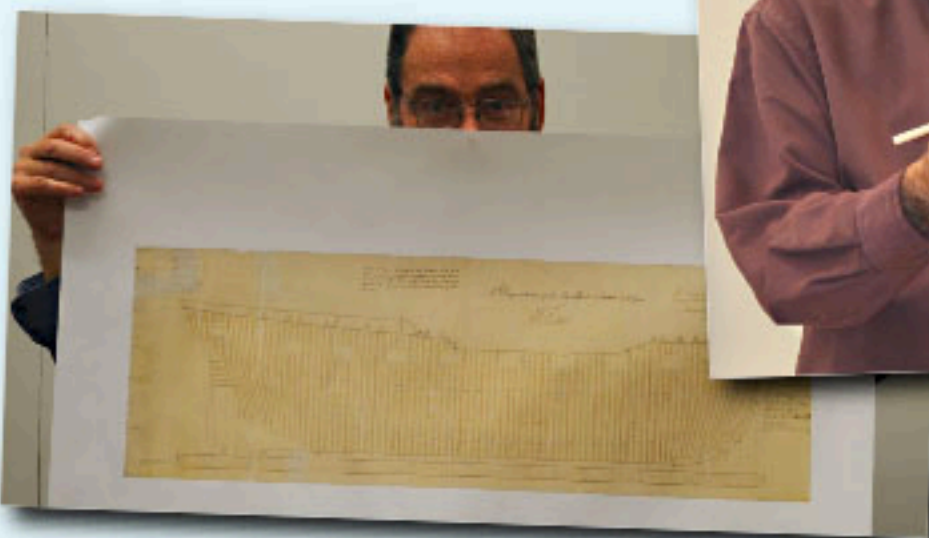
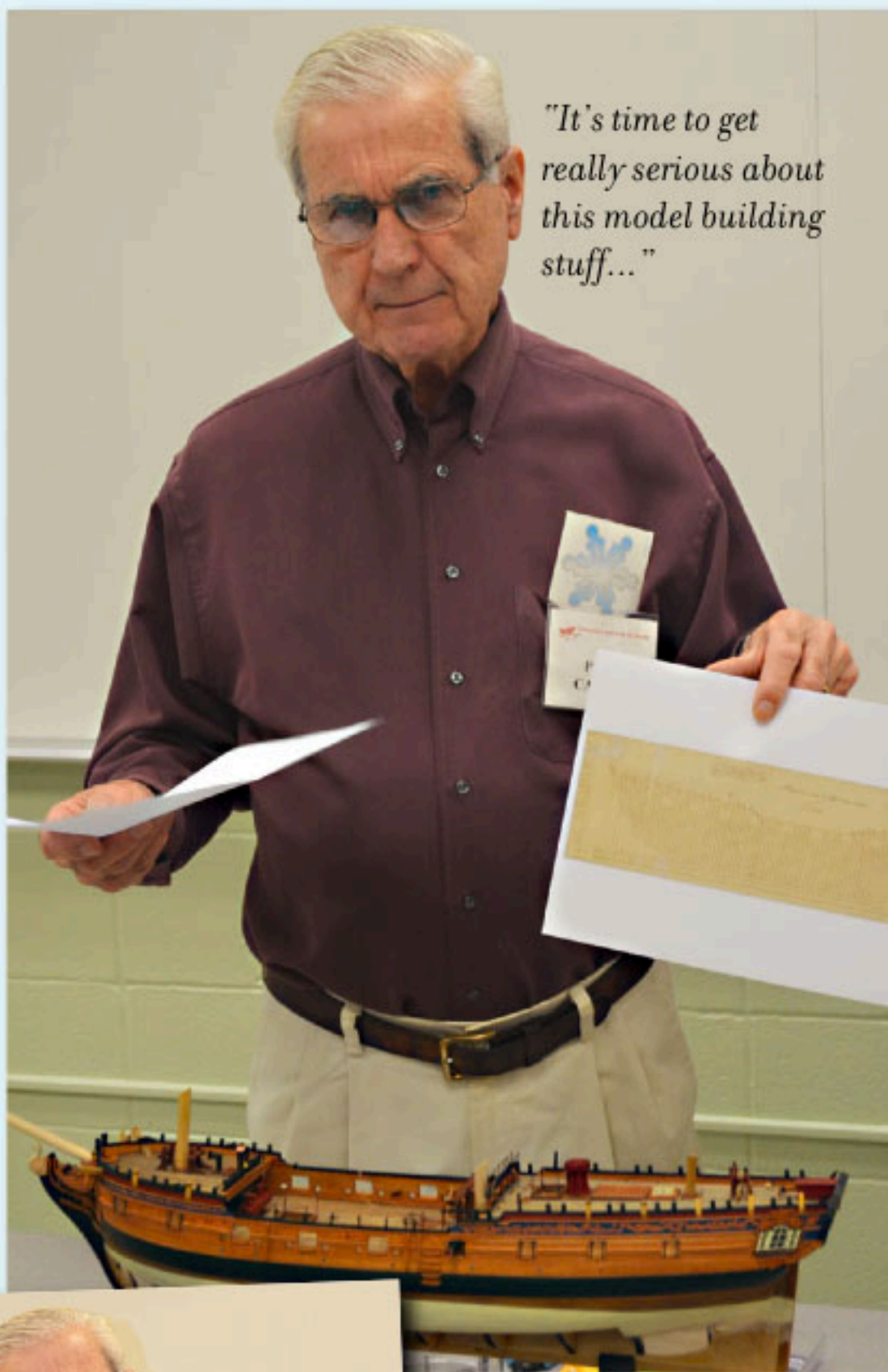


