

FORECASTLE REPORT



Newsletter of the Chicago Tri-Club Association

October 2023

● Tri-Club Hull Planking Workshop ●

The first of four teaching sessions on building the NRG Half Hull occurred on Saturday, September 9th at Kurt Van Dahm's shop. Each participant had his/her own work station. The purpose of the class is to help fellow modelers learn how to plank a hull using the spiling technique.



From past experiences, it would be safe to say that group projects don't always go as well as planned, and this workshop was no exception. The most common challenge was that, despite outlining what stage they needed to be at, the models were presented sporting various levels of completion. The least completed had only a few frames erected, while two others were in the early stages of being faired.

That description sounds like a disaster, but workshop coordinator, Toni Levine, was very upbeat with the progress made during this initial session. She stated that "Everyone learned something. For some, the biggest lesson was fairing. For one, the lesson was to have confidence in their ability to spile."

By the end of this first session, most of the modelers had completed installing the garboard strake (the plank closest to the keel). The next session will cover planking belts and laying out the rows of planks.

● NRG Webstore Sale ●

In case you haven't heard, the Nautical Research Guild is having a sale in the webstore. Almost everything is 20% or more off and if you are an NRG member, you can still use the member code to get an additional 20% off the sale prices! Here is the link to the webstore: <https://thenrgstore.org/>

The sale will end on September 30, 2023, so don't delay. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Mary Van Dahm, Office Manager at 585-968-8111 or: nrghomeoffice@gmail.com

October Tri-Club Meeting Schedule

The NSD October Virtual Meeting Ropewalks



The October North Shore Deadeyes Zoom meeting will feature a discussion on ropewalks. This presentation will also feature the new upgraded unit being offered by Syren Ship Model Company. Rick Szydelko would also appreciate any new photographic updates you might have for Ships on Deck.

Proceedings will begin on Wednesday, October 4th at 7:00 PM CST, but you will be able to log on at 6:30 PM. Invites will be sent out a day or two before the meeting.

The NRMS October Meeting MOUNTING MODELS FOR DISPLAY



The Nautical Research and Model Ship Society's October meeting will be a hybrid session. The face to face segment will be held at 237 S. Lincoln Street, Westmont, IL. For those preferring to attend the virtual version, an Invite will be sent out a few days before the October 14th meeting. Proceedings start at 7:00 PM, but you will be able to log on as early 6:30 PM.

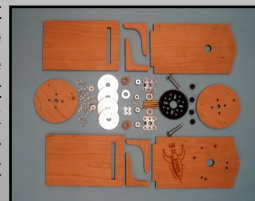
Unlike most aspects of our hobby, how you mount your model won't necessarily make or break a gold medal presentation. However, if done well, it can certainly enhance its appearance. The October program will feature various ways of displaying your model, many of them innovative. This will be a good one!



The MMS October Meeting Live Ropewalk Demo



One advantage of F2F meetings is that you can see items up close and personal. At a past meeting, there was considerable discussion about Ropewalks. Bob Filipowski and Rick Szydelko will perform live demonstrations utilizing the Rope Rocket by Syren Ship Model Company. Don't forget to bring your current project for S.O.D.



The meeting will commence at 7:15 p.m.
Wednesday, October 18th at
The Dasom Community Church
501 S. Emerson Street
Mount Prospect, IL

