

© 1957 Edwin Tunis  
 While one man cranks the spinner, the one holding the "top" walks backwards as the rope is twisted. From Edwin Tunis, *The Young United States, 1783 to 1830* (New York: World Publishing Co., 1969), 82. Used by permission of the estate of Edwin Tunis

# Ropewalk

The Newsletter for  
Shipwrights of Central Ohio

August 2018

Next Meeting: **September 15, 2018**

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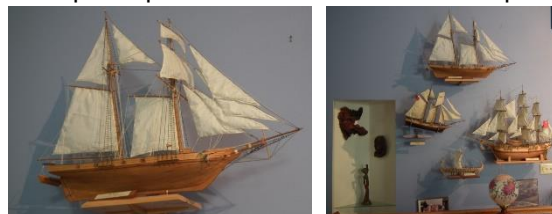
## August Meeting

### Guest

We had a good turnout and a guest.



We welcomed Jack Bowers, a ship modeler who lives in Lancaster, Ohio. Here are a couple of photos of his work and his shop.



Welcome Jack.

### Business

### Ohio State Fair

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Model Ship Building Competition

The winners were:

1<sup>st</sup> Place: "*Hannah*" by B. Nyberg



2<sup>nd</sup> Place: *Niagara* by Darrell Markijohn



3<sup>rd</sup> Place: *Chaperon* by Mike Knapp



Congratulations to the winners. So, what will you be entering in the 2019 Model Ship Building Competition?

**Featured Artist program:**

We staffed two tables as part of Creative Arts "Featured Artist" display, on Friday, July 27<sup>th</sup> & August 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Ohio State Fair. Our table display consisted of completed models and three club members who were working on their current model builds.

Traffic flow was light on July 27<sup>th</sup> but much heavier on the 3<sup>rd</sup> when the temperature was in the 90's.

As in the past, most of the people who came through wandered past, looking at the craft displays, quilts, art work, miniatures and food displays, without stopping to talk. They included moms and dads with the kids, teenagers, empty nesters, and the elderly in powered chairs. We estimated that we talked to between 100 adults and some boys and girls, each day, who were interested in the models or had stories related to the model.

August 20, 2018



Every year we have one model that the visitors gravitate to. This year we had a R/C Chris Craft (kit) that drew the attention of most of the people who stopped. It appears that almost everyone has a Chris Craft story

We also had a 10 to 11-year old boy who was very interested. One of our staff had brought in a plastic ship model kit he did not want. Asking the mother if it was OK to give the kit to the boy, she said yes.



The boy left the building with both arms wrapped around the kit. We also talked to a man who has built over 30 models but had to give it up due to atrophy in his hands. He has a number of books and tools he feels he needs to dispose of. Gave him our email address and ask for him to send us a list.

We had two handouts available for people to take if they were interested: An application to join our club [gave away 29 copies]; a brochure called "About ship modeling", for those interested in ship modeling [gave away 28 copies].

Overall, we talked to 'more people than last year, but found, again, that those who we talked to were interested in ship modeling but either did not think they had the patience or were too infirmed (old) to do modeling any more. An interesting note was observed watching the young (8 – 13-year old's) who showed great interest in ship modeling but their parents were

totally dis-interested. I expect the parents didn't think they either had the time or skills to help their sons or daughters with another activity.

We have been asked to explore how we can hold a 2-hour workshop during the Fair that will introduce ship modeling to 8-10-year-old and provide a "make & take" model. This could assist in meeting the need of new blood into the ship modeling community. (See article from AGLMH below as well as last months "Ropewalk" from NRJ, Vol.63, NO. 2).

### Library Display

Each year we try to provide a display of ship models at the Westerville Public Library as payment for using their classrooms for our meeting at no charge. This year we will fill their display cases for the month of September.

Set up for the display will be Saturday, September 1<sup>st</sup> at 9 AM with the display being taken down on Friday, September 28 at 9 AM.

