



# Quarterdeck

**JULY  
2020**  
OUR 89th  
YEAR

THE PHILADELPHIA SHIP MODEL SOCIETY.

www.philadelphia\_ship\_model\_society.com

Launched January 7, 1931

## Minutes of the Meeting

The 872nd meeting of the Philadelphia Ship Model Society (PSMS) was held on the internet utilizing the Zoom application arranged by Bobbie Zimmerman. The meeting was called to order by Joshua Fichmann at 19:00 and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

♥ Sick Call: Rick Rathgeber - Doing well after double knee replacement.

**Treasurer's Report:** Steve Bulova -

**Name Tags;** Spence Delin: [sdelin@verizon.net](mailto:sdelin@verizon.net)

**Club Outings /Events:** Postponed

**MODELCON: CANCELLED until summer of 2021.**

New date to be announced.

### BATTLESHIP NEW JERSEY

Allowing visitors inside the ship. Resuming operations with their pre-pandemic tour routes with some concessions to safety in place. No guided tours or hands-on activities are permitted; overnights are not resuming yet.

### INDEPENDENCE SEAPORT MUSEUM:

Opened on July 18th. The museum will be operating on a weekend-only schedule, from 10AM to 5PM with imposed capacity limits to provide a social distance. Purchasing tickets in advance is recommended as they are being sold in limited amounts on a timed entry system on a first come, first serve basis. Both the Submarine Becuna and "Paddle Penn's Landing" remain closed.

### Support the SS United States

A 5 day round trip SS United States Conservancy Cruise from New York to Bar Harbor and Halifax and return. It's on the *Norwegian Breakaway*, August 24-29, 2021.

Information is available from:

[gcumberbatch@poling\\_group.com](mailto:gcumberbatch@poling_group.com), or Geisha Cumberbatch: 703-389-4617. It is reasonably priced and supports the effort to save the SS United States.

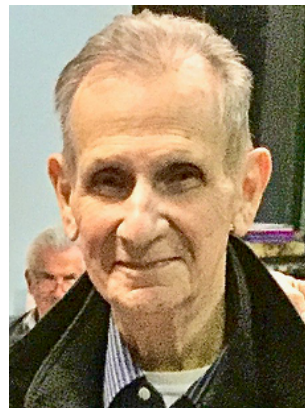
## AUGUST PSMS MEETING

The next PSMS meeting will be scheduled for August. It will be a ZOOM meeting. The password will be sent by Bobbie Zimmerman. Reminder emails will be sent ahead of time. Watch your inbox.

## Ed Leaf's 90th Birthday

Celebrated model builder, Vietnam veteran, author, retired Society Treasurer emeritus and past President, Ed Leaf, will be celebrating his 90th birthday on July 26th.

A member of the Society since 1986, Ed has been a prolific model builder for museums and private clients including the Haerr Museet in Oslo, Norway. Models in the Philadelphia Seaport Museum are the Normandie, the Algerian Xebec, which is the frontispiece of the Patriots and Pirates exhibit and the USS Pennsylvania, 1837, in the back of the exhibit. Ed also has models on the Battleship New Jersey (which he saw in action in Vietnam). They are USS. Kearsarge, BB5, Italian battle- ship Roma, HMS Dreadnaught, USS New Jersey BB16, French battleship Jean Bart, and the Italian battleship Dante Alighieri. Ed's models are all scratch built.



In addition to authoring a book "Ship Modeling From Scratch", Ed paints, sculpts - mostly 16"/1' scale, and plays several musical instruments including violin and base recorder. From everyone in the Philadelphia Ship Model Society

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY ED!**



## QUARTERDECK SUBMISSIONS

Take pictures with your camera or cell phone of your current or past project that you would like to show (maybe you already have). Include a description. Be sure to include the name of your (project, ship), scale, scratch or kit(manufacturer), era (year) and country and anything you would want to say about your project. Just as you would when you fill out the presentation sheet at the meeting or stand up and talk.