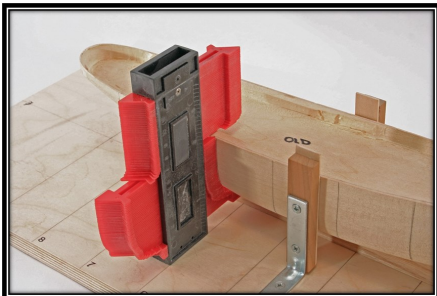


Building Boards

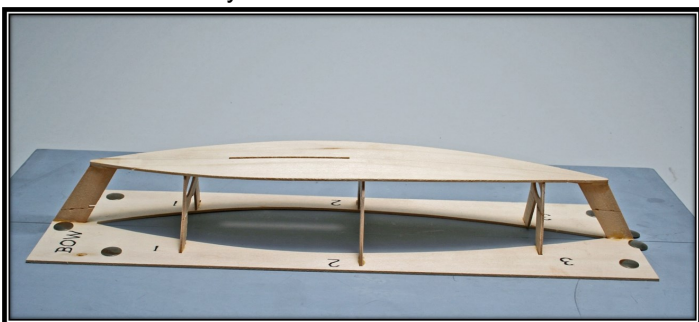
by Kurt Van Dahm



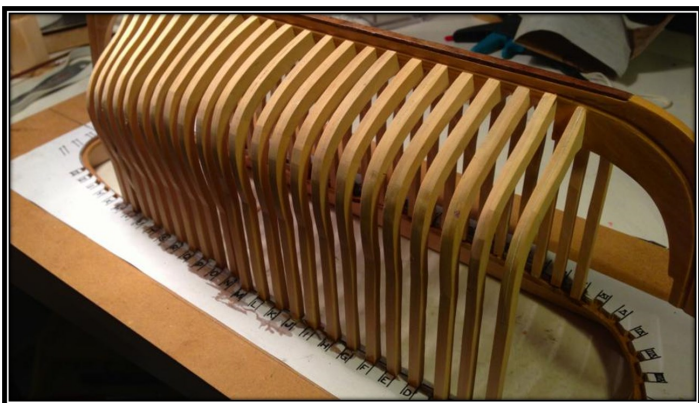
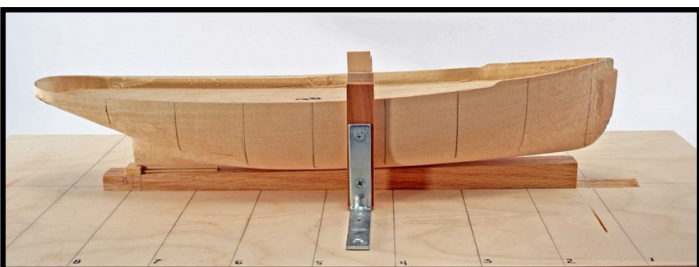
Kurt Van Dahm opened his presentation by stating that Building Boards are an essential but often overlooked tool. They provide a flat, stable surface on which the model can be built. These handy devices also provide a means of locating the model in the same orientation each time the model is moved. Stations can be marked and transferred to the model.



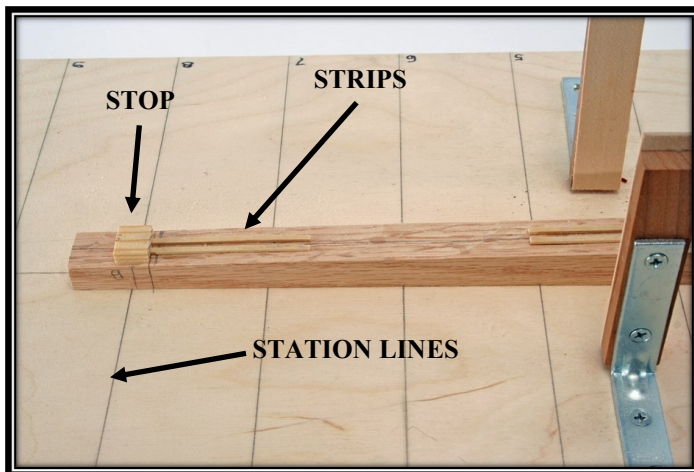
In some cases a sturdy supporting frame, called a strongback, is required for constructing small craft such as kayaks. Interior wood stations set up as a framework will also insure a symmetrical hull.



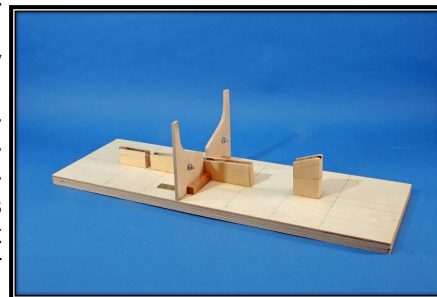
Building boards can be very basic or quite complex, but they all serve the same purpose and share the same requirements. Common features include a STOP for the aft



end of the keel, strips for consistently locating the keel and station lines. The station lines are especially useful for checking hull shape and symmetry.



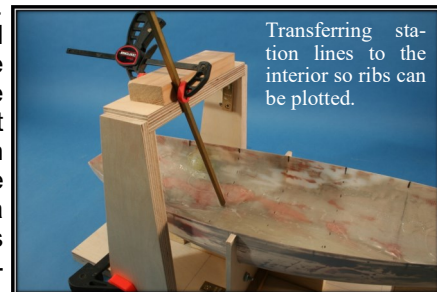
Kurt's favorite material for the building board base is Baltic Birch. It's extremely stable and does not contain any voids. Although somewhat expensive, smaller economical scrap pieces can sometimes be purchased at your local lumber company.