The models scheduled to be displayed this year are:

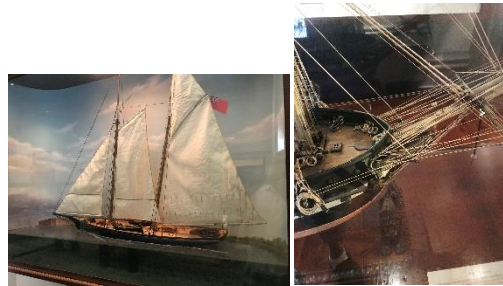
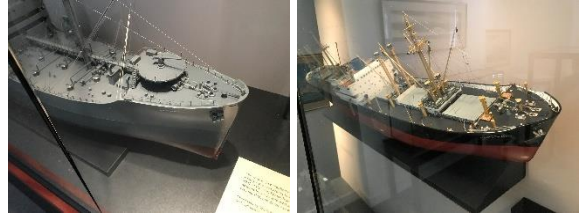
- Skipjack by W. Nyberg
- CSS Alabama by S. Ross
- USS Kearsarge by S. Ross
- Black Prince by S. Ross
- Diorama by G. Montag
- Germain Workboat by G. Montag
- Chris-Craft by Alan Phelps
- Plastic Kit display by L. Black

### Presentation

#### Ship-of-the-Sea Maritime Museum

Jerry Amato had the opportunity to visit the "Ships of the Sea Museum" early this summer while in Savannah, GA. The museum features nine galleries of ship models, maritime paintings and artifacts. Manned with a camera, Jerry shared his visit with pictures of the vast majority of ship models. Many had been commissioned by the Museum to interpret the rich story of Savannah's maritime history. The collection of models includes, colonial vessels, ironclads, ocean-going steamers, and modern navy ships. All of August 20, 2018

the models have been strenuously researched and delicately detailed. Further, the Museum's commissioned models are conveniently built to the same scale: 3/8" = 1'. Here is just a small sample.



This is six photos out of 241 in Jerry's collection.

### Ship Model Value

Thursday, before our meeting, I received an email from a lawyer who needed help in liquating 9-ship models from an estate. She had them appraised and they were valued at \$10,475 and she was looking a quick sale turnaround.

I asked for the appraisal and pictures if she had them. Here are pictures of the five highest appraised models:

Cutty Sark, POB, excellent - \$2,500



22-gun, Naval, 18<sup>th</sup> C. – Very Good - \$2,500



POF, 18<sup>th</sup> C. Naval – Good - \$1,800



POB, 18<sup>th</sup> C., Transport – Excellent - \$1,500



POB, 17<sup>th</sup> C. Galleon – Excellent - \$1,200



The appraiser, from a reputable firm that sells ship models, was not interested in handling the sale of the models. That told me that the appraisal was an insurance value and the August 20, 2018

models were not up to the quality that his show room handles.

My experience with assisting in the settlement of a ship modelers estate is that our models, though highly valued by us, don't bring that value from the buying public. I restored a model that had been built in 1920 for a 100<sup>th</sup> voyage from Rotterdam to Jakarta, the model had been built in Jakarta by a local craftsman for a celebration dinner. Included with the model was a photo with all officers seated around the model. The model disappeared, showing up at the "Scott's Antique Mall" in Atlanta in 2001, priced at \$2,100. Bought, restored by the buyer and was purchased in the settlement of his estate for \$350. I restored it, charging \$3052 (time & material). The owner, due to major medical expenses gave the model to me and I in turn donated it to the SSHSA for their sale or display.

My recommendation to the lawyer for the estate, was find a good auction house and have them sell them, also that she should expect 10 to 20% of the insurance value in the sales.

### Transporting Models

Our third presentation was on transporting models. I have had experience moving model's cross country using professional movers as well as driving two of my models 2,100 miles in the back of my SUV. The presentation also covered moving models locally for meetings or shows.

With professional movers when getting estimates I have always asked "How will you pack the models?" The mover with the best method gets the contract. In almost all cases, the mover also packed and moved museum or art works. The steps taken to pack the models are as follows: the model is strap/fastened to a base. The base is mounted to base of a wooden crate with packing material around hull. A framed enclosure is built with the 3/4" framing and 1/8 – 3/8" plywood sides & top. The crate is labeled "This side up" on all four sides & "Put

nothing on top". Finally make sure the model(s) are insured both by the mover and your homeowners' insurance.

Moving models' long distance by car, you don't need to be so elaborate. The issues you need to plan for are: Pot holes – it is the ones you don't see at 70 mph; Rough roads – can jar your teeth let alone a model not tightly packed; Emergency stops – Emergency braking can throw unsecured items forward; and Security – Needs covered to prevent vandals, etc.

