

July 9 2016

9:00 to 11:30 AM

Ninth Meeting

Model Shipwright Guild of Western NY

Meeting Agenda:

- Greeting and Introductions 5 min

Members in attendance : Tim Igoe, Lacy Smith, Bob Dowd, Chuck Baylis; Joe Lorenzo

We were fortunate to have two special guests at the meeting. Scott Ball was recognized by attending members and the Society's Executive Director for his generous contribution of the model ship kits. Learn more below and in the attachment.

We were delighted to host Sam Cassano, the designer of the Model Expo kit, The Essex. He captured our attention for well over an hour. Sam is a prolific kit bash modeler and now kit designer. He belongs to a rather impressive modelers group in Canada.

- HMS Victory Bow Model: Bob Dowd 30 min

Bob brought in his kit model of the Victory. It is manufactured by Mantua and is a 1:78 scale, I believe. Bob's model was quite impressive. He described its construction as a plank on bulkhead but curiously the planks are not glued to the bulkheads. Rather the bulkheads act as formers for the planks, much the same principle used in strip canoe building. The planks are waxed on the inside so misapplied glue will not cause adhesion to the bulkheads. The plank edges are glued to its previously laid neighbor. The hull can then be separated from the bulkheads and sanded inside. The bulkheads are machined to accept the supporting deck members and hence the decks and all details can be added with more ease. The stand is quite clever as it is a plexi-glass cover secured to the open end which not only protects the internals but acts as the vertical mount of the pedestal. An impressive model well executed Bob!

Below is the model picture.

Please take note of Scott Ball in the background he is our benefactor. More detail a little later concerning Scott and his good deed. (Ignore those two sentinels aside him as they seem to be consistent onlookers at every session).



- Kit Development of the USS Essex Manufactured by Model Shipways: Sam Cassano 60min

This may have been the worst kept secret in our group as time went by as “tid” bits kept escaping. Surprise or not it was still an incredible happening for the group.

Tim has been associated with Sam Cassano for some time now and had invited him down in June but as you recall the threat of serious storms delayed his visit until this past Saturday. Sam lives in Lewiston so the trip for him and our 2 “southerners” drove the delay decision.

After introductions Sam took the floor and began by relating he didn’t really take modeling seriously until in his 20’s. Sam did indicate he has a long standing interest in art. He attended junior college and further explored this pursuit. As with most artists that need to create doesn’t diminish and is ever present in life. That creative expression took a turn toward modeling in his mid 20’s. He acquired a model of the Cutty Sark and as some of us did, he used the kitchen table as his “ways” to build the model. Sometime thereafter he acquired a solid hull model of the Essex from Model Expo (M.E.). My notes don’t serve me well here but within this period I recall he befriended the owner of M.E. and because of his growing interest in research was asked to upgrade this kit. This led to subsequent request from M.E. to create a model of the Essex in POB style which is the genesis of the current kit.

Along the way he became acquainted with Chuck Passaro who also is associated with M.E. and began his research and design. In conversations with Chuck Passaro he was advised to “back up his research” with data and defensible provenance. And as he learned this was wise advice. Regarding the research of the model he reviewed Humphrey’s design, Baker’s, Chapple’s work and was given access to Portia Takakjian’s work, the Hackett drawings and the Essex papers at the Peabody Museum. Although when he read the warnings within the Essex papers he decided not to use them. I understand he ultimately chose the period he felt had the best defensible research, the launched vessel. His color scheme follows a painting in the Peabody Museum.

Sam is prolific in using Corel Draw and his plan drawings are just terrific. It was astounding to hear that the plans and build cycle took him a period of 2 years. He relates he was constrained by typical modelers tool limitations, sequential build methodology not his own and even material stock limits of the manufacturer. Sam relates that he built and rebuilt sub assemblies of the vessel until all elements of what the manufacturer deemed necessary to commit to production were satisfied. The kit was released in April of 2012 and much to Sam’s dismay he never approved the final kit. For early adopters of the kit, much was wrong with the purchase. It was not until the fall of 2014 that corrections finally “righted the ship”.

*Now, one would think after the ordeal of research, design, redesign and prototype validation Sam would have taken a sabbatical from kit development. Wrong! That creative urge just doesn’t lay down long does it? Sam and Tim are developing a **kit**, is a large model affording an opportunity for great detail. One or both of them will Beta build the kit model. Good luck guys!*

Since Tim is involved we will keep an agenda reminder over the next few months to query the process development.



The photo above is The Essex courtesy of Sam Cassano.

- Scott Ball's Model Kits: All 10-15min
Scott's donation of some 30 kits to the museum presents a delightful challenge to us. Scott's generosity is spurred by his long time love of ship modeling and has expressed interest in seeing his kits find good homes. Scott retired from Xerox some years back. Prior to that he had a colorful career in the US Navy, as an A4 pilot among other pursuits. His Navy aviator life evolved into land based operations development before leaving the Navy for civilian life.

Scott was a modeler for many years and had given away most all models before today. He had a large collection of Marine Models, Model Shipways and various other manufacturers that he wished to move out in preparation for a downsizing and relocation of house and home. To make a long story short a sub group of our membership suggested that he may consider a donation of the

models to the museum. We all thought it was a long shot but he agreed and now the museum holds the models.

I had only met with Scott once to inventory the models and have gotten to know him a little more. He relates his desire was to find a "good home" for the models as he so loved them and it would have been a shame to see them neglected.

Our challenge in the coming months is to develop a strategy to put these kits to good use. His desire, and ours, is to promote the art form, entice new membership and growth to this noble pastime. I have attached the spreadsheet of the model inventory for your inspection.

We need to work this ardently so you will see this on next month's agenda. I have invited Scott to join us and participate in creative ways to fulfill his desire. I am not ashamed to say I am also working on him to join our group in the future.

Scott I speak for the entire group and the Museum when I say how much we appreciate your kindness and support.

- Group Business 10min
 - Web Site : Are we going to do it? A hands vote!
 - Facebook: Guild Participation? Are we going to do it? And who?
 - Our Journal Progress

- ✓ Future Meetings;
 - ✓ August: Mike Vasile will present his techniques on miniature figure painting. *Mike Kamish will report on his trip and visit w/Carlos Montalvao. (If we are able to meet on August 6th. Standby for confirmation.)*
 - ✓ September: *Open at the moment. Sadly Bill Kolshorn has requested leave for some time as he and his wife are taking music classes at the Eastman. He still wishes to remain in the group and that is a good thing.*
 - ✓ October: *This is our one year anniversary. More to come on the meeting agenda.*