Quite often, hulls will have considerable drag where the stern sits much deeper in the water than the bow. Getting the keel block shaped accurately can present a challenge. This is especially true when it comes to pleasure craft and fishing schooners.



Kurt Van Dahm ran into this problem while building a model of the *Splash*. In spite of its odd configuration, the requirements were the same and Kurt approached it with that mindset. The building board was a complete success and saved him considerable work.





Ships on Deck



Gerda III by Neil Hurwitz

Photos by Neil Hurwitz





Ships on Deck



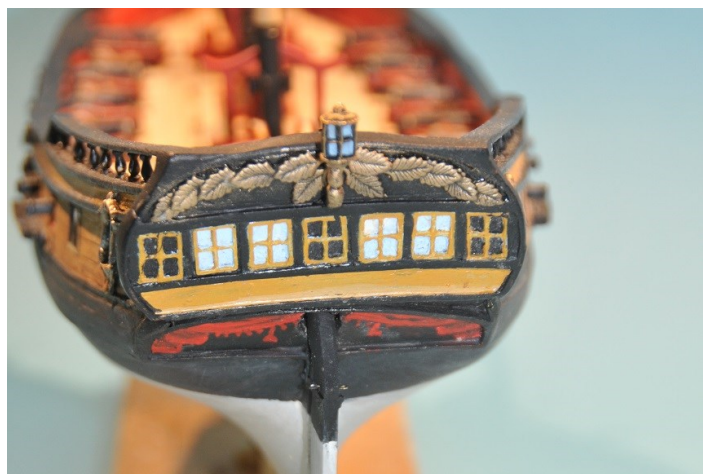
Fair American by Don Purney

Photos by Robert Fryszak

Lower & Upper
Masts Completed



Cannons Rigged



"Ships on Deck" continued on Page 5



Ships on Deck

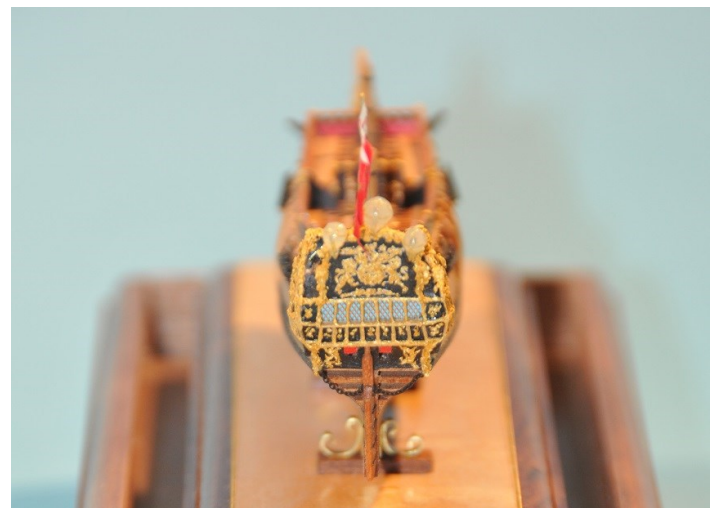


Resolution by Gus Agustin

Photos by Robert Frysztak



Reflecting the meeting topic for September, Gus anchored his case to the base by inserting a brass pins through the ends of the base and case. When inserted, the pins was almost invisible. If, for some reason, he wished to remove the case, the pins could be easily pushed out and removed.