A word about pictures. Make sure they are well lighted, (possibly take them outside) and in focus and no more than 2 or 3. Put them against plain backgrounds if possible - not on your oriental rug. **But workbench shots are welcome.** Send them to [rspicer33@aol.com](mailto:rspicer33@aol.com)

# SHOW and TELL

MIKE WEAVER



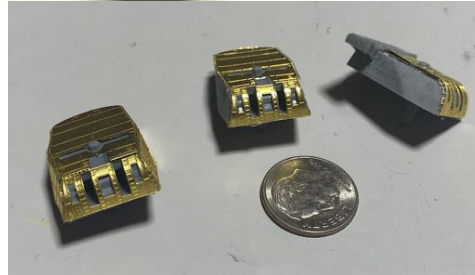
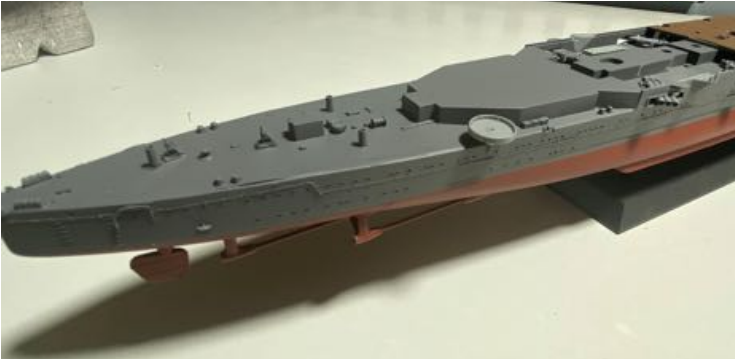
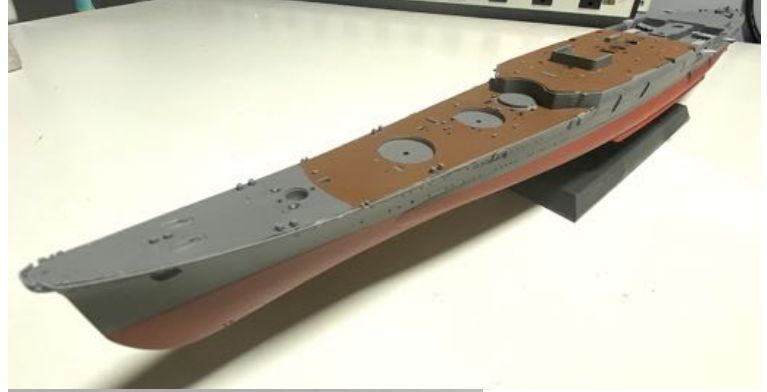
Mike is still working on the 3 Titanic plastic kits from three different makers which were shown in last months Quarterdeck.

Above are three models he showed on the Zoom meeting in plexiglas cases including: HMS Bounty, (armed British merchant ship, Captain Bligh) 1/72 scales shown at the top, the USS Constitution in a small scale, lower left and a Egyptian river boat circa 2300 BC. All models are scratch built, wood and in cases built by Mike.

Photos by Mike Weaver

# SHOW and TELL

JOSHUA FICHMANN



Tamiya Imperial Japanese Aircraft carrying Cruiser. Plastic. Scale 1/350. Plastic kit. The kit can be built full hull or waterline. Includes metal and photo etched parts. Joshua added after market photo etched parts such as a brass deck shown painted brown.

Photos by Joshua Fichmann

JOHN BULLOCK



Model Shipways 18th century Longboat. Scale 1/48. A work in progress.

Photos: John Bullock

ELLIOT HOWELL

We welcomed John to our July Zoom meeting as a guest. After a hiatus of about 55 years. “the virus has inspired me to find an activity within the confines of my home.” His first build was the famed PT 109 at right. A Revell plastic kit, scale 1/72



“After being rammed, by a Japanese destroyer, Kennedy performed absolutely heroically. His father, Joe, unsuccessfully lobbied the president in an attempt to get his son Jack, the Medal of Honor. It appears that PT 109 was idling in neutral and that was how a less maneuverable Japanese destroyer was able to sink the boat with the loss of one life.

Reading between the lines, I would guess that it is highly possible that the crew and the Captain were resting and not alert. Remember, that after patrolling all night and upon returning to base, they then had to refuel using 55 gallon drums, took hours of labor.....exhausting! General Douglas Mac Arthur actually was very critical of Kennedy’s actions.”

His next build was the Lindberg tugboat plastic kit, scale 1/82.