Good Stuff From The Bench

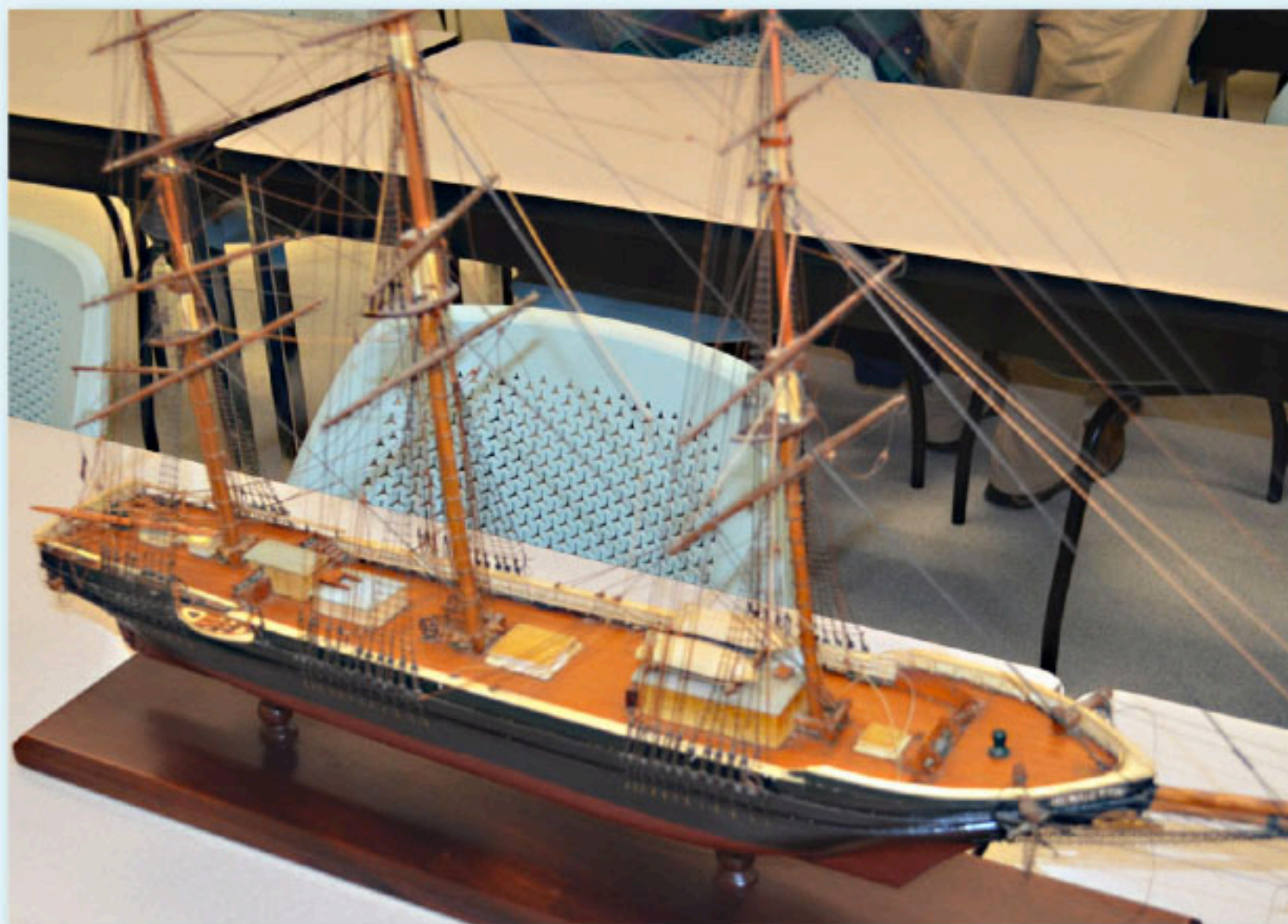
While on the subject of swans, **Pete Carlin**, showed us hi-res digital prints from the full-scale plans for the *HMS Atalanta* which he acquired from the *Nautical Maritime Museum* in London, U.K. Pete went to an engineering blueprint vendor to get the large plans scanned and reduced so he could proceed with the 1/4"-scale scratch build of the Swan Class ship of 1775. Of the two dozen ships built to the specification, *Atalanta* was the fourth. Pete plans to proceed with a full framed boxwood model similar to **Al Saubermann's** *U.S.S. Peacock* (see page 8).

