The Connecticut Marine Model Society

CMMS Newsletter ✪ January, 2018

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Happy New Year and best wishes for a healthy and prosperous 2018!

Our newsletter editor extraordinaire, Ron Neilson, has done his magic again with this issue. Has anyone ever attempted to build a model ship in a bottle? Or thought of trying to do it?

Personally, I have thought of doing one but seem to move onto other projects. However, I have gotten very proficient at emptying the bottles.

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If you have made an attempt, consider bringing it in for the club's show n' tell. Perhaps it will stimulate some similar building activity by other members.

On another note, the *Northeast Ship Modelers Joint Clubs Conference* is coming soon. Our Secretary, Al Saubermann, will have more information soon.

Keep building and above all, have fun! *Duff*

Secretary's Report, January, 2018

With cooperating weather, member turnout was good. President, **Duff Griffith**, opened our first meeting of 2018. As there were no guests, we proceeded directly to the Treasurer's Report. **Pete Carlin**, updated us on the state of our funds and dues collection for our new fiscal year; Pete reminded members who have not yet paid their dues, to do so.

Club Secretary, **Al Saubermann**, informed everyone that the *Nautical Research Guild* (NRG) was asking members of that organization to vote on a proposal to establish a chapter system for clubs such as ours. We are, and have been for many years, a chapter of the *International Plastic Modelers Society* (IPMS). Being a Chapter of IPMS - a not for profit organization - provides certain protections for us under both State and Federal law. As there's nothing preventing our club from also being a Chapter of NRG (should they proceed to establish a chapter system), those of our members who are also a members of NRG were encouraged to consider carefully their proposal, decide its merits and vote. Details are in the *NRG's Newsletter* and on their website: *www.thenrg.org*.

Due to foul weather at December's meeting, we did not reach a quorum and it was decided to continue voting for the *Jim Wiser Award* at our January meeting. Ballots that were filled out were collected by Vice-President,

Duff Griffith Congratulates **Al Saubermann**

James McGuffick. Absentee votes were also counted. After counting all ballots, James announced the winner:

Al Saubermann for the *USS Peacock*, a scratch-built, admiralty board style model of an 1812 American sloop-of-war (photo below). Six (6) models were entered and they represented an amazing diversity of styles, techniques, sizes and eras. Each model was an example of the remarkable skill, dedication and artistry of our membership. Not surprisingly, it was a very close election reflecting the members' difficulty in making a choice. Congratulations to everyone who entered; we should remember to be very proud of our Club!

We discussed the upcoming *Northeast Ship Model Conference and Show* that will be held on Saturday, April 28th. This year it is hosted by the *Ship Model Society of New Jersey*. **Duff Griffith** noted that the organizers are looking for additional judges for their *Jim Roberts Award*; **Ron Neilson** volunteered on behalf of the CMMS.

There was some discussion about the Jersey club's award, the criteria and the judging process. The NJ Club will provide details that will be shared with our membership. We also discussed our club's door prize raffle contribution for the show; we voted to give two $50 gift certificates from *BlueJacket Inc.* Finally, **Rick Abramson** agreed to do a Round Table Demo on working with photo etch materials, a skill that Rick truly excels at. Our club's Newsletter Editor, **Ron Neilson**, offers his apologies that there was no December edition to close-out 2017. Although a handful of members braved the impending nor'easter blizzard conditions to drive to the year-end meeting, Ron demurred and thus was unable to take photos or report on the meeting's proceedings.

