



THE CONNECTICUT MARINE MODEL SOCIETY

☼ CMMS NEWSLETTER ☼ NOVEMBER 2017

Happy Holidays to you and your loved ones. I wish everyone good health and prosperity for the coming year.

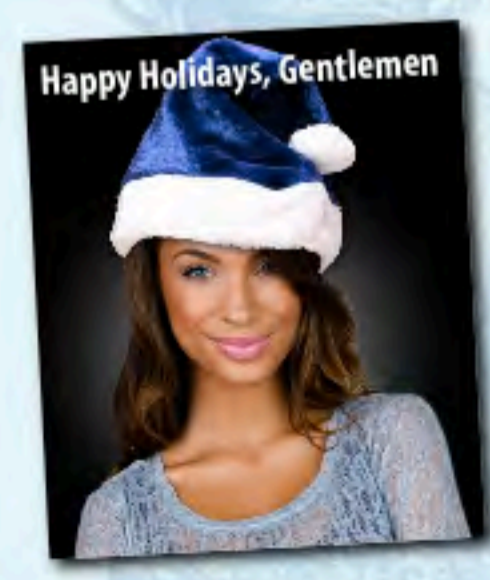
We also celebrate Jim Wiser's legacy by building models to his exacting standards of accuracy and craftsmanship. Our members will be voting for the model that best exemplifies these qualities during our December meeting when we vote for our **Annual Wiser Award**. Look for the photos of club member entries in this Newsletter.

The upcoming meeting is also open to non-maritime projects that you would like to share with us during the club's regular "Show n' Tell."

And — don't forget that we

have our Holiday Luncheon in December. Our Secretary, *Al Saubermann*, will send out the sign-up list to remind everyone. See you then.

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



Secretary's Report - November 2017

President **Duff Griffith** opened the meeting — held on Veteran's Day — with words of thanks to members of our armed services currently serving, to veterans, and in particular, to our fellow club members who are veterans. We also welcomed new member **Mike Mariano**. Fred Kerson's brother Robert joined us again as a guest. **Pete Carlin** then gave an update on the treasury. Don't forget Club dues for the next year - **\$25 regular dues or \$45 if you wish to receive a printed copy of the newsletter — are due by December 31.**

At our next meeting on December 9th we will vote for the *Jim Wiser Award*. Duff again reminded everyone about the Annual Wiser Award. The Wiser Award is given for outstanding artistry and craftsmanship in Honor of Jim Wiser. Jim was a master ship modeler of museum quality ships. All types of models are eligible, regardless of how

they're made: wood, plastic, metal, cardboard, etc. are eligible and anyone who's interested is encouraged to enter their model. We are our own judges. The only requirements for entry are: 1.) the model must have been completed in the current year and 2.) it must have been shown at our club meeting. As of this meeting, we have four models entered: Rick Abramson/ USS Arizona; Fred Kerson/Sovereign of the Seas; Al Saubermann/USS Peacock; and Brad Wells/Half Moon. Entries accepted until November 30. An announcement will be sent to members reminding them of the entry deadline.

Our December meeting will be a luncheon meeting. A sign-up sheet was passed around so that members could let us know if they want to bring something and what they are planning to bring. Those who do not bring something can pay \$5 instead. **Dave Dinan** will pick up wraps and

Pete Carlin will bring soft Drinks and Beer.

Duff also reminded members that club officers will be up for election next June 9th. According to our (new & revised) By-laws, nominations will be requested at our April 14th meeting (self-nominations are acceptable).

Ron Neilson, Newsletter Editor, announced that we need to order at least 10 polo shirts (blue with white logo) to get a reduced cost. Otherwise the cost is \$25 if you'd like to order one. Please let Ron know as soon as possible if you are interested.