Pete also showed us some finishing details on his nearly completed whaleboat, including the embedded rope pulley in the foremost stem of the boat (made from turned brass). Once a whale was harpooned, the trailing rope often led to the infamous (and dangerous) "Nantucket Sleigh Ride" for the boat's sailors. Pete plans to have his highly-detailed whaleboat model completed in time for next April's *Northeast Ship Modeler's Conference*.

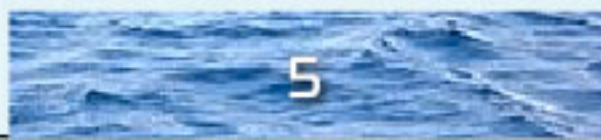
Below, **Duff** holds up the reduced 1/4" scale NMM plans to which Pete will build his fully-framed scratch model of the *HMS Atalanta*.



Good Stuff From The Bench



Tom Kane has landed another impressive restoration commission. Described to him by his client as a model of "*...the Henrietta — an 1879 tea clipper that ran from China to New York — and the first and last clipper built in North Carolina,*" the model appears to have been professionally made judging by the high-quality of the materials and workmanship. The 19th-century square-rigged clipper was 200' in length and had a beam of 39 1/2 feet. This impressive, large-scale model has not been cased and many of its components are very brittle and dry. Tom's job is to "fully clean and repair" the vintage model for his Connecticut clients who acquired it in an estate sale. We are all interested in how Tom's work will proceed since he is an expert with these challenging restoration projects.



Good Stuff From The Bench



The rigging on **Howard Williams' HMS Rosamund** gunship model is almost done; the next stage will involve putting silkspan sails on the attractive model of a Baltimore square-rigged brig of the mid-19th century.

Howard also brought in a framed display of two photo prints of two schooners on loan to him by his son-in-law. The early 20th century prints are in excellent condition and have been protected from typical deterioration, especially UV fading. Howard's relative told him that the photos originally belonged to his grandfather who was in service on one (or both) of the schooners. The

NY-to-Maine commercial ships "Tolima" and "Gavin" (C: 1918-1920) were large, four-masted, fore/aft-rigged coastal schooners that ran up and down the East coast during the early Industrial Revolution; they typically hauled timber and coal along the seaboard and competed with the early railways for the raw materials transport business.

Members agreed these prints appeared to be

valuable owing partially to their provenance as well as good condition. Howard's next voyage? To preserve the photos, it was suggested that he have them digitally scanned.