Annual *Jim Wiser Award* winning model: USS Peacock; 1/4" scale U.S. sloop-of-war

Our next meeting will be on **February 10th** at Kaplan Hall, University of New Haven at 10 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Al Saubermann,
Secretary, CMMS

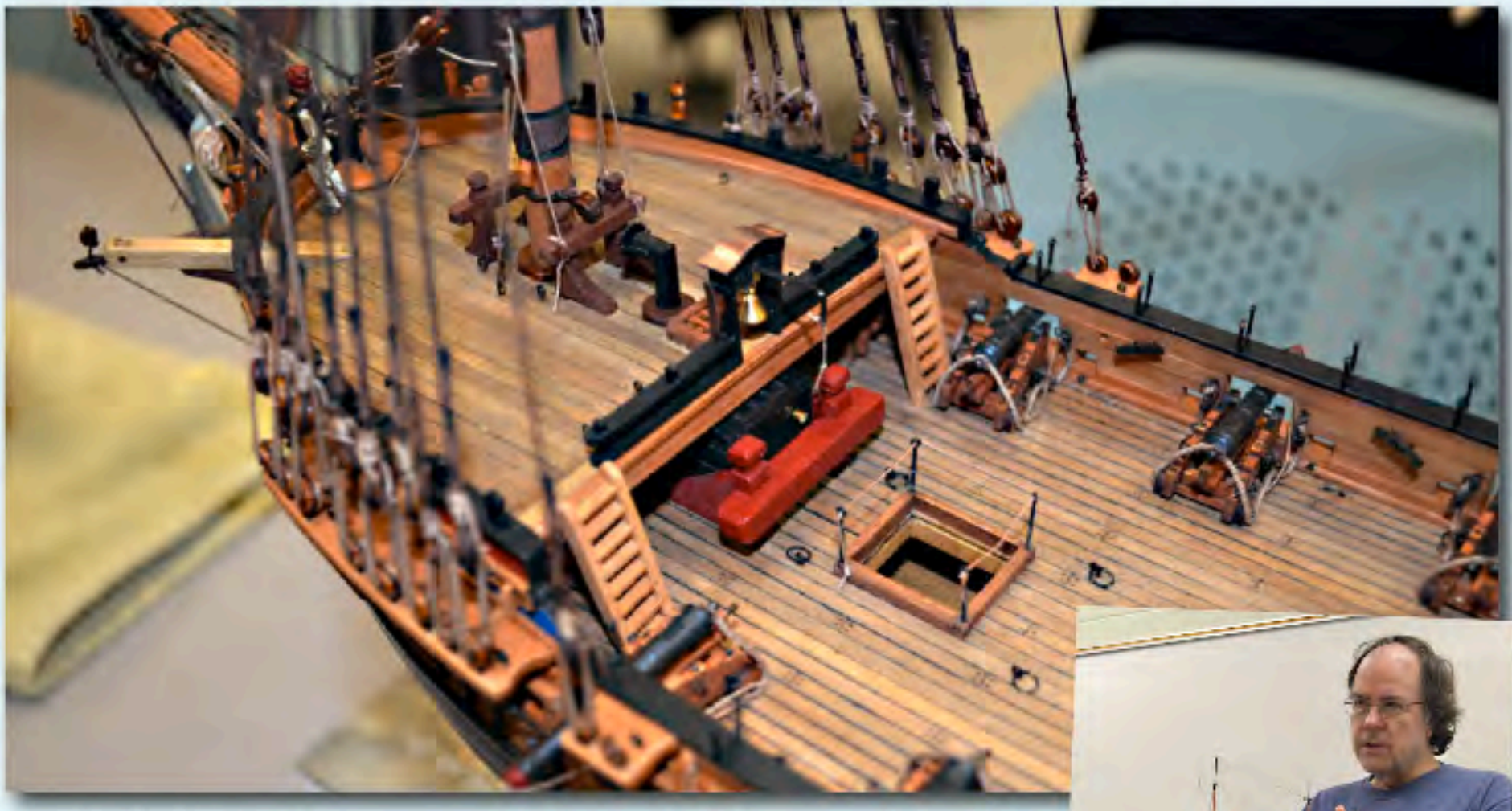
Why is this man so happy?

Bill Strachan has completed his NRG-commissioned project of creating a valuable resource for first-time scratch builders: extensive plans and a How To manual for crafting an East Coast Sharpie fishing flatboat (photo below).

