

April 11, 2020

9:00 to 12:00

Model Shipwrights of Western NY

Video Meeting Minutes

(MSWNY)

Meeting Agenda:

Given the pandemic crisis we utilized modern technology to hold a virtual meeting via GoToMeeting hosted through Mike's account. Suffice it to say it went reasonably well in terms of connectivity and engagement for those that signed on. We had 10 in all including Carlos in Portugal. Assuming we are under some restraints in the near future we will work through this media again.

Main Meeting Agenda:

- Civil War Mortar Schooner Research: Bill E.
Bill has had a longtime interest in mortar schooners of the Civil War era. He relates that these vessels were not built up for this express purpose but rather they were procured and refitted during the war. He further relates that 45 were put into service as fort siege ships. The main armament was the mortar, of course, that hurled a 300 lb explosive ball onto the fort. We were told they were not very effective in spite of the aid of spotters. Characteristically, they either experienced premature detonation or sank in the mud proving ineffective.

His model is patterned after the CP Williams of NYC. Unfortunately, his research did not yield plans or documentation sufficient to support his

model work. Instead he used the famous Joe Lane schooner archival hull plans as a starting point. He did have hull dimensions of the CP Williams which he scaled to meet his needs and redrafted hull lines. Using laser machining technology he had his bulkheads manufactured and built the schooner shown. It is a bit hard to see but given the multi ton mortar amid ship their decks and superstructure had to be re-enforced. Maybe you can see the raised deck amid ships.

He spoke to the brailing of sails and help he received from the New Hampshire Historical Society in her gaff rigging. The picture presented is a near completion one.

Upon completion Bill will also find a public home for the model.



- Construction of an Arabian Baghla: Carlos

We were delighted to have Carlos join into the session from Portugal. Carlos did not have connectivity from his workshop so he entered in via his home.

His current project is an Arabian Baghla which is a commission from the State Museum in Oman. The model is, as Carlos relates, an idealized model since his lengthy research failed to yield the detailed documentation required to construct a specific period model. Simply he says that Mid East documentation just isn't of the same caliber as European documentation.

This model is 1:25 scale and is approximately 35 mm in length. It is principally of pear wood and ebony. This version is an armed baghla outfitted with 10 - 12 pounders. He indicates that the crew typically numbered 200 on such a vessel. That is surprising in itself given the lateen rigging and cannon number.

Noteworthy was his stern carvings and possibly even more so given his methodology for development. He related that he created 2D drawings of the ornamentation and enlisted his son to render them into 3D images. From that point Carlos defined the necessary profile for the Z axis. In turn that was input to the 3D modeler to produce an output file compatible with his CNC equipment back home. All of us would like to know more of the process and hopefully with a follow up query he has now received more will be reported.

Carlos also alluded to a project he has been asked to develop for interested students wishing to enhance their learning of naval history, technical development of models and the like to promote this subject among young people. As I think we understood it this part of an ongoing

effort of the government to sustain their naval heritage. Unfortunately, with the pandemic things are at the moment in limbo.