Our next meeting will be on December 9th at Kaplan Hall, University off New Haven - our regular location - at 10 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Al Saubermann
Secretary, CMMS

CMMS member, **Lawrence Sowinski**, died on August 21, 2017. Born on June 20, 1941, in Albertson, New York, Larry received his BA in Advertising and Design from the *State University of New York* and attended to post graduate studies at the *School of Visual Arts* in New York City. Larry served in the US Navy from 1959 - 1963. His professional profile presented skills and expertise that included: master scratch built ship modeler, Museum Director, Planning Strategist, Exhibit Developer and Designer, Naval Historian, Published naval Author and Art director/Illustrator. Larry served as the Director of Exhibits, Trustee and Vice



Larry Sowinski

President of the *Intrepid Sea Air Space Museum* in New York City. Larry was a remarkable man. He loved history, US naval ships and the men who commanded and served aboard them. His love of family, God, and country will be remembered and celebrated by all who knew him. Living in New York City he would work on his models while traveling to work on the subway. He moved to Connecticut when he took over the Knights of Columbus museum in New Haven.

Member, **Dave Dinan**, recalls: "Larry was my inspiration for starting miniatures. I have all his books." Rest In Peace, Larry.



Good Stuff From The Bench — November 2017



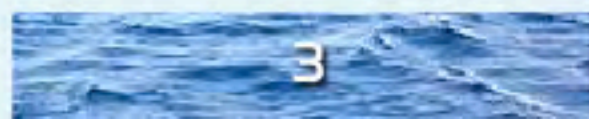
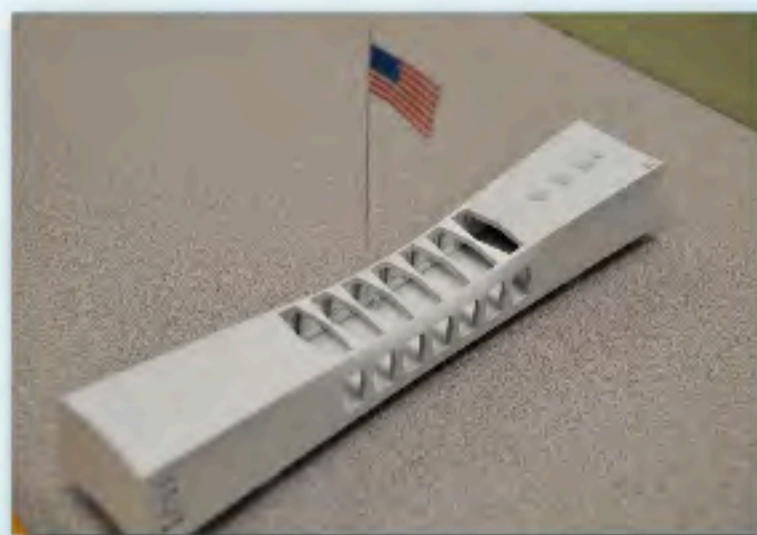
Rick Abramson presented his latest build, a 1:350-scale *USS Arizona*. The plastic model is from miniature manufacturer, *Banner*. He's added extensive brass photoetch upgrades from aftermarket company, *Edouard*. The additional photoetch detail set cost more than the basic kit! In addition to the model, Rick acquired a miniature same-scale plastic replica of the USS Arizona Memorial building that now stands at the site of the sunken WWII battleship in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

He expounded upon an extensive history of the infamous attack on the U.S. navy in 1941. Rick has also visited the Memorial and has a deep, abiding respect for its significance. Rick has met one of only three survivors of the attack who has written a book about his experience on the **Day That Will Live In Infamy**.

