



CLUB NEWS



12 of 13 members present in the loft at the start of the meeting

(Alan O'Neill is behind the camera and one other member arrived a bit late)

MEETING ATTENDANCE

35 people attended our meeting! 22 of the 31 members registered for the ZOOM meeting were able to attend and 13 of the 14 local members that said they would attend were present.

MEETING PRESENTERS NEEDED

We need presentations for January through June as you can see below. Everyone has something others would like to hear about and see. A model, technique, tool, etc. Time to take stock of what you're sitting on and let it shine for the rest of us. Send us an email to get on the 2023/24 program. **We are officially desperate to get bookings for the new year!!!** We have the following presentations scheduled:

| 2024 | Sunday at 1:30 PM ET (Toronto, Ca) | December | *3 | Hybrid Meeting | 1) Turning a Cannon and Converting Plastic Figures by John Garnish 2) 3D Resin Printing by Gabe Kraljevic |
|------|------------------------------------|----------|-----|----------------------|--|
| | | January | 14 | | 1) Painting Techniques and Tips by Daniel McKelvie 2) Pond Yachts by Wayne Marquette |
| | | February | 11 | | 1) Sir S.L. Tilley - Great Lakes Steamer of 1884 by Tim Morrison 2) |
| | | March | 10 | | 1) The Schooner Albatros - 1:100 scale kit build by Andrew Henwood 2) |
| | | April | 14 | | 1) 2) |
| | | May | 19 | | 1) HMS Alert Build Update by Daniel McKelvie 2) |
| | | June | 9 | | 1) 2) |
| | | July | ... | SUMMER HIATUS | |
| | | August | ... | | |

*Meeting date changed due to our F2F meeting location not being available on the 10th of December

Notice to all members...

If you attend meetings via ZOOM or never attend a meeting at all: We ask members to submit a few images of the progress on the model you are presently working on for the **"On the Workbench"** segment of our meetings. Please provide a short description to go with the images, including the vessel name, scale, and work being performed. We can present your images on your behalf if you wish and then open the forum to questions for you to answer. If you are not at the meeting, the questions will be emailed to you and your responses emailed to all members.

If you attend meetings F2F (Face to Face) in NOTL: We ask you to consider bringing your model to the meeting to show everyone what you are working on or have completed. Email us to let us know so we can check there won't be too many **"On the Workbench"** showings (wouldn't that be a terrible dilemma!!)





ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. All **five R/C boats** that were offered to members by Bruce Martin have found new homes.
2. We had a donation of **various ships plans and magazines** of which most have been claimed by members. Those few that remained were brought to the meeting and all but eight were taken by attendees. **The eight remaining plans will be listed on the website and are offered free to all MSON members.**
3. We had a donation of a **partially built wooden kit of the USS Constitution (1797)** that has been claimed by Sheldon Korman. Congratulations... we expect a presentation on the finish build to the club in the future!
4. We are presently conducting a **ROLL CALL** via email. With 101 members on our mailing list we need to confirm you want to remain on the mailing list and continue to receive our emails and newsletters. We also need to confirm which members are Nautical Research Guild (NRG) members as we need to maintain a minimum number to keep our club charter. **A message was emailed to all members on Monday, 13 November.** Please respond to the Roll Call via return email as soon as you can. **Those that do not respond by 15 December will be removed from the mailing and membership list.** Please let us know if you did not receive the email as we have been experiencing some trouble with email deliveries.

MAIN PRESENTATIONS

- 1) **David Amstutz** kicked off the meeting with a presentation of his fishing trawler **Georgia Bulldog**, a converted shrimp boat he was onboard in the year 2000. After some searching he found the Dumas Radio Controlled kit. The hull was set up a little differently from what David was accustomed to as the frames were meant to be assembled right side up with short support legs (as shown below on the left) and he normally builds his frames upside down. Planking was straight forward.

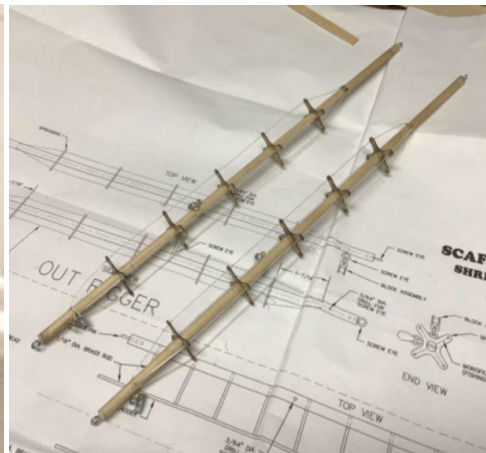


Since the hull was lengthened, new bulwarks were made using poster board patterns, then she received several coats of primer.





The cabin windows were reworked to match photographs David had of the boat. The bow anchor (seen below) was David's first attempt, taking three tries before he was happy with it. It is a soldered brass construction. The air condition unit mounted on top of the cabin is a block of wood with added decals printed from the internet.