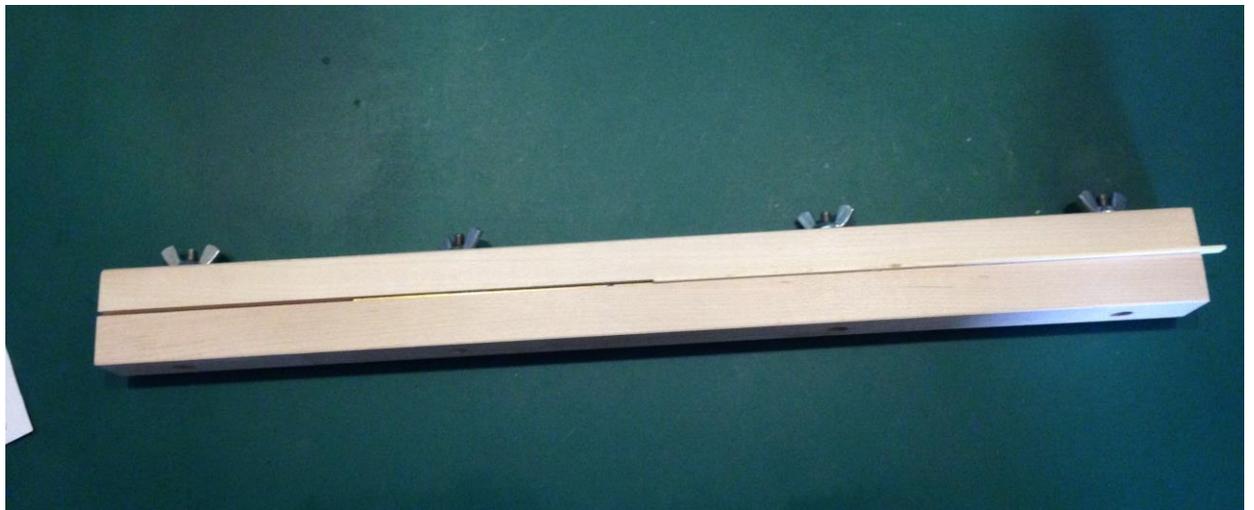
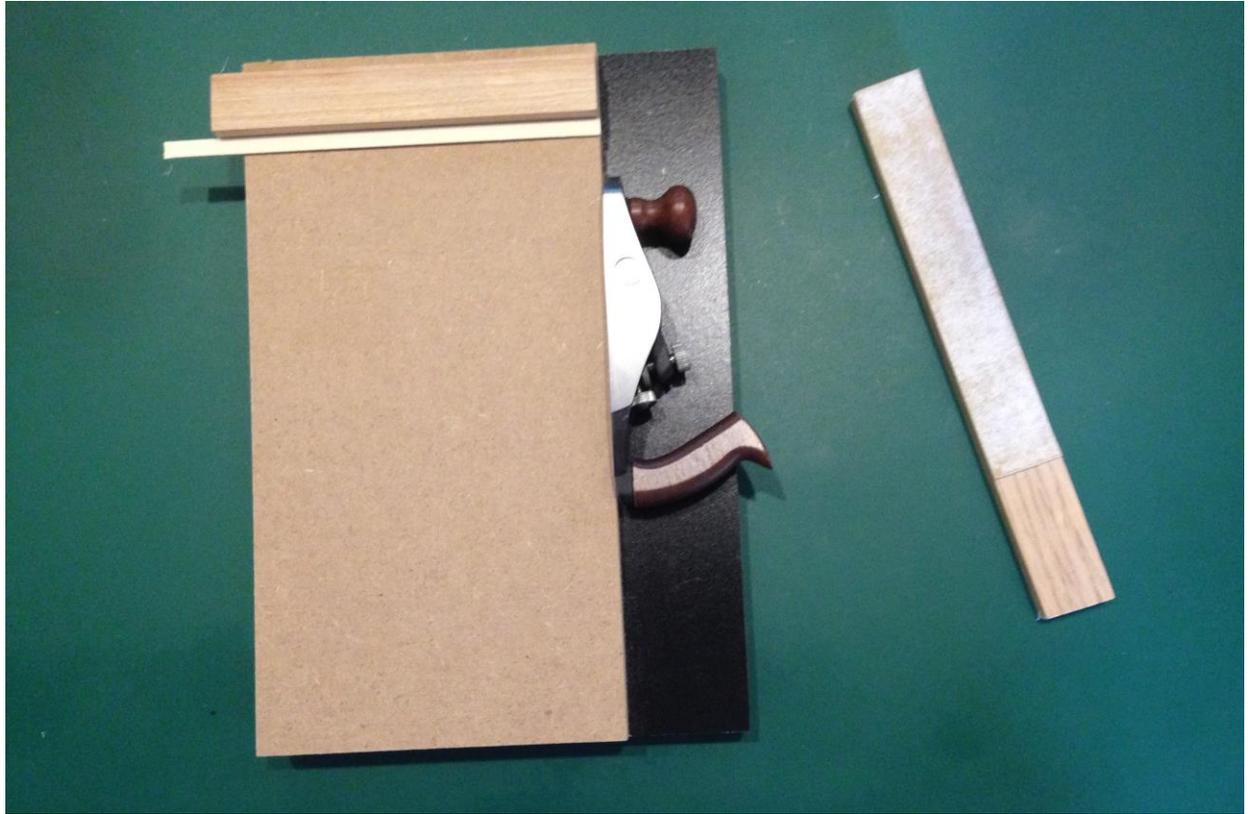


- Further Thoughts On Cheerful Construction: Joe
At the last meeting Joe spoke to his trials and tribulations building Cheerful. At that time, he had just begun the decking process. After the meeting he ended up ripping out what had been put down. He related he discovered that starting from the stern with the very short runs, interrupted by deck furniture and hatches that by the time the bow was reached things had gone astray even with careful placement.



He had restarted at the bow and the results were much more satisfying. In that re-evaluation of his work he related that he discovered there were just enough differences between, drawings, instructions and the authors build of Cheerful to distract him. He defends the quality of the drawings and instructions but suggests a lot transpires between drawing creation, model build and instruction documentation that variability can creep in. For the experienced modeler that is likely not a problem. Not so for this builder though!

Joe also showed some tools he has either developed or bought that have helped in his work. One is a carrier for very accurate dimensioning of plank widths. Another is an adaptation of a woodworkers "shooting board" that enables accurate squaring of plank ends (he is also working on a jig for angled ends). On the shooting board one can use a low angle plane such as a bench, block or jack plane or even a sanding strip. He also featured his Japanese cutoff saw designed for trimming dowel or dovetail ends. It is now a welcome addition to his modelers bench.



Drawings will be made up for the jigs he discussed and posted on our web site soon.

- The Works of Sam C: Sam C

Sam featured his model build of the Bon Homme Richard stern he has underway. It is 1:48 scale and has been nearly completed save the ornamental carvings. He decided to use carving epoxy to enhance the stern decorations as he sought to make them more authentic and of better quality.

Hmmm, this latter methodology might be a good meeting topic for a future meeting!

- A Photo Tour of Cutty Sark: Tim

I am not even going to try to capture a summary of the wonderful photo tour Tim took us on. On a recent business trip to England he managed to get to the Cutty Sark and for a 16# admission took the tour. In rich photo detail he captured many fine elements of her hull construction, her appointments, rigging and even the deck livestock containment. He related that some of the hull structure had been modified to incorporate the suspension elements of her “dry dock” environment. It is an incredible venue. The ship is literally suspended in the air so that visitors can inspect her hull from beneath. What an engineering marvel!

What Tim has suggested is that he will develop a thumb drive of the photos that we can enter onto our web site.

- Next Meeting (TBD)

Possible topics are being considered at the moment.

- *“Will the real” Donald Mckay standup: Don*