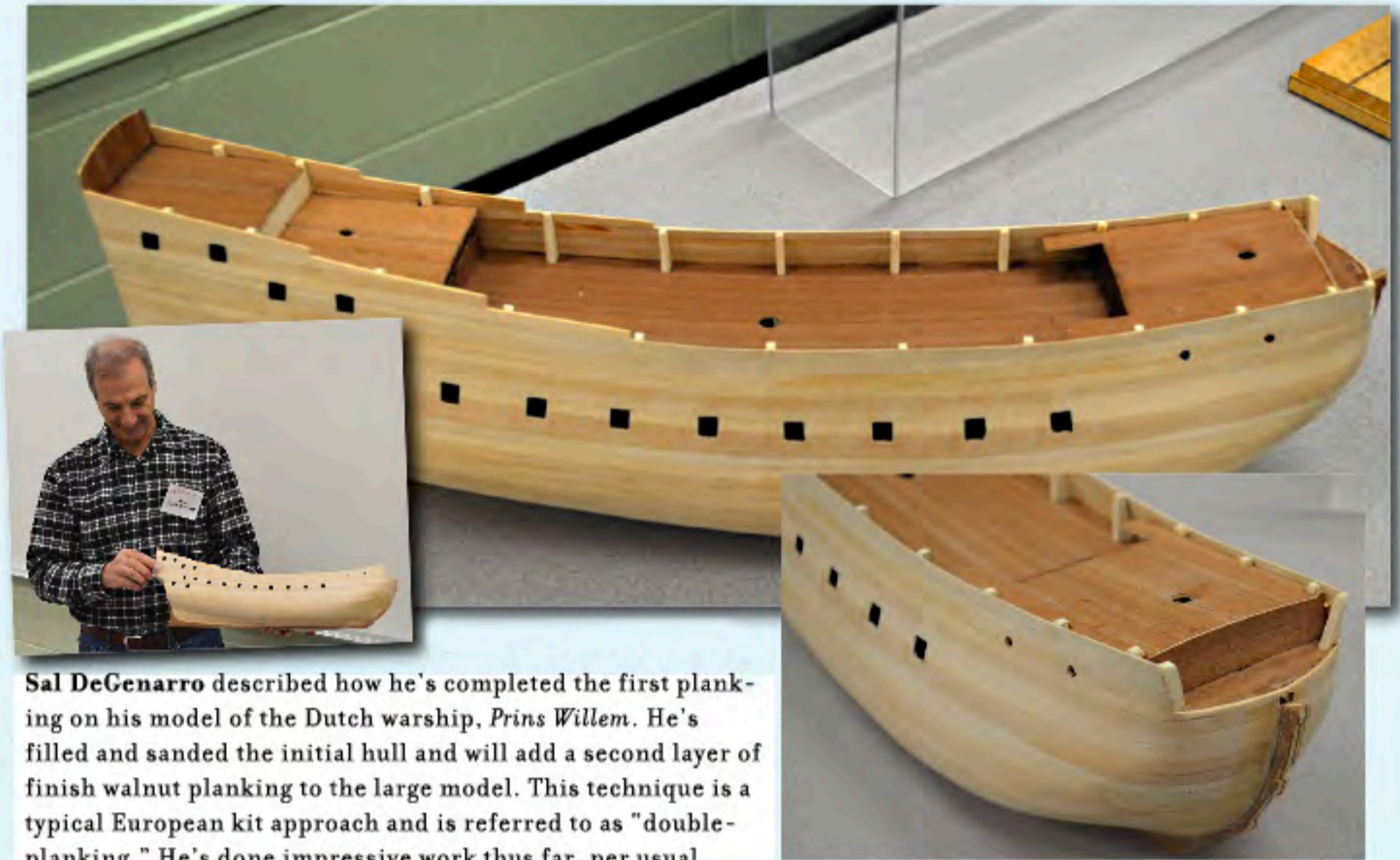


Rick's ultra-miniature work is stunning and the scale fidelity is outstanding. In fact, he decided to use .005 thick brass wire to re-create the model's radio antenna.

Rick's model is entered into this year's Wiser Awards (see page 10 for a larger picture of the entire ship).