"Ships on Deck" continued on Page 6



Ships on Deck



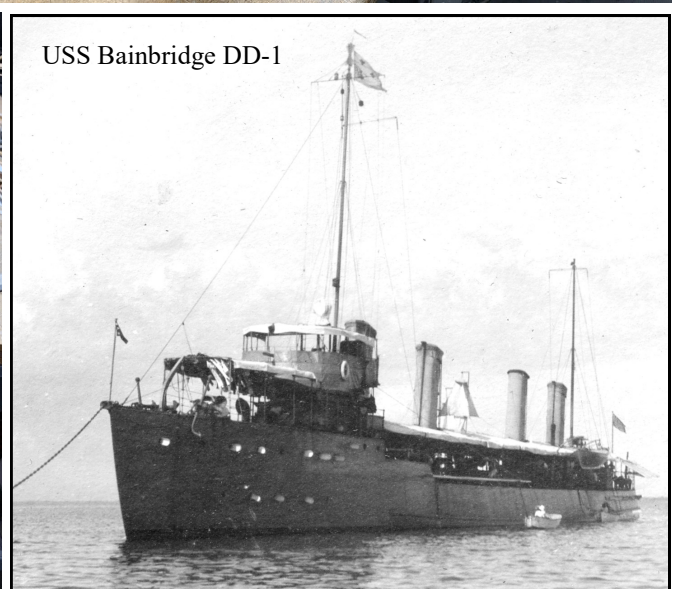
A Different POB Method by Bill Emerson

Photos by Bill Emerson

Bill Emerson, a member of the Model Shipwrights of Western New York, states that the cutouts along the edges of the bulkheads were to allow for clamping the strips of hull planking while gluing. Bill had never done this before, and had always experienced difficulty holding the strips in place until the glue dried. So, he tried this method and it worked quite well. Perhaps you can see it in the deck construction photo. Unfortunately, Bill did not take photos of the hull planking, but it worked the same way. Prior to this, Emerson would wrap the hull with a rubber strap or just twine to hold one piece in place at a time. This method is much quicker and he stated that it will be his preferred technique from now on.

As in previous models, Bill used a 4' yardstick as the centerpiece through all the frames. (Since the model is 5' 2" long, he had to splice on some extra length.) That allowed all the frames to line up properly. Of course, the straight yardstick will not stay straight during the planking process unless it can be somehow braced while planking. This was also a problem with previous models.

Emerson came upon a method that worked better than he could have imagined. He used pieces of stiff L-shaped cardboard packing strips that came with a TV he purchased. You can see the segments arranged in a V-shape under the yard stick between bulkheads. The material is surprisingly stiff and hard. Using a chop saw, segments were cut to fit between the bulkheads. A segment was then glued to a bulkhead. You can see from a photo how straight the hull is. Of course, the packing segments only have to last until the hull is completed, but Bill thinks they will last as long as the model will.



USS Bainbridge DD-1



Ships on Deck



Magnetic Helping Hands by Rick Szydelko

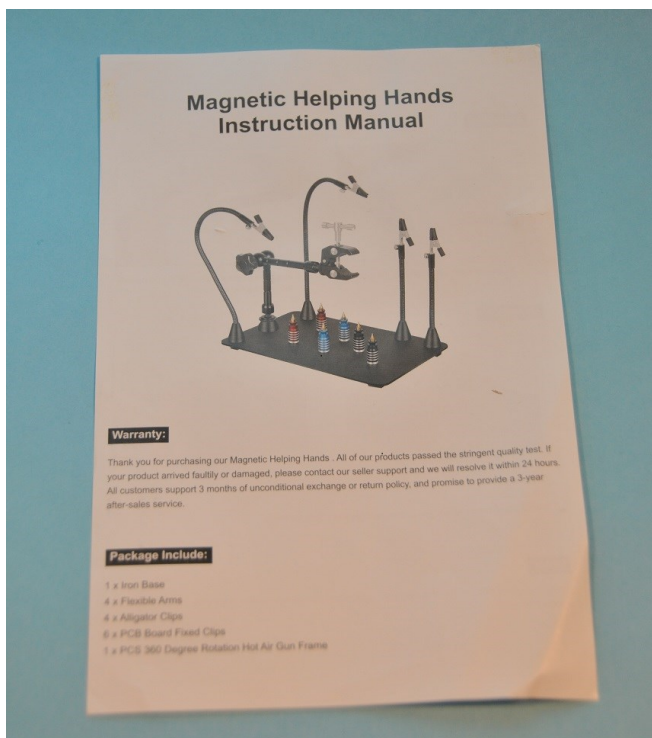
Photos by Robert Frysztak



Conventional Helping Hands



Components held in place on a metal plate with strong magnets.



Magnetic Helping Hands Instruction Manual

Warranty:

Thank you for purchasing our Magnetic Helping Hands. All of our products passed the stringent quality test. If your product arrived faulty or damaged, please contact our seller support and we will resolve it within 24 hours. All customers support 3 months of unconditional exchange or return policy, and promise to provide a 3-year after-sales service.