Bill acknowledged the help he received on the 18-month long project from member, **Al Saubermann**, for his computer drawing CAD work. The plans consist of 11 large sheets of drawings (24" X 36") plus an extensive full-color instruction manual. The NRG will make the plans and manual available to order on their web site (www.thenrg.org) and on www.modelshipworld.com. The scratch builder's "Kit" will be available only on a computer flash drive for $65.00.

Congratulations, Bill! What a great accomplishment for everyone in the hobby — as well as future modelmakers.

Good Stuff From The Bench



Now that the hull has been completed, **Ron Neilson** has moved on to the masting and rigging of his 1/64 scale (3/16"=1'), English sixth-rate warship, **HMS Swan** (1767). He has based his model on a heavily-modified kit of the HMS Pegasus by *Victory Models* (Amati/Italy). Ron is adding several sails to the model (furled and set) and his plans include placing the completed ship into a diorama for display. He also spoke about a reference book he recently received as a holiday gift: *FIghting At Sea In The Eighteenth Century* by English author and nautical expert, Sam Willis. Ron is using 8 different sizes of scale-accurate rope as well as numerous specialized blocks and rigging hardware from *Syren Ship Model Company*.

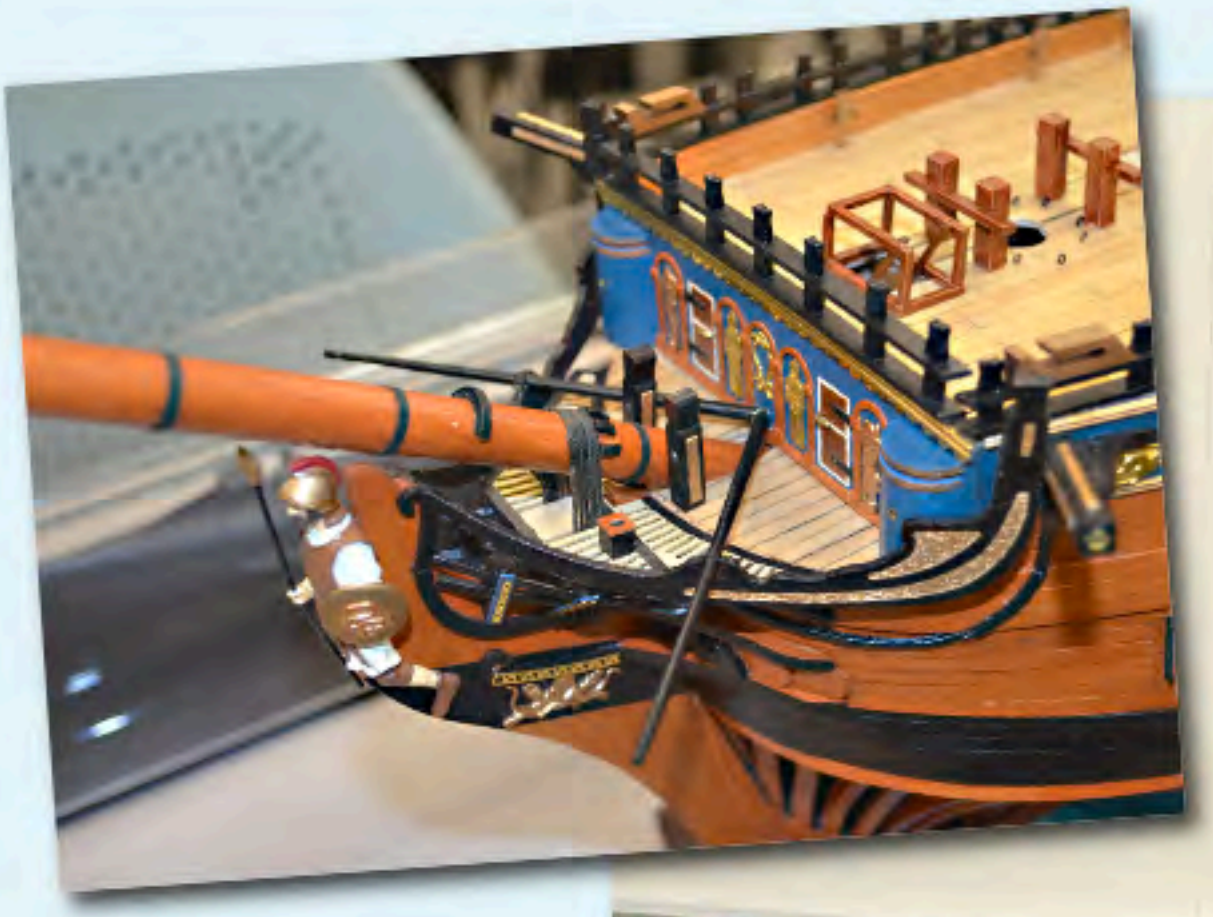
To complete the effect of a sailing ship in a sea diorama he will also add a few miniature crew members. He's paying particular attention to making his model appear slightly weathered too:

"I want my model to resemble an actual ship in water, a first for me. I didn't want to over-do this effect, though. I've been extrememly careful with finishing and employed various building techniques to accomplish realism," he offered.

Good Stuff From The Bench

Rick Abramson - showed us his *C.S.S. Hunley*, a Civil War era submarine that famously sunk the Yankee's *U.S.S. Housatonic* warship. **He told us that the submarine's hull was a converted boiler!** Although the concept of a submarine was tried as early as the American Revolutionary War (1776-1783), the Hunley was the first to sink an enemy's ship with a "torpedo" (of sorts). The model is built from a Russian kit from *Micromir* in 1/35th-scale. His greatest difficulty was building the stern propellor housing and related components. The kit is plastic but many of the detail components are fashioned from photo-etched brass ("PE").

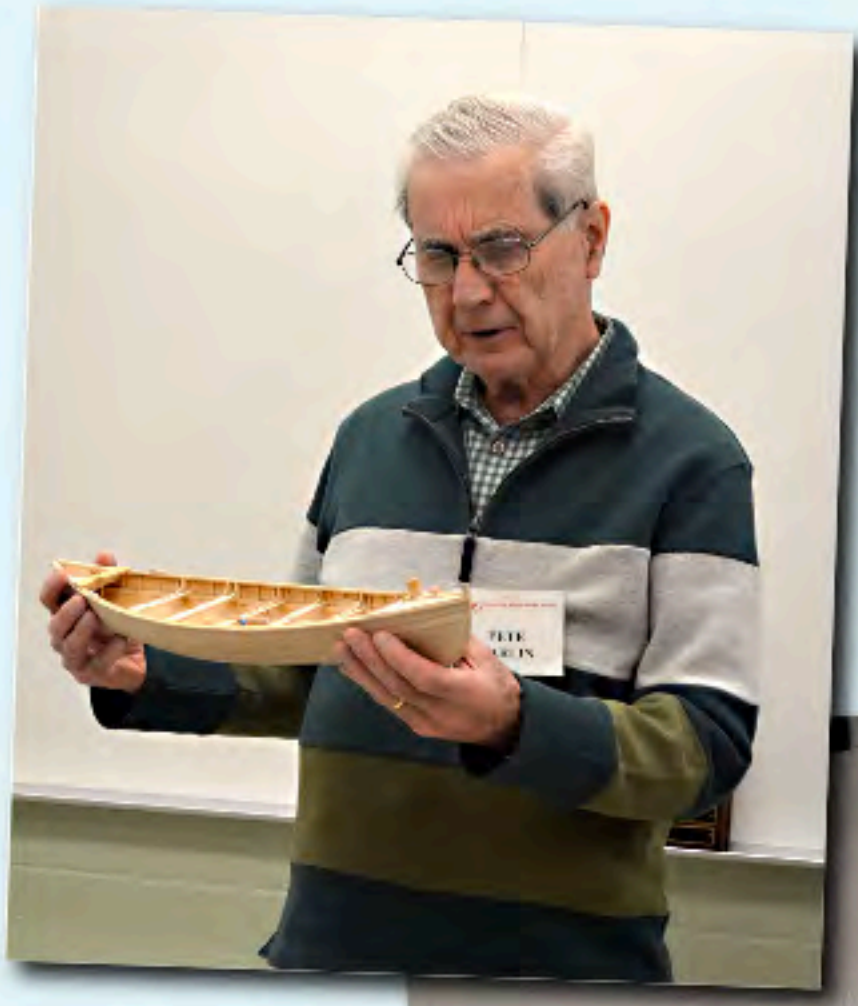
Good Stuff From The Bench



Paul Goldberg is nearing a milestone with his *HMS Agamemnon*, a modified-kit build from English manufacturer, *Caldercraft*. Paul has done a superb job of rendering the model in an admiralty-style, open-framed presentation; the basic hull is near completion. He's used boxwood for much of the hull's planking and basswood for the exposed frames. Both elements have been nicely finished with a *Minwax* Gel/stain which imparts a beautiful and consistent hue to the expanses of wood for the large (1:64) model.

He will start on the masting and rigging soon. Paul has a solid grasp on the amount of exacting work that will be demanded in this phase. We can all anticipate that Dr. Goldberg's "Aggy" will be a stunner when completed!