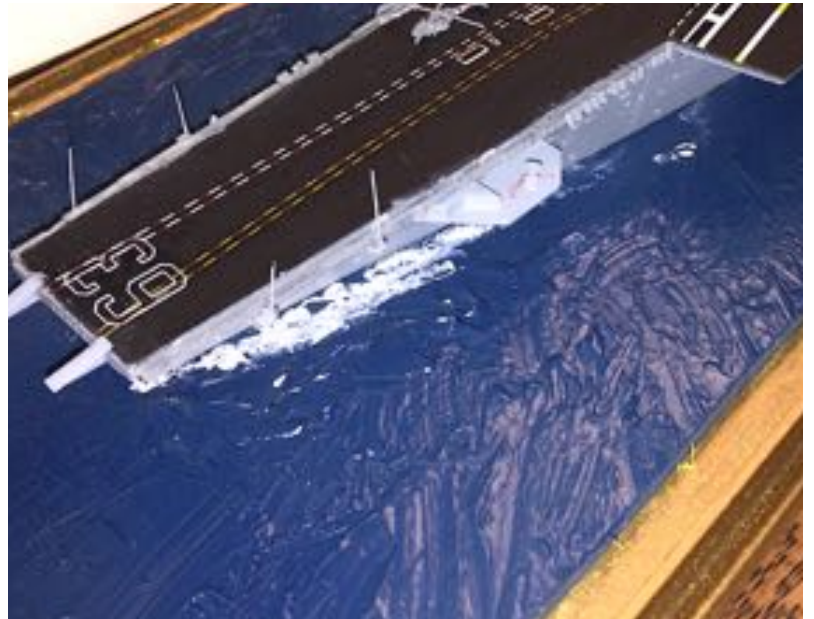
His final completion thus far is the USS Missouri. A Revell plastic kit. Scale 1/535.

Everyone knows the history “Mighty Mo”. In the movie “Battleship”, the USS Missouri saves the planet from Alien attack”.

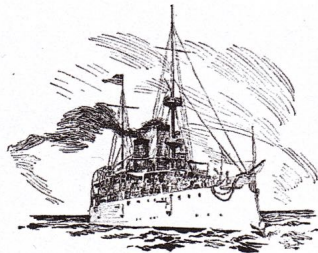
Photos: Eliot Howell



Photos: Mike Zimmerman



USS Kitty Hawk, CV-63. Scale 1/700. Plastic kit. The last non nuclear carrier. Note the 22 aircraft on the flight deck and more visible on the hanger deck. For the base ocean effect, Mike used Liquitex clear paint to create the water texture, several coats of navy blue paint and a final coat of clear blue. The minimum use of the bow wave is very effective. "Built as a birthday present for my friend Harris. His college room mate became a Navy admiral and got Harris a flight and landing on the Kitty Hawk." Photos: mike

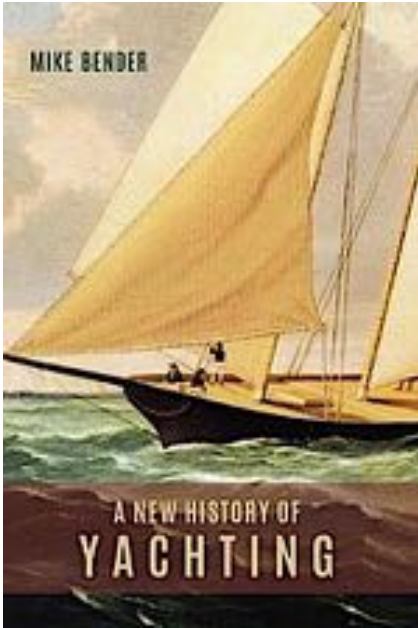


### PSMS OFFICERS & EXECUTIVE BOARD 2019

President: Fred Signor [fsignor@comcast.net](mailto:fsignor@comcast.net)  
Vice-President: Jim Wheeler, [jrwheeler@att.net](mailto:jrwheeler@att.net)  
Secretary: Joshua Fichmann [fichmann@yahoo.com](mailto:fichmann@yahoo.com)  
Treasurer: Steve Bulova [bulovastevel@msn.com](mailto:bulovastevel@msn.com)  
Webmaster: Joshua Fichmann [fichmann@yahoo.com](mailto:fichmann@yahoo.com)  
Editor: Ron Spicer, [rspicer33@aol.com](mailto:rspicer33@aol.com)