Package Include:

- 1 x Iron Base
- 4 x Flexible Arms
- 4 x Alligator Clips
- 6 x PCB Board Fixed Clips
- 1 x PCS 360 Degree Rotation Hot Air Gun Frame





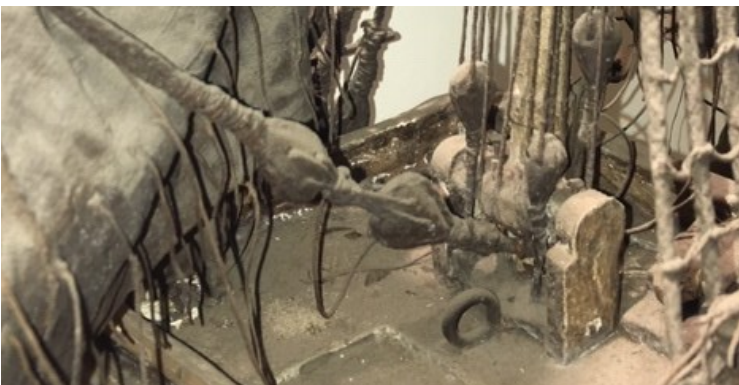
Ships on Deck



A 500 Year Old Model

We know very little about this model other than the fact that it is very old, and represents a vessel from the 14th or 15 centuries. The external hull framing, high fore and stern castles, and triangular deadeyes are all features common to this period. She's lightly armed, so she might have been a merchant vessel.

The model is missing at least two trucks. One, featuring a red pennant, is laying on the main deck on the port side. In spite of her weathered appearance and age, the model appears to be well made.





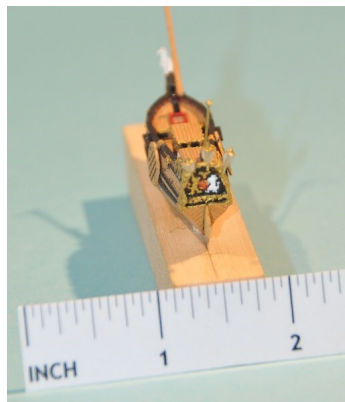
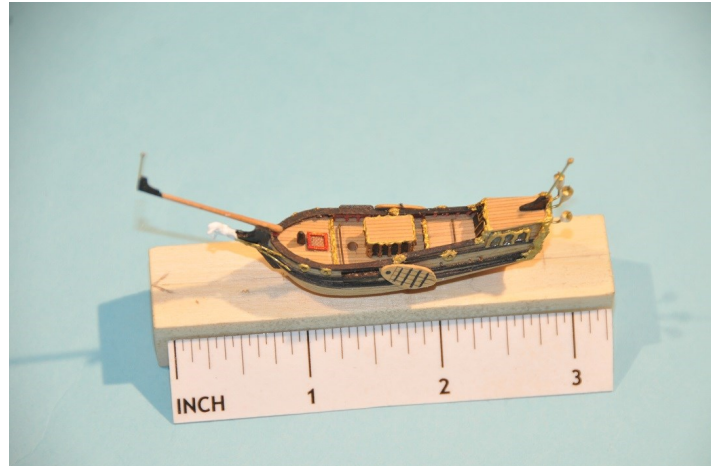
Ships on Deck



HMY Mary Circa 1660 by Gus Agustin

Scale: 1:384

Photos by Robert Frysztak



• Tri-Club Anti-Piracy Policy •



Here is a list of banned companies that have been pirating and duplicating kits, books, and plans from reputable manufacturers. Quite often these disreputable companies offer their products at what appear to be reasonable prices, but these items are often poor in quality. Many of them do not have websites. They market their illegal products via the Internet on sites such as eBay.

If you are contemplating your next project, please check this list. If you are not sure, discuss it with Kurt Van Dahm before you commit to a purchase. For easy reference, this information will appear in all future issues of the *Forecastle Report*.

Please note that CAF has been removed from this list.

ZHL	WN
RealTS	Unicorn Model
Snail Model	YQ (YaunQing)
XinFeng	Master
JD Model	CN
LHQQ	CF
Shi Cheng	Shi hai
Woodenkit (Russian MFG)	4H Model
YengFan	SC
Moxing	DUJIAOSHOU