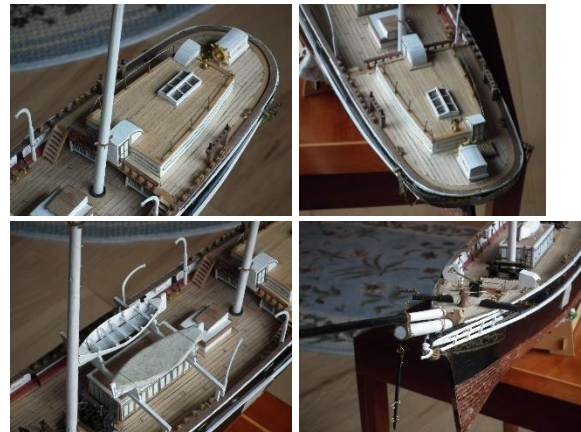
My experience, moving two sailing-ship-models, both in cases, to Las Vegas over a period of 5-days, went very well. Driving a big SUV allowed me room to align the models with the length of the car. If you have to make a quick stop, the model won't tip over. I also secured the model using the seat belts from the second row of seats. Cork was applied to the bottom of the case to prevent sliding forward and blankets were packed around the case to prevent anything striking the cases. I also checked with my auto insurance provider that my insurance coverage would pay for any damage incurred. Lastly the cases were covered with a blanket, since we spent 4-nights on the road at motels, so that the models could not be seen from outside the car.

Local transport of models to meetings or shows have similar issues as traveling long distances. With local travel, your assured clear distance between you and the car in-front may be closer. The pot-hole they miss could cause severe damage because you don't see it in time. Treat your local travel with similar precautions as you would for long distance travel.

### ***Ships on Deck:***

#### ***Cutty Sark***

Jack Bower shared his progress on building a model of the *Cutty Sark*.



#### ***Ulises***

Alan Phelps has started building the POB, R/C tug *Ulises* from Ocio Creativo.



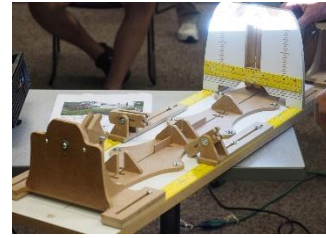
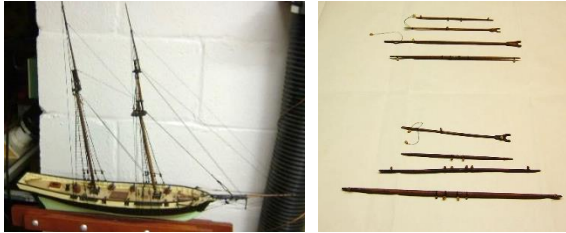
#### ***Normandie***

Stan Ross provided pictures of his progress building the steamer *Normandie*. I won't tell you what he thinks of working with CA glue on small parts.



### **Dapper Tom**

Standing rigging and rigging the yards, booms and gaffs is finished. Need to add footropes.



### **Swift 1805**

Bob Mains shared his progress building a model of a Virginia pilot boat. This is Bob's first POB ship model. She is looking good, Bob.



### **Model Case**

John Kinkel shared his re-purposed model case. Originally built to display the hull of his HMS Fly, John has reduced both the base and glass case to display his horse drawn wagon.



### **Building Board**

Lee Kimmins shared his modified building board from Hobby Zone.

### **Odds and Ends**

#### ***American Great Lakes Maritime History***

Fellow Great Lakes museums leverage the skills of regional modelers to enhance their installations, but each year the pool of artisans is smaller. A generation that reveled in miniature-making is passing as professional trade modeling has been replaced by computer modeling and three-dimensional printing. Younger devotees, far fewer in number, are finding it harder to find part and plan suppliers, often turning to overseas sources. Nearly every article and interview discussing the waning interests quickly blames the popularity of video games and the internet. Other than Lego-sponsored events, younger museum goers seldom get hands-on modeling experiences.

Loss of this visually interpretive tool will have consequences. It will increase the value of existing collections of ship models, but newly commissioned models will come with longer wait times and higher costs. Plastic 3-D modeling will fill some of the void, but experts note that the field is losing its brain trust of expertise—a resource that will be hard to replace. In the meantime, in-museum and off-site demonstrations offer a great opportunity to expose folks to this unique art form.

