

December 9, 2017

9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Model Shipwright Guild of Western NY

Meeting Agenda:

- **Greeting and Introductions** **5 min**
We were pleased to host Aaron Delahanty from the Rochester Museum and Science center as well as Kym Sanders at the meeting. Not to save the least till last Chuck Baylis, Bob Dowd, Bill Emerson, Mike Kamish and Lacy Smith were the attending members

- **Business: All** **5 min**
Connecting with the NRG and Other Clubs **Not Covered**
Kym Sanders drop in to discuss his model restoration. Lacy Smith is currently looking into it.

- **The 1838 Rochester Museum Diorama Restoration: Aaron Delehanty** **30 min**
Aaron Delehanty, an artist in residence, at the Rochester Museum and Science Center has graciously volunteered to discuss the work of restoring an incredible diorama that many of you have seen or taken your children to see. Not only is this a trip down memory lane for some of us but will lend insight to anyone who has ever considered undertaking one. Aaron along with others undertook the project which was rededicated this past September and is once again displayed in its full glory. Questions are encouraged by Aaron.

Here is an excerpt on the diorama from the museum web site:

The "Rochester in 1838" diorama depicts a winter day in an area of downtown Rochester from Main Street to Spring Street and South Avenue to Plymouth Avenue, including the Erie Canal. Originally displayed in the store window of Sibley's downtown at Main and Clinton, the diorama became part of the museum in 1946 and has since become an icon.

It is unfortunate that we did not have a full member compliment at the meeting as Aaron Delahanty put on an extremely interesting presentation of his works and techniques gained formally and though work experience at Chicago's Field Museum and the Rochester Museum and Science Center. I don't recall another presenter that captured this audience for over an hour and in so doing received a well deserved applause!

Aaron introduced us to his field of work with other projects besides the 1838 Rochester diorama at RMSC and in Chicago. Much of his work is multi-disciplined in terms of display techniques, materials and subject. He is an artist, sculptor, researcher, modeler and conservator all wrapped into one. Here are some examples of his work:



That's Aaron at one of his exhibits at the Chicago's Field Museum. That suit he has on I believe he related was for health purposes as the hyena taxidermy was treated with arsenic to prevent insect damage. He is an excellent artist and the backdrop is also his work.



This is another of his work projects at the Chicago Museum. It depicts early Chinese civilization on the Yangtze River flood plain. The detail is incredible. If you wish to see and learn more go to the EXHIBIT area of the Field Museum web site.



This was the main subject of his presentation, the Rochester downtown scene of 1838. Aaron described multiple aspects of the project which had a finite budget and deadline. It is a very large diorama as witnessed by the relative size of staff. The diorama was restored by stripping the site down to its substrate, cataloging and marking every artifact including over 200 people in 3D and 2D shapes. In certain cases, after some research, corrections were made to the topology and some buildings. The staff even went so far as to look at 1800's census to determine what demographics existed at the time. This led to the change of about 3% people to add people of color. St Luke's Church stained glass were replicated in the restoration. The diorama was also updated to include sequence lighting in buildings to represent actual city life. The team used 3D printing to create certain animal figures. American flags of the time were corrected. It is just amazing how much work went into the restoration.

During his presentation he relayed so many useful products and techniques the staff uses in their display work. They are mentioned here in brevity but they seem applicable to our work as well.

Poly Gen 307 FR Lite Epoxy Coating for overcoat of forms and carved shapes

Pegasus Hobbies for scale figures

Hydro Cal for Clay Sculpting

B72 Plastic Coating to overlay and preserve prior work prior to overpainting.

Needless to say, this is just a brief synopsis of his presentation. Information came fast and furious in his time on the floor and I may not have captured it all or correctly. Aaron has his own studio and can be reached at Walking Stick Studio walkingstickstudio@gmail.com.

- The Atlantis Project: Joe Lorenzo

Last March I was asked to complete the build of the Robbe Atlantis RC sail boat for a client. I took the project on after a preliminary inventory of its current state and parts. The project initially was hard to wrap one's thinking around due to its size and condition. Joe committed to about a one year turn around time and at this time it looks like the estimate is about right. Joe will share his progress and of course his stumbles along the way.

- The Mark I PBR project Kickoff: All

120 min

At this writing we expect to kickoff this group project for the museum. Work has been going on in the background to prepare for the meeting by Tim, Jim, Bill and Joe. Jim will provide us with a hull construction overview for your reference. Drawings and guidance will be provided for sub-assemblies that participants may take off line to work. If all goes well we will be working the keel and bulkhead assembly on sight beginning that day.

The PBR model work has begun as my earlier notes stated. Thanks to Jim who has led the charge we now have a "skeleton" to flesh out. Jim and Joe have spent 2 sessions prepping the "keel", stem, bulkheads and substrate as you can see in the attached photo. Jim is currently working on bulkhead patterns so we can fair the model structure in a workshop at the museum in early January. Jim has released a top level stepwise task table and we would like people to participate in reaching each stage. Some of the tasking can be sub contracted out to do off site. Some will require on site participation. Jim will be working to detail out certain subassemblies to make that happen. Bill has started a design notebook and will marry that with Jim's notebook. Starting in January we will need someone to work a BOM which should include Chuck's pre-purchased parts. Thanks to Bill's donation of bench parts and assistance in assembly we now have a decent start on a place to work.



○ Next Meeting

5min

We will be soliciting subjects and presenters for the January meeting.

We ran way over so we will address this over the next few weeks. Mike has offered to present and I hope Tim can be ready with his updates on the Rochester. The balance of the meeting will be our group project.