Good Stuff From The Bench



Pete Carlin is also nearing completion of his *New Bedford Whale Boat*. He discussed some of the final details he's added, such as "peak cleats" and "foot braces." He remarked: *"I'm into all the small parts now"* — the many items that will be added to complete his accurate and impressive simulation of the 19th- century work boat.

Pete plans to display his completed model at this year's *Northeast Ship Modelers Conference and Show* this coming April.

Fred Kerson briefly told us about a gift he's recently received. He showed us a building board with a "Hahn-style" (upside down construction) bulkhead start to what he described as a fishing craft of some kind. Not quite sure of it's provenance, or even what the previous model maker intended the model to be, one of our club's most imaginative builders won't dissapoint when he figures out what to do with his gift!

Note to my fellow club members: stay tuned at the next club meetings for some likely dramatic progress to Fred's new project.

Good Stuff From The Bench

Joe Delaney continues to impress us with his *1/48- scale** build of the *Fair American*, a 14-gun American Privateer, 1778. The *Model Expo* plank-on-bulkhead kit of the Revolutionary War brig is based on a model in the *Henry Huddleston Rogers* ship model collection at the *U.S. Naval Academy Museum*, Annapolis, Maryland.

Joe has created a fine looking version of this popular model. He's currently rigging the small warship and has related to us one of his model ship building passions:

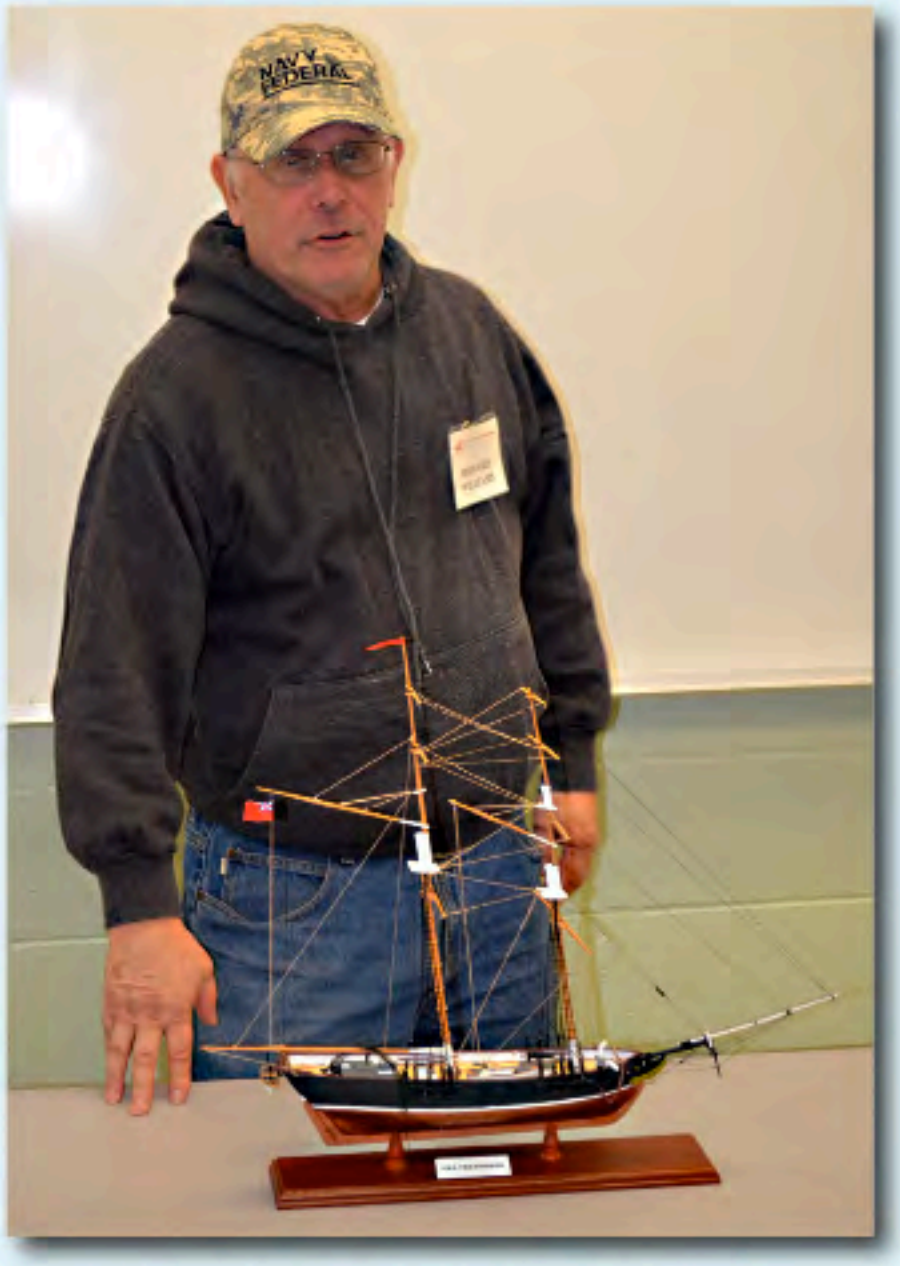
"I LOVE to do rigging."

To which, I say: "I feel you, Joe — I LOVE rigging TOO!"