This article appeared in the AGLMH Newsletter -2018 August.

#### ***Nautical Terms***

**B & R rig:** A style of standing rigging used on sailboats that lack a backstay. The mast is said to be supported like a "tripod," with swept-back spreaders and a forestay

**Back:** To turn a sail or a yard so that the wind blows directly on the front of the sail, retarding the ship's forward motion.

**Back and fill:** To go backward and forward.

**Backing:** Motion in a backward direction. Said of the wind, shifting in a counterclockwise direction in relation to a vessel's course. When the wind shifts in a clockwise direction it is called veering.

**Backstay:** A long rope, part of the standing rigging, that supports a mast. And counters the forward pull. Attached to the upper mastheads, backstays slant a little toward the stern, extending to both sides or to the channels of the ship, where they are fastened to backstay plates.

**Baggywrinkle:** A soft covering for cables (or any other obstructions) that prevents sail chafing.

**Ballast:** Gravel, sand, stones, iron, lead, or any heavy material placed in the hold of a ship to improve her stability. "In ballast" means laden with ballast only.

**Ballast tank:** A device used on ships, submarines and other submersibles to control buoyancy and stability.

**Band:** A slip of canvas stitched across a sail to strengthen the parts most liable to pressure.

Information is from the book "A Sea of Words" A lexicon and Companion for Patrick O'Brian's Seafaring Tales" by Dean King. & Glossary of Nautical Terms Wikipedia;

## BlueJacket Ship Crafters

### Tip-of-the-Month

Bluejackets "Tip of the Month" continues to be a popular part of their newsletter. They have been asked about an index of the tips. Their response is "It already exists!" Go to their website page ([www.bluejacketinc.com](http://www.bluejacketinc.com)) and scroll down to the bottom of the page. Click on the "newsletter archive" and a listing of every tip of the month is there, along with the model of the month from 2013. Click on the name of the month you want.

### How to easily make good footropes

Making footropes on yards is one of the more frustrating tasks in model shipbuilding. The problem is that thread has a mind of its own, and doesn't lie well like real footropes.

The solution? – Use wire! Fine wire can be wrapped around the yard, and is stiff enough to hang properly. It can be realistically bent to simulate real rope hanging from gravity.



The footropes on the yards, shown above, .010 annealed wire (sold by Bluejacket, Part # R0902) are from the soon-to-be-released kit of the USS Perry.

Darrell Markijohn shared that he used fish hooks for the yard stirrups for his U.S.S. Niagara.

## Nautical Research Guild 2018 Conference

The 2018 Nautical Research Guild conference will be held October 25 – 27, 2018 at the Palace Station Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, NV.

### Registration Forms:

<https://www.thenrg.org/nrg-2018-conference.php>

I will be attending and leaving earlier in the month to spend time with family.

## Great Lakes Ship Found?

Two men looking for the wrecks of World War II planes may have found the remains of a steamship lost more than 120 years ago on Lake Michigan.

Taras Lyssenko and Allan Olson of Chicago-based A and T Recovery believe they



have stumbled onto the remains of the SS *Chicora*.

The ship was bound for Milwaukee on Jan. 21, 1895, when she went down with 23 people on board. Reports say that the

ship left just 10 minutes before a messenger tried to deliver a telegram saying the ship should stay in port because the barometer was falling fast.

Although the vessel that A and T Recovery found is about the same length, same width, and features a single smokestack - just like the *Chicora* – this is not the first time this missing ship has supposedly been spotted. Valerie van Heest, director of Michigan Shipwreck Research Association, told the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* that other shipwreck hunters have reportedly found the ship, only to find out it was another vessel. In fact, a 2001 search by the association instead led to the discovery of the *H.C. Akeley*, a similarly sized steamship.

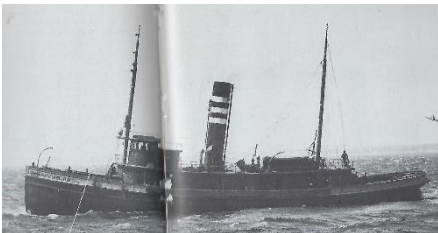
To try and confirm the find, the company is trying to assemble a team of historians and experts from Wisconsin, Michigan and Illinois to videotape the wreck and possibly establish a satellite link so students can watch live when a remote-controlled robot is sent to take a closer look.