Francine Serratore, President 2019  
Todd Wardwell, President 2018  
Jim Wheeler, President 2017  
Fred Signor, President 2016  
Mike Zimmerman, President 2014  
Francine Serratore, President Emeritus

Joe Jordan, Representative to ISM [jjvtown@aol.com](mailto:jjvtown@aol.com)



## **A NEW HISTORY OF YACHTING** by Mike Bender

This book by a leading expert in the field, is the first history of yachting for over a quarter of a century. Setting developments within political, social and economic changes, the book tells the story of yachting from Elizabethan times to the present day: The first uses of yachts by monarchs, especially Charles II; yacht clubs and yacht racing in the 18th century; the early years of the Royal Yacht Squadron at Cowes and an analysis of the America Cup Challenges; the pioneering developments in Ireland and the exporting of yachting to the colonies and trading outposts of the Empire; the expansion of yachting in Victorian times; the Golden age of yachting in the years before the First World war, when it was the sport of the crowned heads of Europe; the invention of the dingy and the keel boat classes and, after the Second World war, the massive numbers of home built dinghies, the breaking of new boundaries by risk-taking single-handers from the mid-1960's; the expansion of leisure sailing that came in the 1980s with the use of molded plastic yachts; the current trends and pressures within the sport and the sailing enthusiast.

Mike Bender is an experienced yachtsman and a qualified Ocean Yachtmaster, with some 40,000 miles mostly singlehanded, under the keel. He is an honorary research fellow in history at the University of Exeter

## **THE WRECK OF THE PORTLAND: A Doomed Ship, a Violent Storm, and New England's Worst Maritime Disaster** By J, North Conway

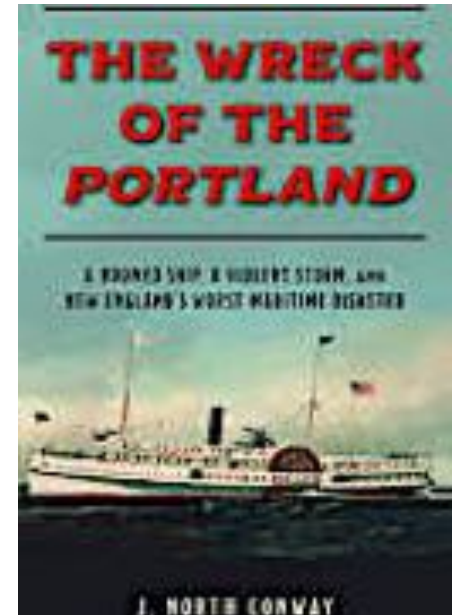
The SS Portland was one of New England's largest and most luxurious paddle steamers and its loss in 1898 in a violent storm with some 200 people aboard was later remembered as "New England's Titanic".

After nine years of solid performance, she earned a reputation as a safe and dependable vessel. In November 1898, a perfect storm formed off the New England coast. Conditions would produce a blizzard with 100 miles per hour winds and 60 foot waves that pummeled the coast. At the time, there was no radio communication between ships and shore, no radar to navigate by, and no sophisticated weather forecasting capacity. The SS Portland, a side-wheel steamer furnished with chandeliers, red velvet carpets and fine china, was carrying more than 200 passengers from Boston to Portland Maine, over Thanksgiving weekend when it ran headlong into a monstrous, violent gale off Cape Cod. It was never seen again. All passenger and crew were lost at sea. More than half the crew were African Americans from Portland. Their deaths decimated the Maine African

American community. The storm was one of the worst ever recorded in New England waters. Now known as the "Portland Gale", killed 400 people along the coast and sent more than 200 ships to the bottom, including the doomed Portland. To this day, it is not known exactly how many passengers were aboard or even who many of them were. The only passenger list was aboard the vessel. As a result of this tragedy, ships would thereafter leave a passenger manifest ashore.

The disaster has been blamed on the hubris of the captain of the Portland, Hollis Blanchard, who decided to leave the safety of Boston Harbor despite knowing that a severe storm was hurtling up the coast.

Author J. North Conway has created a personal, visceral account of the sinking and the times and the people involved, with stories to bring readers on to the Portland that day. Using painstaking recreated events, using first-hand sources and testimonials to weave a can't-put-it-down narrative in the tradition of Erik Larson's *Isaac's Storm* and Walter Lord's enduring classic, *A Night to Remember*.