Good Stuff From The Bench

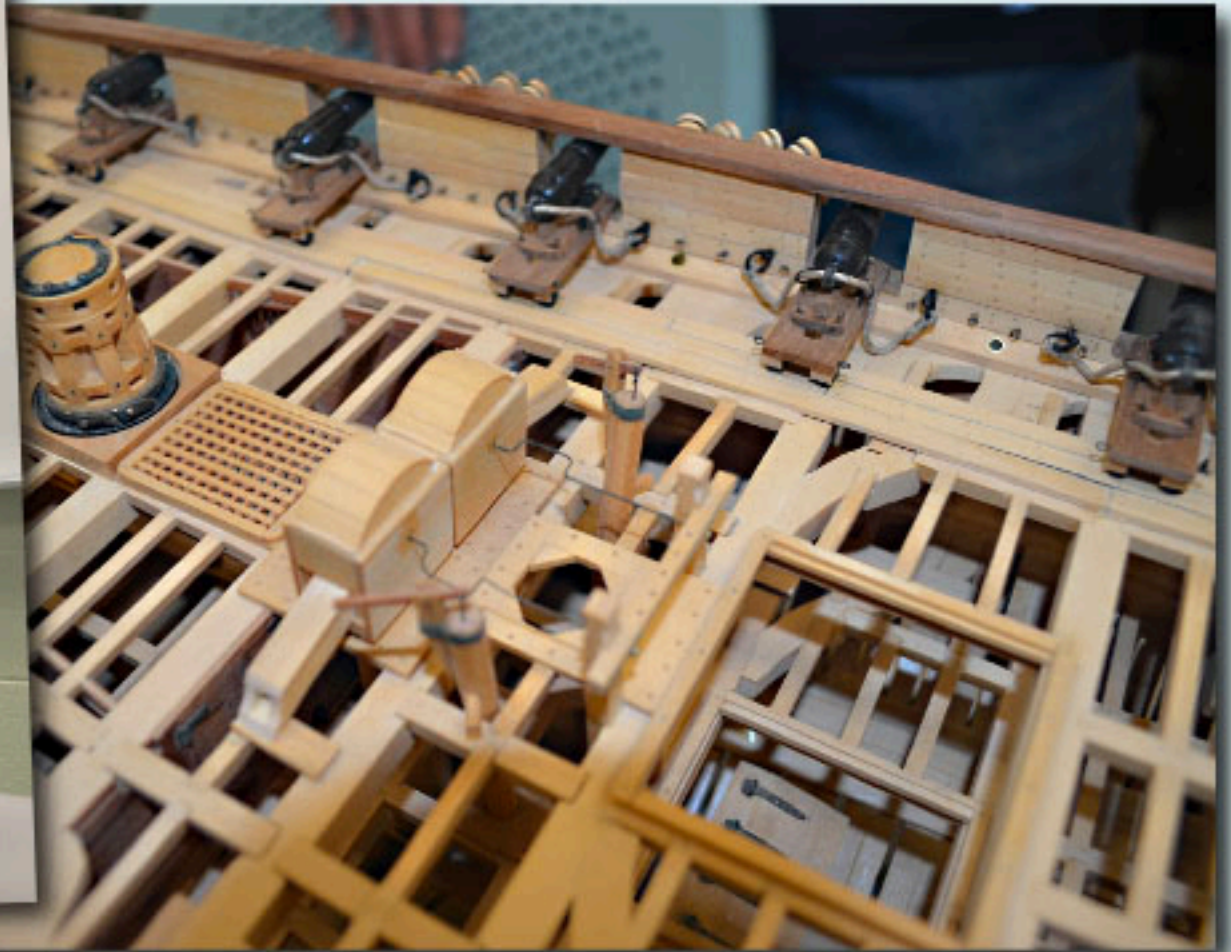


Bob Siegler is very close to completing his superbly-crafted 1.5" = 1' basswood model of a *Yankee tender/skiff*. He'll next spend some time making the small oystering boat's thwarts and adding details like oar locks (as well as oars). Bob has decided on the colors for the flat-bottomed model's paint: basic white with a green stripe. He shared some

details and interesting facts about these boats including that they cost \$140 in 1927 and that one can purchase a similar boat today for about \$3,500! The original clinker-built boats were made from cedar and oak with the bottom consisting of two wooden layers that encapsulated an oil-impregnated muslin fabric between the layers for waterproofing.