The team would include researchers studying the effects of quagga mussels on the bottom of Lake Michigan, one of the main reasons that A and T Recovery found the vessel in the first place. It has recovered about 40 Navy planes that crashed into Lake Michigan during World War II by pilots practicing carrier takeoffs and landings, and is seeking to map and videotape the 60 to 70 planes believed to still be on the bottom before the quagga and zebra mussels erode them away.

Steamship Historical Society of America e-broadcast newsletter "Ahoy!" August 2018

## Other Notes: (About "Stuff" & Tugs)

### "Georges Creek"



The *Georges Creek* was built in 1899 at Port Richmond, NY for Consolidation Coastwise & Coal Co., Baltimore, MD. Her measures were August 20, 2018

129' x 27.7' x 16.7' with 800 horsepower steam engine. She was built for the coal trade between Norfolk, VA and Maine. Prohibition opened up more lucrative work for coastal vessels, including tugboats, so she was bought in 1925 by a New York firm that fronted for bootleggers.

Tugs that were used as rumrunners went about their normal business to fool the Coast Guard, but their operators used various dodges to smuggle illegal liquor into port. One such ploy, the tug would stand offshore, drain the engine cylinders, which were quite large on an 800-horsepower vessel. Liquor would be pumped into the empty cylinders by a so-called "mother ship," and then the tug would contact the Coast Guard, feigning a breakdown. The Coast Guard would respond and tow the tug into port, where the liquor would be offloaded after the CG had left.

The *Georges Creek* rumrunning days were short. After only a few trips, she was caught off Rockaway Inlet, impounded, and then sold to the government for scrap in 1929.

(Original Source: "On the Hawser" by Steven Lang and Peter H. Spectre, 1980)

### "Intrepid" & "Frederick E. Bouchard"



The *Intrepid* was built in 1970 at Houma, LA for the Interstate Oil Transportation Co., the largest private transporter of petroleum products on the East Coast. She works with her barge, the *Ocean 250*, a 250,000-barrel, notched-stern oil barge, between Philadelphia and Boston. She measures 121.5' x 34.5' x 18.3' and rated 5600 horsepower with twin screws. She has a hydraulic crane on the after-end of her boat deck and a single-drum towing winch. She spends most of her time pushing, as evidenced by her flying pilothouse.



The growth of the tug-barge business has been caused by many factors, not the least is the increased power in small tugs. Fifty-years ago it was a rare tugboat that could boast of a 1000-horsepower. Other tug-boat advantages over straight ship transportation include low labor cost due to smaller crews, low operating cost, and low turnaround times and charges. With the increase in barge transportation, designers are paying special attention to barge design to increase their efficiency, by hydrodynamically design to achieve maximum speed through the water, minimize strain on the towing wire, and maximize directional stability when under tow.



The *Fredrick E. Bouchard*, shown above, was built in 1975 for Bouichard Transportation by Halter Marine, New Orleans. She measures 104.6' x 31.1' x 16.4' and powered by 3900-horsepower diesel engine. Though smaller than the *Intrepid* she performs most of the same tasks.

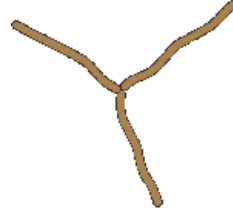
(Original Source: "On the Hawser" by Steven Lang and Peter H. Spectre, 1980)

### **Footrope Knot**

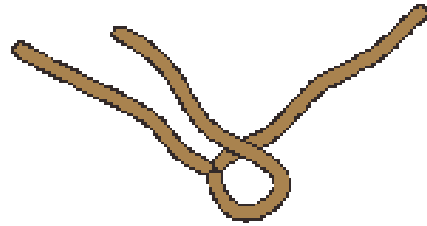
A three-strand knot that looks somewhat like a Turk's-head knot. This knot was tied in the "footrope" (the rope that was tied under the yard arm for the sailors to stand on when they were setting the sails) to prevent the sailors' feet from slipping along the footrope.