# REMEMBER THE SHACK!

**AHOY! Shack sitters.** On July 18th ISM opened and so has the Shack. Joe Jordan sat the shack on Saturday the 18th and Mike Weaver did so on Sunday. There are guidelines. Masks, 6' distancing and lots In addition, if you are going to sit the shack, you must fill out the form at the address below:

<https://phillyseaport.wufoo.com/forms/certification-of-employee-for-return-to-work/>

**It's easy and common sense..... ISM will need to have it on file.**

To keep a 6' space between visitors and shack staffers, there is an extension of the bench for use in the space. It lays down and clamps in place and the windows can be placed up on it. It's fairly heavy , and an ISM staffer will help place and tip it back up when you leave. Please use help!!!



The Seaport Museum has chosen PSMS to demonstrate ship modeling to the public. We are one of the few exhibits that can respond when asked a question (one other being the boat shop). To fulfill this responsibility, we need volunteers to sit the shack on weekends. See if you can find the time in your schedule. Take a model, meet the public and share our hobby. Support PSMS.

**Contact Joe Jordan.** [jjvtown@aol.com](mailto:jjvtown@aol.com) Or sign up on the web: [philadelphiahipmodelsociety.com](http://philadelphiahipmodelsociety.com)

**Please remember, one of the reasons we get free parking is because  
WE KEEP THE LIGHTS ON IN THE SHACK!**

## PARKING

### FREE PARKING FOR MEMBERS

The Walnut St. entrance to the parking lot is not manned after hours. Members should use the Market Street entrance to the parking lot. That entrance is two blocks north of the Walnut street entrance.

### IF YOU HAVE NOT REGISTERED YOUR VEHICLE

Email your name , car make, model and color, along with your license plate number(s). (Please include the state as well). State that you are a member of PSMS. If you use a 2nd car, register that as well.

Send the information to:

Greg Williams at: [gwilliams@phillyseaport.org](mailto:gwilliams@phillyseaport.org)  
Phone 215-413-8679

This policy is for volunteer days, and not for visiting Penn's Landing during non-volunteer hours.

**GUESTS: The Society will pay the parking fee for the first visit only to a Society meeting and must be sponsored by a member**

"I sold my boat and experiencing my second happiest day of boat ownership. lol"

*Jim Wheeler*



# THE PHILADELPHIA SHIP MODEL SOCIETY

Launched January 7, 1931

The Philadelphia Ship Model Society (PSMS) meets on the first Thursday of each month at the

Independence Seaport Museum (ISM) at 1900 hours.

ISM is located at Penns Landing,  
211 South Columbus Boulevard,  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106.

## GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

PSMS annual dues are \$35.00 for an INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

\$40.00 for a FAMILY MEMBERSHIP: Includes MEMBER as well as family with children FREE



Short Sleeved Polo

## PSMS SHIRTS & CAPS WITH EMBROIDERED SOCIETY LOGO

LONG SLEEVED POLO SHIRTS NAVY BLUE

**Men's sizes** small thru 4 XL.

Add \$2.00 for 2XL, \$3.00 for 3XL and \$4.00 for 4 XL

**\$35.00**

**Women's sizes** thru 2X.

**\$35.00**

SHORT SLEEVED POLO SHIRTS, NAVY BLUE

**Men's sizes** small thru 6XL and tall in XL thru 3X

**Women's sizes** small thru 3XL

**\$28.75**

**Hat** 6 panel wave cap, navy with white trim

**\$14.50**

### FOR ORDERS:

Contact Pat Leaf at [pjlebl@comcast.net](mailto:pjlebl@comcast.net)

**Please be sure of your size**

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

August

**PSMS Meeting**

**TO BE ANNOUNCED**

August 15th

**PSMS MODELCON**

**CANCELLED**

September.