Good Stuff From The Bench



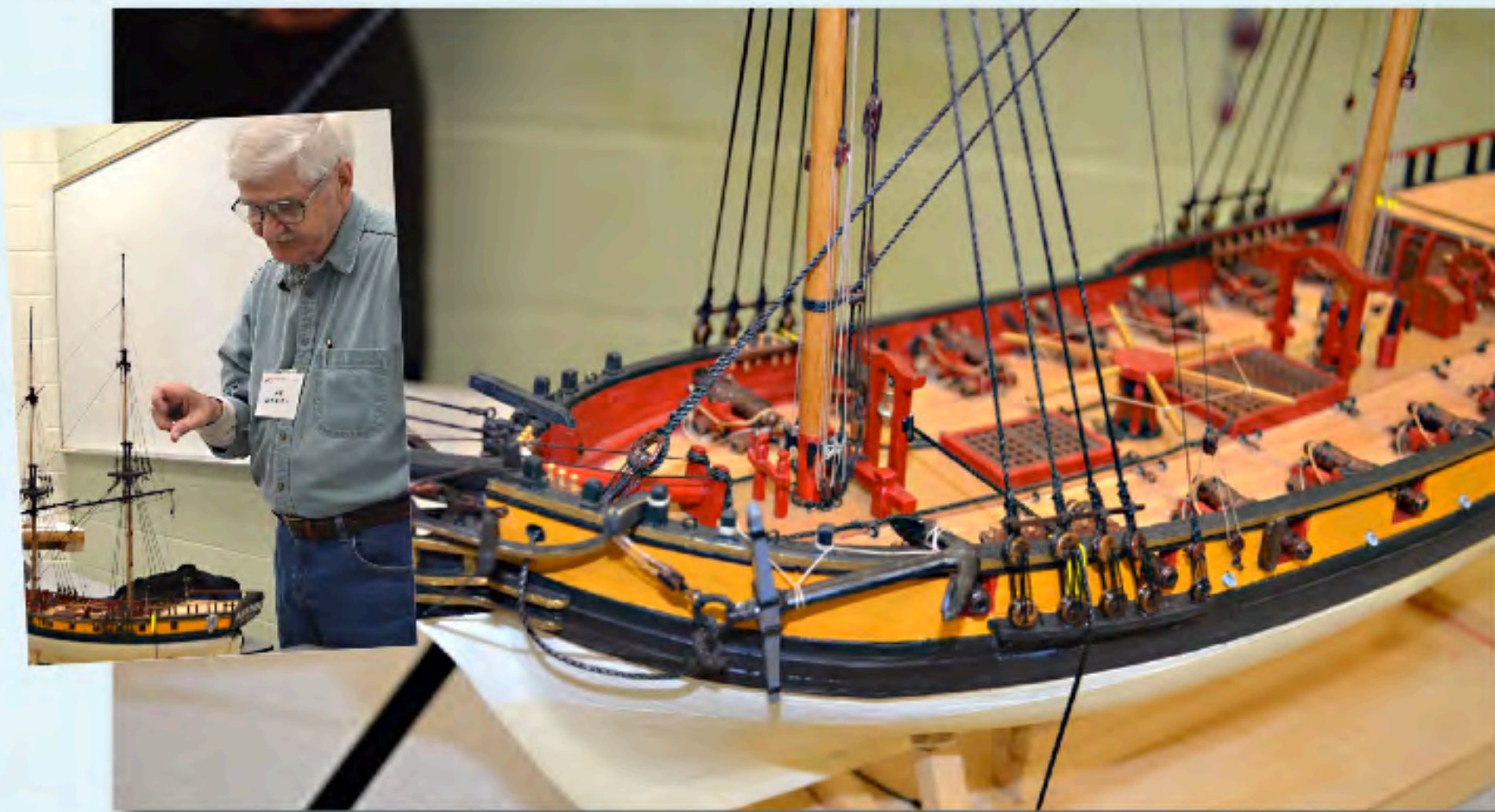
Sal DeGenarro described how he's completed the first planking on his model of the Dutch warship, *Prins Willem*. He's filled and sanded the initial hull and will add a second layer of finish walnut planking to the large model. This technique is a typical European kit approach and is referred to as "double-planking." He's done impressive work thus far, per usual.



Pete Carlin is fast coming-up to the finish line on his *New Bedford whaleboat*. He explained how he's added the "lion's tongue," the cutting boards and the loggerhead post to the model's stem section. To fashion scale-accurate "lifting rings," he decided to not use the kit-provided pieces. Instead, he purchased brass rod from hobby vendor, *Micro-Mark*, and carefully shaped and attached the brass pieces fore and aft. Pete is planning on creating a number of nautical items he'll add to the boat over the upcoming months.



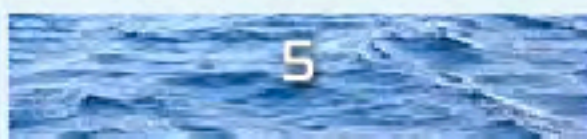
Good Stuff From The Bench



Joe Delaney is deep into the extensive rigging of his nicely executed *Fair American* model. The popular kit from Model-Expo is in 1:64 scale ($3/16" = 1$ foot). The kit has decent quality components and very good plans and instructions, including a sail plan. When asked about adding sails, Joe remarked:
"No. Sails, to me, is another whole year!"