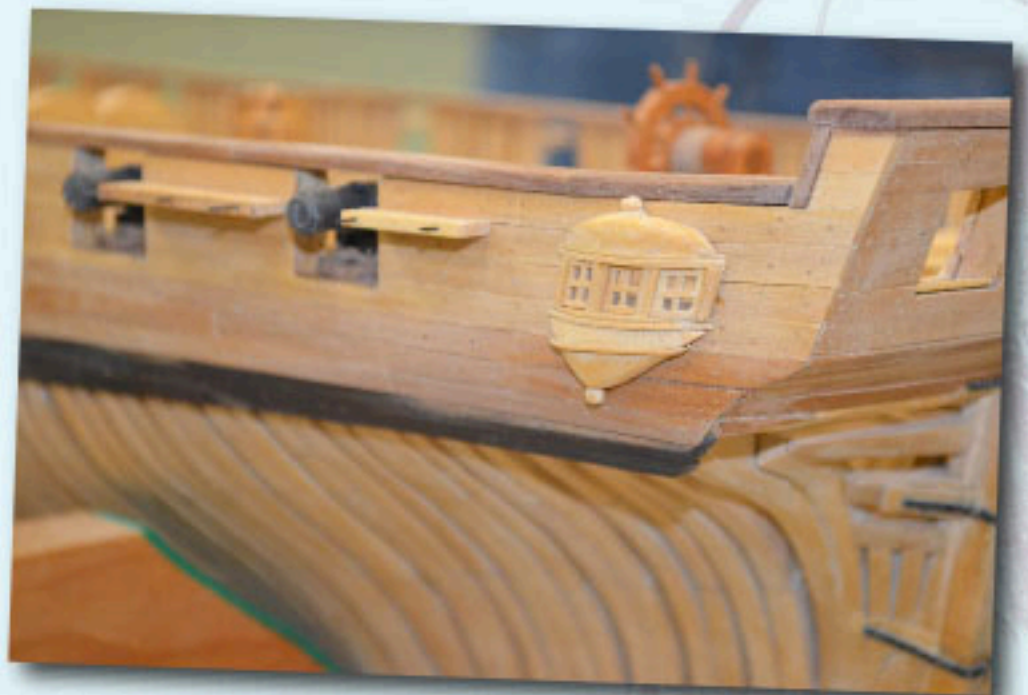
Good Stuff From The Bench



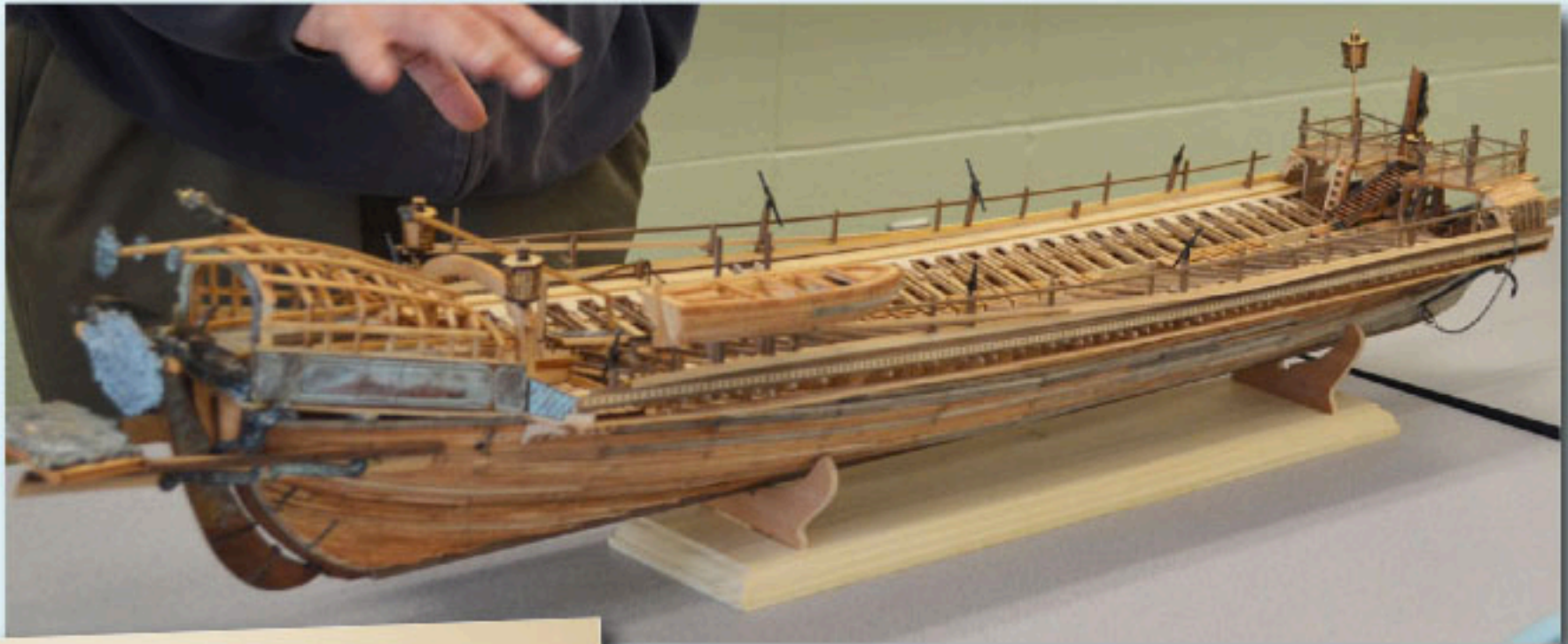
A reverent **Al Saubermann** told us about the remaining details left to complete his fully-framed, admiralty-styled model *U.S.S. Peacock*; his project to build a 1/4"-scale, 19-century, American sloop of war started nearly five years ago in late 2012. Al devoted a full year to research, gathering critical documentation wherever he could find it, including the *National Archives Museum* in Washington, D.C. The model is constructed with the aid of more than 200 CAD drawings he created from the original document sourcing. The hull of the coastal raider consists of 100 frames which are painstakingly fabricated from numerous, separate pieces. Over the last few years, Al also fabricated custom jigs to fashion many of the ship's details including making positioning jigs for mounting the chains (the supporting iron hardware at the ship's sides to support the shrouds).