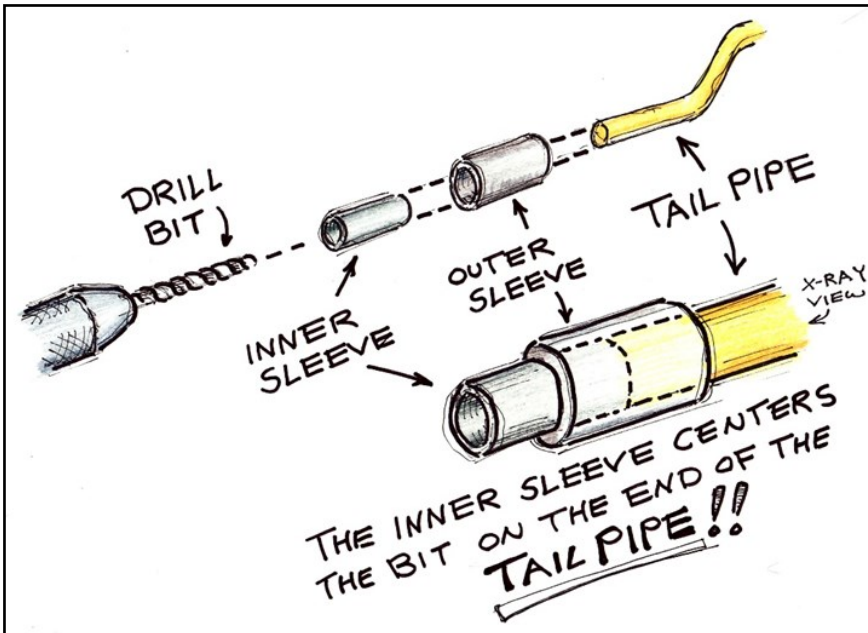
Drilling Perfect Holes in Rod Ends



This may not be a tip we will need very often, but when the time comes, it'll really come in handy.

How often have you tried to drill out the end of an exhaust pipe or small gun barrel, only to have the bit wander and tear up the side of the piece? Or if you manage to start a hole that doesn't drift, it's so off-center that the entire effect is lost?

Here's how to drill a perfect hole into the end of a rod. Put a piece of tubing over the piece.



Slide a second piece inside the first, then insert your drill bit into that one. Using a pin vise, you can now drill a perfectly centered hole that will run straight down the rod without drifting toward the side."

Telescoping, thin-wall brass and aluminum tubing are available on

line or at a well-stocked hobby shop. If the diameter of the inner tubing leaves you with a smaller hole than you want, use that as a pilot hole and enlarge it with a larger bit.

Gregg Mundkowsky Corryton, Tennessee



Chicago Tri-Club Association Officers & Staff



NSD President - Rick Szydelko — szydelko@sbcglobal.net

NSD Vice President—Kurt Van Dahm — modelshipyard237@gmail.com

NSD Admiral Emeritus - Richard Williams—shipdoc27@comcast.net

NSD Treasurer - Ed Urbanczyk—turbaned@comcast.net

NRMS President – Kurt Van Dahm – modelshipyard237@gmail.com

NRMS Vice President - Richard Williams—shipdoc27@comcast.net

NRMS Treasurer - Ed Urbanczyk—turbaned@comcast.net

NRMS Secretary - Dan Cicero—dan_cicero@sbcglobal.net



MMS President - Bob Filipowski — logline2@gmail.com

MMS Vice President. - Bob Fryszak — rfryszak@luc.edu

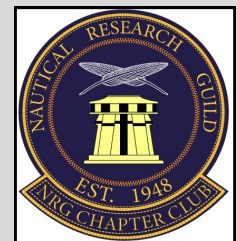
MMS Treasurer - Allen Siegel — allensiegel@comcast.net

MMS Secretary - Bob Sykes — (630) 766-6645

MMS Club Photographer: - Robert Fryszak — rfryszak@luc.edu

MMS Web Master - John Pocius...jhydroplane@gmail.com

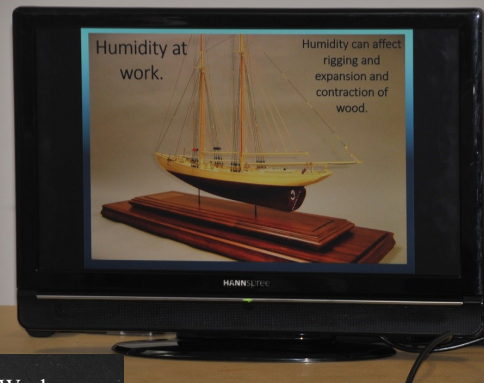
www.midwestmodelshipwrights.com





Scenes From the September MMS Meeting

Photos by Robert Frysztak



Ivory Trail Board Scroll Work