Duff Griffith has made nice headway on his 1:64 Caldercraft kit-modified build of the 18th-Century English war sloop, *HMS Badger*. He's added hatch coamings and has begun some of the model's finishing by using a combination of beeswax and kerosene.



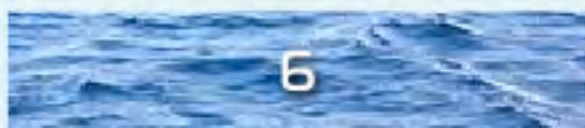
Good Stuff From The Bench



Ron Neilson's kit-modified model of the *HMS Swan* was shown to members. The hull is nearly completed and he's started on the masting and rigging. He remarked that once the hull of these period ships is complete, a modeler is approximately halfway through a completely rigged build. He estimated there is about 3 months of rigging work.

Ron described some of the details he's added to his model. For example, the rope that is wound around the chain-pump mechanism's iron shafts. The rope helped sailors get a firmer and less painful grip on the long pumping bars; the "chains" were nearly always being pumped, especially when the ship was underway. Wooden ships leaked prodigiously as stresses on the hull allowed water to continuously seep through the planking and frames; bilges were nearly always sloshing with unsanitary water. He also described how he fashioned the figurehead of a swan as well as techniques he employs for making the model's photoetched brass decorative elements look like carved wood.

Ron plans to add sails to the 18th-century English navy model (furled and set), as well as add a crew. He's also designing a presentation base that will feature realistic-looking water surrounding the "waterline model."



Good Stuff From The Bench



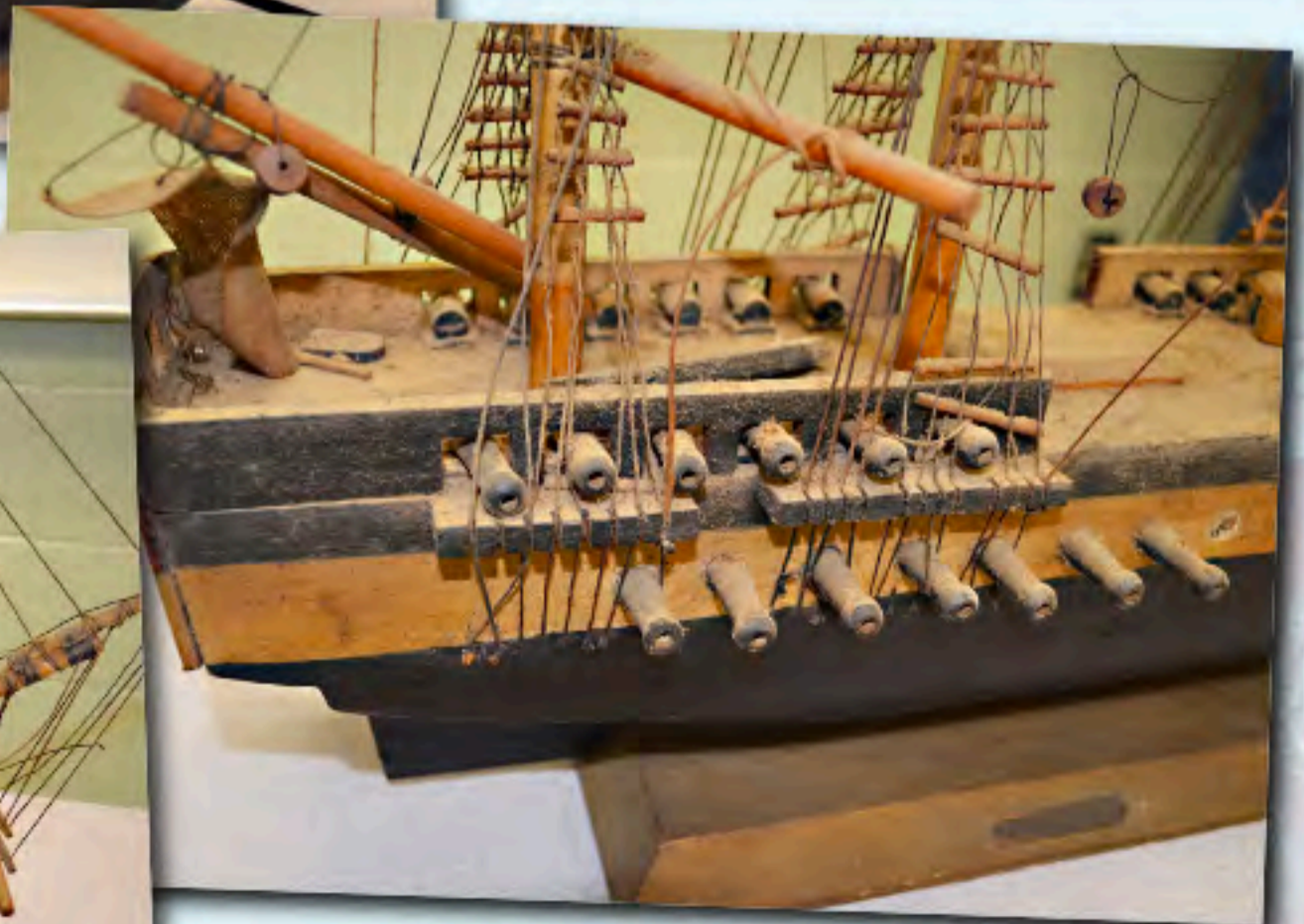
Fred Kerson wanted to share a new discovery with the members rather than bring to the meeting his in-process kit build of the *La Reale*. He mentioned that he was reluctant to bring in his "oversized rowboat" (the 17th-century French slave galley) when there was a new acquisition he was anxious to share with everyone.