At the end of his discussion, he added:
"I'm now down to the last couple of weeks!"

I'm certain I'm not the only member who could easily devote several hours to the close examination of the exquisite detail presented in Al's box-wood beauty.



Good Stuff From The Bench

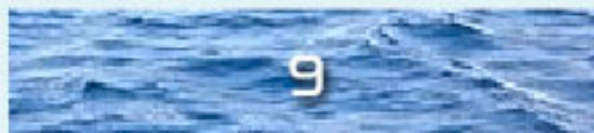


Fred Kerson- has added many special touches to his *LaReale*, including a genuine marble floor and diving platform at the ship's stern for the officers (see rear page). Fred belongs to a rock & mineral club; he's used pieces of random cast copper for many of the ship's decorative elements (see photo below).

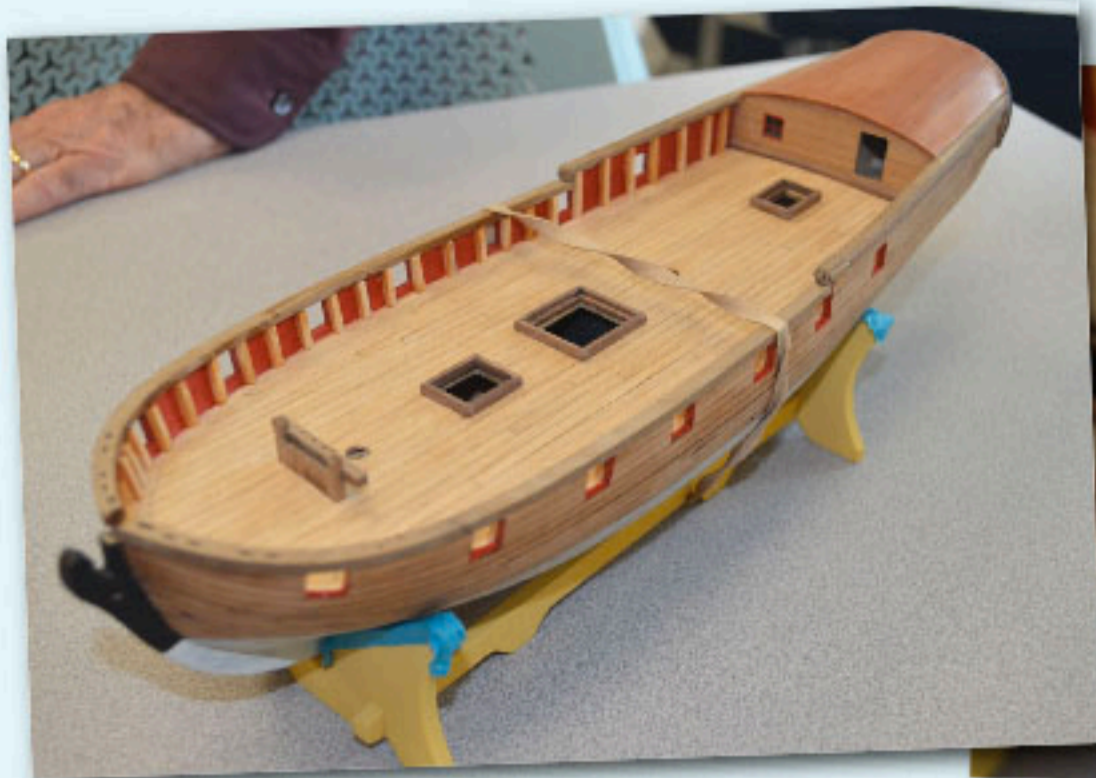
On this page you'll also see places for 370 oarsmen whom Fred only recently learned were typically slaves and convicts, a typical 17th-century Mediterranean maritime practice. He expressed some sincere and sad reflections about the inhumanity of the real ship the model is based upon. In fact, he felt uncomfortable about a detail that seemed to resemble a guillotine to him and thus, deleted it. He shared with us some conflicted feelings: "*I've had nightmares about (the brutal reality of) these galley ships.*"

Similar sentiments can happen to anyone with a vivid

mind like Fred's. Much of nautical history can be a sad read for those with an abundance of empathy as well as imagination.