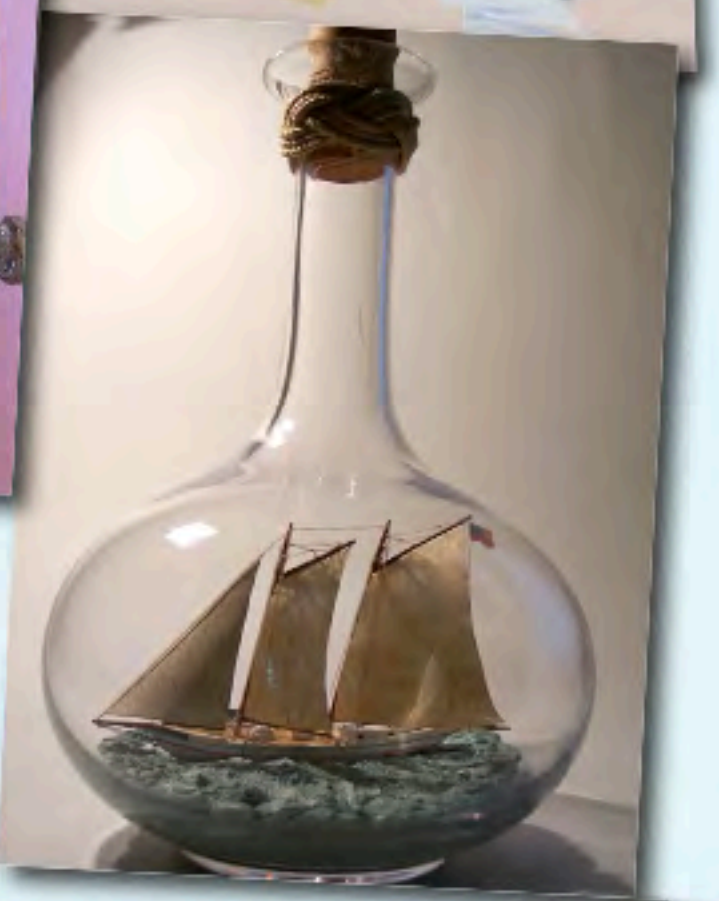
** Ed: I erroneously stated Joe's build scale as "1/64" in a recent issue. Apologies, Joe.*

Good Stuff From The Bench

Howard Williams - is yet another club member who's joined-up with the **CMMS Rigging Posse,** our members who actually enjoy doing rigging on their period sailing ship models. Howard's *HMS Fair Rosamund* is very close to completion, save the sails he intends to add. Sails? Hmmm. Now, that's a whole different kettle of fish!



SHIPS IN BOTTLES



MORE SIZABLE THINGS TO CONSIDER

The full-sized "ship in a bottle" stands on it's plinth outside the public entry to the *Nautical Maritime Museum* in London, England.

The actual size of this large sculpture can be easily seen on the front cover of the newsletter.

Nelson's Ship In A Bottle is a maquette* created by artist *Yinka Shonibare*. This scale model was created to show his patrons what his final project would look like.

This model was displayed at *The Yale Center for British Art* in 2016 along with several other notable artworks by the artist. The model is approximately 2 feet tall. The actual sculpture is nearly twenty feet long.

Yinka Shonibare (MBE/RA) is a British/Nigerian artist who was invited to create a sculpture for Trafalgar Square to commemorate Admiral Nelson's victory and death at the *Battle of Trafalgar* in 1805. His sculpture was to serve as a symbol of Britian's imperial prowess.

However, in the artist's own words, **Shonibare** said: *"...reducing this heroic object into something toy-like is purposefully disarming; it is no longer an instrument of colonial expansion."*

The full-sized **Ship In A Bottle** sculpture stood in London's most important civic space for public gatherings and political demonstrations until it was moved to it's permanent location in Greenwich, U.K., just outside the main entry to *the Nautical Maritime Museum*.

Club members **Duff Griffith** and **Ron Neilson** traveled together to England in 2013 and saw the impressive display first-hand (as well as the Maritime Museum!).

MBE: *Most Excellent Member of The British Empire.*
RA: *Member artist of the Royal Academy of Artists.*

**A "maquette" is the French word for a sculptor's small preliminary model or sketch.*

CMMS Meetings are the
second Saturday of the month
September thru June
† 10:00 AM to Noon
The University of New Haven
300 Orange Avenue † West Haven
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Kaplan Hall

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Front: Artists putting the finishing touches on the full-size sculpture of artist Yinka Shonibare's *Nelson's Ship In A Bottle*. *See page 11.*

Rear: The smallest example I could find of a ship in a bottle. Don't show this picture to your wife if you've recently given her a gift of expensive perfume for an important milestone.

Cover photo: *Wikipedia* search for **Yinka Shonibare**

Rear Photo: Pinterest image search for **Ships In Bottles** by the editor.

The Connecticut Marine Model Society is a member of the IPMS, Connecticut Chapter

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