Fred frequently haunts antique stores since he has other hobbies that make him an inveterate collector, especially Civil War memorabilia and various armament artifacts like black powder items as well as muskets — and, various cannon.

Recently, Fred came across a model that he purchased for \$40 at an antique store. The model appears to be quite old (perhaps as much as 100 years someone suggested). The small copper nameplate affixed to the ship's base reads: "Constitution."

When asked if he intended to restore the old model, Fred exclaimed: "Restore? Are you kidding? I made a promise to myself — I'm NEVER going to dust this! Zero. Nothing."

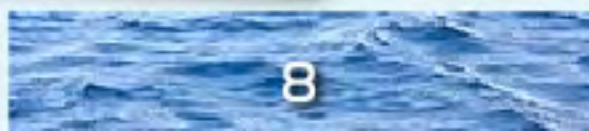
Most members wholeheartedly agreed with Fred's decision.



Good Stuff From The Bench



Ed Petrucci once again showed us why he is one of the club's Master Modelers. Ed has nearly completed his build of the *Benjamin Latham*, a New England schooner built in 1901. The two-masted racing ship model was designed by the famous *Eric Ronnberg*. Ed gave a detailed discussion on how he's crafted the impressive model's full suit of realistic sails. When asked which materials and techniques he found easier to do, cloth or silksan (fabric filamented paper), Ed stated: "No doubt about it, silksan is much easier!"



Good Stuff From The Bench



Brad Wells has been "downsizing" these last few months: witness his latest model, a *Half Moon* in 1:170 scale. The plastic Dutch kit, a gift from a friend, came with sails and various decals, but no rigging.

Brad has entered his "Mini Moon" in the club's Wiser Award for 2017 (see page 10). If he wins the Award this year, Brad told me he'll equip the model with full R/C control, launch it on the Hudson next summer and attempt to sail under the new Tappan Zee bridge in commemoration of the actual Henry Hudson voyage of 1609.