Good Stuff From The Bench



Duff Griffith has been cranking away on his *HMS Badger* the past month. He explained to us that the English kit didn't have timberheads in the exposed bulwarks, so he added them. In addition, he's fashioned hatch coamings and an attractive cabin roof made from Swiss pear.

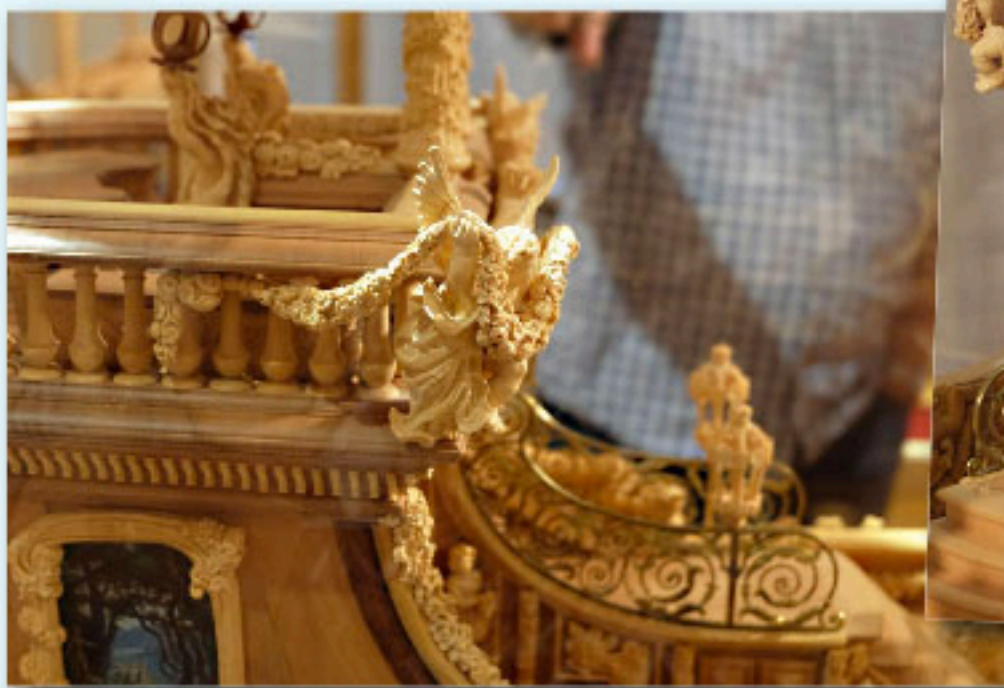
In 1879, the *Badger* became 21 year-old *Horatio Nelson's* first commission. Nelson died aboard the *HMS Victory* from a musket wound in at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805. Without question, Nelson is England's most famous war hero.



Humble scratch building master, **Ed Petrucci**, is using his abundant talents to build a coastal schooner for fellow member, **Dick DeWick**. Dick's father was a sailor and served on east coast schooners like the one Ed is building for him. Ed's model is based on a ship from 1869 that was 78 feet long with a beam of 23.5 feet. These ships are one of Ed's specialties that he meticulously builds in 1/8" scale. Nearly all of his models carry sails as this one will and are fully-rigged.



The Sea & Ships: Imagination & Inspiration



Here are various close-ups of the "Fairy Ship" model that appears on the front cover. The model is displayed in a nautical museum in St. Petersburg, Russia. This stunning model appears to be carved entirely from boxwood with polished brass decorative elements.