**TO BE ANNOUNCED**

**DURING THESE UNCERTAIN TIMES, IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO SAY WHEN OR HOW FUTURE MEETINGS WILL BE HELD. WHEN WE RESUME OUR REGULAR SCHEDULE. A SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE SENT TO THE MEMBERSHIP .**



Delaware Valley Chapter meetings are held at The Independence Seaport Museum at Penn's landing on the Delaware River. Membership is \$15 for one year. Contact Steve Lovless at [slldvesshsa@gmail.com](mailto:slldvesshsa@gmail.com) or 215-495-8889 for more details or if you are interested in joining



## THE SSMA JOURNAL

Become a member of SSMA

Annual dues are \$25.00

All membership applications and renewals should be sent to:

**Heinz Ricken**  
**514 Cranford Avenue**  
**Cranford NJ 07016**





# PIRATES OF THE MODEL SHIP WORLD

Model Ship World, the forum of the National Research Guild has published this list, shown below, of known kit manufacturers that steal and duplicate kits from reputable manufacturers. This is called "PIRATING". These companies are known to have pirated either plans or designs from another source in order to profit from the original author's work...stolen really.

Chuck Passaro, of Syren Ship Model Company and Administrator NRG's Model Ship world has written, " Many of you may be aware that there are some kit manufacturers that have been banned from Model Ship World. These are mostly Chinese companies that rip off and duplicate other kits from reputable manufacturers. We don't want to support such thievery. I have been personally ripped off by ZHL. They stole my Confederacy plans and actually include them in their kit. It's an awful kit to boot!"

**Here is a list of companies that rip off and duplicate kits from reputable manufacturers.**

**JD Model  
LHQQ  
Huasong  
Shi Cheng  
woodenkit (Russian Mfg)  
YengFan**

**ZHL  
RealTS  
Snail Model  
XinFeng  
Crown  
Unicorn Model.**

**YQ ( YaungQihg )  
Master  
CN  
CF  
ship hai  
4H Model**

**Moxing  
Microcosm  
WN  
SC  
DUJIAOSHOU**

These include all of those kits everyone rationalizes in their head are not stolen but actually are.....like the ZHL Royal Caroline and Inderlandman kits. As well as many others. The plans and building patterns for every aspect of those two projects were stolen from the same master builder in Russia. He made the mistake of posting them on line for all to see just like so many do on model Ship World in their build logs and drafting forums ( ie Triton). And they were almost immediately stolen. So you may not find a manufacturer who made the kit, but I can find

As many of you know Syren Ship Model Company takes the issue of pirating ship model kits, books and plans very seriously. There are many who embrace the purchase pirated materials for many reasons and are unfazed by the effect it has on our hobby and the honest mom and pop businesses that serve it.



I have just found out that the ships of scale model forum has now invited the very owners of these Chinese companies who have pirated from many companies you guys know very well.... they have pirated from Caldercraft, A.Latina, Ancre, Amati, Constructo, Panart and even me (Syren). The owners and administrators of the Ships of Scale forum are trying anything in their power to increase their tiny and pitiful content. So they are using the forum platform to promote everything Chinese and everything pirated. This is having a huge negative impact on the legitimate hobby.

PLEASE BOYCOTT the Ships of Scale forum and spread the word to all you know who might not be aware that they are a platform and public relations promoter of those that steal from the honest working ship model companies.

BOYCOTT the Ship of Scale forum and their facebook page. Please share this post with as many good folks as you can.



# Oxford Community Center

Cancelled this year but pleased to announce the

## **EIGHTH ANNUAL MODEL BOAT SHOW**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2021**

Of course, this means we will be unable to enjoy sharing our modeling skills, expertise and insights with each other and with many interested and interesting visitors this year.

So, make new models, repair old ones, and look forward to sharing it all when we are able to congregate once again. Until then, stay home, practice distancing and social isolation. Wear a mask when in close conversation with others.

Edward R. Thielor III, M.D.  
28289 Oaklands Rd.  
Easton, MD 21601  
410-820-5028  
edthielor@yahoo.com

## **THE NAUTICAL RESEARCH GUILD**

**"ADVANCING SHIP MODELING THROUGH RESEARCH"**

Annual membership includes our world-renowned quarterly magazine, Nautical Research Journal, which features photographs and articles on ship model building, naval architecture, merchant and naval ship construction, maritime trade, nautical and maritime history, nautical archaeology and maritime art.

Other benefits include discounts on annual conferences, ship modeling seminars, NRG products and juried model competitions which are offered exclusively to Guild members. We hope you will consider joining our ongoing celebration of model ships and maritime history.



For more information contact us at: [www.thenrg.org](http://www.thenrg.org) or call 585 968 8111