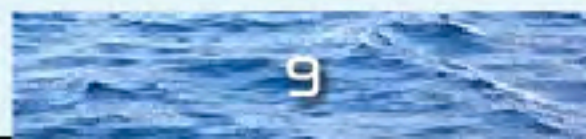
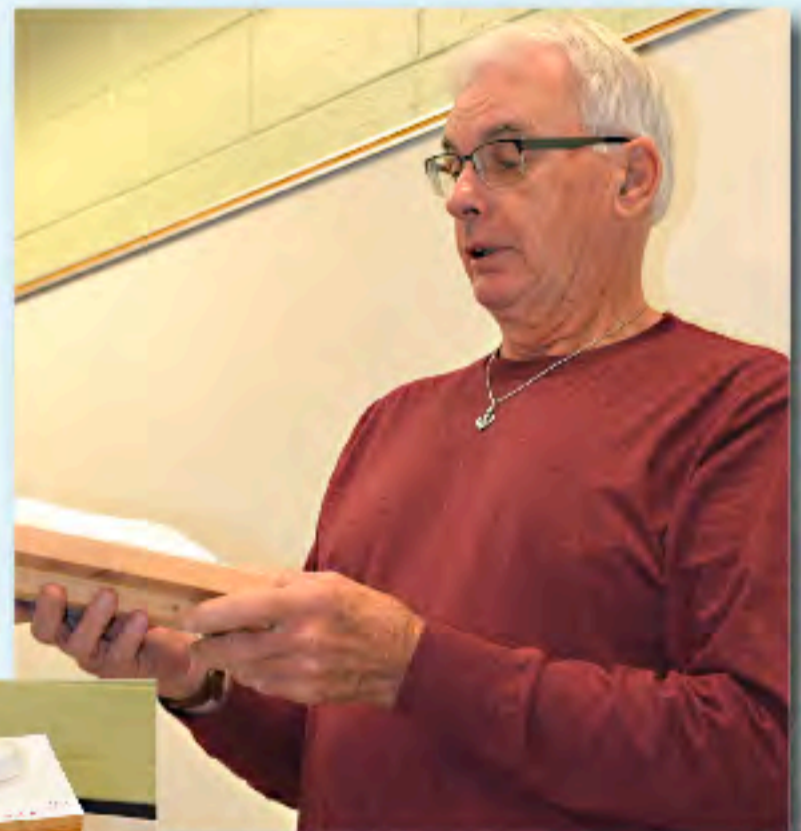
(Just kidding).



Henry Hudson's last voyage, post mutiny, 1610.

Dave Dinan showed us the initial stages of his latest solid hull model, a *Canadian Corvette*. Dave loves to build his steel navy models in ultra-miniature scales.

So they stay properly anchored, Dave also described his ingenious vacuum vise: a disc brake drum that's been affixed with a hefty conventional vise. Once mounted, his scratch built ships are going to stay put no matter the severity of the rasping and filing! Dave designed his original mounting solution 10-15 years ago. An engineer by profession, Dave is one of the club's most inventive builders. He's always got some unique yet practical device, material or process to share with members.



Wiser Award Entries 2017



USS Arizona — 20th Century American Battleship



HMS Diana — 18th Century English Navy Warship



Half Moon — 16th Century Dutch Exploration Carrack



USCG Motor Launch — 20th Century American boat



USS Peacock — 19th Century American Sloop of War



Sovereign of The Seas — 17th Century English Warship



Missing Submarine Likely Lost At Sea



As this Newsletter goes to "press," the Argentine Navy's *ARA San Juan (S42)* submarine is still missing in action. Last month, the German-built diesel sub was reportedly intercepting illegal fishing boats on the Latin American coast when it failed to report back to command.

It was reported by the Argentine Navy that water entered the sub's snorkel hours before it vanished. The speculation is that the intake of water had caused the battery of the *ARA San Juan* to short-circuit before it vanished on November 15. The 44-member crew were believed to have had only a seven-day oxygen supply when it lost contact. A sudden noise that was widely reported having been

detected by the Navy now says could in fact have been the implosion of the vessel.

Ships with rescue equipment from countries including the United States and Russia have nonetheless been rushing to join the search.

In 1968, the *USS Scorpion* was lost with a crew of 99. Five years earlier, the *USS Thresher* sunk with 129 aboard. A total of 9 nuclear submarines have been lost: 2 for the U.S., 7 for Russia (Soviet Union). Dangerous service.





**Next Meeting:
December 9, 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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Front: Santa aboard SSN-775 in San Diego. Inset photo, right: one of Santa's little helpers in a Navy blue Santa's cap.

Rear: Sunglasses wearing Santa greets sailors in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii for the Holiday Season.

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



Cover photo: Wikipedia searches
Ron Neilson.

www.ctshipmodels.org