Outriggers for the netting (above right) were assembled and the gangplank was added (below left) to the starboard side along with its operating pulley system. The netting was made with cheesecloth. Below on the left is David's completed model with a photo of the actual boat on the right for comparison.





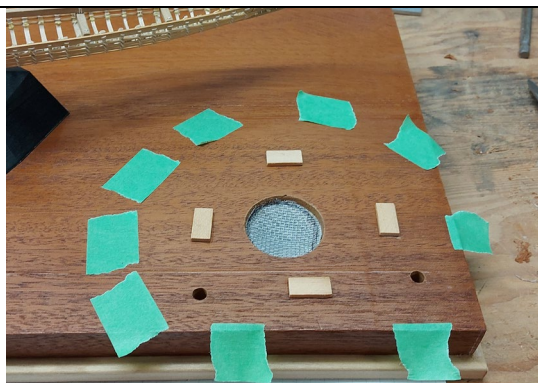
2) Alan O'Neill presented the rework he had just completed to his Kayak frame display since he'd shown it to us last month. He specifically reworked the walrus carving water display using techniques he became aware of to make it look more realistic after having attended a Saturday NRG Workshop seminar presented by Ron Neilson. These workshops are free to NRG members. He also reworked his display case venting.



As seen above left, the original water scene looks more warm Caribbean than cold North Pacific. The complete blue water surface was covered over with a coat of black acrylic paint. When dry, it received a brushing of diluted white PVA glue (50/50 with water) and then a layer of single ply toilet tissue was laid over it, followed by another brushing of the 50/50 water/PVA glue mix, followed by yet more tissue and glue layers until there were a total of three. The layers were worked with a paint brush to create ripples between the carved waves that radiated around the walrus that had popped out of the water. After drying completely, Alan mixed yellow, blue and a dab of black acrylic paint to create the dark green cold water. This was brushed over the dried paper. He added highlights of titanium white to selected crests which he liked at the time but much later, when all was done, he felt it was a mistake. After allowing more than three days for the acrylic paint to thoroughly dry he applied three coats of Clear Spar Varnish to give the water and walrus a wet look. The varnish dried with a yellow hue*. Feeling it still looked much better than it originally did, Alan added the white wild splashing crests on the water.

He did tests with cotton and fibrefill on some plywood scrap using diluted PVA glue and then Mod Podge to stick them down and help hold the shape before deciding the fibrefill and Mod Podge was better for his scale. He dipped swatches of fibrefill in a puddle of Mod Podge and set the piece on the carving. After allowing it time to get a bit tacky he picked at it with tweezers to pull it into shape and applied more Mod Podge to enable it to hold its shape. Once this dried, the water rework was done. Now he turned to rework his display case vents.





Vents are added to display cases to allow an exchange of air to remove moisture that may condense on the transparent dust cover, or exhaust the off gases from resins, glue and paints used on models. If your model is near a window the rays of the sun can heat up the air inside the case so the vents allow an escape for the pressure change. Having attended an Illinois **Deadeyes club meeting**** at which Bob Filipowski explained how vents should be made, Alan realized those he built into his display base were too small. They should be as large as you possibly can inconspicuously manage to make them. As Alan's model was already mounted he couldn't turn it over to drill holes in the base from below. His only option was to locate a larger vent under the walrus carving area and drill from above. He marked off the area the walrus covered with painters tape so he could visualize a centered hole placement. Using his largest spade bit he drilled a 1-1/2" blind hole about 1/4" deep. He followed this by drilling completely through the base with a 1-1/8" bit which resulted in a shelf or stepped hole. He then cut two discs of metal screening and one of filter paper, sandwiched the paper between the screens, placed them centered over the larger hole and pressed them down to the ledge of the step using a 1-1/2" wood dowel as seen above left.

This would keep any bugs from entering and allow the case to vent. Finally he added four 1/8" thick wooden pads around the hole. Once the carving was put back in place it rested raised off the base an unnoticeable 1/8" inch to allow venting along the whole perimeter of the underside of the carving as seen above on the right.

***Note:** a number of members suggested to avoid the yellow hue of the dried varnish, he should have consider using either: 1) **Liquidtex medium viscosity gloss medium and varnish** (Jared Fein); 2) **acrylic gloss varnish** on acrylic paint, or **solvent based gloss varnish** used by artists on their finished paintings (David Antscherl); or 3) **gloss automotive clear finish** as used by an artist friend (Kevin Kenny).

****Note:** At the Deadeyes meeting Bob had drilled a larger hole (or two) using a hole saw. He made a thin square wooden flange that was screwed to the underside of the base to clamp the single wire screen and filter paper to the base. He floated a smaller sub-base above the lower main base using spacers. The sub-base was smaller than the inside of the display cover so venting was through the hole from underneath and around the perimeter of the upper sub-base just inside the transparent dust cover. This is the method Alan intends to follow next time.