Try this:

**STEP 1:** Unlay 4 to 5 turns of the lay



**STEP 2:** Tie a loose crown knot.



**STEP 3:**



**STEP 4:**



**STEP 5:**



**STEP 6:**



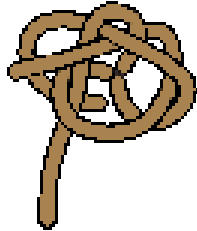
**STEP 7:** Tie a wall knot under the crown knot but tuck the strands up through the center of the crown knot.



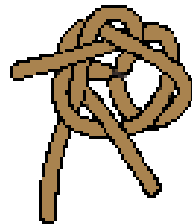
**STEP 8:**



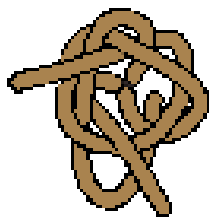
**STEP 9:**



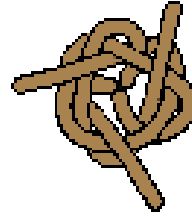
**STEP 10:**



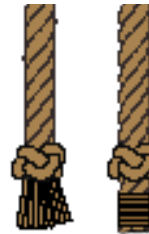
**STEP 11:**



**STEP 12:**



**STEP 13:** Work tight and finish by combing out the fibers to form a tassel of relay the strand and whip the end of the rope.



I enlarged the photos, so you with bad eyes could see how to tie the knot. Practice – We will have a test at the September meeting!

**Presentation Selection:**

**2018**

- 01/20 - Sail Making
- 02/17 - Flags
- 03/17 - Scratch building w/plans
- 04/24 - Lofting
- 05/19 - CAD - Computer Assisted drafting
- 06/16 - 3D Printing
- 07/21 - Electro Plating
- 08/18 - Transporting Models
- 09/15 - Beginners Model Building
- 10/20 - Planking a deck
- 11/17 - Wood Finishing
- 12/15 - Submarines

**Events & Dates to Note:**

**2018**

**Toledo Antique & Classic Boat Show**  
Promenade Dock, Maumee River, Toledo, OH  
**Aug 25, 2018**

**Ohio River Sternwheel Festival**  
Marietta, Ohio  
**September 8 & 9, 2018**

**"Artistry in Wood"**  
**Dayton Carvers Guild Woodcarving Show,**  
Roberts Centre, Wilmington, OH  
[www.daytoncarvers.com](http://www.daytoncarvers.com)  
**Oct. 13-14, 2018**

**NRG Conference**  
Las Vegas, NV  
**Oct. 25 - 27, 2018**

**2019**

**Columbus Woodworking Show**  
Ohio Expo Center  
Voinovich Livestock & Trade Center,  
717 East 17th Avenue, Columbus, OH 43211  
**January 18 - 20, 2019**

**IPMS Columbus**  
**46th Anniversary BLIZZCON**  
Arts Impact Middle School  
680 Jack Gibbs Blvd. Columbus 43215  
**Saturday, February 16, 2019**

**Miami Valley Woodcarving Show**  
Christ United Methodist Church  
700 Marshall Rd., Middletown, Ohio 45044  
**March 2 & 3, 2019**

August 20, 2018

**64<sup>th</sup> "Weak Signals" R/C Model Show**

Seagate Convention Ctr.  
401 Jefferson Ave. Toledo, OH  
**April 05 - 07, 2019**

**North American Model Engineering Expo.**

Yack Arena  
Wyandotte, MI  
**April 20 - 21, 2019**

**43rd Midwestern Model & Boat Show,**

Wisconsin Maritime Museum  
Manitowoc, WI  
**May 17 - 19, 2019**

**Constant Scale R/C Run - Carmel, Ind.**

Indianapolis Admirals reflecting pond  
Carmel, IN  
**May 18 & 19, 2019**

**Lakeside Antique & Classic Wooden Boat**

Lakeside Hotel, Lakeside, OH  
**July 20-21, 2019**

**Ohio State Fair**

**Miniature Ship Building Competition**  
**July 12 - 15, 2019**

**Ohio State Fair**


**"Featured Artist in Resident"**  
**Shipwrights of Central Ohio**  
State Fair Grounds, Cardinal Hall  
**July 26 & August 2, 2019**

**Editor: Bill Nyberg**  
President and editor  
Shipwrights of Central Ohio  
[Shipwright@wowway.com](mailto:Shipwright@wowway.com)

**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.



For more information contact us at: [www.thenrg.org](http://www.thenrg.org) or call 585 968 8111