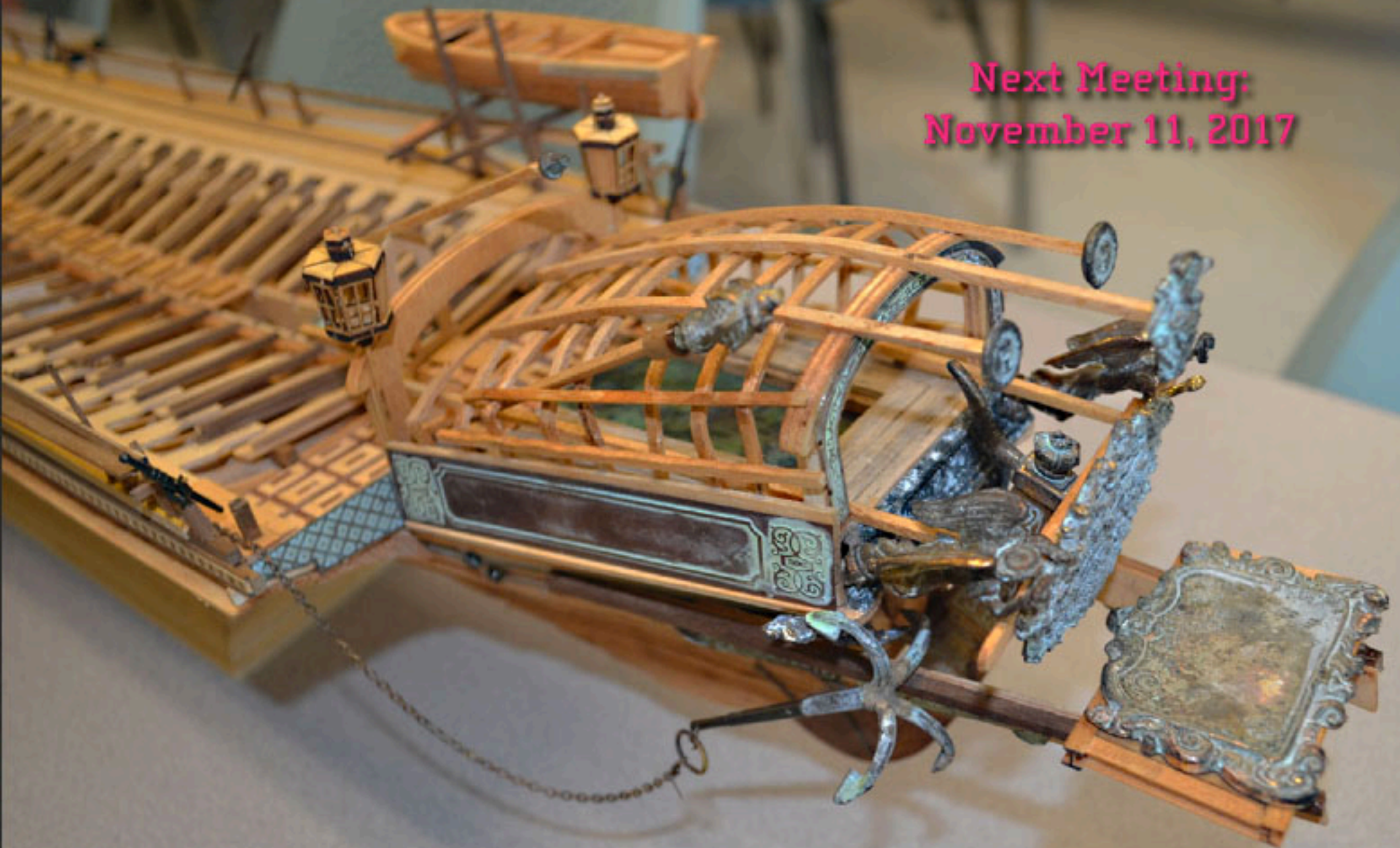
The emblem-styled plaque (to the right) appears to



attribute the name of the model as "Marchen (1879)" by artist/modelmaker *Ivan Trlan(ich) from Banal*, which is in Slovenia. Eastern Europeans and in particular, Russians, boast some of the world's finest modelmakers. Certainly, when it comes to mixing imagination with fine woodcarving they are in their own superlative category!



**Next Meeting:
November 11, 2017**



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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Al Saubermann, SECRETARY
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Ron Neilson, EDITOR hollowneck1946@gmail.com

Front: A beautifully-carved, elegantly imagined box-wood "Fairy Ship" - as described in notes taken from a nautical museum in St. Petersburg, Russia. **Inset photo:** there is also a stunning variety of nautical tatoos "inked" by imaginative artists worldwide who also admire ships.

Rear: A closeup of the "La Reale" 16th-C warship on display at the last meeting in October: an illustrative example of imagination and creativity by CMMS member, **Fred Kerson**.

Cover photo: unknown photographer; sourced from MSW (Modelshipworld.com). Did anyone notice that the "Fairy Ship's" figurehead is a swan - a backstory in this issue?

Rear photo: Ron Neilson

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



www.ctshipmodels.org