3) David Amstutz gave us a slide presentation walk through (or rather a spin around) his workshop. David has built around 60 boats since 1966 (57 years!) of which many are stored on shelves around the shop and the remainder in the house.

His painting station is shown below on the left... and most of his paints have dried up! David covers the models with painters plastic sheeting when he is making fresh sawdust. Originally he was building his models in a heated garage but in 2000 he had a 10x20 addition built onto the garage.



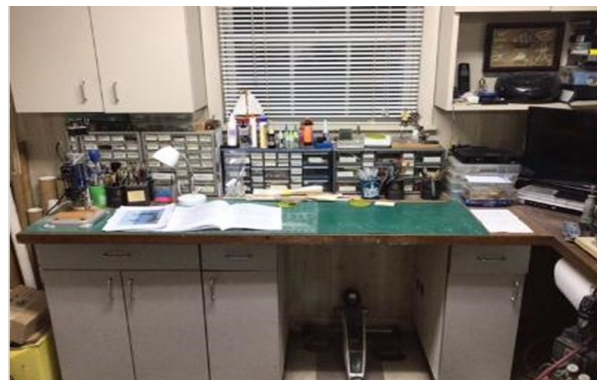


The Champion of Detroit Tug - Scratch Built





A Drill Press and Bandsaw are joined by a row of models



David's Work Bench



4) Ray Peacock brought in what he refers to as **the little black box**.



Earlier this year he received a mysterious tin box in the mail. It measured 4-1/2" square x 1-3/4" tall. Inside were three items with an accompanying note from an old school chum he'd known since primary school. The note revealed that the items came from another gentleman who had received them from the original maker, Donald McNarry, the well-known professional master modeller having made 350 historical models throughout his lifetime.

Inside was a carved stained pine hull plug measuring 4-3/4" long. The second item was another plug on a plinth of a 34-foot launch measuring 4-1/4" long (1:96 scale). It was again very skillfully carved with grooves on each side for the frames and down the length for the hog. The stern is dead flat and allows the insertion of a transom and stern post. The third item was the shell of a 34-foot launch likely built on and lifted from the second plug pulled from the box. The stem post, keel and frames are all 0.043" thick. The carvel planking at 0.021" thick is spiled as can be seen by the marks. The rudder is glued onto the transom with a tiny piece of wood glued to the top to increase the width. The rudder includes a carved hance. The gunwale is 0.021" thick as are the risers. Ray intends to write this up for publication in the Nautical Research Journal (NRJ).



5) Lawry Eddy brought the hull of the ship he is presently building: The AMATI kit model of **HMS Revenge**, a 46 gun galleon of 1577 he had purchased about 2 years ago



It had been a while since Lawry worked on a ship model kit and the first thing that shocked him was that so many parts are MDF (Medium Density Fibreboard). He finds it doesn't glue as easily as wood. The laser cutting is incredibly accurate. He found the only thing he needed to do was add a bit of masking tape when fitting the frames to the keel to take up the slop. He then trimmed away the excess. He is using PVA glue but may use a touch of CA on the beams (frame timber tops) as one or two are breaking loose. He will also scrape off most of the laser charred edges to get better

glue adhesion. When doing the planking Lawry runs a lead pencil along the edges to create the look of a caulking joint. He doesn't intend to do a super detail ship or spend a hundred extra hours on it... or so he told his wife.



The instructions are quite good and well illustrated but he reports they sometimes come in a few steps after he needs them. What also concerned him are all the printed paper decals getting all the paint work and finish. It seems a little overdone, particularly the amount of white paint when permanent white paint wasn't around until the 1950's. She does have a working tiller and rudder but the ladder steps seem out of scale, or the sailors had extra



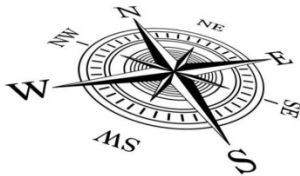


long legs.

Lawry will continue with this build and we look forward to possibly seeing her again later this season.

That concluded our presentations and monthly meeting.

A special thank you to all members that have stepped up to present and add to our meeting content.
It is your participation that makes this club successful and helpful to others.



*The MSON
Helping to keep fellow modellers
on course since 2008*

Our next meeting will be held on **Sunday, 3 December 2023**
(Moved forward one week from our normal meeting date)
Forum opens at 1:15 PM Eastern Time for a 1:30 PM Eastern Time start
This will be a HYBRID meeting.
Local members can meet face to face (F2F) on site in NOTL.
Those not able to attend F2F can do so via ZOOM.
As always meetings and membership are open to all and are free!
Notices will be e-mailed.

The upcoming November meeting presentations:

- **3D Resin Printing** - by *Gabe Kraljevic*
- **Turning a Cannon and Converting Plastic Figures** - by *John Garnish*
- On The Workbench (members build progress update reports)

Have you anything you would like to share at a meeting?

If so please send us an email.

Modelshipwrightsofniagara@gmail.com

(We are desperate!)



The view from the back of the room!

